

Scavengers 441

Chapter 441: Working Together as One

Is it a success?

Or—

A failure?

Every time the result is about to be revealed, Ji You feels like she has ingested a huge bucket of Anxiety Agent, making her whole person anxious...

Then—

The moment Boss stops and slips out of the Array Diagram, Ji You's eyes widen as she fixates on the gradually fading luster of the Secret Silver Four-leaf Clover Pendant on the workbench.

Crack~

A very subtle crisp sound, particularly striking in this silent space, it was like a muffled thunder on the ground, heavily smashing into Ji You's heart!

Ji You: "..."

Ji You stretches out her hand, clutching her chest tightly: "Quick! Get me a bottle of quick heart-saving pills!"

"Quick!"

No response.

No one in the single dorm cares about her.

Bang!

Ji You falls to the ground in response!

Inside the Spirit Space, the Six Strands huddle together, trembling. Sixth anxiously says:[Master might have died from anger, right?]

Old Five is fully panicked:[If Master has died, what will we do?]

The clever little Fourth spins in circles anxiously as he sees Ji You's condition:[She's still breathing, but it's hard to say if she can hold on!]

Third also panics:[Master!!! Don't die!!!]

Second spins in circles:[What do we do? What do we do? What do we do?]

Second, Third, Fourth, Old Five, and Sixth all look towards Boss. Boss forcefully calms themselves:[No! Master won't die that easily! We should believe in Master! Master will definitely pull through! Come—let's cheer her on together!]

As soon as Boss finishes speaking, the Six Strands turn towards Ji You, simultaneously shouting:[Master! You can do it! You're the best!]

Ji You, lying motionlessly on the floor, suddenly twitches upon hearing this!

Six Strands:[Master!!! You can do it! You're the fattest! Oops! The best!]

Ji You glares!

Six Strands:[Master! Hold on!]

Ji You, unable to bear it any longer, shouts: "Shut up! Even the dead could be angered back to life by you guys!"

Hearing Ji You's vigorous scolding, the Six Threads instantly hug each other joyously:[Awesome! Master was saved by us!]

Ji You: "..."

Ji You raises her hand to her forehead: "Shut it! I was angered back to life by you guys!"

Six Strands:[...]

Ji You scolds the moment she opens her mouth: "No! It's that you guys angered me to death and then back to life! You guys only do annoying things, only know how to make me angry!"

The Six Strands huddle together, shrunken like quails, not daring to make a sound.

Ji You takes a deep breath, feeling that she might have been a bit unreasonable, looking at the huddled silly threads, she awkwardly says: "I went too far just now, you guys don't know about crafting Soul Devices, I shouldn't have scolded you, nor should I have taken my anger out on you."

The Six Threads suddenly lift their heads, slightly disbelieving what they heard.

Ji You turns her face away, fidgeting as she says: "Sorry... my apologies!"

Six Strands:[Ah!!!]

Each of the Six Strands becomes even more terrified:[Master... is sick?]

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's eyelid twitches, she scolds: "You are the ones who are sick! All of you are sick! Shut up! Focus! Get back to work now!"

The Six Strands happily wag their tails in unison:[That's our Master!]

Ji You: "..."

Ji You was at a loss for words and deeply depressed. Suddenly, she heard the Six Strands joyfully shouting, "Master! Let's keep pushing forward together!"

Ji You's mouth curved upwards as she nodded lightly, "Okay! Let's work hard together."

After this brief interlude, Ji You shook off her earlier listlessness and quickly cheered up, saying, "Boss, since you can't control your strength freely right now, take a rest. Let's have Second and Third give it a go."

Boss nodded.

Second and Third patted their chests, "Master, we'll push harder!"

This time, Ji You still chose to experiment with the Companion Stone, but unfortunately, both Second and Third failed as well.

The Six Strands shrank their necks, looking nervously at Ji You. Ji You reassured them, "Don't worry, I can hold on!"

Ji You lowered her head and pondered for a moment, a determined look flashed across her face as she said, "You two, try using Mithril one more time."

Then, Ji You meticulously refined and carved the Mithril.

However, unfortunately, both Second and Third failed at critical moments again.

Ji You frowned and asked, "Do you really think you controlled your strength?"

Boss, Second, and Third all had bitter expressions, almost swearing to the heavens, "We really controlled it! But... we just don't know why it's like this..."

Boss sounded especially aggrieved and pitiful, "Master, I tried to reduce my strength! That was really the weakest I could go..."

Ji You pondered, realizing that neither Boss, Second, nor Third could finely control their strength. Could it be that these materials couldn't withstand their spiritual power?

Should she—

Give up?

Or—

Continue?

Ji You hardly hesitated and turned to Fourth, saying, "Fourth! It's up to you now."

Known for usually being sly, Fourth was particularly serious and earnest this time, "Hmm! Fourth will push forward with Master!"

Ji You first used the Companion Stone as usual, and Fourth, spiritedly, made the exquisitely pink clover-shaped stone emit a soft glow amidst all attention.

After a while, the glow faded slightly but didn't disappear. Instead, it subtly hid within the stone, appearing low-key and shimmering...

It worked!

Ji You was overjoyed!

This was the second success of the night!

Not just Ji You, but the Six Spiritual Threads were also very happy, each of them cheering while swimming around in the Spirit Space...

Ji You looked at Fourth, her eyes full of affection, "Fourth! Good boy!"

Fourth wagged its tail, expressing happiness.

Ji You said, "Let's try with the Mithril next!"

Fourth patted his chest, "Sisi will keep pushing!"

As Ji You carved and prepared the Mithril seamlessly, while Fourth immediately started working, Ji You, full of anticipation, suddenly heard Fourth yell, "Master, if I use 20% strength it will break! If I only use 10%, it won't reach the whole piece and will fail! This— is hard to control!"

Ji You: "Hmm?"

Fourth: "Ah!"

With a scream, the Mithril visibly shattered into several pieces.

Fourth shrank its neck, looking somewhat anxiously at Ji You.

Regardless of her disappointment, Ji You didn't scold but quickly asked, "Did you just say that the size of the Mithril is hard to control?"

Fourth nodded, thought for a moment, and quickly explained, "Yes! Yes! Sisi isn't being lazy on purpose! It's really hard to control the surface area of this piece of Mithril."

Ji You asked, "Then Sisi, what size do you think can be controlled?"

Identifying a problem and not finding one leads to solutions. Now that they knew a potential reason for the failure, of course, the next step was to fix it!

Upon hearing this, Fourth wagged its tail, its plump body gradually shrinking and then curling into a circle, gesturing to Ji You, "This size is good, don't make the area too big."

Ji You struggled to understand Fourth's suggestion, and after a while, she finally figured out what to do!

Chapter 442: Success!!!

After understanding from Fourth the extent of the Mithril area he could control, Ji You pondered for a moment and then slightly furrowed her brows.

This—

The area is too small, it's not easy to carve it into a clover pendant.

Switch to a delicate earring? Dangle? Or?

While Ji You was somewhat indecisive, she suddenly caught a glimpse of Fourth curled up into a circular shape.

Hmm?

Actually, she could slightly alter the shape of the Mithril, maybe make the middle of the Mithril hollow? Or, simply make a simple circular ring pendant? On the side of the circular ring pendant, could she carve some clover patterns as Array Diagrams?

No sooner thought than done.

Ji You re-cut the Mithril once again, then gradually ground it into a ring shape, and then, she began to carve the Array Diagram.

It is said that practice makes perfect. Having failed so many times before, Ji You could almost engrave the designed pattern with her eyes closed.

While drawing the pattern, she did it in one go, and just as she reached the critical moment where the Spiritual Silk needed to make its move, Ji You became even more patient.

She gently opened her eyes and watched as Fourth crawled into the Array Diagram. This time, Fourth took it very seriously. It moved neither too fast nor too slow, wandering bit by bit inside the diagram, leaving Ji You's spiritual power behind, allowing the spiritual power to form a complete cycle...

This step, while sounding simple, actually placed extremely high demands on the Spiritual Silk. Fourth precisely controlled everything, and only after it finished did it happily swim out of the Array Diagram, wagging its tail—

As it emerged, the ordinary Mithril ring faintly shone with a glimmer, not flashy, yet it possessed an understated and restrained beauty.

Ji You looked at the simple and plain ring and suddenly felt a strange sensation—as if there was an invisible thread connecting her to it.

Is it because this Soul Device was crafted by her own hands, and the circulating, cycling spiritual power originated from her?

This feeling was magical. There was no need to wait anxiously – Ji You already knew it was a Soul Device.

Because of the connection, Ji You knew it wouldn't shatter or easily break. She also knew that its Array structure was very stable, and it wouldn't collapse for at least several years.

This is—

A Mid-level Soul Device, right?

Apparently, the biggest difference between a Mid-level Soul Device and a low-level soul artifact is that a soul artifact maker can feel a connectedness to a Mid-level Soul Device, but not to a low-level soul artifact.

And also—

Ji You stared at the Soul Device, feeling that it had many flaws and inadequacies that needed to be fixed. As to where exactly the deficiencies were, Ji You only had a vague sense of them, yet she couldn't find the right descriptive words, nor could she find the direction for now.

Moreover, if she didn't repair it, in a few years, the Array Diagram of this Soul Device wouldn't hold up.

Ji You also understood that with her current abilities, she couldn't repair it; hence, it could only remain a Mid-level Soul Device.

While there was some regret, there was more joy!

She had succeeded!

Ji You stared at the circular pendant, carefully examining the clover pattern of the Array Diagram, her eyes flickering with joyous light.

After all the hardships, she had finally succeeded. Moreover, this successful experience also made Ji You realize that the patterns of the Array Diagram could actually be reused.

The Array Diagram could turn ordinary materials into a Soul Device, and it wasn't just the shape of the pattern that mattered, but the creator's Spiritual Silk!

Mithril, Companion Stone given to Boss, Second, and Third—none of them worked.

Yet Fourth and Old Five could.

This indicates that even the Spiritual Silks of the same person differ slightly. For example, Boss, who obviously had the strongest ability, turned out to be unable to precisely control his power...

The same went for Second and Third.

Relative to the weaker Fourth and Fifth, especially the Fourth, when it comes to delicate control, they're absolutely the strongest.

As for the Sixth? This guy is mediocre in all respects, like a weathervane, always going with the flow, and for now, it's still unclear which area he might excel in.

So—

Each of the Six Strands has its own focus, right?

...

Of course, Ji You's previous speculations about Spiritual Silk were based on her own experiences, and she had no way of knowing how it was for others.

While Ji You was pondering, Fourth had already come over, eagerly looking for rewards:[Master! Master! Master!]

Ji You was deep in thought and didn't hear.

Fourth:[Master! Sisi has finally completed the task you assigned!]

Ji You didn't respond, but finally woke up, looked up, and glanced over at Fourth.

Fourth was standing with its head erect, flapping its tail powerfully and bouncing around, desperately trying to make its presence felt:[Master! Master! Master! Sisi really loves Cloud Mist Milk Tea, but I know Master can't afford too much, Sisi isn't greedy, just one cup is enough...]

Ji You: "..."

This guy, clearly afraid of being stiffed, was going roundabout to remind her not to forget.

However, Ji You was in a good mood now, and especially generous, immediately responding:[Alright! I'll give you one just for you!]

Fourth:[Wow!!! Sisi loves Master the most!]

The other five strands heard this and became a bit restless.

Ji You waved grandly, magnanimously saying: "All the Silks get one!"

Boss, Second... Sixth collectively cheered:[Wow! We love Master the most!]

Watching the Spiritual Silk excited and bubbling like it was a holiday, Ji You squinted her eyes and chuckled: "While we've still got time, let's continue making Soul Devices to rake in a big one—live the high life!"

Six Strands:[Live the high life!]

Ji You's mouth twitched; these foodies only remembered the last four words, her main point was the bit about 'continuing the job'!

However—

With the Six Strands so enthusiastic, Ji You had no worry about not being able to squeeze work out of them.

So—

Next, Ji You had all six strands follow Fourth's method to craft Soul Devices.

Sadly, Boss, Second, and Third, these three boors, still couldn't do it.

Old Five? Old Five succeeded twice, but both times with pink Companion Stones. When using Mithril, at the critical moment, it would always shatter.

And Sixth? Sixth managed once with Companion Stones, but failed with Mithril, and not at the critical moment—it failed halfway through.

What surprised Ji You the most was Fourth! This guy actually succeeded once with Mithril! And once with Companion Stones! Meaning that in one night, Fourth alone managed to complete 4 Soul Devices— 2 with Mithril, 2 with Companion Stones!

Ji You was truly shocked!

Towards the end, perhaps because it was really out of Strength, tired, or maybe because it wanted to slack off, Fourth went limp, motionless, even its tail drooping listlessly—

Watching it, Ji You said with a smile: "Fourth, you rest up well these next few days!"

Upon hearing this, Fourth instinctively wagged its tail, which was joyously and vigorously moving, but in a flash, it seemed to realize something, and its tail stiffened, drooping down powerlessly again—

Such acting skills could have made even the Oscar Little Golden Man feel inferior.

Yet Ji You's lips curled up slightly: Slacking off is no big deal, as long as you can work and are willing to work!

Chapter 443

The surroundings were serene.

Ji You stared at the workbench, with 7 pink companion stone low-level soul artifacts and 2 mithril Mid-level Soul Devices laid out, her eyes and brows brimming with laughter!

These, they were all money! Money! Money!

It was unbelievable to say out loud! She alone, in one night, had crafted 9 soul devices!

of them!

of them!

Ji You, staying in her dorm room, was casually crossing her legs in an ungraceful pose, almost desperate to rush out and tell everyone that there was a soul device big shot here! Everyone, hurry up and embrace the opportunity!

Thinking of the news getting out and possibly being overwhelmed by fans, she couldn't help but laugh.

However—

Such a scene of being admired by countless people was better off just imagined. Ji You felt that as a person, it was better to keep a low profile, or else being too loved could become a nuisance!

...

The new soul devices, how should she handle them?

Without a doubt, they were definitely meant to be sold. How to sell? At what price? Having learned a lesson from a previous loss, Ji You dared not recklessly post them online.

After giving it some thought, Ji You decided to contact her teacher Cheng Yu to help estimate a price before selling them.

Thinking of this, Ji You sent an email to Cheng Yu, and while waiting for a reply, she stared at the two mithril ring soul devices, suddenly feeling a bit troubled.

One of them was meant as a gift for Senior Shi Ya.

What about the other? Sell it or keep it?

These two soul devices looked exactly the same in style, the carvings and Array Diagrams inside were identical – just like best friends' matching items!

No!

Sisters' matching items!

If she sold one, she wouldn't know who would buy it back later. Ji You felt strangely as if she had done something cruel by forcibly separating them.

Thinking of this, Ji You felt even less inclined to part with them!

Senior Shi Ya was like a long-lost 'sister' she had yet to officially recognize!

These sister-themed soul devices absolutely could not be separated!

So—

She couldn't sell it!

Then—should she wear one herself?

Thinking of the image of her and Senior Shi Ya wearing matching 'jewelry', Ji You hehe chuckled.

That settled it.

Hence, Ji You found a braided cord, quickly wove a lanyard, threaded the ring onto it, and hung it around her neck.

Then, she covered it with her collar, making it barely visible to others. But no one would expect that the worthless-looking lanyard was hanging a valuable Mid-level Soul Device!

Hahaha...

Ji You thought, if Sheng Qingyan ever called her a poor dead again, she would immediately show off her soul device! That would surely scare him to death!

Meanwhile—

The popular streamer 'Ah Da takes you treasure hunting,' also known as Cheng Yu, was currently streaming on Star Network. He was explaining a beautifully carved jade gourd ornament: "This piece of art..."

Audience A: "Ah Da, nothing you've introduced lately has been impressive! Keep this up, and you'll lose me!"

Audience B: "Exactly! If you keep brushing things off like this, I won't watch your stream anymore."

Audience C: "Ah Da, what have you been up to lately? It's okay to be off fishing for three days and drying the nets for two, but you never manage to find good stuff, just artwork, always artwork, which is utterly useless! Keep this up, and I won't watch anymore."

Audience D: "Ah Da! Goodbye!"

...

Cheng Yu listened to the complaints of the audience in his live streaming room, his face turned bitter, and he started complaining, "In the past, you called me Little Sweetie when I watched the stars and moon! Now— you bunch of scum men and women! Go away! Just go away!"

"Goodbye!"

He waved his hand grandly, actually feeling a bit nervous, but he had been squatting outside the Green Glaze Master's shop every day, hoping the Master would send him a message, so Cheng Yu really had no mind to think about the content of his live streaming.

The audience is very sensitive, Cheng Yu was distracted, and the audience immediately sensed it and started to get into a quarrel with Cheng Yu—

Who knew Ah Da would be this stubborn? Dismissing his own audience just like that?

Many hot-tempered audience members immediately cursed: "Good for you, Ah Da! Goodbye then!"

"Goodbye!"

"Never see you again!"

...

Cheng Yu: "..."

Cheng Yu almost spat out blood: "Hey! Iron buddies! Don't go! I was just joking!"

Just... just a joke!

But, this joke, in the blink of an eye, took away more than half of his live streaming room, and then all these people flooded into his biggest competitor 'Brother Kun Takes You Shopping'!

This 'Brother Kun Takes You Shopping,' is a recently popular professional bargain-hunting live streamer.

It's unknown whether it's really the opponent's luck, or a well-planned strategy, but this Brother Kun, within less than half a month, became a sensation in the Star Network live streaming circle.

Who is this person?

Cheng Yu used his connections to check, but couldn't find out... However, from the opponent's repeated targeting of his actions, it seemed very likely it was his half-brother Cheng Kun.

Cheng Yu thought of this and his face turned dark instantly.

Had his 'Ah Da Takes You Shopping' identity been exposed? How did Cheng Kun find out?

Just then, Cheng Yu suddenly heard a message alert, he opened it and his face turned even darker.

Cheng Kun: [Ah Da Takes You Shopping? I've always wondered how a poor village teacher like you could afford to hire Master Mickey Dodge to customize a Soul Device for you, turns out you've been cheating and scamming money through live streaming for years, tsk tsk!]

Cheng Yu's face turned ashen, and his hands suddenly clenched.

Cheng Kun: [Your days of cheating and deceiving are over! Just stay forever in the Sixth Star System and be your village teacher!]

Cheng Yu clenched his teeth.

He didn't reply immediately and had no intention to reply.

Cheng Yu admitted that his live streaming content was not entirely coincidental or random, many were pre-scouted and designed by the team he hired, but being accused by Cheng Kun of cheating and deceiving? Cheng Yu totally disagreed!

Although the content was pre-scouted and designed! But absolutely no faking! The shops and treasures he discovered and got were all real, found after spending a lot of manpower and resources!

How could it be cheating and deceiving?

Cheng Yu was furious!

The reason he got into live streaming shopping and bargain-hunting was also because his resources and connections were completely blocked by Cheng Kun, leaving him no other way out, and he was unwilling to let his spiritual power never improve. That's why he thought of picking through the vast stores in Star Sea, hoping to get lucky and find a Soul Device suitable for enhancing his spiritual power.

However, over the years he didn't find treasures but instead made quite a lot of money from live streaming, which became the major source of income for Cheng Yu after Cheng Kun blocked all his resources.

Now—

His double identity was exposed?

How was it exposed?

Cheng Yu frowned heavily, thinking over and over, feeling that the most likely possibility was still a leak from Mickey Ducky's side. Initially, in order to meet Master Mickey Dodge, he had applied many times unsuccessfully and had to use all his available resources and connections before he was finally accepted—

Probably there was a problem in one of the processes.

Cheng Yu wasn't regretting that his identity as a popular host could no longer be used, nor was he worried about losing this means of making money—

To put it bluntly, all he did was for the sake of enhancing his own spiritual power. As long as there were other ways to level up his Spiritual Level, whether it be the identity of a net celebrity or a money-making channel, he didn't really care.

At this moment, when Cheng Yu was extremely anxious, suddenly there came another message alert.

At this time, it should still be Cheng Kun sending something to flaunt power, Cheng Kun this petty person, liked to show off when he was successful... Cheng Yu furrowed his brows, not checking it immediately.

Chapter 444: Third-Level Disability

Huh?

The email I sent wasn't checked by the recipient on time?

What's the matter?

That shouldn't be the case.

Shortly after, Ji You unintentionally glanced down and saw the time displayed on the Light Computer, which made her realize it was almost dawn. Under normal circumstances, most people should have gone to bed already.

Ji You guessed that Teacher Cheng Yu must have already been resting.

Thinking this, Ji You wasn't too disappointed. It was then that she suddenly felt an overwhelming exhaustion wash over her, making her entire body tired and sleepy, with eyelids too heavy to keep open...

Ji You hurriedly left everything on the workbench and went straight to bed.

The next day.

Ji You woke up on time, turned over, and was about to get out of bed when she tried to stand up but suddenly collapsed back onto the bed, "What's happening?"

Ji You subconsciously tried to lift her hand, but to her horror, she found that she couldn't even lift her arm. Moreover, to even slightly move her fingertips took an immense effort, barely managing to bend them a little.

"What's going on?"

"What's happened?"

Ji You started to panic, and what made her even more uncomfortable was not just the soreness and unbearable pain in her body that hinted at half-body paralysis, but also the waves of tiredness in her spirit, totally sapping her energy to the point she didn't want to move at all.

Ji You darkened her face, a guess beginning to form in her mind:

Could it be—

Did crafting 9 Soul Devices in one go last night burden my body this much?

To confirm her suspicions, Ji You quickly concentrated to check on her Spiritual World, and upon looking, she was utterly shocked!

Damn!

What had just happened?

At this moment, her entire Spiritual World was empty, not a trace of Spiritual Silk to be seen!

Ji You's face showed her impatience as she quickly called out loudly, "Boss, Second, Third, Fourth, Old Five, Sixth, where have you all gone?"

Usually, whenever Ji You checked her Spiritual World, she could always see her six silly strands of silk wandering around this imaginary space. They would either be chasing each other playfully, lazing around, or taking any opportunity to beg for food and drinks from Ji You...

In short, the Spiritual World was always bustling with activity.

But now—

Not a single strand was in sight, which was enough to scare Ji You to death.

After calling for quite a while without a response, Ji You became more and more anxious, frightened, and worried. Even though she always complained about her Spiritual Silk being stupid and gluttonous... in her heart, she really liked them and cared for them a lot.

These guys, although they were a part of her body, Ji You in her heart truly treated them as family, close companions...

This—

Gone?

Not a single one?

In this illusory space, Ji You was even digging three feet into the ground, yet she couldn't find a trace of any strand, and she quickly called out, "Iron Plate!"

"Iron Plate!"

"Iron!"

"Have you seen my Spiritual Silk?"

"Don't be silent, answer me."

...

The surroundings were quiet, with no response.

Ji You's face tense, she bit her teeth tightly: "If you don't make a sound soon, I'll dismantle you and throw you out! Do you really think it's that nice to stay in my Spiritual World?"

This thing, Iron Plate, besides showing up for food, was never seen on normal occasions. Ji You had tried many ways but couldn't do anything to it. If it weren't for the fact that she kept it thinking it was the true abode for Xiao You's soul, Ji You would have gotten rid of it already.

A short while passed.

Still, Iron Plate made no response.

No matter how Ji You threatened, cursed, tempted, or compromised, or negotiated nicely with the Iron Plate, there was no response at all.

Ji You frowned, having a terrifying guess in her heart:

This Iron Plate—

It must be an inanimate object, one without autonomous consciousness; otherwise, how could there be no response at all?

Unable to find her own Spiritual Silk, Ji You was anxious and concerned about the safety of Xiao You within the Iron Plate. She hurriedly tried to contact Xiao You: "Xiao You, Xiao You, Xiao You... Can you hear me speaking?"

However—

The entire Spirit Space was deathly silent, empty...

The once lively voice of the girl that used to echo around her now seemed like a figment of Ji You's imagination, and she stood there in a daze.

Xiao You did not respond either.

...

Ji You's current state was indescribable, how bad could it be? Manufacturing 9 Soul Devices in one go, how much money that could earn, and such matters were not important to Ji You right now, they were all trivial!

What was important were her Spiritual Silks!

It was Xiao You!

In her panic, Ji You suddenly thought of a possibility. Was it because her Spiritual Silk had vanished that she couldn't contact Xiao You? After all—The bond connecting Ji You and Xiao You was Ji You's own spiritual power.

Without the Spiritual Silk, where would the spiritual power come from?

No!

That's not right!

If the spiritual power had entirely disappeared, what would her current situation be? How could she still be thinking independently?

So—

The spiritual power hadn't vanished.

The Spiritual Silk hadn't disappeared either...

They must have gone somewhere?

...

Ji You's head was about to explode from all the thinking, and she couldn't figure out the reason. As class time neared, in her condition, she couldn't even get up, let alone attend class. Ji You had no choice but to use the Light Computer to call her teacher, Mu Jianling, and ask for leave.

Mu Jianling listened with a cold face, and after hearing Ji You's reason for the leave, she scolded: "Are you an idiot? You have a medical issue and didn't call an ambulance?"

Ji You: "..."

After being scolded by Mu Jianling, Ji You sobered up a bit, quickly nodded, and said, "I... I forgot."

Mu Jianling scolded: "How come you never forget to eat?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took the scolding obediently.

Mu Jianling said: "I've called a medical robot for you, just wait obediently in your dormitory."

Ji You hurriedly said, "Thank you, teacher."

Mu Jianling snorted: "An idiot's thanks, I don't need them—it might lower my intelligence."

Ji You: "..."

Having said that, Mu Jianling hung up the phone.

Ji You, who had been alone and panicked for a while, felt a bit more rational after being scolded and belittled by Teacher Mu Jianling; in any case, she was very grateful for the stern but caring Mu Jianling in her heart.

In less than about 10 seconds, the sound of a medical robot knocking at the door of the dormitory was heard.

Ji You: "Please come in."

After temporarily unlocking the dorm entrance permissions, a medical robot quickly entered: "May I ask if you are student Ji You?"

Looking at this robot with a white, round head, Ji You felt like she saw an angel of salvation and quickly said, "It's me! I'm the one! I'm the one who needs help."

The robot scanned Ji You's body briefly, its electronic voice devoid of any emotion, and said: "Diagnosis result: third-level disability! Hospital treatment is required."

Ji You: "..."

Chapter 445: Ji the Miserable

Third-level disability?

How is a third-level disability defined in the interstellar era?

I've become a third-level disabled person? When did this happen? Why were there no signs at all? Ji You felt so awful and distressed that she couldn't even find the right words to describe her feelings.

The rescue robot said, "Student Ji You, a third-level disability is not something to delay. Please receive treatment immediately."

Ji You: "..."

These words, "third-level disability," why do they sound so distressing to her?

But Ji You still held back her objections, hastily saying, "Thank you, rescue person, sir. Please treat me quickly."

The rescue robot said, "I'm sorry, my built-in technology can't provide aid to you. You need to go to a proper medical room for treatment. Now, please get on the stretcher."

The Alliance's rescue robots were very convenient and user-friendly. Ji You was unable to move, and the robot had a stretcher built into its body. Once unfolded, Ji You was lifted onto it without having to move an inch...

Then—

The door to her dormitory opened, and just as Ji You was about to be wheeled out, she bumped into Sheng Qingyan who was about to knock on the door.

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Sheng Qingyan's eyelids twitched as he asked, "You poor dead, what happened to you?"

Before Ji You could answer, the rescue robot kindly responded, "After assessment, Student Ji You has become a third-level disabled person and needs to go to the medical room immediately for rescue treatment."

Sheng Qingyan: "!!!"

Ji You: "..."

Sheng Qingyan couldn't believe his own ears and exclaimed in shock, "Third-level disability?"

The voice was really piercing. Ji You quickly said, "You heard right, please make way, I need to go for treatment now."

Shocked as if he had been struck by lightning, Sheng Qingyan subconsciously stepped aside.

Then—

The rescue robot continued to expand, in the blink of an eye turning into a small Flying Device, and in a moment flew out of the dormitory building.

Sheng Qingyan: "Wait up!!!"

"What the! You haven't explained the reason for turning into a disabled person..."

"Why are you leaving already..."

...

At this moment, Ji You was barely able to take care of herself, let alone have the mood to explain to Sheng Qingyan the reason for her injury.

After being placed on the stretcher, the rescue robot, which had transformed into a small Flying Device, flew at high speed and reached the school's medical room in less than 5 minutes without any obstructions.

Outside the door.

Dr. Luo was already waiting. Her usually calm, gentle, and approachable face occasionally flickered with hints of anxiety. Only when she saw Ji You's rescue robot arriving did her tense expression slightly relax.

The hatch opened, revealing Ji You's figure.

Upon seeing her, Dr. Luo's face darkened slightly, but she said nothing.

Ji You felt as if she had seen a family member and almost wished she could cling to Dr. Luo's leg, eager for her to check her body right away, "Dr. Luo, Yingyinging, I feel like except for my mouth, all other parts of my body are paralyzed, what should I do..."

Upon hearing this, Dr. Luo said irritably, "Stop your nonsense, lie down properly."

Ji You obediently lay down.

Shortly after, Dr. Luo pushed Ji You into the examination chamber, and with various tubes and scanning rays... her body was being checked continuously. About half an hour later, the examination finally came to a complete stop.

Dr. Luo held the test results, his face already pitch-black: "What in the world have you done to your body? You've suffered third-level damage, with severe organ damage throughout your body..."

And it wasn't over yet.

Dr. Luo continued, "The current result is that your Physical Strength, which had only recently been upgraded to D-level, has now fallen back to E-level. If it's not repaired immediately, it could result in permanent damage."

Ji You: "!!!"

Ji You, with a gaping mouth: "No... That's impossible, isn't it?"

How could it be so serious?

Dr. Luo glared at her impatiently, his expression looking very unpleasant, and said, "There's even more desperate news. Do you want to hear it?"

Ji You wished she could cover her ears as she said, "I don't want to hear it! I don't want to hear it! I don't want to hear it!"

But Dr. Luo didn't care and went straight on, "Not only that, but your spiritual power has also suffered significant damage. Although the level hasn't dropped, the spiritual power threshold you could contain at D-level is currently less than one-third of the original."

Ji You: "..."

Dr. Luo said, "This is not a good thing. You were fine before, already a disabled person, and I'm 'honored' to congratulate you, you're now the disabled of the disabled. In short, doubly disabled!"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath, her face full of grievance: "Teacher... this isn't funny at all."

Dr. Luo raised an eyebrow and said, "You think I'm joking with you?"

Ji You with a bitter face: "I wish you were joking with me."

Dr. Luo's face serious, he said, "Under the same conditions, other people with D-level spiritual power can reach a threshold value above 5000. You were originally around 1500, and now it's not even 500. Does that sound funny to you?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You was close to tears: "It's not funny."

Dr. Luo, with his arms folded, said, "So, can you tell me what kind of foolish thing you've actually done to yourself?"

Ji You, in a pitiful tone, said, "I... I did a little research on my spiritual power in private."

Should she directly say that she made 9 Soul Devices in one night?

That was too horrifying.

Others couldn't make one in a year, yet she made nine in one night. If that got out, it would shock the whole world!

And there was more—

She had too many secrets, like crossing over, the Iron Plate, Xiao You... especially Xiao You, who had become Ji You's weak spot. Without being able to ensure Xiao You's absolute safety, Ji You could only trust in herself.

"Yo~" Dr. Luo, upon hearing Ji You's words, quirked an eyebrow, "You certainly have a spirit of in-depth research, daring to carry out private research on your own spiritual power. Tsk tsk..."

"Admirable!" After uttering these two words, Dr. Luo immediately said, "Be honest, give a detailed account of how you conducted research on yourself."

Ji You thought for a while and managed to come up with a set of excuses for herself, uncertain whether Dr. Luo would believe her after hearing them.

Dr. Luo listened but didn't say much, then asked more questions about her body, and after Ji You replied, Dr. Luo pondered for a moment and said, "The repair of your Physical Strength is actually quite easy to solve. I'll write you a prescription later, for internal and external use. I reckon it'll be better in a day or two."

Ji You's eyes brightened at the news: "Is it really that easy?"

After all, her Physical Strength had dropped an entire level. It had to be said, the medical technology of the interstellar era was truly powerful.

Dr. Luo rolled his eyes, annoyed: "Your muscles, meridians, and blood flow have all expanded when you were upgraded to D-level; now, they're just damaged. As long as you repair the damage, of course, it will be easy to return to D-level."

Having said that, Dr. Luo slightly paused, slightly stretching out the tone, "However—"

Ji You's face immediately soured.

She knew there would be another 'however'.

Chapter 446: Ji Enters a Deep Depression

Dr. Luo suddenly stopped talking.

Ji You waited a few seconds, but when Dr. Luo didn't continue, she couldn't help but ask, "Teacher... what did you mean just now by 'however'?"

Dr. Luo's eyes shifted away from the medical device's screen and turned towards Ji You, a trace of pity flashing through her gentle eyes, "Are you sure you want to hear it?"

Ji You: "..."

This—

Could she even choose not to listen?

At this point, Dr. Luo still thought to tease her with a humorous tone.

Sigh!

Ji You sighed heavily, closed her eyes, and with resignation said, "Teacher! Just tell me straight up how many days I have left to live!"

Since it's a knife either way, whether she extends her head or shrinks it back, might as well face it head-on.

"Pff—"

Seeing the expression on Ji You's face, Dr. Luo couldn't help but laugh in an unkind manner. Raising her hand and pointing at Ji You's head, she scolded with a laugh, "What are you thinking? What is your brain made of? I'm really curious now..."

Ji You: "Don't... don't... My brain is constructed just like an average person's. Just your average person's..."

Geez!

The way she's talking like a mad scientist is scaring me to death, isn't it?

The smile in Dr. Luo's eyes was unrelenting as she pointed at Ji You, scolding, "Relax! With the vitality of your cells, living another hundred or two hundred years won't be a problem."

Hearing this, Ji You's frown turned into a smile in no time, saying, "You scared me; I thought I only had a few days left to live."

She's got a hundred or two hundred years left for endeavors.

Just the thought is delightful.

Dr. Luo said with a smile, "However—"

Ji You: "..."

Here it comes again.

Ji You's smile twitched, and she hurriedly urged, "Teacher, can't you just say what you mean all at once? This rollercoaster of emotions is really not fun at all."

Listening to Ji You's anxious tone, Dr. Luo glanced at her and said with a smile, "Physique issues are easy to fix. However, the damage to your spiritual power is too great, nearly impossible to repair."

Ji You: "Huh???"

Dr. Luo laughed, "You heard me correctly."

Ji You: "Huh???"

Ji You took a deep breath, almost unable to believe what she was hearing or seeing, "Teach... Teacher... The way you're saying this with a smile on your face really makes it hard for me to believe it's true."

Who... Who smiles while pronouncing someone else's death sentence?

Ahhh!!

Dr. Luo put away her smile and said seriously, "Don't believe it? This is your diagnostic report, take a look for yourself."

With trembling hands, Ji You took the electronic report on the light screen and then she saw rows upon rows of dense numbers and characters, incomprehensible to a layperson. But the very intuitive holographic image virtualizing her spiritual power was something Ji You could understand at a glance.

This—

What's with this hole-ridden, damaged spirit space that looks like a sieve?

Ji You instinctively looked up at Dr. Luo.

Dr. Luo said, "This is simulated using a specific instrument after connecting to your spirit space, reflecting the current state of your spirit space."

Ji You was a bit puzzled, "How... How can this be?" It wasn't like that at all. Her spirit space was supposed to be ethereal, always dominated by six spiritual threads...

Dr. Luo said, "Don't doubt it. This is the result. See those sievelike holes? Your spirit space is full of holes, not a single area is intact. To put it simply for you to understand, a normal and complete spirit space is like a beautiful girl with a fair and delicate face. But yours? The damaged spirit space you have is like an ugly girl who also has a face full of pimples and acne, get it?"

Ji You: "..."

A hellish comparison.

And this is supposed to be simple? It's utterly chilling, horrifying, and eerie, full of freakish vibes, isn't it?

Ji You didn't want to speak anymore.

But Dr. Luo clearly preferred seeing Ji You shut down, as she continued, "Your spiritual power, do you want to repair it?"

Ji You's eyes widened.

Dr. Luo said, "It's not hopeless. There are currently two methods: using a High-level Soul Device. Or consuming large amounts of precious Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures like Candy Beans and Cloud Mist Tea."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You asked in a low voice, "What happens if I don't get treated?"

Dr. Luo smiled and said, "Don't worry—you won't die. It's just that—you won't be able to become a Mechanical Warrior, nor will you be useful to society. In the future, even if you go to the garbage planet to scavenge, you won't be able to... In our medical field, we have a term for such people: Unrecoverable Waste of Resources, in short: Trash."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You clutched her chest, "Teacher... please stop, I can't take it all by myself."

Dr. Luo sighed, "Pity."

Ji You: "..."

Silence.

A deathly silence.

Ji You gritted her teeth and suddenly asked, "Teacher... is there a way to purchase a High-level Soul Device?"

Dr. Luo shook her head and said, "Sorry, I don't know."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You asked, "Then... if I want to buy lots of Cloud Mist Tea, Candy Beans, where can I get them?"

Dr. Luo still shook her head, saying, "Sorry, I don't know. If you have a way, please share it with the teacher, I would be very happy."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You made a bitter face, pursing her lips, and gesturing to her paralyzed body, "Teacher... let's set aside the issue with my spiritual power for now, can you first treat my body?"

"I almost forgot about that." Dr. Luo, upon hearing this, slapped her forehead, smiled with a hint of apology, and said, "Transfer 50,000 points to me."

The hand that Ji You was preparing to use to transfer the money was suddenly forced back, "How much?"

Dr. Luo grinned, "50,000 points."

Ji You: "!!!"

Ji You, trembling, exclaimed, "Impossible, right? You're kidding, right?"

Dr. Luo said seriously, "Honest and fair to all."

Ji You: "..."

Dr. Luo continued, taking out another medical report, pointing to one of the images, and told Ji You, "Look for yourself, with the extent of damage to your body, not even a divine doctor reincarnated could heal you without spending money. Here, here, and here... especially this area, you see this hole? It's almost as big as a bowl. To completely repair it, the cost of Repair Liquid and medicine is also very expensive. The infirmary here is still short of a few things, I also need to find a channel to purchase them for you..."

Blah blah blah...

A whole bunch of them.

Ji You couldn't remember the key points at all.

She just wanted to shut down.

And then—

Ji You looked up, close to weeping, "Teacher... do you have any painless, instant death medicine that can let a person die instantly?"

She might as well just die.

Chapter 447: Kindred Spirits in Sorrow

Dr. Luo raised his hand and thumped Ji You on the head, scolding, "Do you think this is some unscrupulous clinic? I only save lives here, not harm them. 50,000 points, do you want the treatment or not? Hurry up. If not, I'll have the robots bring a stretcher and carry you out."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You paced back and forth, meticulously counting the points in her account, not missing a single one, and found that there really were only 50,250 points left. Taking away 50,000 points at once, wouldn't that leave only 250?

What about future life?

Can I even get through the days?

Will I still be able to eat braised pork ribs with rice?

...

While Ji You was struggling to decide, Dr. Luo asked, "Have you made up your mind?"

Ji You, with a pained expression, said, "Dr. Luo, can you give me a discount? Look, I'm a regular customer here, shouldn't there be some kind of discount?"

Dr. Luo glanced at her elegantly and smiled, "You think it's an honor to be a regular in the medical room?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath and tried to plead her case, "How about a small discount? Otherwise, can I work for you in place of payment?"

Dr. Luo pointed to various precise instruments and the well-organized, orderly medical robots and said, "Sorry, there's no job here suitable for you."

"And—"

"The equipment, medicine, materials needed to treat your body... I'll give you a detailed list, and once you've seen it, you'll know whether I've given you a discount."

Saying this, Dr. Luo directly handed a stack of materials to Ji You.

Ji You only glanced at them for a few seconds, and her eyes twitched.

This—

Every item on this list, the price would shock anyone out there.

Ji You didn't dare to continue making flippant remarks and resignedly said, "Thank you, Dr. Luo, I accept the treatment..."

Dr. Luo said, "Transfer the funds."

Ji You, wincing at the pain, transferred the points over.

Dr. Luo saw the transfer amount: 49,999 points and couldn't help but twitch the corner of his mouth, scolding with a laugh, "Can't you just honestly transfer 50,000 points?"

By now, Ji You wasn't trying to hide anything, and showed the balance in her account, with a pained face she said, "Teacher... if I transfer 50,000 points to you, the remaining balance in my account won't sound very nice, you know."

"Oh—" Dr. Luo dragged the word out with an eerie tone, "Even not taking advantage of my 1 point, you seem quite the '250'." After all, if not for being a '250', who else would use their spiritual power for experiments?

Not only that, she also crippled herself.

This is a '250' within the '250s'.

Listening to Dr. Luo's teasing, Ji You's heart was filled with bitterness, and her face turned utterly ashen as she accepted Dr. Luo's treatment...

Over here.

Cheng Yu, who had just streamed live last night, got a slap in the face from the audience and was thoroughly disgusted by Cheng Kun once again, slept terribly all night. The next morning, when he had no classes, Cheng Yu got up, glanced at the time, skipped breakfast, and was about to go back to sleep when he suddenly received a message alert from the Light Computer system:[You have an unread message, would you like to check it?]

Cheng Yu said irritably, "No."

System:[Received, you have already rejected the other party twice, do you want to add them to the blacklist? And move this message to the trash?]

Cheng Yu blurted out, "Confirmed."

As soon as he said it, for some reason, a sense of unease flickered in Cheng Yu's heart, and he quickly said, "Wait."

System:[Deleted. If you need to restore it, please do so manually.]

The Light Computer system operated very quickly, but fortunately, any emails or messages that were deleted within a short time could be restored. As for blacklisted users? Just drag them back.

Cheng Kun's trashy message was really not worth reading again.

But——

Cheng Yu was still frowning, flipping through his blacklist, his mood very foul, his actions hence somewhat careless, and his eyes wandering without focusing on the blacklist.

Suddenly——

When the corner of his eye caught a glimpse of two characters, Cheng Yu jumped up in shock, "Huh???"

This plump figure, yet surprisingly agile, nearly hit the ceiling with that leap. He didn't care about the pain in his head and quickly got up to carefully inspect his blacklist.

Within it, the unremarkable words 'Green Glaze' nearly scared him so much his teeth could have fallen out.

Hiss——

"What have I done?"

"I actually blacklisted Master Green Glaze?"

"When did this happen?"

"Am I brain-dead?"

After this startling realization, Cheng Yu quickly checked the time he had blacklisted them, and his eyeballs almost popped out: "Just now? I blacklisted Master Green Glaze just now?"

"Damn it!"

Thinking of a possibility, Cheng Yu felt like beating himself up: "Was that message from Master Green Glaze?"

Hiss——

After gasping, Cheng Yu no longer cared about appearances and hurriedly retrieved the deleted message from the garbage planet. After seeing it, he was so regretful that he cried tears of sorrow!

"It was last night!"

"Last night Master Green Glaze sent me a message, asking for a favor."

"I..."

"I actually refused her?" Cheng Yu stared with disbelief, not knowing what to do, all the while his heart was in utter chaos. As everyone knows, the temperament of Soul Artifact Masters is usually quite serious, and it's rare to find one who is amiable and approachable. Therefore, Soul Artifact Masters are one of the most difficult species to approach, and Cheng Yu had previously exhausted a lot of effort just to meet Master Mickey Dodge, to no avail.

This——

Master Green Glaze took the initiative to send me a message, and I just ignored it and threw it into the recycling bin?

If Master Green Glaze knew about this——

Cheng Yu shivered all over, quickly dismissing this terrifying guess!

Without daring to delay for half a second, Cheng Yu immediately sent a message to Master Green Glaze, with a tone that was so ingratiating and cautious, it was simply beyond words...

[Ma... Master, what is it that you wanted to ask of me?]

[Whatever it is you command, Master, just call me directly, there's no need to worry about disturbing me, any time I have can be shifted to your service, truly.]

[Uh... let me explain quietly, I went to bed rather early last night, so I missed receiving your message, please don't hold it against me, Master. Not just one favor, even a thousand, ten thousand, I'll see them done immediately.]

...

Cheng Yu, like a chatterbox, tirelessly sent countless messages to Master Green Glaze, but as for his sent messages—they seemed to sink into the sea without a single response.

"Could it be? Has the Master already found someone else?"

"Yingyingying..."

"Don't let it be so!"

"Please, let it not be so!"

The mere thought that this potential tragedy had already happened made Cheng Yu's heart clench in pain so intense he could barely breathe: "Why is my life so miserable?"

However—

What Cheng Yu didn't know was that, within the same campus and not too far from him, Ji You was lying inside the treatment cabin receiving medical treatment. Thinking about the substantial amount of points she had lost, as well as the potential irreversible spiritual harm, Ji You too felt her heart so pained she couldn't breathe: "Why is my life so miserable?"

Chapter 448: Roasting

Medical Room.

Ji You's body was severely damaged, so the repair took a relatively long time, from morning until evening, the entire day Ji You was lying in the Repairing Chamber. During this time, except for being able to talk freely, her hands, feet, and all other limbs were immobile, and the whole process of bodily repair was not enjoyable at all.

As the medicine repaired the damaged sinews, blood vessels, qi, and muscles, it continuously shattered and reorganized all the damaged cellular tissues... The whole process felt like countless little bugs gnawing at her body, a sensation that could not merely be described as 'uncomfortable'.

Over time, Ji You became numb.

Watching the time slowly pass by, Ji You lay in the treatment cabin bored and wanting to talk, but unfortunately, Doctor Luo ignored her completely, busy with his own matters.

Although the process was painful, as time went on, Ji You clearly felt her body rejuvenated and the pain in her muscles significantly alleviated...

However—

Ji You's mood was not bright at all. Her Physical Strength might have recovered, but what about her spiritual power?

She was still trying to connect with her Six Spiritual Threads, but they seemed to have completely disappeared, leaving no trace at all.

Suddenly—

Doctor Luo noticed her actions and said sternly, "Stop!"

Ji You: "Huh?"

Doctor Luo frowned and said, "Your spiritual power has suffered tremendous damage. You must not use it before it is properly repaired, to avoid further damage."

Ji You: "!!!"

Ji You was surprised: "It can get damaged again?"

Doctor Luo explained, "That possibility cannot be excluded. Despite humanity's progress, spiritual power is still a domain that humans can't fully grasp. We must be cautious with spiritual power." Here, she couldn't help but give Ji You a sideways glance and said unhappily, "You really shouldn't be recklessly utilizing and studying your own spiritual power."

Initially, Doctor Luo, upon knowing such a rare case as Ji You, was tempted to explore her spiritual power mutation, but having her own principles and persistence in medicine, and with Principal Hong and Mu Jianling not allowing her to conduct research on Ji You privately, Doctor Luo quickly abandoned the idea.

Ji You, with a bitter face: "I... I didn't realize it would be this severe." She was just too absorbed, suddenly producing 9 Soul Devices, without considering that her body and spirit couldn't handle it.

If she had known the consequences would be so severe, Ji You wouldn't have done such a foolish thing.

Doctor Luo snorted, "Now you know, right? Let's see if you dare do it again in the future."

Ji You pursed her lips, then suddenly asked, "Do I... still have a future?"

Hearing this, Doctor Luo's tone softened, and he said, "What? Have you lost faith in yourself?"

Ji You was slightly stunned for a moment, then shook her head and said, "Teacher, you might not understand what I am about to say, but personally, I've been steeped in despair since I was young. Ever since I can remember, people have been telling me 'you can't do it' 'you're not capable' 'it's impossible for you' 'you have no hope'... I've heard too much of such talk, and experienced too much despair..."

Doctor Luo listened to her quiet narrative without interrupting.

Ji You eyed Doctor Luo brightly and said, "My previous question, did you think I resigned myself to despair? Actually—I asked it just to hear you confirm, saying 'I have no future.' Then, I would have even more reason to tell myself not to give up."

Doctor Luo raised an eyebrow, "Oh?"

Ji You giggled and said, "Of course, I actually look forward to seeing the stunned look on your face when I recover my spiritual power. I bet it would be priceless. Hahaha..."

Doctor Luo: "..."

Doctor Luo laughed and scolded, "Naughty."

At that moment, the door to the medical room opened, and Mu Jianling walked in with a serious face, just in time to hear what Ji You had said. She snorted coldly and said, "That thought of yours is typical foolish self-entertainment."

Ji You didn't care at all about Teacher Mu Jianling's teasing. On the contrary, seeing Teacher Mu Jianling was like seeing a family member, and she almost wanted to run over and hug her legs: "Teacher! Are you here to see me?"

Ji You originally thought that Teacher Mu Jianling would definitely deny it, but——

"Yep." Mu Jianling nodded bluntly and admitted, adding, "Before coming here, I seriously considered whether to bring some candles and paper money... Unfortunately, you're not dead yet."

Ji You: "..."

Mu Jianling stared at Ji You inside the Repairing Chamber, scrutinized her carefully, especially pausing on Ji You's pale, bloodless lips, and then tilted her head, saying, "Keep it up, I have high hopes for you."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You couldn't move, otherwise she would have jumped up in anger.

However——

That thought, she only dared to think about it, not daring to show it. Moreover, Ji You weakly smiled and said ingratiatingly, "Teacher, there's no need for gifts just to visit me, it'd be a waste. Also, I've received your encouragement, and I will strive to completely disappoint you."

Mu Jianling huffed and said, "Don't worry, no matter how poor or stingy your teacher is, I'm still willing to spend a bit on paper money and incense."

Ji You: "..."

Doctor Luo watched these two bickering, a smile in his eyes, and asked, "Jianling, are you finishing classes early today?"

It was 6:10 PM, and while other departments finished right at 6:00 PM, the Combat Department typically dragged on for an extra half hour, or even an hour at times.

At this moment— not only did Mu Jianling finish teaching on time, but she also arrived at the medical room right after class, her care for Ji You hidden behind her indifferent facade...

Sigh!

Such a tsundere!

Doctor Luo muttered to himself.

Hearing Doctor Luo's words, Mu Jianling casually said, "Some idiot students took a leave today, the other students are all reassuring, smart, and hardworking, so I finished class early."

Ji You: "..."

Doctor Luo laughed and said, "That's true."

Ji You: "..."

After Mu Jianling asked Doctor Luo for an update on Ji You's condition, she turned her head and stared at Ji You's face, momentarily at a loss for words.

Finally.

Mu Jianling said, "Truly idiotic."

Doctor Luo laughed and said, "Stop scolding, if you keep this up, she'll become introverted."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You really wanted to retort: [Hey! How come you understand so well? If you understand me so well, why do you still provoke me? Isn't this forcing me to become introverted?]

Chapter 449: Contract

Dr. Luo, are you trying to force Ji You into isolation? Ji You doesn't know.

But—

Then, Dr. Luo's next sentence suddenly made Ji You's eyes light up!

Dr. Luo looked at Mu Jianling and asked, "Sword Spirit, do you still have that high-level soul artifact you got before?"

Mu Jianling nodded: "Yes."

Ji You immediately widened her eyes: "High-level soul artifact?"

Dr. Luo and Mu Jianling turned their heads in unison, glaring at Ji You and said in chorus, "None of your business."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You, not giving up, said softly, "I'm not coveting the high-level soul artifact... just— could I borrow it to observe?"

High-level soul artifact, ah!

Even if Ji You racked her brains, she couldn't obtain one on her own. If she could just take a look at a high-level soul artifact and study it, maybe one day she could also make one by herself.

So—

She really wasn't coveting Teacher Mu Jianling's high-level soul artifact; she simply wanted to observe it.

Mu Jianling ignored Ji You.

So did Dr. Luo.

At this moment, the air was filled with an awkward atmosphere, but Ji You, thick-skinned as she was, felt no shame. Instead, she was still trying her best to plead, "Teacher Mu... I'll just look at it, just a glance, only for a second... If not possible, even looking from afar would do..."

In the medical room, Mu Jianling, seemingly not hearing Ji You's words, frowned and asked Dr. Luo, "Are these really the only two methods? Isn't there another way?"

Dr. Luo also furrowed her brows and said, "These two methods are the safest and most secure. If we were to use any other, I cannot guarantee there would be no harm to her spiritual power."

After all, the realm of spiritual power is still beyond human technological control to this day, which means that medical treatments have to be conservative to avoid harming a person's foundation when treating damage to spiritual power.

Natural food...

Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures...

High-level soul artifacts...

These are, without a doubt, the safest and most effective.

Upon hearing this, Mu Jianling had a grave look on his face.

Ji You, overhearing the conversation between her two respected teachers, lost the playful expression on her face in an instant. She knew that despite Dr. Luo and Teacher Mu Jianling's various belittling and teasing comments directed at her, they truly did care about her health.

...

After a while.

Mu Jianling said, "There is a high-level soul artifact in my possession, but— it's actually not mine. I'm merely keeping it for someone else."

Dr. Luo was taken aback, "In that case, isn't it..." She had been relaxed before because she thought that with the high-level soul artifact in Mu Jianling's possession, there should be no problem using it to treat Ji You's spiritual damage.

But—

Since the soul artifact isn't Mu Jianling's, she couldn't make decisions on her own.

Mu Jian seemed to remember something, his indifferent eyes staring into the distance, his gaze ethereal and profound. Suddenly, with a light chuckle, he spoke gently, "Though it is said to be kept on behalf, it's not quite right. Before parting, an old friend mentioned, they gifted it to me, to use as I wish."

Dr. Luo did not continue to inquire further.

Ji You listened and felt a heaviness in her heart.

This old friend must be a very important, very significant person to Teacher Mu Jianling...

Suddenly, Mu Jianling brushed aside his previous melancholy, his tone casual as he said, "After all, a soul artifact is just an object; holding onto it is merely retaining a memory. Besides, I've already cherished it for over 50 years. The time has been somewhat long..."

Upon hearing this, Ji You could not remain at ease any longer and loudly said, "Teacher! I don't want such a treasured item that you value so much."

Mu Jianling turned her head and gave Ji You a sidelong glance: "I didn't say it was for you, don't flatter yourself."

Ji You: "..."

Awkward.

The awkwardness was fleeting. Ji You quickly recovered her dignity and said with a laugh: "Ah ha... I was just scared that Teacher would really give it to me to use. I feel like I couldn't handle it. Since that's not the case, then that's great."

Regarding the issue of how to restore spiritual power, Ji You had actually come up with a plan already. She currently had nine soul artifacts in her possession, seven of which were low-level artifacts that she could sell.

The money from the sale, Ji You planned, would be used to somehow get herself a mid-level or high-level soul artifact in return. If it could fix everything in one go, that would be best, but if not, she'd have to think of other ways.

...

In any case, Ji You always believed that as long as a person doesn't trap themselves, they would definitely be able to find a way out.

Also—

Last night, when making the soul artifact, Boss, Second, Third, Fourth, Old Five, and Sixth, these strands of Spiritual Silk that seemed as clever as spirits, especially Fourth—so cunning—Ji You was so reckless, they surely would have given her a warning, right?

And the reality?

These Six Strands didn't give any warning at all. What does this imply? Does it mean that the Spiritual Silk didn't feel that Ji You's actions were dangerous at that time? Or—

The reason was unclear to Ji You.

She believed that as long as the Spiritual Silk returned, she would certainly know the answer.

Therefore, Ji You wanted to buy a high-level soul artifact and even if she couldn't get one, she at least wanted to secure a mid-level Soul Device. She believed that as long as she could draw out the vanished spiritual power, the problem might be easily solved.

...

In the meantime, after Ji You spoke, Mu Jianling looked at her with annoyance and suddenly produced a paper contract, handing it to Ji You with an extremely stern tone: "Sign it."

Ji You was stunned: "Ah? What is it?"

Dr. Luo smiled: "It's a contract of servitude."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You thought Dr. Luo was joking, but Mu Jianling said coldly: "Dr. Luo is right, it is indeed a servitude contract."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's mouth fell open, "Teacher... that's really not funny."

Mu Jianling asked: "Are you signing it or not?"

Ji You mumbled: "May I... take a look at this contract of servitude?"

Mu Jianling said: "Go ahead."

Ji You quickly opened it and took a glance. With that look, she couldn't help but gasp. This contract, frankly, was no different from a servitude contract.

It stated that Teacher Mu Jianling would bear the costs of Ji You's spiritual power restoration, and Ji You, in turn, would repay the debt through labor until the debt was cleared to gain her freedom.

As for what kind of labor Ji You would have to perform for Teacher Mu Jianling, there was only one clause: [Subject to the whims of Mu Jianling.]

Ji You's mouth twitched, that was a bit too arbitrary.

Ji You asked: "Teacher... isn't this contract a bit too hasty?"

Mu Jianling glanced at her and said: "Hasty?"

Ji You mentioned quietly: "It's just... The section regarding the obligations of the indebted party seems to be drafted too rashly and vaguely, isn't it? Are there specific, clear labor instructions?"

Hearing this, Mu Jianling's tone was very casual: "Oh? That? I haven't decided yet, I'll go with how I feel later on."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You didn't know what else to say.

Chapter 450: High-level Soul Device

Regarding this indenture of servitude, Ji You deeply rejects it from the bottom of her heart.

However—

As the saying goes, a mere penny can stump a hero; poverty is the root of all sin. For a pauper like Ji You, affording the cost of repairing spiritual power in the short term is simply impossible.

Therefore, she can only seek external help.

Moreover, rather than turning to those whose hearts have turned black, who would love nothing more than to strip you of your flesh and bones for profit, Teacher Mu Jianling is certainly trustworthy. Just looking at the contract list drafted by Teacher Mu Jianling, the responsibilities and obligations Ji You has to bear are said to depend on Teacher Mu Jianling's mood, but in reality, isn't it just like having no responsibilities and obligations at all...

This contract, while it looks like an indenture of servitude, is actually nothing but a roundabout way of Teacher Mu Jianling taking care of Ji You.

Ji You complains with her mouth, but her heart is actually so touched that she doesn't quite know what to say.

Why would she deserve this?

Suddenly—

She received a heavy knock on her head, and as Ji You looked up, she met Teacher Mu Jianling's slightly squinted eyes, "Will you sign or not?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You said softly: "...I haven't fully considered it yet."

With a tone full of intimidation yet spoken indifferently, Teacher Mu Jianling said: "What place did you get in the online competition? Can you make it to the finals? When do you plan to make up for the difference in price between the Candy Beans and Cloud Mist Tea? Or perhaps, are you planning to stop progressing right here? If you're willing, I can process your department transfer right now, letting you focus on your Material processing with peace of mind..."

That way, it would prevent Ye Hong, that annoying old geezer, from mysteriously causing trouble all the time.

Ji You opened her mouth, "Teacher... that... we agreed to settle the difference between Cloud Mist Tea and Candy Beans after the online competition, didn't we?" That's... still half a month away.

Teacher Mu Jianling lifted her tone slightly: "Oh—since you won't be able to complete it anyway, isn't it better for me to collect the debt now to avoid it turning into a bad debt later?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You retorted softly: "How can you be so sure that I won't be able to complete it? There's still half a month left." As she said this, Ji You gave Teacher Mu Jianling and Dr. Luo a smug look and said, "Plus—this might scare you, but I've entered the top 11 in the East District. Just one more step and I'm firmly in the finals."

Teacher Mu Jianling said: "Oh—only 11th place, huh."

Dr. Luo said: "Oh—not in the finals yet."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's mouth twitched, "I... I won't talk to you guys about this anymore."

Teacher Mu Jianling, with her arms crossed at the elbows, said: "Then let's talk about repaying the money. The three Candy Beans you bought on credit from me the day before yesterday, plus the previously bought Candy Beans and Cloud Mist Tea at a low price... that totals 5,000,250 credit points. Seeing that 250 looks quite pitiful, I'll just round it down, let's call it a clean 5 million. When do you plan to repay it?"

Ji You's mouth dropped open: "5...5 million! When did it become so much?"

Teacher Mu Jianling raised an eyebrow, "Hmm... would I ever con your credit points?"

Sweat formed on Ji You's forehead: "That... probably not..." After all, those two items, especially the Cloud Mist Tea, were indeed priceless treasures, and the price Teacher Mu calculated was actually quite fair.

It's just that—

She can't pay it back.

Thinking about the balance in her purse, Ji You feels nothing but bitterness.

Dr. Luo listened on the side, taking great pleasure in her misfortune, and with a smile suggested, "Hurry up and sign an indenture of servitude with your teacher, and be done with it once and for all."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You was somewhat incredulous: "Can the debt really be settled just like that?"

Mu Jianling, with arms crossed, said coldly: "Think you can easily get out of it? In your dreams! A contract is a contract, and the debt must be repaid."

Ji You pursed her lips and said, "Then I won't sign it."

Mu Jianling nodded: "Okay! I'll process your department transfer right away."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You quickly said, "I'll sign! Sign! Sign! I'll sign it right now!"

To be honest, Ji You really enjoyed fighting, loved the feeling of piloting a Mecha, and loved drifting through the vast Star Sea... What's more important was that only by learning to fight, could she protect herself and her friends in the future...

So, giving up her studies in the Combat Department was out of the question.

Mu Jianling shoved the contract over and said, "Sign it!"

Ji You glanced at it and, without a word, signed her name.

Mu Jianling stuffed the signed contract into her Space Button, clapped her hands, and said, "Alright, my part is done. Dr. Luo, it's time for you to arrange her treatment."

Dr. Luo, looking at Mu Jianling's feigned indifference, sighed slightly and said, "Jianling, rest assured. With me here, she will be hopping around in no time."

Mu Jianling said gruffly, "I'm not worried about her."

Dr. Luo: "Alright, alright... you're not worried about her at all."

Ji You, with her bright eyes, listened to the conversation between the two instructors. Then, sensing that Mu Jianling noticed her eavesdropping, she immediately turned her head, pointed at Ji You, and said abruptly, "Stuff this kid into the Repairing Chamber and isolate her for now. I don't want to see that annoying face."

Ji You: "..."

Then, without any chance to resist, Ji You was forcibly pushed into the Repairing Chamber by the medical robot. When the chamber closed, the robot even thoughtfully set it to silent mode.

All the sounds from the outside were blocked by the door.

Ji You was somewhat speechless.

Outside.

Dr. Luo asked with a grave expression, "Are you really going to let the kid use a High-level Soul Device?"

Mu Jianling's tone remained flat, saying, "It's no use keeping it around, might as well give it to her."

Dr. Luo opened his mouth as if to persuade, but didn't know what to say.

Mu Jianling lifted her gaze and looked out the window, speaking softly, "Don't look at me like that."

Dr. Luo averted his eyes, hesitated, and then asked, "Is it... the Soul Device he left for you?"

Mu Jianling was taken aback for a moment, but soon regained her composure and said, "Yes."

"I didn't expect... it to be the one he left you. I..." Dr. Luo thought Mu Jianling would deny it, but she admitted it so straightforwardly. He felt slightly emotional and unsure what to say, or whether he should persuade Mu Jianling to take it back. After a while, Dr. Luo finally said, "Since you've made up your mind, then let the kid have it."

Mu Jianling's gaze was still somewhat vacant as she said, "Leaving it with me is ultimately pointless. I'd rather give it to Ji You. That child seems unreliable but is more hardworking than anyone. If this extinguishes her hopes, I wouldn't be able to bear it."

Saying so, Mu Jianling took something off her neck and handed it to Dr. Luo.

Dr. Luo looked up and was mildly startled. Hanging on a fine Little Red thread was a small, exquisite ring.

Mu Jianling said, "This is it."

Dr. Luo didn't know whether to accept it or not.

Mu Jianling's face was cold as she explained stiffly, "Don't misunderstand, this is not a token of love between him and me. I've been wearing it close to me because a High-level Soul Device needs to be nurtured by Spiritual Silk to prevent collapse, so that's why I wore it."