

Scavengers 451

Chapter 451: Mutated Physique

Regarding the issue of whether this High-level Soul Device is a token of love, Dr. Luo did not delve deeper, she looked at Mu Jianling and softly said, "If that's the case, should I give the ring to Ji You?"

Mu Jianling nodded: "Yes."

Dr. Luo looked at the progress of the Repairing Chamber, a hint of a smile in her eyes, and said, "This foolish child Ji You really has good luck, see, her physical metrics are especially good in recovery. After this restoration, whether it's muscles, veins, or blood flow... all have significantly improved. Under the same Level conditions, her D-Level Physical Strength will be stronger than others in the future, which can be considered as compensation for her previous physical deficiencies."

On the panel, Mu Jianling saw all the values very clearly, her dark and profound eyes were calm, and her tone was flat, saying, "This incident happened in the school, with the teachers overseeing everything, which allowed her to turn the situation around. But if it were in another place, she might not have been so lucky! Therefore, we should not only discourage but also severely suppress such reckless behavior."

Dr. Luo laughed and said, "It should indeed be severely suppressed, so this time when I restored her Physical Strength, I charged her 50,000 points. I estimate she has less than 300 points left now. With just that many points, she cannot even afford a few meals of red braised pork rice, so I guess she won't dare to mess around anymore."

"Oh?" Mu Jianling smiled and said, "You charged too little, you should have charged her 100,000, or even have her sign a contract with you."

Upon hearing this, Dr. Luo laughed so hard she trembled, and it took her a while before she said, "I don't want her contract; this child is too mischievous, I can't handle her. I think it's more suitable for her to be under you, Sword Spirit."

Mu Jianling twitched the corner of her mouth and snorted coldly, "Why fear if you can't handle it? A beating will make her obey."

Dr. Luo laughed and said, "Forget it, I'll stick to a more civilized approach."

At this moment, Ji You, who was motionless inside the Repairing Chamber, suddenly shook her entire body, causing both teachers to stop their conversation and focus their gaze on her, observing her carefully for a moment.

Dr. Luo said, "Progress is good, I estimate that in another 10 minutes, the restoration will be complete."

Mu Jianling kept silent.

Dr. Luo stared at Ji You inside the Repairing Chamber, stroked her chin, and said, "Speaking of which, this child's recovery speed is really astonishing. Such severe injuries, a normal person would need at least 2 days, but she completed the restoration in less than 12 hours. Such Physical Strength, I guess, is almost catching up to Chu Jiaojiao and Yue Qiguang now."

Having said this, Dr. Luo paused slightly, then continued, "She said it was researching her own spiritual power that led to this mess, but I don't really believe that. Seeing how seriously she's thought out her excuses, I didn't expose her... By the way, Sword Spirit, do you know what secret she is hiding?"

Upon hearing this, Mu Jianling stared quietly at Ji You inside the Repairing Chamber for a few seconds before replying, "Whatever secrets she is keeping, they are irrelevant, I don't care and won't probe. As long as she doesn't commit acts that harm the heavens and reason, that's enough. Otherwise—"

Mu Jianling's expression suddenly became very stern: "Otherwise, no need for others to take action, I will clean up myself."

Dr. Luo, listening, spoke softly, "Old Hong feels the same way. Since you all have decided to overlook her slight anomalies, then I too will pretend I know nothing. This child, apart from being a bit greedy, is quite likable."

After all, having to deduct 1 point from her each time is not something ordinary people can manage.

"Awei!" Mu Jianling suddenly called Dr. Luo in a solemn tone.

Dr. Luo's full name is Luo Wei.

Seeing Mu Jianling's tightened face, Dr. Luo was taken aback and said, "Sword Spirit?"

Mu Jianling's face was solemn, and she said, "You know, after that incident with him, I swore I would not allow any of my students to have accidents again. So—Awei, regarding Ji You's Mutated spiritual power, as well as her Mutated Physique, I hope apart from me, you, and Old Hong, no third person knows about this. In the future, we should also not discuss this topic anywhere else."

Dr. Luo, hearing this, looked quite serious and nodded heavily, "Yes, I understand."

That's right.

Aside from her spiritual power mutation, after today's series of examinations on Ji You, Mu Jianling, Dr. Luo, and Principal Hong suspected that Ji You's Physical Strength might have also mutated, only—compared to spiritual power, the change in Physical Strength was very subtle; if it weren't for Ji You's physical mishap this time, Dr. Luo wouldn't have noticed her Mutated Physique.

Ding Dong—

A notification from the system.

The door of the Repairing Chamber opened, and Ji You slowly climbed out from inside. As soon as she emerged, she was met with the faces of Mu Jianling and Dr. Luo right in front of her.

Mu Jianling, with a cold gaze, said, "Yo—so the third-level disabled has come out."

Ji You: "..."

Dr. Luo, with a smile at the corner of his mouth, teased, "Now that you're repaired, you're not really a third-level disabled anymore, more like a former third-level disabled."

Ji You: "..."

These two, one her creditor, the other her lifesaver, Ji You being timid, naturally felt subdued, so from the heart, she dared not to voice any objections, rather smilingly said: "Both of you teachers are so humorous..."

After saying this, to prove she was no longer disabled, Ji You forcefully thrust her legs, unexpectedly—

Bang!

With this thrust, her head banged against the ceiling.

Ji You: "..."

Rubbing her head, Ji You looked up at the ceiling, saw that she hadn't made any dent in it, slightly relaxed, then she measured the ceiling's height and softly suggested, "Dr. Luo... isn't this ceiling a bit too low?"

Dr. Luo glanced at her and said with a smile, "3 meters, that's enough for a little shorty like you."

Ji You: "..."

Shorty—

What about it?

Is there something wrong?

Dr. Luo, noticing the frustration on Ji You's face, explained with a laugh, "Don't get carried away thinking you're all that. The reason you touched the ceiling so easily with a kick is not because you've become so amazing, but because the effects of those expensive medications you used haven't worn off yet. Don't

believe me?" Dr. Luo slightly raised an eyebrow, saying, "If you don't believe me, try again in three minutes?"

Upon hearing this, Ji You's eyes dimmed, her face full of disappointment, "Ah? So that's it? I thought after repairing my Physical Strength, I would become invincible, capable of striking down foes easily, one punch for Yue Qi... ah no, one punch for Mu Jian... wait!" Realizing Mu Jianling's cold gaze, Ji You quickly corrected what she meant to say. She originally wanted to say one punch for Teacher Mu, two punches for Principal Hong...

Mu Jianling asked coolly, "Is dreaming fun?"

Ji You timidly replied, "Not fun."

Chapter 452: Ring

Mu Jianling gave Ji You a sidelong glance and said, "It's not fun, so dream less."

Ji You muttered softly, "Not even letting people dream, how cruel is that?"

Just after muttering, Mu Jianling's chilly voice came from behind, "Cruel?"

Ji You jolted her head like a rattle drum, "No no no... You are gentle, kind, beautiful, merciful, generous, appropriate, charming, and elegant..."

Mu Jianling snorted coldly, "Stop flattering."

Ji You shut her mouth, not daring to blabber anymore.

Dr. Luo finished reviewing all the examination data and confirmed that Ji You's recovery was good, then said with a smile, "All fixed, you didn't waste your 50,000 points."

Thinking of the painful loss of 50,000 points and the balance in her account, Ji You could no longer smile.

Now, she's only got 251 points left.

And—

What about the credit points?

The balance in the credit points was too low to even look at, on the contrary, she owed Teacher Mu Jianling a lot of credit points. Last time, she bought 150,000 Candy Beans on credit, and now, she signed a contract...

Yingyingying~

The more she thought about it, the more Ji You felt her financial prospects were bleak.

While Ji You was in absolute despair, a glint suddenly flashed in front of her eyes. Looking up, she saw Dr. Luo passing her a ring.

Ji You was stunned, "Teacher Luo... what is this?"

Dr. Luo, with a sidelong glance at Mu Jianling and realizing that Mu Jianling, with arms crossed, wasn't paying any attention here, sighed softly but still wore a gentle and approachable smile, saying, "It's a High-level Soul Device from Teacher Mu."

Ji You's eyes widened instantly, "!!!"

High-level Soul Device!

Seeing the shocked Ji You, Dr. Luo said with a smile, "How about it? Did you sign the contract right?"

Ji You was so moved she didn't know what to say...

In her excitement, Ji You suddenly jumped up and rushed to Mu Jianling, intending to hug her thighs but, catching Mu Jianling's dangerous gaze, Ji You forcibly restrained herself. Still, she couldn't help but shout, "Teacher! Do you still want the contract? I can sign another one with you! No! I can sign 10 more!"

Mu Jianling: "..."

Dr. Luo: "..."

Dr. Luo burst out laughing, nearly falling over.

Mu Jianling raised her hand and knocked heavily on Ji You's head, annoyed, she scolded, "You think you are Sun Wukong who can transform 72 times! You want to sell yourself twice with this sorry state? Dream on!"

Ji You, holding her head, chuckled and said, "I'm just casually dreaming."

Signing one contract to get a High-level Soul Device, signing two would mean two devices, wouldn't it?

If such a good thing were to happen, not to mention signing two or three, she'd be willing to sign a hundred, even ten thousand.

Ji You's joke at this moment dispelled the inexplicably melancholic and sad atmosphere that lingered in the medical room between Mu Jianling and Dr. Luo.

Dr. Luo carefully advised, "Although this High-level Soul Device is very stable in structure, you still need to be careful when using it. Try to connect with it using your spiritual power during your spare time, and remember—every Soul Device has a certain lifespan. This one has been nourished by Teacher Mu with spiritual power, so it can last 50 years without crashing. With careful usage, another 10 years should be no problem."

Having said that, Dr. Luo, not reassured, explained the instructions to Ji You once more.

Ji You listened very seriously. She dared not be careless at all—after all, this was a High-level Soul Device, invaluable and priceless. Once it's listed on the Star Network, it would undoubtedly provoke a frantic scramble from countless people...

Moreover, Ji You was already deeply interested in making Soul Devices and was eager to create her own High-level Soul Device someday. Now that she had a real-life model at hand, she naturally wanted to take extra care of it...

Then—

In front of Dr. Luo and Teacher Mu Jianling, Ji You cautiously took over the ring, and following the steps taught by Dr. Luo, she first tried to release her spiritual power—

Previously, with the help of Spiritual Silk, she could precisely control the use of her spiritual power threshold, but now with her spirit severely damaged and the Spiritual Silk nowhere to be found, Ji You struggled for a long time and managed to release just a tiny bit of her spiritual power threshold.

Even that had her drenched in sweat.

Dr. Luo softly said, "Don't rush, take it slow."

Ji You bit by bit, kept her spiritual power lingering on the ring. The ring, which was a simple, plain circle, gave off slight hints of reflected light. Judging solely by appearances, one could never tell this was a priceless High-level Soul Device.

Incidentally, it quite resembled the Clover Ring that Ji You had specially designed for Senior Shi Ya, which was an incredible coincidence.

Ji You felt quite emotional inside.

However, a High-level Soul Device is just that. As soon as she came close, Ji You felt an immense, vast, and boundless spiritual power circulating inside it. This robust spirit immediately captivated all of Ji You's attention, leaving her completely spellbound.

As Ji You's weak, battered spirit drew near, in an instant, the continuously flowing spiritual power inside the ring poured out like floodwaters released from a sluice, violently flooding into Ji You's Spiritual World—

The bridge connecting the High-level Soul Device with Ji You's Spiritual World, her weak, pitiful spirit, fragile as a silk thread and easily snapped, encountered several perilous situations under this torrent, almost breaking apart—yet, it managed to hold each time.

Ji You's Spiritual World was impacted, rendering her completely stunned, motionless...

Dr. Luo and Mu Jianling noticed something was off, and Mu Jianling furrowed her brows, "What's happening?"

She was about to remove the ring when Dr. Luo immediately raised his hand, stopping Mu Jianling, saying, "Don't move! Her spirit is connected to the High-level Soul Device. Forcibly detaching it now would cause irreparable damage to her spirit."

Mu Jian's hands trembled slightly as she withdrew them.

Watching the changes between Ji You and the ring, Dr. Luo frowned seriously and muttered, "This shouldn't be happening."

The second after Dr. Luo spoke, the originally plain ring suddenly shone brilliantly, lighting up the entire medical room like daylight. However, this abnormal brightness was momentary, and soon, the light from the ring vanished without a trace.

At the same time, the entire ring turned a dusty gray, appearing like a rusty iron ring...

Dr. Luo was somewhat dumbfounded by this scene, "How could this be?"

Mu Jian was also bewildered, "What's going on?"

"I'm not quite sure either, but I suspect it might be..." Dr. Luo slightly opened his mouth, about to say something when suddenly, Ji You, who had been motionless, slightly furrowed her brow and gently opened her eyes...

Chapter 453: Ji You's Promise

Ji You opened her eyes and immediately met two faces full of shock, and she inexplicably felt a jolt in her heart. Catching a glimpse of the dust-covered ring in the corner of her eye, Ji You felt an ominous feeling that disaster was looming...

"That..."

"Teacher Luo... How many years did you say this high-level Soul Device could be used again?" Facing two immense pressures, Ji You stiffened and forced a smile, saying: "This... it couldn't be a fake item, could it?"

Hiss—

Daring to suspect that the item from Mu Jianling's hands is fake!

Dr. Luo's surprise at the corner of her mouth instantly turned into speechlessness. She didn't even know what to say about Ji You anymore, only that this foolish child really has the courage of a dog, fearing nothing.

As soon as the words left her mouth, Ji You clearly felt an extremely terrifying pressure from Teacher Mu Jianling's position to her left. This pressure, like the weight of Mount Tai, was suffocating...

Ji You was scared half to death. Withstanding the pressure, she explained with difficulty: "That... something as expensive as a high-level Soul Device, how could there be fakes? That's impossible."

As her words fell, the intimidation from Mu Jianling slightly subsided.

But thinking of the possibly damaged Soul Device, Ji You, with the courage of a dog, whispered: "But... such an expensive item should have after-sales service, right? If it's a fake sold by unscrupulous merchants, can't we ask for compensation?"

Hiss—

With these words, the atmospheric pressure around dropped instantly again.

Oh no!

Ji You: "..."

Ji You knew she had said the wrong thing again and quickly explained: "Ah!!! Teacher! That's not what I meant, I was questioning those dishonest merchants, I absolutely didn't doubt that Teacher could have been deceived. Teacher, being so intelligent and wise, could never be fooled by dishonest merchants..."

Even Dr. Luo felt the pressure, with a low atmospheric pressure around and a chill breeze, she forcefully gestured with her mouth to Ji You, signaling her to shut up immediately.

Ji You: "..."

The more she spoke, the worse it got. Ji You didn't dare to ramble on, shrinking her head and hunching her shoulders, trying to pretend she didn't exist.

However—

Mu Jianling's gaze swept over directly, and with a cool tone, he said: "You talk a lot, don't you?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You kept her mouth tightly shut, proving she didn't talk much.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

Mu Jianling shifted his gaze away, and Ji You's pressure drastically fell. She then stealthily and cautiously let out a breath of relief.

However, just as Ji You exhaled and hadn't managed to adjust her mood, the next second, Mu Jianling stared at the slightly rusted ring and turned to Dr. Luo, asking: "Is it really broken?"

Dr. Luo's face was very serious as she replied: "To be precise, it is beyond repair."

Ji You: "!!!"

Ji You was so scared that she immediately shrank back, really wanting to say I don't exist, you can't see me...

However—

Dr. Luo and Mu Jianling simultaneously turned their heads, staring at Ji You with eyes so sharp and commanding that she couldn't ignore them. Ji You dodged their gaze: "Teachers... I... I really didn't do anything."

"Wuwah..."

"I... I didn't mean for this to happen."

"Don't... don't ask me to compensate..."

Ji You was desperately anxious, bubbling with words, begging the two teachers with pitiful eyes: "I... I really have no money left! I don't even have enough to cut flesh for money."

Dr. Luo: "..."

Mu Jian: "..."

Dr. Luo said: "This kid, is she scared into stupidity? She wouldn't have forgotten that this high-level Soul Device was obtained in exchange for signing a contract, right?" The Soul Device already belonged to her, whether it is damaged or not, there's no need for additional compensation.

Mu Jianling nodded solemnly and said, "She's an idiot."

Dr. Luo stroked his chin and asked, "Sword Spirit, when do you plan to collect your debts from her?"

"Hmm?" Mu Jianling frowned and said, "I'm in a bad mood, let me think about it..."

Upon hearing this, Ji You approached Mu Jianling with a fawning expression and asked cautiously, "Teacher... Are you thirsty? Would you like some water? Shall I pour it for you?"

Mu Jianling didn't utter a word.

Ji You, gauging her mood, asked again, "Are you tired? Should I massage your shoulders?"

As she said this, she reached out her hand—

Mu Jianling glanced at her paw and remembered what had happened during their practice session, which brought some not-so-pleasant memories to mind, and she threatened, "Keep your dog paw 2 meters away from me."

Ji You immediately pulled back her hand and honestly retreated 2 meters away.

So, considering how well-behaved she was, Teacher Mu shouldn't collect the debt then, right?

Right at that moment, Dr. Luo had already started to fiddle with the broken ring and examined it carefully. The more he looked, the deeper his brow furrowed, "It's confirmed, it's broken."

Mu Jianling remained silent.

Dr. Luo put down the ring and sighed lightly, "The Array Diagram has shattered, and the spiritual power inside is gone too. This ring is nothing more than an ordinary iron hoop now."

Ji You shrank her neck noticeably.

The atmosphere in the medical room was somewhat oppressively silent.

After a while.

Mu Jianling said, "If it's broken, then it's broken."

Dr. Luo looked up at Mu Jianling, concern showing in his eyes, "Sword Spirit..."

Mu Jianling waved her hand and said, "I'm fine."

Her tone was clear and crisp, showing no sign of sorrow or reluctance.

However—

Ji You still heard a hint of melancholy in Teacher Mu Jianling's tone...

Ji You mustered her courage, looked into Teacher Mu Jianling's eyes, and said earnestly, "Teacher... please don't be upset, okay? I will make another one for you in the future."

Smack!

As soon as she said it, Ji You got a knock on the head.

Ji You held her head, her face in distress, looking puzzled at Teacher Mu Jianling.

Mu Jianling scolded, "Upset my foot! Watch less of those melodramatic TV shows!" As for the latter part of what Ji You said, Mu Jianling completely ignored it.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You muttered softly, "Isn't it you who likes to watch melodramatic dramas?"

Mu Jianling's tone turned questioning, "What did you say?"

Ji You immediately shook her head, "Nothing, nothing at all... Just consider everything I just said nonsense, Teacher, please pretend you heard nothing."

But—

The promise to craft a Soul Device for Teacher Mu Jianling was not just lip service; Ji You took it seriously and held it in her heart.

Meanwhile, Dr. Luo, listening to Ji You's grand ambitions, didn't take it to heart at all, but teased with a chuckle, "You know how to make a Soul Device too? Don't just remember Teacher Mu, also think about your Teacher Luo."

Ji You chuckled and said, "Of course, I'll make one for Teacher Luo too."

Dr. Luo waved his hand nonchalantly, "I'll hold you to that."

As he spoke, Dr. Luo pointed at a piece of equipment in the corner and said, "Go over there and stay put for now. Check it out yourself. I need to discuss some things with your teacher."

Ji You obediently moved over.

Chapter 454: Something Big Has Happened

Ji You, following Dr. Luo's instructions, obediently moved next to the machine. With the assistance of a medical robot, Ji You quickly lay back down and began checking various physical values of her body.

Firstly, after a day's repair, whether it was her veins, blood flow, or bones...all had returned to Ji You's original D-level Physical Strength. Seeing that her Physical Strength hadn't decreased, Ji You felt greatly relieved.

Then—

Unexpectedly, a High-level Soul Device was just scrapped. To be honest, Ji You felt a pang in her heart, thinking of a possibility:

Could it be the Iron Plate?

But—

This time, the Iron Plate didn't actively come out to compete with the Spiritual Silks for food like it did previously when Ji You used Candy Beans and Cloud Mist Tea. Moreover, the Spiritual Silks that had disappeared didn't appear again, and strangely, the vast and immense spiritual power inside the High-level Soul Device also vanished the moment it entered Ji You's Spiritual World.

Gone without a trace...

Bizarre.

Ji You truly couldn't understand.

She looked at her still empty Spirit Space, a flash of irritation in her eyes: even after using a High-level Soul Device, the Spiritual Silks hadn't returned, and the spiritual power also seemed unchanged...

What to do?

This is really frustrating.

...

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

Time quietly flowed, the medical robot diligently performed various checks on Ji You, recording every data point. Nearby, Mu Jianling and Dr. Luo had also finished their conversation.

The two came to the front of the device, observing Ji You's various data points.

Just then, as the Physical Strength check was completed and the robot began placing various tubes and Connection Devices next to Ji You's head to start recording the datapoints of her Spiritual World—

Boom—

[Alert!]

[Alert!]

[Alert!]

[Severe abnormalities in the readings; continuing tests will damage the equipment.]

The medical robot halted its movements, turned to Dr. Luo, and mechanically asked without a trace of inflection: "Doctor, should we continue?"

Dr. Luo and Mu Jianling both furrowed their brows, Dr. Luo urgently said: "Stop."

The medical robot immediately ceased its operation, pressing the stop button, carefully removed the Connection Device and tubes from Ji You's head. Dr. Luo and Mu Jianling quickly stepped forward, rushing toward Ji You.

Meanwhile—

Ji You, lying within the examination device, had taken a look around her empty Spiritual World and, seeing no change, felt a surge of disappointment. Suddenly, she noticed the entire space starting to shake!

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

...

What's going on?

Looking at this Virtual Space, which suddenly became filled with roaring sounds, and the encompassing area showing signs of collapsing, Ji You was terrified and couldn't help but exclaim: "Damn! Really?"

If the Spiritual World completely collapsed—

It's like trying to kill me!

"Teacher Mu!"

In panic and helplessness, Ji You subconsciously called out the name of Teacher Mu Jianling. Mu Jianling quickly stepped forward and grabbed Ji You's frantically waving hand.

"Calm down!" Mu Jianling said with a stern face, "I'm here."

Hearing the cool voice of Teacher Mu Jianling, Ji You felt an inexplicable surge of strength from those simple words and calmed down a bit, reminding herself to stay composed.

Stay composed.

Stay composed.

Dr. Luo also said, "Don't think about the Spiritual World issues. Relax and try to withdraw your spiritual power."

Ji You did as told, but—she found that she couldn't withdraw it. The Spiritual World that kept thundering, shaking, and rolling seemed blocked by something, unable to get out.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You whispered, "Dr. Luo, there seems to be a problem. My spiritual power threshold seems to be depleted, I can't gather it, and my Spiritual Body can't be withdrawn immediately."

The Spiritual World is actually a mysterious and elusive Virtual Space that exists within a person's mind, thoughts... Normally, it can only accommodate one's own Spiritual Silk and Spiritual Body. Spiritual Silk is easy to understand, but what about Spiritual Body? Generally speaking, a Spiritual Body is a person's 'soul,' a person's 'consciousness.' Ji You communicates with the Spiritual Silks in the Spiritual World using her Spiritual Body.

Then?

The Xiao You in the Iron Plate is actually also a Spiritual Body existing without a real body.

...

Hearing Ji You's words, Dr. Luo frowned, "How can it not be withdrawn?" Normally, one's Spiritual Body should be able to come and go from the Spiritual World at any time...

Mu Jianling furrowed her brows and said, "My Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate is high, I'll try to get close to her Spirit Space."

Dr. Luo said, "Be careful. Try not to harm her."

Mu Jianling nodded.

Immediately.

Mu Jianling steadied her heart, released a few strands of her Spiritual Silk, and quietly extended them, inching closer to Ji You's Spirit Space...

Gradually.

Gradually.

Just as it was about to touch, boom!

Crack!

Snap!

...

This sudden attack, without any prior signs, instantly brought a massive twisting force. Despite Mu Jianling being extremely cautious with her approach, the twisting force swept through like a ferocious wave, and in a moment of helplessness, her Spiritual Silks were instantly severed and shredded.

"Hm?"

Having her Spiritual Silks forcibly cut would be unbearable pain for most people, but Mu Jianling is one of the top experts in the Alliance. She subconsciously clenched her teeth and calmly withdrew.

Dr. Luo sensed something was wrong and reached out to support Mu Jianling, "What happened?"

A strand of cold sweat appeared on Mu Jianling's forehead, but her expression remained relatively calm. She frowned, looking at Ji You caught in the 'storm,' a hint of worry flashing in her eyes: "Her Spiritual World is undergoing drastic changes, she might be reorganizing—or even destructing..."

Dr. Luo was shocked, "How is that possible?"

Mu Jianling pursed her lips and said, "I have some Cloud Mist Tea and fifty Candy Beans here, get ready. If it's the worst-case scenario, we'll have to take emergency measures."

The drastic changes in Ji You's Spiritual World is likely caused by the stimulus from the High-level Soul Device. Perhaps her damaged Spiritual World simply cannot withstand the High-level Soul Device, resulting in—

The so-called emergency measures are merely makeshift solutions, merely temporary stabilizations of the Spirit World. Unless the root cause is addressed, it will eventually collapse.

Dr. Luo's brow was so furrowed it could trap a fly: "It was a misjudgment on my part, I thought that with the presence of a High-level Soul Device, her spiritual power could be repaired. But—"

It was a mistake.

In his anxiety, the normally calm and composed Dr. Luo couldn't help but pace in circles around the medical office: "I should have used natural food therapy, slowly nourishing and gradually repairing her Spiritual World..."

Chapter 455: Is Iron Up to Something?

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

...

In the invisible virtual space, centered around Ji You's location, a range of several tens of meters gradually turned into a dangerous zone of turbulent waves...

Initially, Mu Jianling and Doctor Luo were about half a meter away from Ji You. Due to the oppressive force, they also feared that forcefully intervening might harm Ji You, so they had no choice but to retreat half a meter.

meter.

meters.

meters.

...

Until they reached the door of the medical room, with nowhere else to retreat.

In the emergency situation, Doctor Luo, utilizing her authority as head of the medical room, forcefully created a small safe zone for them to exist in, which separated them from this overpoweringly oppressive force.

Silence.

The expressions on Mu Jianling and Doctor Luo's faces were very grim.

In any case, neither of them could have imagined the situation developing to this extent. Doctor Luo said, "Should we notify Old Hong?"

Mu Jianling raised his hand, lightly pinched the bridge of his nose, and said, "Notify him. The more people we have, the more strength we'll have."

Doctor Luo immediately contacted Principal Hong.

Upon hearing the news, Principal Hong's brow furrowed so tightly it could crush a fly: "If it's really a collapse of the Spiritual World, that's going to be tricky."

How serious is the collapse of the Spiritual World?

At best, one becomes an imbecile; at worst, one loses their life.

Doctor Luo said, "Jianling and I are standing guard here, but our spiritual power can't get close at all, not even a single strand. Any closer, and it would be shredded by her violently collapsing Spiritual World."

Principal Hong, with a stern face, said, "We must ensure this child's safety at all costs. I'm on my way immediately."

...

Doctor Luo ended the communication, raised her eyes, and looked towards Ji You, who was frowning and breaking out in cold sweats. With a tense face, she said, "Let's just keep watch for now. If there's no other way, we'll have to forcefully intervene."

Here.

At the eye of the storm was Ji You, her Spiritual Body in the Spiritual World, which was like a ball, blown around haphazardly by the roaring and the winds from an unknown source, unable to find a foothold to settle down.

Those pitted barriers, likened by Doctor Luo to an ugly girl covered with freckles and acne, now had their holes growing larger and cracks splitting wider...

Ji You looked on with both frustration and anxiety!

It was as if fate was against her!

What could she do?

What could she possibly do?

In her desperation, Ji You told herself to be calm! Calm! Calm! Perhaps such self-suggestion was somewhat effective, as the incessantly splitting and collapsing areas began to show signs of halting.

Ji You felt a surge of joy.

It was working!

Ji You's face was tense as she inhaled and exhaled, repeating the process over and over... The boisterous wind also began to subside, and the thundering booms gradually ceased...

Ji You let out a sigh of relief.

But then—

Before she could even catch her breath, the entire Spiritual World began to crumble catastrophically, and a tremendous force continuously hammered at all the barriers of the Spiritual World.

Crack~

Crack~

Crack~

...

Ji You stood with her mouth agape, trembling hands, watching as the halted cracks suddenly began splintering again, and with an unstoppable momentum, violently burst apart...

Ji You: "Dammit!"

Boom—

After the cataclysmic noise, as the sky was shrouded with dark clouds and the ravaged Virtual Space lay before her, suddenly, a cluster of mysterious light appeared. Initially, it was just a mere flicker of flame...

Then, it burst forth like the first light of the Universe, quickly engulfing the entire Spirit Space with an unstoppable force. Ji You's Spiritual Body found itself right in the center of this bright light, feeling all warm and snug, as if basking in the gentle sunshine, almost ready to fall asleep the very next second.

second.

Ji You suddenly startled awake, "What the hell, thinking about sleeping at a time like this?!"

She gave her head a hard slap.

Then—

She realized that the comforting light wasn't emanating from her own Spiritual World, but rather—from a far-off place, with a hazy mist in between, the light scattered from a great distance.

Ji You focused her gaze, trying to get a clearer look, and saw that the source of the light wasn't like the sun's circular shape but somewhat resembled—

It was an Iron Plate!

"Holy shit!"

Ji You's eyes widened: "Is this thing, an Iron Plate?"

As soon as she spoke, Ji You knew there was no doubt! No matter the distance, even if turned to ash, she'd recognize the Iron Plate!

Confirming that the light came from the Iron Plate, for a moment, Ji You found herself speechless, shocked, and furious!

This damn Iron Plate had swallowed up so many of her things, and was causing trouble at such a critical moment?

Ji You cursed aloud: "Iron! Get your ass out here! I'll beat the crap out of you!"

Silence.

Dead silence.

The wind stopped.

The fracturing fissures ceased.

...

Ji You cursed for quite a while, yet the Iron Plate remained indifferent, still suspended high in a place far, far away from Ji You. All that was left around her was her Spiritual Body, a hazy fog, and the sight of the pitted and scarred Spiritual World...

Hold on!

Something's not right!

The pitted areas seemed to have lessened?

At first, Ji You didn't believe it, but as her vision swept over, one by one, countless pits and depressions began to heal at a steady, gentle pace, gradually mending themselves and disappearing...

Ji You was stunned: "What's going on? My Spiritual World actually has the ability to heal itself?"

Wait!

That's not right!

Ji You looked up, toward the distant 'source of light', the Iron Plate, and she noticed, before each depression was repaired and healed, it was enveloped in light from the Iron Plate...

Does that mean?

It was the Iron Plate that helped restore her fragmented Spirit Space?

Ji You was somewhat speechless: "Iron! What the hell do you want? Spit it out! Money? Or my life?"

The Iron Plate glowed silently.

Ji You stood with her hands on her hips, scolding: "I'm telling you, you won't get a dime! You can have my life! It's your call!"

Basically, Ji You was throwing in the towel.

If outsiders knew that even at this juncture, Ji You, that poor dead soul, Old Miser, was still hung up on money over life, they'd probably be speechless indeed.

But Ji You didn't feel the slightest bit ashamed.

Just as she said this, the Spirit Space, which had temporarily quieted down, suddenly reverberated with thunderous booms.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

The sound approached from a distance, Ji You shuddered with fright, losing her money-over-life bravado and acting quite scared, shrinking her neck and clutching her head, cursing wildly: "Shit! Here it comes again!"

Upon closer inspection, this thunderous noise was coming through the dense fog, and at that moment, Ji You vaguely saw giant pythons, vast and indescribably colossal, writhing within the mist...

Ji You: "..."

Aren't these the Spiritual Silk?

Chapter 456: Mental Restructuring

Boom—

The intense trembling overhead continued, but the moment Ji You saw her Spiritual Silk, tears were almost bursting out of her eyes, though the next second she forcibly held them back.

However, while Ji You as the master controlled herself, her Six Spiritual Threads sadly did not. Upon sighting Ji You, they all wailed loudly like lost babies finding their mother:

[Master!!!]

[Master!]

[Master! We've missed you so much!]

...

Even though there was a layer of fog, Ji You clearly saw her six threads squeezing their big heads through!

This sight made Ji You jump, and she blurted out, "What has time done to you, how did you turn out like this?"

Just then—

In this vast space, around Ji You's body, neatly side by side, were six big heads, each as huge as a massive planet!

Yes!

As big as a planet.

Scary...

Truly frightening.

Ji You? In this virtual spirit space, she was as insignificant as a grain of sand, not worth mentioning.

What's key is, these terrifying big heads were all staring intently at her.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You silently turned her back, only to realize she could still see, and reluctantly, she lowered her head.

The Six Strands nearly screamed their lungs out: [Master! We've just gained some weight! Don't leave us!!]

Fourth even jumped up excitedly, stepping on Old Five's head: [Master!!! No matter how fat Sisi gets, I'll always be your darling baby ah ah ah!]

Ji You: "..."

Old Five, Sixth, Third, Second, even Boss now also abandoned their dignity, afraid of being left behind, one after another they howled: [Master!!! I'll always be your darling baby ah ah ah!!!]

It was ear-piercing!

And wildly noisy!

Ji You's scalp tingled, goosebumps all over her body, unable to bear it any longer, she blurted: "Shut up! I don't have little babies like you!"

In the end, Ji You added emphatically: "No!"

Six Strands: [...]

In an instant, a wave of sorrow filled these 'huge' babies' hearts, their copious emotions, from excitement and joy, instantaneously switched to grief!

Fourth lay on the ground and cried: [It's over! Master doesn't want us anymore!]

Old Five held his head up in despair: [Master! No, please no!]

Sixth no longer even knew what he was doing, desperately flailing his tail, in disbelief: [Wah wah... why doesn't Master want Sixth?]

Third looked to Boss then to Second, still somewhat rational, and asked: [Does Master really not want us anymore?]

Second wanted to shake his head but was afraid it was true, his brows furrowed in worry: [It seems so wah...]

After saying this, even the usually calm and mature Second, the more he thought about it, the sadder he became, and couldn't help but burst into loud crying!

Instantly, Third, Fourth, Old Five, Sixth, all started crying one after another, their cries getting louder and louder, making such a tumultuous noise that Ji You's head was buzzing.

Just as Ji You was about to speak, Boss suddenly whipped his tail forcefully, this swat of his tail was both majestic and powerful, hitting the five threads all at once, momentarily stopping their cries.

Boss roared at them: [Shut up now! Master would never abandon us! Master has her reasons.]

Ji You: "???"

Difficulty?

By then, Ji You had noticed something strange: why were all her threads obediently lying still? And— why didn't they pass through the hazy mist?

Before she had figured it out, Old Five, honest and simple, asked: [Master, is there a difficulty?]

Boss tilted his head, pondering for a moment, and said solemnly, "Master, she is poor!"

Ji You: "..."

As soon as Boss said this, it was like awakening the dormant threads, and the other threads all leaped up: [Exactly! Master is a pauper!]

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath, "I really appreciate that you have finally come to this realization!"

Before the Six Strands could react, Ji You raised her head, glaring at them, "Just don't know when you could empathize and understand your pauper Master, and help her save a bit?"

Six Strands [...]

The heads of the Six Strands drooped simultaneously—

At the exact moment when Ji You finally noticed her own Spiritual Silk and was almost overjoyed to tears, in the medical room, Principal Hong received the news and hurried over immediately.

Before even entering, he sensed a vast, imposing aura faintly coming from inside the door; Principal Hong's brow furrowed: "Is this deterrent force coming from Kid 4444?"

Soon, Doctor Luo opened the access, and Principal Hong walked into the medical room.

Doctor Luo and Mu Jianling turned their heads to look at him simultaneously; Principal Hong waved his hand, saying, "Don't worry, with me here, nothing will go wrong."

Old Hong's statement, plain and simple, seemingly powerless, yet allowed the two present a slight relief.

Doctor Luo said, "With you joining us, Old Hong, I'm relieved. With the three of us working together, even if the worst situation occurs, we can stabilize her Spiritual World from collapsing."

Principal Hong, with hands clasped behind him, walked slightly closer to Ji You, but had to stop less than half a meter closer. He sent out his Spiritual Silk to probe, just like Mu Jianling and Doctor Luo before, and his Spiritual Silk was instantly severed.

Doctor Luo explained, "Her spiritual destructive power is immense, she doesn't allow any other spirit to get close."

Upon hearing this, Principal Hong suddenly asked, "Can machines get closer?"

After listening, Doctor Luo nodded, "Non-intelligent machines can get closer."

Principal Hong pondered for a moment and then said, "The destructive power is so great, and the territorial consciousness so strong, it means her Spiritual World is not collapsing but reorganizing. Get

machines close to her immediately, continually monitor her measurements; whatever she needs, provide it to her."

"Quickly!" Principal Hong ordered with a calm, stern face, "Use the machine I lobbied for this year from the Alliance Research Institute!"

Lobbied?

Upon hearing this, Doctor Luo silently criticized internally: Old Hong's choice of words is really mild! Calling it lobbying, but it was actually pestering and stubbornly forcing the general research institute to approve the equipment.

However, as soon as Principal Hong said this, both Doctor Luo and Mu Jianling, while assured, didn't dare to delay any further and immediately started preparing.

Very soon.

The machine successfully approached Ji You and wasn't repelled by her spirit.

Through the simulation displayed by the machine, the three of them saw the approximate condition of Ji You's Spiritual World.

Only to see—

The pitted Virtual Space was gradually being repaired, outside the original space, a layer of light mist formed a barrier. Ji You's Six Spiritual Threads hovered around the barrier, unable to advance any further...

The three stared in shock!

Doctor Luo clicked his tongue, "It's indeed reorganizing."

Mu Jianling said solemnly, "Not only has it reorganized, but the Spirit Space has also expanded."

Principal Hong furrowed his brow, somewhat puzzled, "Why are the Spiritual Silk outside the Space Barrier? Also, the expansion is only halfway done, lacking the strength to finish."

Immediately, without needing any order, Doctor Luo, Mu Jianling, and Principal Hong took out a large amount of Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures.

Candy Beans, Cloud Mist Tea, Butterfly Honey...

In a moment, around Ji You, countless valuable items were laid out.

Chapter 457: The Troublemaker Has Awakened

Ji You had no idea about the situation outside. At this moment, she was cradling her elbows, watching her Six Spiritual Threads with the same exasperation one might scold unruly children, "You idiots don't even know the value of firewood and rice when you don't run a household! All you know is eat, eat, eat, and play, play, play. Why don't I see you being proactive when it's time to work?"

Six Strands hung their heads low, silent as chickens.

Ji You huffed, "Knowing your Master is poor, why haven't I seen you try to save for me?"

Six Strands shrank their necks, not daring to pull out a whisker from a tiger's head.

Ji You glared at them, becoming angrier as she spoke, "Knowing that we're so poor we can't even lift the pot lid, why haven't I seen you try to earn money?"

Listening on, Six Strands hung their heads so low they almost buried them in the sand, though unfortunately, there was no sand.

Ji You scolded up to this point and finally made a stern conclusion, "In short, raising you lot is like feeding a bunch of good-for-nothings! I might as well raise some char siu instead!"

Six Strands: "..."

Six Strands were on the verge of tears.

Seeing this, Ji You did feel a bit heartbroken and even wanted to comfort them without principle, but she steeled her heart and gestured, "Alright, stop crying. With those big faces of yours, crying would scare someone to death."

Six Strands forcibly held back their tears.

Ji You's voice unconsciously softened a bit, "Alright, no more lying around, come over here."

As soon as she said that, Six Strands' faces collapsed, wanting to cry but not daring to: [Master... We can't get across.]

Ji You: "???"

Somehow, Ji You had a very bad premonition, "Why can't you come over?"

Six Strands: [We don't know why.]

Ji You: "..."

During the conversation, Old Five, being stubborn, tried once more and ended up bumping their head against the thin layer of mist, and instantly—

Boom rumble rumble—

Not only did Old Five's hasty and reckless action cause them to fall to the ground, rolling around in pain, but it also caused a violent shake in Ji You's Spirit Space.

Ji You opened her mouth, "We're in big trouble!"

Wasn't this a big problem? Her own Spirit Space had shut out her very own Spiritual Threads.

How could this be acceptable?

How would Ji You pilot Mecha in the future? How would she fly an airship? How could she operate a Starship?

How could she fight?

Even, how could she make Soul Devices?

...

Ji You, feeling waves of darkness pass before her eyes, tried to remain calm and took deep breaths to avoid fainting on the spot. She asked, "How did you end up on the other side of the mist?"

Upon this question, Six Strands immediately opened their verbal floodgates, unloading on Ji You like pouring out beans from a bamboo tube.

Boss: [Master! It's like this...]

Second: [Master, we were just last night...]

Following this, Third, Fourth, Old Five, and Sixth were all eager to speak up in turn, giving Ji You a bit of a headache. She raised her hand, pointed at Fourth who was the most articulate, and said, "The rest of you shut up, let Fourth speak."

Fourth stood upright and hurried forward, saying, [Master, we were so tired after finishing our work last night, we didn't want to move, everyone was dozing off, and suddenly the space started to crack, the sky was breaking apart, and there was a terrifying strength that consumes threads appearing, waah...] Speaking up to this point, Fourth was practically sobbing, [Sisi thought she'd never see Master again! So sad! So distressed...]

Ji You listened and listened, and as she thought it over, she felt a mix of self-blame and pity. Although Fourth was slick, his feelings for her were absolutely sincere, without the slightest bit of falsehood.

Speaking of which, it was all her fault for not controlling herself, acting recklessly, producing 9 Soul Devices overnight without considering the load capacity of her spiritual power and Spiritual World...

Ji You hurriedly soothed, "Okay, stop crying, tell me quickly, how were you rescued?"

Upon hearing her Master's consolation, Fourth wished nothing more than to snuggle his big head over for his Master to stroke, but just as he moved, he was blocked by the mist barrier. With a pursed mouth and a wronged expression, Fourth said, [It was...]

After saying one word, he suddenly didn't know what the other party was called, so he immediately swished his tail and pointed at the distant light source above—

[It was that!]

[It suddenly appeared and rescued Sisi.]

Ji You looked up and saw the Iron Plate, but——compared to when it first appeared, the glow of the Iron Plate seemed much dimmer...

Ji You's heart sank: Darn! Could it be that Iron after rescuing the Spiritual Silk is about to fail?

This time, who knows how long it will take, how much stuff to feed to the Iron Plate before it can recover.

Back on the Garbage Planet 101, Ji You was reckless and lacking in common sense, resulting in bleeding from every orifice and nearly meeting her end; it was Iron Plate that came to her rescue. After that, except for coming out to snatch food, it did no good deeds.

Ji You really wondered if this time the energy expenditure of the Iron Plate was so great that it might be even worse than the last time.

And also——

What about Xiao You?

Would Xiao You inside the Iron Plate be affected by this?

Ji You really couldn't help but worry.

Fourth swung its tail, chattering away nonstop, then spilled all the beans about what had happened after being taken away by the Iron Plate without missing a single detail.

Only then did Ji You understand everything; although the Iron Plate had taken her Spiritual Silk away, it did not let them enter inside the Iron Plate; it just let these threads hover around it, so none had seen Xiao You.

However, the Spiritual Threads had communicated with Xiao You through the Iron Plate, though they had never met her in person.

Once Ji You was certain of Xiao You's safety, she finally felt completely relieved.

Fourth wagged its tail, declaring: [Xiao You sister is very cute, but my favorite is still the Master!]

While saying this, it showed an expression of 'Master, you don't have to worry about me being unfaithful.'

Ji You: "..."

Ji You replied irritably, "Eating my food, using my stuff, and you dare to have an affair? I'll break your legs!"

At hearing this, Fourth immediately shook its head: [No affairs! Sisi will never have an affair! Master will always be Sisi's master! Sisi will always like Master!]

The other Silks couldn't let Fourth take all the glory and rushed in one after another to declare: [We are the Master's Sisi, of course we like the Master the most! Please Master don't abandon us...]

Ji You: "..."

Inwardly, Ji You muttered: These six stupid Silks are dead set on staying with me; if I could abandon them, I would have done it a hundred times by now. However, outwardly she smiled and said, "As long as you behave a little, I will never abandon you! I super like the Sisi too!"

The Six Spiritual Threads, upon hearing this, cheered and jumped for joy.

Boss suddenly said: [Master! There are so many Candy Beans outside! So much Cloud Mist Tea! So much Butterfly Honey! And so many others... Are we eating them or not?]

Ji You: "Huh???"

With significance, Boss said: [If Sisi eats, we will have the strength to work! We can break through the misty barriers!]

After saying this, Boss still had a bit of a mean streak: [But you have to eat them all!]

Ji You: "!!!"

How could so many Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures suddenly appear? Was this a windfall? Then, in the next second, Ji You guessed the possibility—it must be Teacher Mu Jianling, Dr. Luo who knew she was in a crisis, helping her from the outside.

Ji You's heart felt warm, and she determinedly said, "Eat!"

Forget the rest for now, just deal with the current biggest difficulty first; otherwise, without the use of her Spiritual Silk, what future or prospects could she even talk about?

The Spiritual Silk cheered in an instant!

Then Ji You watched in disbelief as the six gluttons, similar to cows chewing peonies, devoured the Butterfly Honey, Candy Beans, Cloud Mist Tea...

The joy was short-lived. The Silks had just started to gobble up for less than a second when the distant Iron Plate, like a cat smelling fish, darted over and seized the vast majority of the Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures!

The Spiritual Silks had to settle for the leftovers.

After a while——

Only when no more 'food' supply was left, sated and content, did the Iron Plate disappear with a blink; the Spiritual Silks then joined forces and collided violently with the misty barriers, and then——

Boom——

They finally shattered the barriers!

Ji You relaxed her furrowed brows, opened her eyes——

What she saw was Principal Hong shaking his leg, saying indignantly, "Oh—the meddler finally woke up, huh?"

Ji You: "..."

Chapter 458: A Stack of Contracts

At the sight of Principal Hong the moment she opened her eyes, a feeling of imminent doom surged in Ji You's heart!

No!

It wasn't merely bad—it felt like a serious disaster was about to strike.

Ji You's heart pounded, and she was utterly baffled: When had that wretched old man, Principal Hong, come over?

And what for?

Principal Hong shook his leg and said, "Yo—Does the stirrer not welcome me?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's expression switched in a second, her face lighting up with a smile as she rushed over with eagerness, fawningly saying, "Principal Hong, the tea on your desk has gone cold, let me brew you a fresh pot."

Principal Hong glanced at her and jested with a laugh, "Brownoser, off you go and cool off somewhere else."

Ji You chuckled "hehe," responding, "Being a brownnoser for you is also something I'm willing to do. Please wait a moment; I'll go brew the tea for you right now."

Having said that, Ji You scuttled to the side of the tea table, swiftly prepared a fresh pot of tea, then scurried back, eagerly placed it in front of Principal Hong, and respectfully said, "Please, have some tea."

Principal Hong verbally refused but did not decline the tea when it was set before him, picking it up and taking a sip, then chuckling, "The tea brewed by a brownnoser is indeed not bad."

Ji You: "..."

One reference as a brownnoser after another, that's quite enough feeding.

If it weren't for fear of this crummy old man's imposing manner, she wouldn't be serving him at all.

Here, Ji You was diligently making tea and pouring water for Principal Hong, but she also did not forget Teacher Mu Jianling and Doctor Luo—immediately moving over, she brewed and poured tea for them as well—

Doctor Luo took the tea cup, gently sipped, and with a smile said, "Hmm, not bad."

Mu Jianling quietly drank a sip of tea without a word.

Ji You scurried next to Mu Jianling, warmly calling out, "Teacher Mu, does your shoulder hurt? Do you want me to give you a massage?"

Mu Jianling set down his tea cup, raised his hand, and pointing to the seat across, said, "That's enough fussing, sit over there and let's go over the accounts."

Ji You: "..."

The corner of Ji You's mouth twitched as she thought: Here it comes! Here it comes! It's finally arrived on a rainbow cloud!

A weakling and poor as dirt, Ji You didn't dare spout nonsense. She obediently and honestly took a seat, sitting upright with her head raised, batting her wide eyes and looking at Mu Jianling.

Mu Jianling's eyelid twitched as he cursed, "Reel those eyes back in, blink wildly again, and I'll gouge them out right away."

Ji You: "..."

So ferocious.

Thus, Ji You didn't dare throw any 'flirtatious eyes' at Teacher Mu Jianling anymore, sitting both obediently and docilely, quietly awaiting instruction, quietly waiting for the accounts to be produced.

Then—

Mu Jianling raised his hand and pointed at the Light Computer screen on the table, saying, "Here, look through this yourself, then sign."

Ji You craned her neck, cautiously sneaking a peek, but to her dismay, she couldn't see it clearly. Left with no choice, she moved the Light Computer screen a bit closer, plucking up courage, she leaned forward to look—

In a flash—

Ji You's eyes bulged: "!!!"

One zero.

Two zeros.

Three zeros.

...

She couldn't even count how many zeros there were in the end. Ji You, incredulous, asked, "Teacher... there isn't a mistake, right?"

Mu Jianling glanced at her sidelong, his tone serious, "There isn't."

Ji You opened her mouth, "But..."

But this number doesn't seem right.

Mu Jianling furrowed her brows and asked, "Are you going to sign or not?"

Just looking at the string of zeros that followed made Ji You's heart quiver. She didn't have the courage to sign and, with great trepidation, said, "Teacher... may I have some time to consider this?"

Mu Jianling snorted lightly and said nothing.

Beside her, Dr. Luo said with a smile, "Ji You, regarding the amount of your debt, if you're worried or don't believe it, you can check the detailed list of Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures you used."

Ji You almost covered her ears, saying, "I won't listen, I won't listen, I can't bear to hear it..."

But she didn't have the guts to.

Because Ji You knew that even without seeing the list, in the short few minutes she had already used a massive amount of Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures. Just Candy Beans and Butterfly Honey alone were countless.

Not to mention, many of them were quite valuable.

Just the thought of it made Ji You's heart pound uncontrollably...

Perhaps it was her natural cowardice, or maybe it was a lifelong fear of poverty, but under the intense gazes of Principal Hong, Mu Jianling, and Dr. Luo, Ji You mustered her courage and asked a question that left everyone speechless:

"Teacher... do you still want a contract?"

Mu Jianling: "..."

Dr. Luo and Principal Hong both looked up at Ji You's face, particularly Dr. Luo, who was secretly gauging just how thick that skin must be.

Seeing that they remained silent, especially Mu Jianling with her intimidating gaze, Ji You said with a bitter face, "Teacher... it's not that I don't want to sign. Even if I went into indentured servitude to repay the debt, I still couldn't afford it."

While listening, Principal Hong, his leg shaking, smiled and scolded, "The 500 million of debt you owe is not just to Teacher Mu alone; Dr. Luo and I are also involved. These things represent our entire life's savings, and you've squandered them all in one go. What do you say we should do about this?"

Ji You: "Yingyingying..."

She really didn't know what to do.

That's right.

million!

In addition to the pile of debt previously owed to Teacher Mu Jian, Ji You had accumulated another 500 million in debt in just a little while.

It was a rollercoaster of life and death, thrilling beyond measure.

Principal Hong continued with his leg shaking, grinning, "Well... I'm not concerned with how you're going to do it, but if you want to leave this room, you'll have to sign, whether you like it or not. Otherwise—"

Ji You shuddered all over.

Principal Hong continued, "As for repaying the debt? You like signing contracts, right? How about this: considering you can't pay up right now, we'll talk about the repayment slowly later. Just sign your name now, and sign a few more contracts for us."

Ji You: "..."

Can this even be negotiated later?

Is it really negotiable?

Once Principal Hong gave his decision, what else could Ji You say?

In this world, nothing is more important than the creditor.

So, with tears in her eyes, Ji You signed.

Then—

Principal Hong raised his hand and grabbed a stack of contracts from the table. Like a person handing out flyers on the street in the 21st century, he pulled out a bunch and directly handed them to Mu Jianling, saying earnestly, "You are her teacher, so you should take a few more. Fire prevention, theft prevention, and especially prevention from wasteful behavior!"

With that, he glanced at Ji You. The "wasteful behavior" clearly referred to her.

Ji You was dumbfounded.

Next.

Principal Hong pulled out another stack of contracts and gave them to Dr. Luo, grinning, "You are her attending physician, take a few more to cultivate your morality and live a long life."

After distributing them to the two individuals, Principal Hong swung the remaining stack in his hand, counted them one by one, and said, "Nine left, I'll keep them myself. These things are useless to me, I'll just use them to paper over the walls or paste them up like a Gate God charm!"

Ji You: "..."

Watching all this, Ji You was at a loss for words.

Chapter 459: New Examination

Medical room.

Ji You watched with dismay as Principal Hong handed out her contracts, his face full of disdain. Unable to hold back any longer, she finally said, "Principal Hong, isn't using my contract to patch up the window paper... a bit of an overkill?" She wanted to say it was excessive, but lacking the courage, she changed her wording.

Upon hearing this, Principal Hong raised the 'contract' in his hand. His disdain was obvious as he replied, "Overkill? If it weren't a bit thick, I'd think even using it to patch the window is a waste of the window."

Ji You: "..."

Seeing Ji You's depressed expression, Principal Hong glanced at her and chuckled, "Don't feel too down. Rarity brings value. With your contracts stacking up like this, how valuable can they really be?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's mouth twitched as she said, "This... I didn't want to sign so many either..." It's all because of you, old man, forcing me to sign so many—and for the sake of keeping safe, Ji You dared not speak this last sentence.

Doctor Luo watched from the side, smiling as he added insult to injury, "Ji You, my student, you need to work hard and become a big shot in the Alliance, so that the stack of contracts I've amassed can actually sell."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You muttered softly, "I truly wish to completely disappoint you."

Doctor Luo laughed and said, "I heard what you just said... Remember, Ji You, you are no longer a free person. Be extra careful with your words in our presence. Provoking your sponsors can lead to serious consequences..."

As he spoke, he waved the contract in his hand.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You wanted to shut herself off.

Mu Jianling, however, did not add more mockery. With a cold face, she said, "What are you doing standing around? Hurry up and go for the test!"

Ji You puzzled, "Test what?"

Doctor Luo explained, "We need to check your current physical condition and spiritual power."

Ji You immediately realized and hurriedly said, "Then we must check it quickly."

Doctor Luo's smile was very gentle, and his tone was extremely kind, "Yes, we need to check quickly. But if the data is too poor after the repairs, all three of us will be disappointed."

Implicitly implying to perform well.

Ji You suddenly felt a tingling on her scalp, a huge pressure in her heart. Thinking about her now ample Spirit Space and the indescribably plump Spiritual Threads, Ji You instantly became confident.

She patted her chest and said loudly, "Don't worry, I'll make sure not to disappoint you."

Mu Jianling raised an eyebrow, "Really?"

Doctor Luo smiled, "Ji You, come here, I will personally conduct the test."

Ji You obediently approached, "Then I'll have to trouble you, Teacher Luo..."

Doctor Luo switched on the device used to measure spiritual power, adjusted it a bit, then pointing to the cabin, told Ji You, "Don't be nervous, relax."

Ji You obediently lay down inside.

Subsequently, Ji You's spiritual power connected with the device and she followed the instructions step-by-step.

Outside.

Whether it was Principal Hong, Mu Jianling, or Doctor Luo, the moment when the data was about to appear, they all dropped their mocking expressions, staring intently at the monitoring screen, their faces serious and earnest.

Soon.

The results of the Spiritual Level came out.

The three of them looked astonished at the result, but the tensed corners of their mouths gradually relaxed.

Dr. Luo chuckled, "This child is truly astonishing. She jumped from a D Level of spiritual power straight to B Level, bypassing one full level."

Mu Jianling remained silent.

Principal Hong, on the other hand, didn't seem pleased but rather slightly upset, frowning, he said, "After consuming treasures worth 500 million and using a High-level Soul Device, she only advanced two levels?"

Mu Jianling, who originally hadn't planned to speak, suddenly said, "You can't say it like that. Her talent is indeed low, but she compensates with her effort and her comprehension ability is stronger than many. How many wealthy and influential people are out there? Doesn't the Alliance have any noble families who spend 500 million on Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures and High-level Soul Devices for their children's advancement? But how many have advanced two levels?"

"Sword Spirit..." Principal Hong stopped shaking his leg and looked at Mu Jianling quite seriously, then smiled, "Having you guide these first-year kids is indeed useful. You've become more open and talkative than before."

Mu Jianling: "..."

Mu Jianling promptly closed his mouth again and remained silent.

Principal Hong didn't feel awkward at all, redeeming his own dignity, he said, "Check if her Spiritual Silk has grown."

This point—was what everyone was most concerned about.

Ji You's mutated spiritual power, although 100% purified, unfortunately only had Six Spiritual Threads. No matter how incredible, she was still limited.

Dr. Luo said, "Look here."

Soon, an image appeared on the monitor. Originally a blank scene, suddenly a tentacle-like thing appeared, gently swaying.

Dr. Luo laughed, "The first Spiritual Silk has arrived."

This Spiritual Silk, after exploring for a bit and seeming to find no danger, gradually revealed its entire body—it slithered like a snake, tail flicking lively, and soon playfully swam around within the part of the Spirit Space simulated by the instrument...

Dr. Luo said, "The Spiritual Silk is very lively. Moreover, compared to the last six small snakes, this one is clearly thicker, already as thick as a child's wrist, not bad." Because in the last assessment, Ji You's Spiritual Silk was only as thick as chopsticks.

Mu Jianling listened and nonchalantly said, "This fellow has such thick skin and is naughty enough to deserve a beating; her Spiritual Silk really reflects her own character, irrespective of liveliness."

Dr. Luo nodded, "That's true. Spiritual Silk reflects a person's character." He paused slightly, then continued, "But, this child's Spiritual Silk is a bit strange. Generally, others' Spiritual Silk is of fixed size and doesn't change throughout their life, yet hers has grown. Is it really because of the spiritual power mutation?"

Mu Jianling heard this and thoughtfully said, "Could it be an over-supplementation?"

Dr. Luo thought for a moment, saying, "That possibility cannot be ruled out."

Principal Hong didn't say anything, just kept staring at the screen.

Soon.

Following the first, the second Spiritual Silk also appeared, this one even thicker than the first.

Then.

The third.

The fourth.

The fifth.

The three watched the screen, waiting left and right, but the sixth never appeared, their expressions grew serious, Dr. Luo murmured, "What's going on? In the last check, there were six."

This—

Why would there be fewer?

Spiritual Silk, I have only seen it increase, never decrease.

That's just too strange.

Dr. Luo even began to doubt her centuries of medical experience, questioning if her eyes had problems she hadn't noticed, but even after checking thoroughly, she still couldn't see the sixth thread.

Chapter 460: Strange Spiritual Silk

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

As time went by, Mu Jianling, Dr. Luo, and Principal Hong all seemed unable to keep their composure. Dr. Luo was the first to stand up and said, "Should we stop the detection? Let me check to see where the problem lies..."

The issue of the reduction in Spiritual Silk was unheard of, and precisely because of its rarity, it was all the more troublesome and demanded careful attention.

Although the cause was currently unknown, the three of them remembered that Ji You's Spirit Space had once been on the verge of collapse and was only stabilized after using a large amount of Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures, followed by a reorganization.

Could it be that there was a problem during the reorganization process that went unnoticed at the time?

This was serious.

Mu Jianling was not a doctor and could not offer any suggestions.

Upon hearing this, Principal Hong furrowed his brow and said, "Let's wait a bit longer."

Dr. Luo had no choice but to patiently and quietly wait.

However—

Minutes passed and still, there were only five Spiritual Threads.

Dr. Luo opened her mouth, "What should we do?"

Faced with such a situation, even she, a prominent figure in the medical field, began to feel a headache and was at a loss.

Principal Hong frowned sternly and said, "Prepare to forcefully stop the detection and let her come out to check the situation."

Just as his words fell, Mu Jianling suddenly said, "Wait."

At her words, Principal Hong and Dr. Luo both looked up at her together. The furrow between Mu Jianling's brows gradually smoothed out as she said, "Look, what is this?"

She raised her hand, pointing.

Principal Hong and Dr. Luo followed her gesture and looked over. As they did, both were rendered speechless.

They saw—

On the head of a Spiritual Strand that appeared somewhat thinner compared to the others, there hung a ring, almost like a tiny crown. If not observed closely, it was nearly invisible.

And this ring was not something simple. Without another word, Dr. Luo immediately magnified the image by 100 times, and now it was crystal clear.

—This was a Spiritual Strand.

Principal Hong shook his leg slightly and said, "What's going on? Can Spiritual Strands hide themselves?"

At this moment, as if sensing the secret observation from the external world, the Spiritual Strand that was curled into a ring, which had been slightly wiggling its tail, suddenly tensed up its body and went completely still.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

The Spiritual Strand pretending to be a ring was in a test of patience with the three spectators, Principal Hong included. Following the adage "If the enemy doesn't move, neither do I", it truly held the same posture without moving again.

However—

Spiritual Strands existed only in the Spiritual World; they were not part of the physical realm. In addition, there existed something called 'page magnification' in this society that it didn't account for. No matter how well it behaved, it couldn't change the fact that it was a Spiritual Strand.

Watching this scene, whether it was Mu Jianling, Principal Hong, or Dr. Luo, all were speechless and thoroughly shocked. But what was even more shocking happened right after—

The other five very active, roaming Spiritual Threads, seemingly receiving a cue from the 'ring', abruptly ceased their movement from their prior activity.

Then—

The entire scene went still, not a single Spiritual Thread moved, each maintaining the same posture.

Dr. Luo opened her mouth, "Are they preparing for battle? Or—"

Mu Jianling's eyelids twitched and she commented sarcastically, "More like playing dead, I'd say." Otherwise, why would they all freeze collectively?

Principal Hong remained silent, not making a sound.

Meanwhile.

Curling into a ring on top of Old Five's head, Fourth communicated: [Everyone, pay attention!!! There are several scary folks staring at us from outside, what do we do?]

Old Five looked around: [Really?]

Old Six shrunk his neck: [Where? I'm scared...]

Old Third didn't make a sound, standing alert with his head up.

Old Second looked toward Boss.

Boss stiffened his body, ready for battle: [Everyone, be serious. Play dead first. If that fails, get up and fight!]

At Boss's command, the other five Spiritual Threads respectfully followed suit, each stiffening up, pretending to be dead threads...

...

The always silent Principal Hong suddenly asked a question neither Mu Jianling nor Dr. Luo had considered, "Do your spiritual silks have self-consciousness?"

Huh?

Dr. Luo shook his head: "No."

Mu Jianling coldly said: "No."

Principal Hong touched his chin and said, "Unfortunately, my spiritual silks also lack self-consciousness. All their actions come from my consciousness, my thoughts, my decisions... But look at Ji You's spiritual silks—don't they seem like they possess self-consciousness?"

Following this question, both Dr. Luo and Mu Jianling tensed up and began closely examining the images displayed on the machine.

However, no matter how they observed, the spiritual silks remained motionless, as if truly dead.

With a stern face, Mu Jianling abruptly sent out a strand of spiritual silk, whipping it swiftly toward the direction of the Six Spiritual Threads...

Boom—

This was not going to end well.

Instantly, the six static Spiritual Threads experienced an uproar within their inner world.

Old Six: [Aaaaah!!! I'm so scared, it's coming! It's coming!]

Old Five: [Should we take them on? Old Five is ready to fight.]

Old Fourth: [Hey! Wait, do you realize? Aren't these dumb silks kind of familiar?]

Old Third: [Ah! Isn't this the spiritual silk of the teacher close to Master?]

Old Second: [Confirmed, Boss, what do we do?]

Boss: [Fight! Knock 'em down, then talk!]

As soon as this was said, apart from Old Fourth who was too lazy to move, the other four threads along with Boss sprang into action, and nearly in an instant, they flung Mu Jianling's approaching spiritual silk away!

Boom—

The spiritual silk was directly toppled, and even someone as strong as Mu Jianling couldn't help but frown from the pain.

After successfully driving the enemy away, the Six Spiritual Threads were very happy, each frolicking around the space... Only Old Fourth remained motionless atop Old Five's head, but Old Four's face

showed a frustration that did not belong to it: [Ah, such a nuisance! Why do these dumb silks keep pestering us despite being frightened off several times? Could it be they've taken a liking to Sisi?]

Considering this possibility, Old Fourth shivered: [I don't want it! Sisi doesn't like these silly, dumb silks... They don't understand what Sisi says.]

Old Five: [Old Five doesn't like these dumb silks either.]

Old Six: [Old Six is really scared too, what if they've taken a liking to me?]

Old Third: [Nonsense, you're so weak, if anything, they'd fancy me.]

Old Second: [In terms of handsomeness and charm, shouldn't it be me, Old Second?]

Boss: [Heh... When it comes to handsomeness, charm, and majestic might, who else but me, Boss?]

Old Fourth retracted his neck, very dissatisfied: [What are you arguing for! Clearly they've only taken a liking to Four Four, they've been staring at Sisi the whole time!]

...

On this topic, clearly the six strands could not reach a consensus, but—

Boss suddenly stiffened up: [Stay alert, don't forget, there are two other enemies lurking in the dark, especially that old geezer...]

As soon as Boss spoke, the spiritual threads ceased their frisking movement, readying themselves once more.

Earlier, Mu Jianling had only made a light move, but Ji You's Six Spiritual Threads' reaction still surprised her as she widened her eyes: "Not only did they counterattack, but they also started to defend."

Dr. Luo also opened his mouth in astonishment: "Logically speaking, student Ji You knows we're testing her, she shouldn't counterattack, nor should she defend."

Principal Hong stopped tapping his foot and touched his chin, saying: "These spiritual silks have a strong sense of territory, and moreover—it seems to be their autonomous behavior, not under the control of their master, so—what do you think they're talking about now? What are they discussing?"

The three of them were very curious about this question.