

Scavengers 461

Chapter 461: Classified Top Secret

What is Ji You's Spiritual Silk discussing?

What are they discussing?

Regarding this question, not only Principal Hong, but Mu Jianling and Dr. Luo were also quite curious.

Dr. Luo lowered his head in thought for a moment and said, "Spiritual Silk has its own independent consciousness? This idea is unheard of. If it's true, it would be a miracle in the medical world!" At this point, Dr. Luo stared at the six Spiritual Threads displayed on the screen, her gaze becoming more and more intense: "I really want to open up her brain and study it carefully now."

As soon as she said this, almost at the same time, Fourth, who was always slacking off and cutting corners while lying on Old Five's head, suddenly felt a shiver go through his body and a great sense of unease rose in his heart.

Fourth turned his head around, noticed Dr. Luo's gaze, and immediately shivered in fright, exclaiming, "Oh my... That beautiful smiling doctor suddenly became so scary..."

Old Five wobbled, "Where? Where? Where?"

Fourth stood his tail upright and pointed, "There! Old Five! I'm scared, I feel like she has indecent intentions towards me!" Saying that, Fourth showed a very distressed expression: "Yingyingying... Being too cute is also a trouble."

Old Five looked in the direction Fourth pointed, just about to say something, when Boss suddenly thrashed his tail, his body swelling countless times larger: [Alarm! Alarm! Alarm! Everyone pay attention, troublemakers incoming!!!]

Boom—

Dr. Luo had only said a word, not yet taken any action, since she was closest to the testing chamber where Ji You was, in that instant, she suddenly felt a fierce storm coming—

Hmm—

Dr. Luo winced in pain and couldn't help but grunt.

Huh?

I was just thinking about it casually, I didn't actually plan to dissect Ji You, did they find out already? Dr. Luo was surprised and looked up, just in time to see Principal Hong retracting several Spiritual Threads.

Dr. Luo couldn't help saying, "Attacking her Spiritual Silk like that is too reckless, what if she gets hurt?"

Principal Hong smiled and said, "With her rotten character, it'll be fine as long as she doesn't die."

Dr. Luo: "..."

Mu Jianling interrupted the two and asked Principal Hong, "You also tested it just now, how did it go?"

Principal Hong started shaking his leg and said while shaking, "Against enemies, they know to unite and fight externally, and they understand how to cooperate and support each other. Looking at their current performance... it's pretty much certain that her Spiritual Silk has independent consciousness. Let's not guess ourselves anymore, after this girl's examination, we can just ask her directly."

Mu Jianling nodded coolly: "Hmm."

Dr. Luo opened her mouth, "So... it really does have consciousness."

Meanwhile.

As soon as Principal Hong probed and finished testing, he immediately retracted the Spiritual Threads, but Ji You's Spiritual World exploded:

Boss was jumping with anger: [Ahhh!!! This crafty old man! He didn't even fight, just ran away, next time! Next time I'll make sure he's knocked down looking for his teeth!]

Second echoed the sentiment with hostility: [That crafty old man!]

Third swore fiercely: [So evil!]

Fourth shrank even smaller, trembling and clinging tightly to Old Five's head: "It's over! What if the doddering old man takes a liking to Sisi as well?"

Whenever Fourth got scared, he couldn't help but step on Old Five beneath him, but Old Five was quite straightforward: "Sisi, don't worry, the doddering old man is here to fight us, he definitely won't take a liking to you."

Sixth followed suit: "Exactly! The doddering old man definitely won't take a liking to you!"

...

No matter the result of the examination, the discovery of Ji You's Spiritual Silk possessing autonomous consciousness was the most significant finding! Mu Jianling, Principal Hong, Dr. Luo all began to observe carefully...

After a while.

Dr. Luo said: "It seems, the characteristics of these Spiritual Silks are also very different, some are particularly lively, like this one, always moving, never stopping..." As she spoke, she raised her hand, pointing to Sixth who was swinging its tail, provoking Old Five for a bit and then teasing both Second and Second, and even boldly trying to tease Boss, only to be whipped away by Boss's tail...

Then, Dr. Luo pointed to Fourth who was laying on Old Five's head, saying: "On the contrary, this one is too quiet, it hasn't moved since we found it, it must be a very well-behaved strand."

Dr. Luo raised her hand again, pointing to Boss, and said: "This strand is the thickest and most robust, just now it even whipped another strand away, probably often using its large body to bully others."

...

Dr. Luo murmured her findings to Mu Jianling and Principal Hong, the more she spoke, the brighter the light in her eyes became: "Interesting! Really interesting! Is her situation unique? Or can other people's Spiritual Silks also be nurtured acquiredly? It seems—I need to ask Ji You to collaborate with me, to conduct more research in this area."

Regarding this, Principal Hong said: "To conduct this research, we must have her consent and clearly explain the pros and cons to her, the most important thing is—that it must not harm her safety, whether physically, mentally, or psychologically."

Dr. Luo said: "Of course! I'm not some unscrupulous research institute."

The usually silent Mu Jianling suddenly spoke: "If she agrees, I will follow up on it. Also—I don't mind you studying my Spiritual Silk too, we could even compare them with hers."

Dr. Luo was extremely surprised: "Sword Spirit? You..."

Mu Jianling spoke calmly, "You've noticed, haven't you? Spiritual Silks like this child's, if used on the battlefield, would be an intimidating force, even capable of possibly turning the tide."

Principal Hong stopped fidgeting and his face became serious, saying: "Piloting fighters, Mechas, and Starships, all require precise control of Spiritual Silks, but one person can hardly manage 10, 100, 1000, or 10000 strands at once easily. But what about hundreds of thousands, millions, or even hundreds of millions of strands? I believe you all find it challenging too? On the other hand, if Spiritual Silks have their own consciousness, as long as the Master issues accurate commands, they can carry out tasks on their own, surely increasing efficiency and reducing error rates..."

...

And many, many more.

The benefits of Spiritual Silks having independent consciousness are simply too numerous.

Dr. Luo, with wide-open mouth, said: "In that case, this child really is a miracle. It's just—" she paused, in a tone of regret and sighed, "it's just that she has too few Spiritual Silks, only six."

Six.

No matter how powerful, there are limits.

Ah!

...

As for the issue of the quantity of Spiritual Silks, it was something nobody could change or forcibly interfere with. Suddenly, Principal Hong's face became extremely serious, and he spoke in a grave tone: "This child's matter must be kept top secret, besides the three of us, absolutely no leaks to anyone else, understand?"

Dr. Luo and Mu Jianling nodded in agreement.

Chapter 462: Very Creative

...

About half an hour later, Ji You came out of the testing pod, and immediately noticed that Principal Hong, Dr. Luo, and Teacher Mu Jianling were giving her strange looks.

Ji You subconsciously looked down at herself, not noticing anything odd, and with a sinking heart, she quietly asked, "Teachers... is my examination result not good?"

During the examination, Ji You was completely relaxed, and she even—accidentally fell asleep, so she didn't know exactly what happened.

Mu Jianling looked at her and said indifferently, "Indeed it's not ideal."

Ji You's heart tightened: "No... that's not possible, right?"

She had squandered 500 million worth of resources!

And also a High-level Soul Device.

And the result—

Has there been no improvement at all?

Unable to say whether she was more disappointed or sad, Ji You forced a bitter smile and said, "I feel like I have improved."

Firstly, every single strand had grown several times thicker.

Secondly, the scope of her Spirit Space expanded again. Last time, after using Cloud Mist Tea, the Spirit Space expanded, but this time compared to the last was like comparing witchcraft to a grand sorcerer!

Previously, she had used a total of 10 grams of Cloud Mist Tea, and the total expansion of her Spirit Space was less than one meter—it was so minor that Ji You almost doubted the effectiveness of the Cloud Mist Tea. Fortunately, the effects of the Cloud Mist Tea were very evident on Xiao You, not only allowing her to feel her heartbeat, but the Iron Plate space also quietly expanded...

This time?

Ji You still couldn't contact Xiao You, so she didn't know the specific situation with Xiao You and the Iron Plate, but Ji You's own Spirit Space had visibly doubled in size at least.

Yes!

Doubled, at least.

If her previous Spirit Space was the size of a bathroom, now, it was the size of a three-bedroom apartment.

Apart from these two major changes, Ji You swept away her previous exhaustion, feeling incredibly spirited; she felt she could run downstairs for 10 rounds without needing to stop.

With these—

How could it not be ideal?

Dr. Luo saw Mu Jianling habitually demoralizing Ji You and smiled, saying, "Ji You, first of all congratulations, your Spiritual Level has been raised from D to B."

Ji You jumped up, bursting into laughter: "Really? I reached B-level?"

Oh my!

Mu Jianling snorted coldly: "Just B-level, after using 500 million..."

Suddenly, a cold bucket of water poured over her head, and Ji You's joy stopped abruptly...

Dr. Luo's smile was gentle: "Jianling, stop demoralizing the child, it hasn't been easy for her. The 500 million we gave are our retirement funds, and she will need to repay that debt."

Principal Hong, shaking his leg, said: "Repaying a lifetime of debt is indeed not easy."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's spirits, which had been fiery, instantly cooled to an icy chill.

But in just a moment, Ji You regained her energy, and chuckled, "Teachers, Principal, don't worry, I will definitely repay you, down to the last penny and not leave any debt unpaid."

Mu Jianling hummed lightly: "Really?"

Ji You nodded forcefully and said, "As cheeky as I can be, I would never embezzle your retirement funds, rest assured."

Principal Hong shook his leg, and then fluttered his hands with several debt contracts, saying, "It's okay even if you default, since we have these contracts in hand."

"Look what you're saying... am I that kind of person?" Ji You diligently moved closer to pour a cup of hot tea for Principal Hong, saying, "Debt or no debt, we will definitely repay it slowly in the future, but— Principal, could you please not play with those debt contracts? It really makes me nervous."

Scary indeed.

This feeling, how should I put it, it's like my life is held in their hands, fluttering in the wind.

Oh dear.

Principal Hong naturally picked up the hot tea poured by Ji You, took a small sip, and directly asked, "Do you know that your Spiritual Silk has its own consciousness?"

Ji You was startled, but quickly realized that the teachers must have discovered it. After thinking it over briefly, she felt that the few teachers present were trustworthy and did not hide anything, directly saying, "Yes, it does."

Ji You's honest response somewhat surprised Mu Jianling, Principal Hong, and Dr. Luo.

Dr. Luo sighed softly, "You child, usually so slick and astute, why are you so honest when you need to be cautious? In the future, do not mention this to anyone beyond us."

Ji You put away her playful demeanor and sincerely said, "Because I trust that the teachers and the principal will not harm me."

If they really wanted to harm her, they wouldn't provide her with a priceless High-level Soul Device.

If they really wanted to harm her, they wouldn't have exhausted their savings during this major crisis in her spiritual power, helped stabilize her collapsing Spiritual World, and allowed her to break through the barriers and reach another level. Currently, the expanse of her Spirit Space has grown, and although Ji You does not yet know the benefits, she understands it's extremely important.

If they wanted to harm her...

...

In any case, Ji You is not foolish; she trusts her feelings and the integrity of her teachers.

Hearing Ji You's response, Dr. Luo's gentle demeanor vanished, becoming extremely serious, "Do you know how many people in the world have the same condition as you?"

Ji You blinked, "How many?"

Dr. Luo's tone remained serious, "As far as we know, you are the only one."

Ji You: "!!!"

To be honest, she knew her Spiritual Silk was a bit special, but didn't realize it was this unique. In the entire world, only her Spiritual Silk has independent consciousness?

Beside her, Mu Jianling, arms crossed and eyes cold, said, "So what does this tell you?"

Ji You raised her hand, scratching her head, her smile simple and honest: "It means—I am a genius among geniuses? A great figure unmatched in the future!"

Mu Jianling: "..."

Dr. Luo: "..."

Principal Hong: "..."

The group fell silent for a moment, then Mu Jianling said irritably, "But you also need to stay alive till then, otherwise all is lost."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You shivered with fright: "Then... what should I do?"

Mu Jianling's expression became serious, "Get stronger! Strong enough that no one can do anything to you."

Ji You was deeply shaken.

Get stronger!

Of course, she has to become stronger.

She wants to be strong enough not just to protect herself, but also those around her.

Regarding this, from the moment Ji You vowed to survive this era and protect Xiao You, all her friends, she has never wavered.

Then—

Ji You thought of a question. After deliberating the phrasing, she cautiously asked, "Teacher... may I ask, how strong do I need to be to take you three down all by myself?"

The three: "..."

Very well.

Quite ambitious, huh.

Chapter 463: Ji You's Private Motives

"The idea isn't bad," Dr. Luo squinted his eyes, his smile both amiable and warm, and added, "Quite bold."

"If I'm not bold, then at least I dare to dream," Ji You said, scratching her head and revealing an even more honest and simple smile on her face.

"Slap!"

With a crisp sound, Ji You immediately covered her head, shrinking her neck and looked at Mu Jianling, her teacher who had just hit her, with a slightly aggrieved expression: "Teacher... next time, can you give me a heads-up before you start hitting me?"

Mu Jianling replied coldly: "No."

Ji You: "..."

At this point, Ji You felt a stare fixated on her head, making her skin crawl. She hurriedly turned around and said to Principal Hong, "Principal... I just love to think wild thoughts, you don't have to look at me like that."

With a smile plastered on his face, Principal Hong turned and instructed a standby medical robot, "Where did this Iron Fool deserving of a beating come from? Toss her out to feed the Star Beasts."

Ji You: "..."

The medical robot immediately walked towards Ji You, and the corner of her mouth twitched: "Are you actually serious?"

What a guy.

Truly worthy of being called a cantankerous old man.

After leaving the testing chamber and being tattled on by the Spiritual Silk, Ji You clearly knew what Principal Hong and Teacher Mu Jianling had just been probing about her Spiritual Silk.

To summarize the Spiritual Silk in one sentence: This old geezer is really wicked.

Ji You thought that her foolish Silk wasn't wrong.

Dr. Luo, kind and gentle as ever, stopped the medical robot. Ji You was moved beyond words, thinking that Dr. Luo indeed was as beautiful as her heart. She then heard—

Dr. Luo said with a smile: "A living test subject is countless times more precious than a dead one."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You was startled.

At this moment, the expressions of the three teachers became solemn. Dr. Luo said, "Ji You, given your uniqueness, I am very interested. Would you be willing to become the subject of my research?"

Ji You: "..."

Dr. Luo smiled and continued, "Of course, I won't conduct reckless research, nor will I disturb you or experiment on you. I will simply observe the changes in your Spiritual Silk as a bystander and make some data records and predictions..."

Then Dr. Luo added many, many more details, including interests and risks, etc...

Ji You hesitated.

Suddenly, Mu Jianling said, "I will supervise it as well, and I will participate in the research with you."

Ji You widened her eyes: "Teacher???"

The tone of Mu Jianling's voice remained cold, but unconsciously softened as she said, "We believe that your Spiritual Silk might have a unique use in combat. As for what that special function might be, we need observation to find out. Besides, if your condition could be applied to others and become widespread, it could have a significant impact on the current stalemate between humans and Star Beasts."

Principal Hong stopped shaking his leg and said earnestly: "We are not forcing you; it all depends on your own willingness. If you refuse, you don't need to worry about anything else, the school will provide you with all the educational resources you're entitled to. We will fight for you as much as we can."

Ji You pursed her lips, fell silent for a while, then said, "Teacher, I understand, I agree to your request."

Mu Jianling softly reassured, "Don't worry, I'll be with you during every observation."

Principal Hong also said: "I will oversee everything, constantly keeping up and understanding the situation."

Ji You lifted her face, revealing a radiant smile, "Teacher, Principal, I am not scared, nor worried. I am very willing to accept Dr. Luo's research and observations. If it truly can be applicable to others, I would be very happy."

Mu Jianling couldn't help herself and reached out to gently rub Ji You's head. Somehow, looking at the child in front of her, a warmth surged through her usually cool eyes. Mu Jianling blinked, her emotions quickly returned to normal, but—conscious of her own unusual behavior, her face stiffened slightly. Then, turning her back, Mu Jianling said coldly: "Hmm."

Ji You pretended not to notice Teacher Mu Jianling's awkwardness. She thought for a moment, then said to Dr. Luo: "Teacher Luo, as for my Spiritual Silk, I don't know if it's Innate or Acquired. Because my Spiritual Level was very low, I couldn't sense the Spiritual Silk before. It was only after entering the school that I accidentally discovered they were conscious and could communicate with me."

Dr. Luo pondered for a moment and said, "Before, your spiritual power was too low to enter your own Spirit Space, so it's normal for you not to have discovered it. But it doesn't rule out the possibility that your situation is acquired. Well, I'll make a record of this, and later I will ask for more details about when you first discovered the consciousness of the Spiritual Silk."

Ji You nodded: "Okay."

Ji You's agreement wasn't out of complete naivety. First, she trusted the teachers. Second, if it could really benefit humanity, Ji You was very willing to make her own contribution.

Third, Ji You also had her own selfish reasons. The secret of her ability to create Soul Devices couldn't be hidden indefinitely, and if it were exposed by accident without her having the strength to protect herself, she would only become easy prey for others... Therefore, Ji You honestly revealed to the three teachers the uniqueness of her Spiritual Silk, also contemplating that when the time was right, she could reveal to the teachers about her ability to make Soul Devices, and associate the reason to the special nature of the Spiritual Silk.

Ji You believed that given the character of the three teachers, they would definitely protect her and keep her secret until she grew strong enough to protect herself.

...

There was another point, concerning the Iron Plate and Xiao You. Since this related to her own secret of transmigration and Xiao You's safety—which was even more important than her own safety—Ji You dared not take any risks. Thus, she still didn't plan to reveal this to the teachers. Later on, if she displayed any abnormalities, she could just attribute it to the uniqueness of the Spiritual Silk.

Meanwhile.

After Ji You made up her mind, apart from the matter about the Iron Plate and Xiao You, she cooperated with whatever Dr. Luo asked, answering all questions truthfully and in detail.

Dr. Luo was very serious and meticulous...

Mu Jianling and Principal Hong accompanied her throughout the whole process.

By the time they finished, it was already past dinner time.

Dr. Luo recorded everything, then smiled at Ji You and said, "That's it for today. Go back and rest well."

While they were talking, suddenly—

There was a knock on the door of the medical room, the medical service robot opened the door, and everyone looked up towards the entrance. What caught their eyes was a large bunch of bright red flowers, several baskets of fruit, and a big banner that read:

[The Combat Department Class of 131 sends a delegation with heavy hearts to visit Ji You, our classmate with a third-level disability.]

Ji You: "..."

Suddenly feeling an itch in her hand...

What to do if she wants to hit someone?

Online waiting, quite urgent.

Chapter 464: Selling Out Teammates Together

Vibrant flowers.

Fresh fruits.

The bright red, wind-borne banner, and beneath it... the few tall, poised, and formidable figures, and... the extremely irritating slogan written on the banner they were holding up with their elbows...

Most importantly, Ji You never expected that the first face she saw when her gaze followed the banner upwards would be that of Yu Yi, whose square face exuded an aura of integrity. This one-time rival, whom she had defeated to join the special training squad.

Ji You took a deep breath and asked, "Yu Yi, the weather is nice today. How about a fight?"

Yu Yi's square face cracked a smile as he gently shook his head, "No need, I'm not interested in fighting. I heard you've unfortunately become a third-level disability, just came to confirm."

Ji You was slightly speechless: "I'm sorry to disappoint you, but I'm lively and kicking."

Yu Yi: "Indeed, a little disappointed."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You turned her head, looking at Zhang Ye standing next to Yu Yi, and couldn't help grinding her teeth: "Zhang Ye, are you here to gawk at me too?"

Zhang Ye shrank his neck and chuckled, "Just joining in the fun, joining in the fun..."

Ji You, barely restraining her itch to throw a punch, turned to another figure who was always ducking and even deliberately lowering the banner to hide his face, and berated: "Little Zhouzhou, stop hiding shyly. With your thick brows and big eyes, I could see you from a mile away."

Xuzhou: "..."

Xuzhou lifted the banner, revealing a somewhat reddened face, and tried to stretch a smile, yet his face remained stiff: "No... nothing's wrong, right?"

Ji You raised her hand, covering her heart, and said frantically: "There's no 'matter', I'm just about to explode with rage. Dad's asking you, what on Earth did Dad do wrong for you to treat Dad like this?"

Xuzhou: "..."

Xuzhou turned his face away and turned his back.

"And you guys!!!" Ji You, with shaking hands, pointed at several figures hiding behind Yu Yi, Zhang Ye, and Xuzhou, cursing: "Stop hiding, thinking that success in fooling Little Zhouzhou and these few blind guys to spearhead this means I won't know it was your wicked idea?"

Once Ji You said this, and with her full and forceful tone, where was there any semblance of a patient?

For a moment, everyone shook their heads regretfully: the spectacle was over.

Then—

Among the crowd behind the three men, Shen Changqing was the first to step out, saying softly, "It has nothing to do with me, I was just coming over to take a look."

Ji You was surprised: "Oh... Shen Changqing, I didn't expect such an honest person like you to lie as well." Speaking of this, Ji You clenched her fist and pointed at the words on the banner: "These characters, this brush style, this vigor... if it wasn't you who wrote it, then who? Tell me, who else?"

Shen Changqing: "..."

Being caught on the spot, how embarrassing is that? Shen Changqing's face turned thoroughly red: "I wrote it, but it wasn't my idea, Ah Guang came up with it."

Ji You's mouth twitched, and her clenched fist immediately swung toward Yue Qiguang.

Shen Changqing, with his style of betraying teammates at the first disagreement, spread the contagion instantly.

Hearing his exposure, Yue Qiguang suddenly jumped up, glared at Shen Changqing, and didn't hesitate to betray another teammate: "Although I thought of the characters, this rotten idea with the banner was proposed by Yue Qiyuan, this idiot."

Ji You turned her head and glared fiercely at Yue Qiyuan.

Seeing the fire spreading and suddenly burning himself, Yue Qiyuan's face turned a shade darker and immediately said: "I just casually made a suggestion, but I never expected Chu Jiaojiao to be so fast. In the blink of an eye, she had torn up the curtain cloth and made a banner out of it."

Ji You: "..."

Great.

This—

These are her so-called fans.

Fake.

Absolutely fake.

And—

As expected, not a single person is innocent.

How does that saying go? When an avalanche happens, not a single snowflake is innocent.

Chu Jiaojiao, seeing that she had been thoroughly betrayed in an instant, her face stiffened for a few seconds. Then, she forced a smile, quickly leaned in, and took a close look at Ji You's cheeks. Realizing there wasn't any damage and visibly relieved, she chuckled and said, "Ji You, it's good that there's nothing wrong with your face, really good. I just heard from that fool Sheng Qingyan that you suffered a third-level disability. He even said you looked more ghastly and horrifying than a ghost, with not a single patch of decent skin on your face, neck, or elbows... that you had no good skin from head to toe. I was scared to death! I was just so worried about you."

As she spoke, Chu Jiaojiao scratched her head somewhat embarrassingly, exposing a slightly foolish and infatuated grin, "Ji You, you look pretty even when you're all huffy."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's face darkened, and her icy gaze swept bit by bit over Chu Jiaojiao before finally landing on Sheng Qingyan, who pretended to be as quiet as a chicken in the corner, "Very good, it was indeed you."

Caught out, Sheng Qingyan didn't pretend to be scared anymore and strutted right out, even yawning and saying, "You poor dead thing, I didn't expect you to recover..."

Oh no!

What a shame.

Though he didn't voice it out loud, the regret on Sheng Qingyan's face was blatantly there for all to see.

Ji You was furious inside.

This guy, not only did he spread that I became a person with a third-level disability, but he's also spreading rumors that I look scarier than a ghost?

Very well.

Click~

A single crisp sound struck like a tap on the heartstrings of everyone present, making them feel a chill spreading from the soles of their feet up to their necks...

Ji You clenched her fist without letting go but pointed it straight at Sheng Qingyan and declared, "Sheng Qingyan, prepare to die!"

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Sheng Qingyan bolted out the door in a flash, "Since the poor dead thing is fine, then little me is slipping away."

With that, he didn't dawdle and vanished like smoke.

In an instant—

The few figures blocking the doorway gradually scattered.

Yue Qiyuan stepped back decisively and said, "I have something to do; I'm leaving too."

Yue Qiguang clicked his tongue and declared, "There's no joke to watch, a waste of Daddy's one minute, I'm out."

Shen Changqing paused briefly before saying, "Wish you good health," and left hastily...

Chu Jiaojiao looked Ji You up and down, left and right, examining carefully. Confident that there really was nothing wrong with Ji You's face, she couldn't help but earnestly advise before leaving, "Ji You, take care of your health and your face, I'm off now."

The somewhat awkward Xuzhou, seeing this, mustered up the courage to speak, "Fruit is delicious, remember to eat, I... I'm also going now."

Zhang Ye waved nonchalantly and said, "Gone, gone."

Yu Yi was even more straightforward: "I bid farewell."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You felt an itch in her hand growing, that urge to punch someone just wouldn't stop.

Chapter 465: Gift Giving

A bunch of people who were asking for a beating came running over with great fanfare and just as quickly fled the scene. From arrival to departure, the whole thing took less than 5 minutes. Ji You really wanted to chase after them and give them a thrashing, but—

Forget it.

Ji You relaxed her clenched fists. As soon as she turned around, she saw Mu Jianling, Dr. Luo, and Principal Hong sitting on the couch at the coffee table, leisurely enjoying some fruit.

Dr. Luo crunched into an apple, smiling as he said, "This apple is not bad, it comes from the Beikena Mountains. Sword Spirit, have one."

Mu Jianling coolly refused. She was twirling her fingers, peeling grapes one by one, and said, "I prefer grapes from Yuna Star."

Principal Hong held a giant watermelon, and with a sharp little knife, sliced it—snap—the watermelon split into two halves, a fragrant scent wafting out. He gripped the knife, snap, snap, snap... sliced it into several pieces, then, while shaking his legs, picked up a slice of watermelon and began nibbling contentedly, "You all... just don't know how to enjoy, watermelon is a heavenly delight."

Ji You: "..."

After a moment of silence, Ji You couldn't help but speak up, "Um... Principal Hong, teachers... if I remember correctly, those fruits in your hands were the consolation fruits sent by those guys to me, right?"

All were natural fruits.

Take that big apple for instance, it would cost over 800 credit points each, but look at Dr. Luo. He appears graceful and poised, but he eats so fast that within this short amount of time, he has already devoured at least three big apples.

Teacher Mu Jianling wasn't falling behind either; in this short time, she had already finished a bunch of grapes, peeling them while not forgetting to watch a melodramatic TV show!

How about Principal Hong?

He wasn't eating quickly, but given his size, obviously one watermelon wouldn't be enough.

Alas!

The teachers really lack elegance!

In the infirmary, the three enjoying the fruits, upon hearing Ji You's voice, all rolled their eyes at her. Mu Jianling, with a cold look, pointed at the contract on the table, saying, "You've sold half your life to me already, what's yours is mine."

Ji You: "..."

This is so unreasonable, and she couldn't even find the words to retort.

Principal Hong, like shooing away a fly, raised his hand towards the main door with a look of disdain, "Alright, stop standing here and disturbing our fruit enjoyment, scram."

Ji You opened her mouth.

Is that so?

None of these fruits can be taken back?

Ji You gloomily eyed the baskets of fruits laid out, her eyes heating up. Just looking at them made her mouth water so much that she couldn't pull her feet away. Seizing the moment she turned around, Ji You bent down quickly, snatched a big apple, and was about to bolt.

Suddenly, Mu Jianling said, "Wait."

Ji You: "..."

Just one?

And you can't even spare that?

Ji You quickened her pace, just about to slip out the door, when suddenly a gust of wind came from behind, and a distinct hand reached out—it was Mu Jianling—who grabbed Ji You and hoisted her up with one hand.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's legs dangled and struggled in mid-air, but she couldn't break free. She could only muster a stiff smile, "Tea... Teacher... it's just one apple, no... no need to make such a fuss, right?"

Mu Jianling's cold gaze slowly moved down from the top of Ji You's head...

Ji You: "..."

Her entire body shuddered, feeling a chill to her core!

This is the end!

That—

Could it be that Teacher Mu has taken a liking to me? Is she thinking of a forbidden romance between a domineering teacher and a soft, cute student?

Bang!

Ji You instinctively clutched her head, looking at Teacher Mu Jianling with a face full of grievance:
"Teacher... why... why did you hit me?"

Teacher Mu Jianling coldly said, "Get rid of that mess in your head!"

Ji You whispered, "I wasn't thinking of anything messy in my head."

Teacher Mu Jianling ignored these noisy words. Suddenly, she stretched out her hand, slowly approaching Ji You's face, 100 centimeters, 50 centimeters, 10 centimeters... Ji You felt like her heart was about to jump out, and then—

She saw Teacher Mu Jianling snatch the ring hanging around her neck with a red string.

—That was the remains of a High-level Soul Device that had been declared scrap and rusted on the surface.

After grabbing the ring, Teacher Mu Jianling casually kicked it into her pocket and then threw Ji You aside, waving her hand, "Okay, you can get lost now."

Ji You: "..."

Clearly, Teacher Mu was not interested in herself, and while Ji You was relieved to escape this predicament, she felt incredibly depressed:

Alas!

These teachers are really so heartless and cold.

However, before leaving, Ji You still whispered softly, "Teacher... can I have that broken High-level Soul Device?"

Although the ring was already scrap, it was still a High-level Soul Device after all. Ji You wanted to research it, especially the broken Array Diagram on it.

Teacher Mu Jianling didn't even turn her head, just sat down to eat grapes again, and said, "It's useless to you."

Ji You: "But..."

Dr. Luo suddenly interrupted Ji You, laughing, "Ji You, don't ask the teacher for it. This Soul Device was worn by your teacher for 50 years, even though it's now scrap, let's leave her a keepsake."

Ji You blinked, somewhat puzzled.

Teacher Mu Jianling suddenly cleared her throat and coldly said, "What keepsake? Nonsense."

Ji You did not understand, but cautiously noticed the expression on Teacher Mu's face. She tactfully didn't ask further or probe deeply, just stood with a smiling face, chuckled, and said, "Well... Teachers, I will take my leave now."

After saying that, she clutched the large apple in her arms and immediately scampered off.

It was already past dinner time, and the canteen had stopped serving natural food long ago. At this point, she could only eat synthetic food. Ji You simply picked a 2 credit points low-level nutrient solution from a roadside shop and headed back to the dormitory.

After more than three months, she tasted the low-level nutrient solution once again. It's easy to transition from simplicity to luxury but hard to go in reverse; after getting used to meals of natural food, going back to a nutrient solution that costs 2 credit points per stick left Ji You feeling a mess of conflicting emotions.

Sigh! How did I end up bankrupt?

"Going bankrupt is one thing, but I owe a debt of 5 billion and signed countless contracts."

"This is too hard."

...

While muttering to herself, Ji You did not forget the most important thing. She took the Mid-level Soul Device she had made, the Clover Ring, selected a beautifully elegant gift box to package it, but upon completion, Ji You felt something was not quite right. She unwrapped it, took a small paper slip, racked her brain for a long time, and finally personally wrote a phrase:

[To the one and only Senior Shi Ya in the whole world.]

That's right.

After a whole lot of careful thought, what Ji You came up with was such a simple phrase.

Afterwards.

Ji You meticulously checked everything one last time, making sure nothing was omitted, before sending the gift to the address provided by Senior Shi Ya.

Chapter 466: Little Sweetie

The night is deep and all is quiet.

After sending the gift to Senior Shi Ya, Ji You had one less worry, but—she couldn't help but wonder if Senior Shi Ya would like it?

Should...

Perhaps—

She must like it, right?

With this thought, Ji You became a bit restless. She checked the address, estimated the distance to Lanyue Star, and realized that Senior Shi Ya would receive the gift by tomorrow night.

Should she tell her in advance?

Or wait till tomorrow night to ask if she had signed for it?

Ji You looked at the time; it was nearly 8 p.m. She figured Senior Shi Ya must still be busy in the lab, so she decided not to disturb her and simply sent a message:

[Senior Shi Ya, I've sent a small gift to the address you provided. Please make sure to sign for it.]

After sending the message, she waited for a few minutes, but there was no reply.

Ji You wasn't disappointed; she had grown used to Senior Shi Ya's habit of not replying to messages on time. Sitting at her desk, she didn't rush to enter the Star Network. Instead, she placed the Soul Devices she'd created last night on the desk and pondered deeply...

When it came to the collapse of Ji You's spiritual power, Dr. Luo had found several reasons during the examination. The main one was that Ji You had drained her spiritual power too frequently and excessively.

Making 9 Soul Devices at once, including 2 Mid-level Soul Devices, would surely shock the entire interstellar community. However, Ji You's original spiritual power was very low, and it was already strenuous for her to create one Soul Device by draining her spiritual power threshold. But she was too focused, completely forgetting her own shortcomings. Every time after draining her power, she immediately replenished it with Candy Beans made from Butterfly Honey, and continued...

It was this that led to the collapse of her spiritual power.

This served as a wake-up call for Ji You; she had to be more cautious when creating Soul Devices in the future. She couldn't be unbridled anymore, or else if her spiritual power and Spirit Space collapsed again, it wouldn't be so easy to solve.

Ji You was unfortunate, but she was also extremely lucky because with the full assistance of Teacher Mu Jianling, Dr. Luo, and Principal Hong, her spiritual power was preserved and, as a blessing in disguise, her Spiritual Level significantly improved.

Then, there was the issue of debt.

Ji You didn't plan to be in debt for a lifetime. Subsequently, she set a four-year plan for herself, aiming to pay off the money she owed to the three mentors before graduation.

...

Taking a deep breath, Ji You put away the Soul Devices and planned to sell them directly on the Star Network. However, she suddenly remembered that she hadn't received a reply to the message she had sent to Teacher Cheng Yu.

Ji You instantly stopped moving. Having had a terrible experience with huge losses before, she really didn't want such an accident to happen again. So, it was better to ask Teacher Cheng Yu first, to see how much these artifacts might be worth.

As soon as she thought about it, she did it.

Ji You immediately entered the Star Network.

Upon entering, countless small paper men, each representing a letter, flashed in front of her eyes. This function was available only after adding each other as friends. Ji You reached out and grabbed one.

Upon checking the signature, she realized it was from Teacher Cheng Yu.

"Finally replied." Ji You's lips curled slightly, and she immediately opened the letter. In an instant, a sound akin to a pig's squeal pierced through Ji You's eardrums, and she raised her hand to cover her ears.

[Master... please come back, I can't take it alone...]

[I was wrong... I shouldn't have slept, I really shouldn't have slept...]

[Master... please forgive Ah Da's negligence, I've decided not to close my eyes for several days and nights, to keep watch over the inbox 24 hours a day. As soon as you send me a message, I will reply immediately. I will never, never, never miss the Master's message again.]

...

Voice after voice.

Sentence after sentence.

Word after word.

The wailing like that of a forsaken woman left Ji You speechless, and given that she knew the real identity of the other party, it was even more awkward. Ji You couldn't help but consider: Should she reveal her real identity to Teacher Cheng Yu?

The thought no sooner occurred to her than Ji You shook her head vigorously, as if shaking a rattle-drum.

No way.

Terrible, just terrible.

Not to mention Ah Da's fervent adoration for the "Master," nor the cringe-inducing simpering messages he sent these past days, but just thinking about his true identity—how mortifying would it be to attend his class from now on?

Not only would I be embarrassed, but I bet Teacher Cheng Yu would die of embarrassment too.

Ji You decides to bury her alternate identity and never reveal it.

Then—

She quickly responds with one word: [There?]

I am here.

Cheng Yu feels listless as he slumps in the instructor's single dormitory provided by the school, unable to muster any energy.

Every time he recalls missing a message from Green Glaze Master, Cheng Yu is filled with a sense of loss and despair. During this time, his half-brother Cheng Kun sent several messages to provoke him, which Cheng Yu couldn't be bothered to deal with.

Suddenly—

A distinct notification sound jolts Cheng Yu into leaping up: "Master?"

Indeed.

After the mistake of missing the Master's message, Cheng Yu has marked Green Glaze Master for special attention and even set up a unique notification sound for him, to catch the Master's messages immediately.

At the sound of that notification, Cheng Yu almost burst into tears of joy. Without a second thought, he hopped onto Star Network and exclaimed with almost tearful glee: [Master... your Little Sweetie is online.]

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's mouth twitches, and she really wants to say 'I am not your Little Sweetie.' But—

As a student, one must respect and cherish one's teachers.

Oh well.

Oh well.

Oh well.

Maintaining her aloof persona, Ji You wastes no time and cuts to the chase: [I have some soul devices here that I would like you to appraise for me, of course, I will pay you for the service.]

What?

Cheng Yu could never have expected that the Master was seeking him out for such a good deed!

Cheng Yu's face breaks into a smile, eager to nod in agreement, but he still holds back a little, seizing the opportunity to secure benefits for himself: [Master, there's no need for appraisal. I will take all the soul devices you've made, just name your price.]

Ji You's mouth twitches:

Quite the character!

This Ah Da, he wouldn't be planning to become a middleman, would he?

Cheng Yu realizes his mistake as soon as he speaks, immediately shaking his head to clarify, adding: [I'm not going to be a middleman, I'll keep them all for myself. How could I sell the soul devices made by the Master to others? No! Absolutely not!]

Ji You replies: [They're all low-level soul artifacts; they won't be useful to you.]

Huh?

Cheng Yu is taken aback.

All low-level soul artifacts? They wouldn't be very useful to him, but they were not entirely useless. Soul devices made by the Green Glaze Master were several times more effective than those made by other masters. Cheng Yu believed that as long as there was enough quantity, even if it were all low-level soul artifacts, there would eventually be a qualitative change brought about by the quantity.

And—

The Master's explicit mention of low-level soul artifacts—does that mean that in the future there will be Mid-level Soul Devices, and even High-level Soul Devices?

With this thought, Cheng Yu's heart ignites with excitement. He carefully considers his tone before responding: [I will listen to the Master, whatever you say goes, I am always the Master's Little Sweetie.]

Ji You: "..."

Chapter 467: Regarding Money as Dirt

Ji You saw Teacher Cheng Yu's message, and her heart skipped a beat in silence. She even started to wonder whether seeking him out was a mistake or the right thing to do. Who knows if later on, when things go south, Teacher Cheng Yu, in a fit of pique, might deduct all her academic points?

Let the future take care of itself.

As for the hair that's destined to fall out, it's going to happen sooner or later anyway.

Forget it.

Stop thinking about it.

Ji You thought for a moment, then replied: "I'll send you the holographic images of several Soul Devices, and you can quote me a price."

Cheng Yu didn't dare delay for even half a second and immediately responded: "Master, rest assured, I'll make sure to appraise them properly."

Master Green Glaze mentioned that this time they were all low-level soul artifacts, and although Cheng Yu felt somewhat disappointed, with Master Green Glaze's high output, who knows when there might be Intermediate or High-level Soul Devices coming along?

In any case, being able to help the Master and thus establish a connection was already enough for him.

Cheng Yu was very satisfied.

However—

There was one thing that puzzled Cheng Yu a bit; why did the Master turn to him to appraise the prices of Soul Devices? Could it be—the Master didn't have any clue about the market value? That seemed unlikely.

Any Master who can create Soul Devices independently would at least have a team, an independent lab of some sort, and each Soul Device that goes public, its specifications and pricing, could be estimated by the team.

Maybe the Master doesn't?

But...

Is that possible?

Just as Cheng Yu couldn't wrap his head around this, he suddenly saw the mysterious Master Green Glaze sending another message: "I can't be bothered to handle appraisals; I'm trusting you because you seem reliable. Don't worry, I won't let you suffer any loss in the future."

Cheng Yu: "!!!"

So, this was the reason the Master sought him out? Because he liked the look of him?

Cheng Yu automatically ignored the previous statement, reasoning that the Master was the Master and could do whatever they wanted—that's the prerogative of a Master, who needed a reason? In fact, with just a hint of their identity, countless people would flock to them...

What caught Cheng Yu's attention was the last part!

"...I won't let you suffer any loss in the future."

Not letting him suffer any loss!

Ah! Was he latching onto a big thigh now?

Cheng Yu's eyes lit up, and he was so excited he could jump three feet in the air!

At this moment, he had no interest in pondering over the reasons Master Qingyou had approached him.

Hadn't the Master said it?

He liked the look of him.

And why did the Master like the look of him?

Of course, it was because he was adorable and likable.

Cheng Yu hurriedly replied, "Master, your 'Little Sweetie' Ah Da here will surely do the job well for you and won't let you lose even ten cents' worth of credit points."

Ji You: "..."

Seeing the words 'Little Sweetie,' Ji You shivered all over; thankfully, the last few words from Teacher Cheng Yu made her eyes light up! She thought: That's more like it.

Afterward, Ji You took holographic videos of the seven Soul Devices and sent them to Teacher Cheng Yu. Although she did not send the real items, Cheng Yu could still appraise a lot of the data on the Soul Devices, and even if there were some discrepancies, they would not be big.

After sending them, Ji You asked: "How much time do you need?"

Cheng Yu asked, "Does the Master need it urgently? If you're in a hurry, I'll work overtime tonight and give you an answer by tomorrow morning."

Urgent!

Of course, it was urgent.

But, Teacher Cheng Yu had classes tomorrow morning! How could he allow something like this to delay his teaching? Ji You thought for a moment and responded: "Not urgent, just give me a result in about 3 days."

Cheng Yu: "Okay."

After ending the conversation with Cheng Yu, Ji You thought of the promise she made to the customers who were on the lookout in her online shop to always give them a heads-up before new items were listed. So she didn't rush to leave but instead entered her own little shop.

Before entering the shop, Ji You made some adjustments to avoid being recognized. Not only did she stretch her height but also pinched her face into an utterly unnoteworthy appearance—one that you wouldn't find even if thrown in a crowd. Only then did she confidently step inside.

The once inconspicuous store had been a bustling hub, but with Ji You's prolonged absence without any new arrivals, it gradually returned to normalcy. However, despite the reduced number of people camping out, a few thousand still hoped relentlessly, visiting every so often to have a look around.

Ji You, with her head lowered, crossed the threshold and entered. She tread softly, trying not to draw the attention of those keeping vigil in the shop. However, no sooner than a few steps inside, with her feet hardly steady, someone called out to her.

"Hey!"

"Big sis!"

"What are you doing?"

"The spot you're standing on has been leased, please move to another."

Ji You: "???"

Huh?

Leased?

The speaker was a particularly rugged-looking man, but as faces and genders could be altered at will on the Star Network, no one really knew his true identity.

Was this loud and rough-speaking big guy actually male? Female? Or perhaps... something in between? Impossible to be certain.

Ji You humbly inquired: "Leased?"

The big guy pointed to the ground underneath Ji You and said, "Yes, this spot has been leased out. You can't stand here."

Ji You: "???"

Seeing Ji You's perplexed face, the big guy kindly explained: "Are you new here? Regulars would definitely know the rules. Because we all come here so often, over time, everyone has their own designated spot. That means each patch of floor in the Master's shop is claimed. The spot under your feet is no exception."

Ji You's eyes widened in disbelief: "What?"

Is that really a thing?

How bizarre is that?

Does that mean she could potentially rent out every patch of floor in her shop?

Speaking of which, how many floor tiles are there again?

1.

2.

3.

...

Surely, there were at least close to two hundred. So, if every tile were leased out for one credit point a day, that would mean over 200 credit points in her account daily. If she were a bit greedier, leasing each tile for ten credit points, that would be over 2000 credit points a day.

This...

This is simply a gold mine!

No!

That's not right!

It's like picking up money!

Ji You then asked, "You do this, has Green Glaze Master agreed? She doesn't charge you rent?"

Upon hearing the words "Green Glaze Master," the big guy showed a goofy smile, waved his hand, and said, "Such trivial matters, how could we bother Green Glaze Master with them? Besides, such a lofty figure as Green Glaze Master is so indifferent to fame and fortune, treating money like dirt, why would she haggle over such a small amount?"

"..." Ji You's mouth twitched.

This is considered a small amount?

Also, since when does Green Glaze Master = indifferent to fame and fortune?

Green Glaze Master = treats money like dirt??

What kind of absurd conclusion is this?

How did they even come to that?

Ji You's forced smile was faltering. For a poor soul like her, even the clattering of ten cents on the ground would make her wish to swoop down and pick it up right away, and now she was misunderstood as being indifferent to wealth and as someone who views money as worthless?

One could only say, fate has a sense of humor.

Chapter 469: Shi Ya

Yunding Star.

At nightfall, lights twinkled warmly in every home across the planet, yet the sky above the heavily-guarded Macken Laboratory was pitch black. On the nineteenth floor underground, Shi Ya's face was cold as she looked at the flamboyantly dressed woman across from her, her dark eyes were as deep and still as water.

Dina raised her eyebrows, hands on hips, "Assistant Shi, are you sure you've handed over all your work? Really, without holding anything back?"

Shi Ya's chilly gaze shifted upwards, and after a few seconds rested on Dina's eyes. Then, curling the corner of her lips slightly, her tone steady and flat, "The same question, this is the fourth time you have challenged me today. Are you not confident in your own comprehension? Or are you worried that you are not capable enough to take over my work? What do you think I could hide? What could I keep back? Or..."

Shi Ya abruptly stopped, suddenly stood up, and leaned a few inches closer to Dina, her eyes flashing with an icy and bone-chilling chill, "Or— to put it bluntly, you couldn't even understand an answer I've repeated three times, should I suggest you get a new brain instead?"

Dina's mouth stiffened, and just as she was about to curse out loud, the coldness in Shi Ya's eyes made her suddenly feel a chill over her whole body...

In that moment, the normally inconspicuous Shi Ya transformed into an unsheathed sharp sword, her presence overwhelming like a rainbow, pressing Dina so hard she couldn't catch her breath!

Dina's pupils contracted slightly:

This person, Shi Ya, who usually wouldn't utter a word more than necessary, would not add a third word if two could suffice. She always seemed like an average researcher, seemingly disinterested in anything beyond Mecha research...

Over the past two months, Dina had made many underhanded moves in secret. On a few occasions, she directly bullied Shi Ya, but Shi Ya didn't react at all, which emboldened Dina. Relying on Professor McKin's favoritism, she even cultivated the ambition to seize the new Mecha project from Shi Ya's hands.

And she had succeeded, much to her delight.

At the same time, Dina's contempt for Shi Ya grew even more!

With such a soft and weak character, she deserved to be bullied!

But—

Was this formidable Shi Ya really the same person Dina remembered?

Dina felt overwhelmed, but recalling the backing of Professor McKin, her pride swelled. However, she still took a step back before immediately speaking loudly, "Shi Ya! What are you trying to do? This is a command from Professor McKin. Are you planning to resist? I now have reason to suspect that you've hidden key data and haven't handed it over!"

Upon saying this, Dina regained her confidence!

After all, it wasn't her who was turned away ignominiously, it was this woman called Shi Ya! So, what did she have to fear?

With this thought, Dina's arrogance grew stronger, and she spoke haughtily, "Hand it over immediately, or—"

"Or what?" Shi Ya asked calmly, showing no fear. On the contrary, she suddenly took a step forward, closing in on Dina, word by word, "Dina, do you think with the title of project manager, you can rest easy? Or—"

Shi Ya paused, her gaze coldly sweeping over Dina, before speaking icily, "Or do you think with your figure and looks, you can keep receiving Professor McKin's favor? Tch—"

"You managed to stay comfortably by Professor McKin's side for three years! That is your true competence," Shi Ya said, her tone dripping with disdain.

Dina's face stiffened, "Shi Ya! No matter what, I am stronger than someone who's been kicked out the door like you!"

Shi Ya arched an eyebrow, replying indifferently, "You took my project, and you know full well what you're relying on. Do you really think I can't take it back? Just an A-level spiritual power, if I were A-level right now, do you believe Professor McKin would immediately hand the project back to me?"

Dina opened her mouth, "You...", her pupils flashed, regaining a hint of composure, "Dream on! You, a C-level weakling, will never rise to A-level in your lifetime!"

Shi Ya smirked, chuckling, "Whether I'm dreaming isn't something you need to worry about. Just remember, the little thing you're relying on isn't enough for you to flaunt your power in front of me."

Filled with unfounded insecurity, Dina wanted to burst into a tirade, but meeting Shi Ya's icy stare, she inexplicably felt the chill again, her aggressiveness involuntarily softened by several degrees.

Shi Ya asked, "Is there anything else you want to ask?"

Dina took a deep breath and said, "Shi Ya, you'll regret this."

Hearing this, Shi Ya remained silent, raised her hand, and began to take off the white research coat embroidered with "Macken Laboratory" and carelessly placed it on the table before turning to look at Dina, "Take care of yourself."

Dina watched her leave the studio's front door and shouted, "Shi Ya, you will regret this. Cross me, and you'll have no place in the Triangle Zone!"

The so-called Triangle Zone refers to the region where the Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Star Systems converge; a complicated area with planets like Yunding Star and Yun Guang Star under the jurisdiction of the Interstellar Alliance, as well as Beihua Star and Beidai Star under the Galaxy Empire... and several planets that belong to the Blue Light United States...

In short, it's incredibly complicated.

And Dina boasts, claiming that she can prevent Shi Ya from getting by in this place?

Upon hearing this, Shi Ya didn't turn her head.

After finishing the handover and being interrogated by Dina for a long while, when Shi Ya finally left the secluded workshop, an entire night and a day had passed.

For the past two months, Shi Ya had been working tirelessly, treating the workshop as both her bedroom and dining room, barely leaving at all. Now, as she left the underground nineteenth floor and saw the lights opposite to her, she squinted her eyes, slightly uncomfortable...

What should be her next step?

Should she go straight back to school?

Or?

The idea of returning to school had just popped up when Shi Ya automatically pictured a smiling face in her mind.

That girl named Ji You, without her extra care, would she still be eating sweet and sour pork ribs twice a day?

...

Thinking of these things, Shi Ya couldn't help but feel that maybe going back to school was a good idea.

But—

No.

Her eyes darkened slightly.

The moment she was about to step out of Macken Laboratory, Shi Ya thought of something and quickly turned back.

Once she left, she would no longer have access to Macken Laboratory, so Shi Ya hurried her steps, and in less than five minutes, she swiftly returned to the single dormitory assigned by the laboratory.

She opened the door, and aside from a suitcase, there was nearly nothing superfluous inside.

Shi Ya didn't even glance at the other items and ignored the suitcase tossed aside, focusing solely on checking her mailbox!

However—

It was empty!

Completely empty!

Shi Ya pursed her lips, her eyes fixed on the mailbox, her hands starting to search through the outgoing records.

Chapter 470: Delivered to Her Hands

Empty.

The inbox was empty.

Shi Ya's face grew stern as she scrolled through the inbox history. Her expression seemed calm, but internally she began to feel a touch of restlessness.

Until—

The history was also empty.

Only then did Shi Ya's tense expression slightly relax!

The empty history suggested that the gift Ji You had sent her hadn't been delivered.

Of course, Shi Ya didn't rule out the possibility that Dina's people had tampered with the inbox records, but?

Utilizing her mediocre hacking skills, Shi Ya checked and found no traces of interference.

Then, Shi Ya relaxed the corners of her tightly pursed lips, thinking that made sense; after all, she had stayed in this dormitory for a total of less than three days since she joined the laboratory. What could possibly be worth snooping around for here?

Besides, the dormitory provided to Shi Ya by the laboratory indeed had nothing of note.

Even if Dina was extremely cautious and worried about Shi Ya hiding anything private, there was no way she would focus her attention here.

However, it was still possible Dina had casually rifled through her belongings.

Immediately after, Shi Ya crouched down, grabbed her suitcase, and opened it—

After inspecting its contents, Shi Ya's expression turned to one of displeasure. As expected, there were signs that her only suitcase had been searched through. Even though the intruder was careful to cover

their tracks and restore everything in the suitcase to its original position, how could Shi Ya not know whether her belongings had been touched?

Next, Shi Ya checked other places and found more signs of her belongings being rummaged through.

Just then, the dormitory's housekeeping system sent a reminder: [Miss Shi, your dormitory use period is about to expire, with the countdown at 3 hours. Please pack your belongings quickly and leave immediately.]

Shi Ya's face turned frosty.

The handwriting of this act left no question as to its source.

With three more hours until midnight, that also meant Shi Ya's time at the laboratory was limited to three hours.

Then, Shi Ya opened her Light Computer inbox and looked at the messages Ji You had sent her. The corners of her lips curled up faintly, but the moment was fleeting as Shi Ya raised her hand to rub her brow, regretting her hasty decision to provide Ji You with her address the day before.

Who would have thought Dina would be so eager, acting so quickly?

...

Shi Ya sat down and began to wait for Ji You's gift. During this time, the housekeeping system sent several reminders, all of which Shi Ya ignored.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

Ding-dong—

A notification appeared in the inbox: [You have a new parcel, please sign for it promptly.]

Shi Ya's previously gloomy face suddenly bloomed with a magnificent smile!

She stepped forward quickly, opened the inbox, and saw a small, exquisite box lying quietly inside.

It was sent by Ji You.

Holding the gift box in one hand, Shi Ya's cold eyes softened unconsciously.

Just then, the housekeeping system flickered, and the half-wall light screen opened up, revealing Dina's domineering face: "Shi Ya, are you still stubbornly lingering in our laboratory?"

Without even glancing at her, Shi Ya grabbed her suitcase, ready to leave.

Upon seeing Shi Ya's demeanor, Dina became inexplicably furious: "You've already resigned on your own! Have some self-awareness and leave the laboratory immediately—that's what you should be doing."

Thud—

Shi Ya stepped out the door and closed it behind her without hesitation.

Dina shouted, "Shi Ya, you!!!"

Not a word to say! Her expression remained so calm and she left without dragging her feet, which made Dina's desire to show off dissipate in an instant.

After leaving the dormitory and passing through multiple levels of inspection to ensure she had not taken anything from the laboratory, the robotic guards of Macken Laboratory finally let Shi Ya go.

Only after Shi Ya had passed the robotic inspection and gone through a manual check, did she completely leave Macken Laboratory. During the process, Ji You's gift was examined closely, but after the manual inspector finished checking it, they found it to be nothing more than a slightly more expensive mithril crafted ornament...

Mithril, although a precious material, has abundant reserves for humanity, so it's not considered rare. Macken Laboratory on Yunding Star is the most famous private mecha laboratory, with many materials more expensive than mithril...

Thus, after the manual inspector took a careful look, they allowed her to pass.

Throughout the process, Shi Ya kept a straight face and remained silent.

Once Shi Ya was completely free from Macken Laboratory, she found a quick-stay hotel to check into. Only then did she begin to open the gift Ji You had given her.

It was a mithril ring, which looked ordinary, even a bit dull in luster. Shi Ya wasn't disappointed, though, because she clearly saw the marks of hand-polishing, indicating that Ji You had personally crafted the ring...

Suddenly—

Shi Ya's eyes flashed as she spotted a small pattern. Was it a flower?

No.

It was a clover. They say clovers represent luck, right?

It was exquisitely made, lifelike.

A smile flickered between Shi Ya's eyebrows; the girl must have put a lot of thought into it.

Then, out of the gift box, a piece of paper suddenly fell.

It fluttered to the ground.

Shi Ya bent down to pick it up, and saw the following: [To the one and only Senior Shi Ya in the world.]

The handwriting was neat, the characters round and hearty, with a cute flair, much like the person herself.

A glint of a smile passed through Shi Ya's eyes.

Afterwards, she carefully and treasuredly put away the thin piece of paper.

What about the mithril clover?

Should it be worn around the neck? Or on the hand?

For a moment, Shi Ya was hesitant.

After looking at it a few times, Shi Ya thought about it, and tried it on, finding that it fit perfectly on her middle finger.

The ring on her finger had a slight weight and felt a bit cold, but a warm current quietly flowed into Shi Ya's heart...

At this moment, a knock on the door sounded. Shi Ya was startled; she didn't expect to have any friends come to visit.

Since the visitor wasn't a friend, then it could only be—

Her gaze grew heavy.

Meanwhile, worried that Senior Shi Ya wouldn't like her gift, Ji You felt anxious for quite a while. However, she received no reply and couldn't stay put anymore; she found herself unable to sleep even for a moment.

Then—

Ji You thought of the gift she gave to Senior Shi Ya and hurriedly took out another Four-leaf Clover Mithril Ring.

The ring's appearance startled her!

What happened?

Why had the ring become so dim? It looked dull and unremarkable, nothing like its original radiant sheen.

Ji You promptly took it and examined it closely, then she was relieved.

It wasn't that the Array Diagram had collapsed, nor was the Soul Device damaged, but rather it had become simpler, somewhat like returning to its original state?

Of course, these were all Ji You's guesses.

Thinking of what Teacher Mu said about High-level Soul Devices needing to be nurtured, so—Ji You also found a red string and hung the ring around her neck.