

## Scavengers 491

Chapter 491: Every Scumbag Deserves to Be Punished

He Bi, scumbag He Bi, actually dropped a sarcastic comment and left.

Left.

His retreating figure was so dashing and straightforward.

Ji You twitched the corner of her mouth and jogged to catch up, unable to help but ask, "Senior He Bi, aren't you working in the cafeteria today?"

He Bi turned back to look at her and said, "Don't try to ingratiate yourself, it won't work on me."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath, "Who's trying to ingratiate with you? With your petty and scummy nature, who would want to get close to you."

Only then did He Bi reveal a smile, saying, "That's good if you're not trying to ingratiate. That's good."

Ji You curled her lips: "What a narcissist."

Muttering under her breath, Ji You hurriedly ran into the cafeteria.

At that moment, long queues had formed at every service window in the cafeteria, particularly at the window serving braised pork ribs, where Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, and others were also in line, and Ji You quickly jogged over...

Just as Ji You was about to join the queue, a gust of wind swept by, and He Bi's long, agile legs jumped over Ji You, cutting in front of her in the line.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's brows twitched.

He Bi said with a grin, "Ji You, you wouldn't mind letting your senior go ahead by a few minutes, right?"

Ji You: "I mind!"

Ji You took a deep breath and shouted, "I really mind!"

He Bi waved his hand, saying, "It doesn't matter if you mind."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You cursed, "Scumbag."

He Bi fiddled with his ear and with a hint of amusement in his tone, said, "I've heard it so much, I'm immune now."

Ji You: "..."

For a moment, Ji You was at a loss for words. It took her a while to find her voice again, almost gritting her teeth, she said, "Indeed, the ancients did not deceive me, all the scumbags in the world should be exterminated!"

He Bi: "..."

And—

For some reason, after Ji You finished saying this, the atmospheric pressure around quietly decreased.

A chill spread slowly from all around Ji You...

He Bi, at the center of this low pressure, felt it most acutely, he even felt his goosebumps rising in this moment!

This was—

A natural bodily response under crisis.

Hmm?

He Bi's lips curled slightly upwards, and at this moment, he looked at Ji You seriously, then his casual demeanor sobered up.

This girl—

Yaya's quietly observed girl, her spiritual power was excessively strong, even he felt threatened.

But—

Wasn't she supposed to be a talentless person with Double E?

It seems, this little girl has improved quite a bit lately.

As the long queue moved, students with trays started leaving, and Ji You gradually neared the serving window. Today, a third-year senior who appeared very friendly and kept smiling was working part-time serving food in the cafeteria.

Soon.

It was He Bi's turn.

He Bi said, "Senior, two servings of braised pork rib rice, please."

The serving senior looked up, recognized He Bi, and smiled, "He Bi, one person can only take one serving. Even though we work here, we can't make exceptions."

He Bi stretched out his hand, pointing at Ji You behind him, and smiled, "One for me, and one for her."

Standing behind He Bi, scumbag He Bi, Ji You was so shocked that she jumped up, "Scumbag He Bi! Don't even think about making me pay for you!"

He Bi: "..."

Serving senior: "..."

Awkward.

Silence.

Dead quiet.

...

About 1 second later, the Senior at the cafeteria regained his smile and said, "This little junior is quite humorous, but the nickname 'scumbag He Bi' is quite apt indeed."

He Bi forced a smile and said, "It's just kids messing around, Senior, don't make fun of me. I'll have a double portion of ribs rice, please."

Ji You looked at him, suspicion written all over her face: "Let me make it clear first, no money, no life! Don't think about taking even half a credit point advantage from me, you scumbag."

He Bi: "..."

He Bi's handsome face twitched, slightly deforming: "I'll pay!"

Suddenly—

Ji You's face burst into a splendid smile... the clouds cleared, spring returned to the earth, all things revived, and the flowers blossomed... No number of adjectives could adequately describe how radiant her smile was at that moment...

It's just—

With her pig face laughing like that, it was quite unsettling.

He Bi also felt a bit overwhelmed, raising his hand to his forehead, saying, "Shut your big mouth, put away your fangs, look at the yellow on your teeth, I can even see the tartar, tsk..."

With a chuckle, Ji You said, "Senior He Bi, you really are a good person."

Nothing is bigger than not spending money!

As long as the scumbag He Bi was willing to treat her, even if he couldn't say anything nice, Ji You would tolerate him.

Soon.

He Bi's ribs rice was ready, he picked up his tray, stepping aside to make space for Ji You. Ji You shamelessly asked the Senior in third grade for an extra spoonful of sauce. Luckily—not everyone was a scumbag like He Bi, and the third-grade Senior agreed with a smile. He even gave Ji You an extra small piece of meat, which made her very happy.

Grinning from ear to ear with her tray, ready to find a seat, suddenly, she caught sight of the scumbag He Bi beside her, and Ji You was startled.

He Bi smiled and said, "Eating another's food makes it hard to reject them. My meal isn't that delicious..."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You tightly hugged her tray, and in an instant, her mouth swiftly swept over each piece of rib... Her unique skill in this area was honed to perfection and was arguably the best in the world.

He Bi: "..."

Once the saliva touched it, she wasn't afraid it would be taken away, Ji You then relaxed her hold on the tray, beaming, "Senior, what were you trying to say?"

He Bi's eyelids twitched, his feelings mixed: What about this girl has captivated Yaya so?

What indeed?

After taking a deep breath, He Bi managed to regain some composure and asked, "Have you been in contact with Yaya recently? Did she tell you anything, or could you show me the messages she sent you?"

As soon as he finished speaking, Ji You, without a word, pushed her tray with the saliva-coated braised rib rice towards He Bi, saying, "Sorry, I can't eat this meal."

He Bi: "..."

He Bi stared at the braised ribs rice covered in saliva, somewhat speechless: "I can't eat this if you return it to me either."

Ji You thought about it and decided, so she took back her tray, laughing cheekily, "Then there's nothing I can do, I'm just a poor soul without a penny."

In any case,

Want a refund?

Two words:

No way.

Then, Ji You suddenly became serious, "I'm sorry, Senior He Bi, but regarding Senior Shi Ya, without her permission, I can't disclose anything to you." Since Senior He Bi and Senior Shi Ya were in the same grade and both worked part-time in the cafeteria, it's impossible that they hadn't communicated with each other. Since Senior He Bi was asking, it probably meant that Yaya didn't want to deal with him.

Ji You was a principled person, even if she had eaten a meal from Senior He Bi, she couldn't just spill everything about Senior Shi Ya just because he asked.

What if Senior Shi Ya doesn't like it?

In any case, she must have the consent of Senior Shi Ya.

After hearing Ji You's words, He Bi unusually fell silent.

For a long while.

He said softly, "I was presumptuous. But, Ji You, I hope you can promise me one thing."

Ji You pursed her lips: "What is it?"

He Bi's dark eyes seemed to gaze off into the distance, he sighed lightly and said, "Promise me to send messages to Shi Ya frequently, ideally once a day. Be thick-skinned about it, make sure she replies to you every day."

—Only this way, can her safety be ensured.

Chapter 492: He Bi's Request

Ji You's brows slightly furrowed.

This request wasn't difficult.

On the contrary, Ji You was quite willing to comply.

But—

What puzzled Ji You was, why would Senior Brother He Bi make such a request to her? Had some misunderstanding arisen between Senior Brother He Bi and Senior Shi Ya, making it inconvenient for him to contact her directly?

Or could it be?

He Bi said softly, "Ji You, for the sake of a meal of braised pork ribs with rice, please agree to your handsome Senior Brother He's humble request."

Ji You didn't immediately agree. She thought it over and felt that since she couldn't understand the reason, she might as well just ask directly. So, she inquired, "Senior Brother He Bi, are you unable to contact Senior Shi Ya right now? Why is that? And—why do you need me to act as a go-between to get information from Senior Shi Ya? From the tone of your voice, you seem to be very concerned about her. Could it be that she's facing some danger outside?"

He Bi was silent.

Ji You wasn't in a rush and patiently waited.

Suddenly, He Bi posed a question, "Ji You, do you know what my relationship with Shi Ya is?"

Ji You was uncertain, "It can't be a romantic relationship, right..."

Moreover, judging by Senior Shi Ya's attitude, she didn't seem too fond of Senior Brother He Bi.

He Bi's mouth twitched as he said, "We used to be neighbors..."

Ji You gasped in surprise, "Impossible! Senior Shi Ya comes from planet number 101."

This was something that could be looked up at the school, and Ji You had done her research before. So, she had once suspected that Senior Shi Ya was kind to her because they both came from the same garbage planet, leading Senior Shi Ya to take extra care of her.

He Bi explained, "Shi Ya and I are the same age, and we lived on Bella Star until we were three years old. You know of Bella Star, right? It's now occupied by Star Beasts and has become their playground. When the Star Beasts invaded, our families were both rescued by the Sixth Legion of the Alliance, but were separated after that. My family has since settled on Eternal Night Star, while Shi Ya's family went elsewhere..."

"I thought I would never see her again..."

"Imagine my surprise when we chose the same school to attend. Unfortunately, I only found out this semester that she was also here at the school..."

"But just..."

As He Bi spoke, a trace of sorrow appeared on his brow, "After recognizing her, I learned that Uncle Shi had passed away this year."

Ji You's head shot up upon hearing this.

He Bi regained his composure and spoke softly, "He died at the jaws of a Star Beast while out gathering in the field. Shi Ya doesn't like to talk about the details, and I didn't feel it was right to pry further."

As Ji You listened, her lips pursed slightly. She vaguely remembered something, but—there had been all too many cases she had seen and heard about people dying while gathering in the wild... For survival, for their families, like herself, like Uncle Xie Yi, Grandma Jenny... Everyone knew the dangers of the wild, but still had to gamble with their lives...

Such incidents were all too common on the garbage planet number 101.

But—

Yet such tragedy had befallen the beautiful Senior Shi Ya, and Ji You felt a sharp pain in her heart. She couldn't help but ask, "Does Senior Shi Ya have any other family members?"

He Bi shook his head and said, "No more. Her mother died saving her from a Star Beast Group. Because of this, her personality has become somewhat reticent. As for how she and Uncle Shi fared over the years, I have no idea."

But—

It was probably not very good.

He Bi left this unsaid.

Even without Senior Brother He Bi stating it, Ji You understood very well. One only had to think to know how life on the garbage planet number 101 could be.

Sigh~

Heaving a deep sigh, Ji You fell silent.

He Bi's tone suddenly became incredibly earnest as he said, "I'm telling you these things without any other intentions. I just want to let you know that I wouldn't do anything to harm Yaya."

Ji You pressed her lips together and gently nodded: "I believe you."

The tension in He Bi's furrowed brow eased slightly as he continued, "Yaya recently took on a task that is quite challenging. Because of her stubbornness, she went to the very dangerous Yunding Star. I tried to stop her, but she wouldn't listen to me, and she doesn't really like hearing me nag. But she seems to have a lot of patience with you. That's why I'm asking you to message her more often when you can. Only then can I be sure of her safety."

Ji You was startled: "What task? Is it very dangerous?"

Yunding Star?

Ji You remembered the gift she had sent to Senior Shi Ya; it was sent to Yunding Star.

Yunding Star, within the territory of the Alliance, located at the intersection of three star systems, often had friction with other nations. But 10 years ago, Admiral Lin Jun of the Third Army led troops to suppress the local pirate forces and dismantled all sorts of chaotic situations, restoring peace to Yunding Star. So—at present, Yunding Star was still safe.

But—

Ji You hadn't realized Yunding Star was such a dangerous place.

Therefore, when Senior Shi Ya gave her the address, Ji You hadn't thought much about it.

Shaking his head, He Bi said, "I don't know what task she has taken. The school's mission system only reveals details to the person who accepts the mission. Additionally, a Beast Tide is about to break out, and the pirates around Yunding Star are starting to become rampant again. So, I'm thinking that it's not a safe place at the moment."

He Bi paused briefly, then continued, "The main thing is, Yaya is not a student of the Combat Department, and her talents aren't particularly strong. That's why I'm worried about her safety."

Ji You listened quietly. Senior Brother He was very candid, his words earnest and sincere... with no ulterior motives at all.

After Senior Brother He had finished speaking, Ji You replied, "Senior Brother He, don't worry, I will contact Senior Shi Ya every day."

At her words, He Bi's eyes revealed a hint of a smile...

Suddenly—

Ji You said, "But I'm doing this definitely not because of your spare ribs meal."

He Bi: "..."

The corner of He Bi's eye twitched, and he said, "How about, I give you 10 meals?"

Ji You grinned: "Well, that sounds great."

He Bi: "..."

He Bi raised his hand, pointing to one side: "Go away."

Ji You pouted, muttering, "Stingy."

He Bi withdrew his hand and rolled his eyes: "Even the landlord's house is short of surplus food, what's wrong with being stingy? Am I proud of being stingy?"

Ji You: "..."

Conceding.

Conceding.

The two of them exchanged playful banter, which slightly dispersed the oppressive atmosphere. At the same time, both of them closed their mouths, frowning, and looked at each other, then simultaneously opened their mouths:

He Bi: "When was the last time Yaya sent you a message?"

Ji You: "Could Senior Shi Ya really be in danger?"

As soon as they spoke, they both closed their mouths again...

After a moment, He Bi took the initiative to speak: "There is the possibility of danger. But since she's already accepted the task and has gone to Yunding Star, it's not feasible to have her return in the short term. So, the only thing we can do is communicate with her regularly, to understand her situation."

Ji You did not hide anything and directly said, "I contacted Senior Shi Ya the evening before last, and sent a gift to the address she gave me."

#### Chapter 493: So Cute

Hearing Ji You's reply, He Bi pondered for a moment, then a smile appeared on his handsome face and he said, "Hmm, since she's willing to respond to messages, it means she's safe."

Ji You said, "I will message her tonight too."

Upon hearing this, He Bi's smile deepened: "The money spent on this pork ribs meal wasn't wasted."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You pulled a wry face: "Am I the kind of person who can be easily bought?"

He Bi: "You are."

Now that everything was agreed upon, He Bi's scumbag nature was revealed without a trace. He waved his hand and pointed to the empty seat in front of him, his face full of disgust, "What are you still doing here? There's no place for you."

Ji You: "..."

In the blink of an eye, Ji You stretched out her hand, pinched a few pieces of meat from He Bi's plate, hugged the plate, and slid away: "Am I someone who can be bought with just a pork ribs meal? You have to add a few more pieces at least!"

He Bi: "..."

He Bi cursed, "Stop right there!"

Ji You ran away quickly: "If you dare to chase after me, then you are truly a scumbag, confirmed!"

The commotion between the two gradually drew sidelong glances from the surrounding students. He Bi touched his chin and chuckled awkwardly, "Just playing with a junior."

Everyone: "..."

The way he spoke, no matter how you heard it, it sounded awkward.

...

In the afternoon, it was still the Mecha practical class. After class, to avoid being chased by Chu Jiaojiao to repair her face, Ji You sprinted into the dorm and started quietly studying.

During that time, Ji You shamelessly sent a message to Senior Shi Ya, but Senior Shi Ya did not reply immediately.

Thinking of what Senior He Bi had said, Ji You sent a few more messages, mainly telling Senior Shi Ya some interesting school stories, especially that Professor Mu Jianling had left all the Combat Department students with pig faces as a memento.

...

After sending the messages, Ji You didn't expect a quick reply, and so got up, planning to make herself a pot of Cloud Mist Milk Tea. This was the last gram of Cloud Mist Tea, and as Ji You was brewing it with a pang of heartache...

Dingdong—

Message notification.

Ji You opened it to check and found that it was actually from Senior Shi Ya; her brows lifted in joy.

Shi Ya: [You too?]

Ji You, a bit puzzled, replied: [What?]

Shi Ya: [Pig face?]

Ji You: "..."

Ji You didn't hide it and replied: [Yes. It's tragic. That so-called Little Robot, I'll smash its head someday...] Babble babble, Ji You prattled on, not even sure herself how many words she blurted out all at once.

In the dark, cramped room, seeing Ji You's message, Shi Ya's tense face unconsciously relaxed, her lips curving into a smile she herself was barely aware of.

Shi Ya: [Send me a photo?]

Ji You was still babbling when she suddenly saw these words from Senior Shi Ya. After understanding the intent, her fingers trembled and a hint of resignation showed between her brows, but she still took a photo of her pig face and sent it to Senior Shi Ya.

Sent.

Ji You was slightly nervous, knowing Senior Shi Ya would definitely laugh at her. But, changing her perspective, if it could elicit a laugh from Senior Shi Ya, then it was worth it.

After 1 second.

Shi Ya: [Very cute.]

Ji You: "???"

A pig face, cute?

Really?

So far, this was the least sincere compliment Ji You had ever heard.

So ——

Is Senior Shi Ya's taste too eccentric?

Or is the filter Senior Shi Ya put on Ji You too thick?

...

Ji You, looking completely puzzled, suddenly received another reply from Senior Shi Ya.

Shi Ya: [Cough cough... I'm at work.]

Ji You hurriedly replied: [Senior Shi Ya, focus on your work, don't let me disturb you, and also —— remember to protect yourself, tell me anything that happens.]

However ——

Shi Ya didn't reply anymore.

...

In the dark room, Shi Ya removed the hand covering her mouth, spread it open, red blood spreading in her palm...

"Cough cough..."

After coughing violently a few times, Shi Ya clenched her face, furrowing her brows: This temporary shelter had no medical equipment, and her body was injured during a fight with the enemy. She estimated she could last the night as long as she wasn't discovered, then she would be safe.

But, Shi Ya didn't expect Dina to be so extreme, to deal with her by involving outsiders, which was troublesome.

The only plan for now was to find a temporary place to hide...

But also because of this accident, Shi Ya was even more determined to enhance her spiritual power.

Thinking of this, Shi Ya opened the Light Computer, scrolled through the contact info, yesterday, she had posted a high price request for intermediate or above Soul Devices on the black market, but unfortunately, no one responded.

Then, Shi Ya entered Star Network, scoured around once more, but the results were still disappointing.

Either, the prices were beyond her budget.

Or, the price was right, but the item had already been sold.

Not finding what she needed, Shi Ya logged off, curled up, and began to rest with her eyes closed.

...

Meanwhile.

After Ji You finished her homework, she suddenly received a barrage of crazy nuisance messages from Sheng Qingyan: [Poor dead, it's about to start the sale, come fast! Come fast! Come fast!]

Ji You ignored them.

Sheng Qingyan: [If you come you'll only regret it for a moment, if you don't you will regret it for a lifetime.]

Ji You: "..."

Sheng Qingyan: [If you come, you won't be at a loss, you won't be duped, and you'll have the company of this little cutie...]

Ji You couldn't stand it anymore: [Such a little cutie, please take him out, turn left, turn right, and voluntarily throw yourself into the recycling bin.]

Sheng Qingyan chuckled: [I'll pretend I didn't see all the nonsense you said, I won't take it to heart. Also— Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Ah Guang, Ayuan, they are all here... Let's get started grabbing, see who has the best luck.]

Ji You intended to ignore it, but she wasn't sure whether Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, and the others were also bewitched by Sheng Qingyan, or it was contagious, one by one, they all sent messages to Ji You, urging her to hurry over.

Chu Jiaojiao even patted her chest, assuring: [Ji You, come quick! This time the Soul Devices are real, no trick, there are really several Soul Devices for sale, you won't be at a loss if you get one.]

Even Yue Qiguang sent a message: [Idiot, come quickly.]

With no other choice, Ji You agreed.

Then, after checking her homework one more time, making sure there were no mistakes, she sent it to Professor Ye Hong, and then she entered Star Network.

Star Network uses real names, but everyone can use multiple aliases, however all aliases only correspond to one identity, and any unlawful operations are monitored by the Star Network system, so there is no worry about scammers running rampant...

To avoid her friends discovering her identity, of course, she couldn't just show up as 'Qingyou', at this moment, Ji You changed her alias.

And then —

The moment she stepped into Qingyou's store, she saw a scene that shocked her and even took her breath away...

Chapter 494: You Get What You Pay For

Just see—

Reds, yellows, greens, blues, pinks... A large swathe of color flooded into view, turning the entire shop into a sea of flowers. The thing is, the color scheme was so varied and chaotic that it was almost painful on the eyes...

The shop's original wooden flooring had been replaced with pink. As soon as Ji You stepped on it, she immediately withdrew her foot.

This—

Is this really her shop?

Ji You couldn't believe it, so she stepped out and took another look at the sign. Sure enough, it read in bold letters: [Qingyou Shop]

Ji You tilted her head and muttered to herself, "Could it be that there's a second Qingyou Shop in this world?"

Someone nearby heard her question and kindly explained, "Kid, is this your first time on Star Network? Star Network shops aren't allowed to have duplicate names."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath: "So, it's definitely mine, then."

So—

Which bastard played this trick on her?

A good Samaritan next to her said, "It's a shop update, there's a crowd. Don't just stand there, hurry up, or you won't be able to get any Soul Devices."

With that, the person dashed into the shop.

Ji You tried lifting her foot and, after some serious mental preparation, convinced herself to step onto the nauseatingly pink floor—

Inside the shop, it was packed to the gills with people, and what was key was that from time to time numerous petals would fall from above, pitter-pattering on peoples' heads. Ji You was speechless at this sight—utterly speechless...

Early birds like Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, Shen Changqing, and others were already squatting in the shop. When Chu Jiaojiao saw Ji You, she immediately dashed over and pulled her aside: "Ji You, classmate, we've already staked out a spot. They say this spot on the floor is the luckiest. Sheng Qingyan even got a pair of Soul Artifact Earrings here last time."

On hearing this, Ji You grimaced and said, "Fate is unchangeable by charms, destiny unchanged by wealth. If it's not meant to be, you won't get it..."

"Ptui!" Yue Qiguang heard this and was the first to look displeased, cursing out loud, "Idiot, it hasn't even started yet. Don't say such things and jinx my dad's luck! Ptui! Ptui! Ptui!"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You asked, "Why are you here to snatch too? Didn't you look down on this?"

Yue Qiguang replied: "Dad's like the little prince of winning prizes, why wouldn't I show up for good things?"

"Cough..." Shen Changqing interrupted them, saying, "Be quiet everyone, it's about to start."

Sheng Qingyan looked up, allowing pieces of red, yellow, and green petals to fall on his head, and said, "Master's shop is different from last time, huh? There's now a salesperson, huh. No idea what Master was thinking, huh? Their taste is so questionable, huh... If I'd known Master was hiring a salesperson, I would've applied, huh. With how lovable I am, I'm sure Master would've chosen me."

Ji You glanced at him and couldn't help but say, "You're so cute, you'd probably cry for a long time if you got punched, huh?"

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Incensed, Sheng Qingyan spat disdainfully at Ji You, muttering indignantly, "You don't appreciate my cuteness, huh. I won't talk to you anymore."

Right at that moment—

Dressed in a riot of colors, more Nu-Rave than the Nu-Rave, Cheng Yu appeared.

Ji You's eyelid twitched.

"Burial Love Family?"

"Renaissance?"

Ji You thought hard but couldn't figure out what on earth Cheng Yu was aiming for with this stunt.

Then, she received a message notification. Opening it, Ji You saw it was from Cheng Yu, his tone overly ingratiating, listing everything he had done, and finally, seeking praise: [Master, are you pleased with everything you're seeing?]

Ji You almost gritted her teeth as she replied: [Pleased, very pleased.]

Cheng Yu took one look and immediately burst into laughter, his teeth showing but his eyes gone, "Our shop was too plain before, lacking anything fresh or new, which is why I took the initiative to have it renovated."

Ji You gritted her teeth and said, "Very good."

Because there was no novelty, so you brought in so many flowers?

What kind of logic is that?

Cheng Yu said, "Although this decoration is a bit garish, it's definitely catchy and will get people talking. I believe with this, more people will come, and of course—the goal of doing all this isn't just to attract onlookers. The main purpose is to raise our profile and draw in wealthy spenders. At that point, it'll only be logical to raise our prices slightly..."

That sounded somewhat reasonable.

Ji You nodded her head: "Very good."

Seeing that Master had praised him with a few 'very goods', Cheng Yu's smile grew even wider as he replied, "Master, thanks to my efforts, our shop's new merchandise update is now all over the major forums on Star Network, and the publicity effect has been really good. If you're interested, you may want to check it out."

Hmm?

Ji You blinked; could Teacher Cheng Yu really have achieved this? Isn't this just advertising? After all, when she first opened her shop and was struggling with the lack of customer traffic and popularity, she thought about advertising everywhere, but she didn't have the money.

Ji You, a bit curious, randomly entered several high-traffic forums to take a look.

Upon opening, she saw:

"Shocking! Former viral hostess reduced to a small shop salesperson, is this the decline of morals, or the distortion of humanity?"

"Shocking! The most bizarre and ugliest small shop sells—"

"Sensational! I stepped into a vulgar little shop, and what I didn't expect was—"

...

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's face turned completely dark.

This guy! With tactics like this, it would be weird if they didn't attract attention.

Shaking with anger, faced with Teacher Cheng Yu's message full of anticipation for praise, Ji You truly couldn't bring herself to commend him with another 'very good'.

But after thinking it over and seeing things had already been done this way, she couldn't crush the salesperson's morale at this critical moment, especially considering this salesperson had only spent 1000 credit points.

Sigh!

You get what you pay for!

Ji You, against her better judgment, replied: "Very good."

In an instant, Cheng Yu beamed with joy, and now it was time to stock the new products on the shelves.

The audience below suddenly burst into excitement:

"Ah Da! You look so handsome today!"

"Ah Da! Today you're the hottest guy around."

"Ah Da! Today you are so stunning you're blinding me."

...

"Ah Da, I've been praising you for so long, if there's any secret deal later on, give me a Soul Device, will ya?"

"Ah Da, don't forget about me, I'm your loyal fan."

"Ah Da, I've been promoting you on all the big forums on Star Network, remember to take care of a brother, eh?"

Faced with requests from fans of all kinds, Cheng Yu today left behind his usual giggles, with a straight face and a serious demeanor, he cleared his throat to say, "Dear customers and friends, today is my Ah Da's first day officially working at Qingyou Shop. Ah Da as an internet celebrity is one thing, but please forget about that, from now on, please call me Salesperson Ah Da. I feel extremely honored to be seen and chosen by Green Glaze Master as a salesperson."

The audience: "..."

Cheng Yu: "Ahem... I heard everything you guys said earlier, and my answer is—no! Absolutely not! At Qingyou Shop, we uphold fair and just trade! Any under-the-table dealings simply do not exist."

#### Chapter 495: Soul Device Goes on Sale

Thanks to Sheng Qingyan, Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, and others managed to snatch spots close to the shelves. At this moment, new products had yet to be displayed, and each cubicle inside was empty. Yet everyone squeezed into the shop was craning their necks in anticipation...

Standing next to the shelf, the internet celebrity "Ah Da Takes You Treasure Hunting", also known as Cheng Yu, was smiling warmly: "Before we officially release the new products, let me, Ah Da, chat with you for a bit. Otherwise, how about I perform a little show for you?"

The audience snorted dismissively, "Ah Da, cut the fancy stuff. Where are the Soul Devices? Hurry up, we're all waiting."

Cheng Yu replied with a smile, "Haste won't bring success. Everyone, no need to rush. The Master has already said he will release new products today, it will definitely happen. We're not short for a moment, are we? How about I sing a song for you instead?"

Audience: "..."

Audience: "We just want to see the Soul Devices, we don't want to hear you squawk."

Cheng Yu still wore a smile, maintaining his graceful demeanor, but his eyes constantly darted around the surroundings, though he discovered nothing. He had thought the Master would surely visit on such a day, so he wanted to perform well trying to impress the Master and hopefully win his favor, to have this salesperson job permanently assigned to him.

The audience kept urging him, and Cheng Yu quickly sent a message to the Master to ask when the products would be stocked.

Ji You replied, "Do it now."

So—

Cheng Yu smiled and said, "Everyone, quiet down. Now, let me introduce the seven new products at Qingyou Shop this time. The series is themed 'Luck'. Each product was personally designed and crafted by the Master. Their basic design comes from a plant from the Ancient Earth era, which has a beautiful name—Clover. I believe many of you haven't heard of it, because—it's extinct."

Cheng Yu's voice was neither loud nor soft, but his intonation was captivating and magnetic, calmly settling the restless hearts of the audience, who listened quietly to his description.

Cheng Yu continued, "Now, let's admire the beautiful Clover."

Immediately following.

The lights flickered, and the whole place went dark.

Ji You blinked.

Honestly, the cheaply hired salesperson had quite a knack for attention-grabbing stunts, such as in this moment—the sudden blackout in the shop led to total darkness...

After the darkness, a beam of light slowly, slowly began to brighten...

Involuntarily, everyone's focus was drawn to this dim, star-like glimmer.

Gradually...

The light became brighter and brighter... revealing the object in the light.

—It was a pink stone.

Its shape was beautiful, simple lines outlining four small, rounded leaves, standing quietly before the audience like a lifelike painting, serenely and gracefully displaying its own beauty...

So—

Is this, the Clover?

Almost the instant the Clover revealed its true form, the hearts and minds of the audience were captivated by this small, simple, unique pink stone.

"Isn't it beautiful?" Cheng Yu softly spoke, breaking the audience's trance.

At the same time—

The lights in the shop came back on.

The audience reluctantly moved away from the Clover Stone and someone asked aloud, "Ah Da, so this is what clover looks like, but why then, is Master's theme this time called 'luck'?"

Cheng Yu, seemingly prepared for such a question, slightly raised the corners of his mouth and replied, "Because, the flower language of clover is luck; it also has another name—Lucky Grass..."

Then, Cheng Yu briefly explained the origins and meanings of clover's flower language.

The audience listened quietly, and finally realized, "So that's why."

After Cheng Yu finished speaking, he couldn't help but exclaim, "Let me tell you a little secret, actually—if I hadn't researched in advance and done my homework, I would have been just as ignorant about all this as everyone else here. Thus, Master's erudition really exceeds my expectations, and I truly admire him."

Within the crowd, Ji You: "..."

This sycophancy.

It's too much.

However, since this guy's speech is so pleasant, and the flattery so subtly delivered that it invokes no resentment, Ji You just blushed slightly and accepted the flattering sycophancy.

Ji You's embarrassment went unnoticed by others, whether Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, Shen Changqing, or Yue Qiyuan, everyone was captivated by Cheng Yu's speech and the beautiful Clover Soul Device.

...

Humanity has endured many disasters to secure a foothold in the interstellar realm, but not every species has been as lucky as humans. For instance, the luck-representing clover had long become extinct in the annals of history.

The audience, who were all there to purchase Soul Devices, found themselves surprisingly attentive to a history lesson about an extinct species even before the Soul Devices were officially on sale, without any hint of impatience.

Seeing the reaction of the crowd, Cheng Yu felt extremely satisfied: everything was progressing as anticipated, and next, the Soul Devices would be on sale.

However—

Just then, a discordant voice suddenly asked, "Excuse me, is this thing, a Soul Device?"

Hmm?

Cheng Yu followed the voice and found the person who spoke—a red-haired man wearing a leather jacket with slit eyes, who appeared to be a troublemaker. What kind of storm hadn't Cheng Yu seen? He merely smiled slightly and said, "My friend, all products in this store are genuine."

"Tch!" The red-haired man sneered dismissively, saying, "You say it's not fake, does that make it true? Who verifies it? Is there a certification from an authoritative institution? These days, any Tom, Dick, or Harry dares to sell Soul Devices!"

Cheng Yu's expression grew stern.

The surrounding audience, also provoked by this discordant voice, looked at each other.

Was this—

Someone looking for trouble?

Without waiting for Cheng Yu to explain, the red-haired man aggressively questioned, "Lost for words? Then, let me ask everyone here, do you know what material this Soul Device is made of?"

With this remark, everyone's attention shifted back to the Clover Stone in the showcase.

The red-haired man's lips curled up, as if he had grabbed the Imperial Sword, almost jumping up and saying, "Everyone see clearly? This! Is what you think is a Soul Device—just a Companion Stone that, after ore collection, nobody would want even if it's thrown on the street."

"Tell me, if this thing was thrown in front of you, who would pick it up?"

"Who?"

Chapter 496: Incitement...

The red-haired man's question undoubtedly doused the fiery passion of the audience with a chill.

Indeed.

Isn't this just a companion stone?

With the development of Alliance technology to this day, why are Companion Stones worthless? Because for most ores, their companion stones are composed of the same elements as ordinary rocks: silicon dioxide and calcium carbonate. Moreover, their material is very fragile, easily broken, easily bent... In short, they are useless with a myriad of flaws. Even with today's scientific advancements in the Alliance, no use has been invented for them. They are even despised when used as foundation fillers...

Many spectators, holding great expectations, had come running here, somewhat incredulous, stretching their necks to meticulously inspect the display case.

The result—

Correct!

This pink stone is indeed a Companion Stone.

In an instant, the faces of many spectators bore marvelous expressions.

The red-haired man looked at the audience's reaction, pleased with himself, and then said, "I won't even mention whether this Soul Device you're selling has been authenticated by an authoritative body, I just have one question—Is there really any Master out there who can turn such garbage, a Companion Stone, into a Soul Device?"

This question undoubtedly landed another heavy punch in the spectators' hearts!

Indeed.

Whether naturally occurring Soul Devices or artificially created ones, apart from requiring extremely demanding Array Diagrams, both natural and artificial, they also need exceedingly precious materials!

To date, no natural Soul Device has ever been formed on an ordinary material.

And—

Almost all Soul Artifact makers who produce Soul Devices use precious Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures.

...

So, this Qingyou Shop picked up a worthless companion stone commonly found everywhere and claimed it to be a Soul Device, isn't that deception?

Many in the audience now inevitably started to have doubts...

At this moment, the red-haired man blinked almost imperceptibly, and immediately someone in the crowd began to question, "Taking some broken rocks to sell, haven't seen money before?"

"This kind of trash stone, even if given to me for free, I wouldn't take it. It's not about not having seen money, it's about being crazed by greed, isn't it?"

"Is this a joke? I hurried over here to buy a Soul Device, and you show me this farce?"

"Give us an explanation!"

"We need an explanation!"

...

Initially, it started with one person, then two, three, four... Gradually, even those who were indecisive, confused, and weak-willed began to join in the questioning.

The red-haired man shouted loudly, "Everyone, listen to me! Let's complain about this unscrupulous seller right now! If enough people complain, the Star Network system will immediately initiate a review mechanism, and once the evidence is conclusive, this scammer will definitely get their license revoked, their shop blocked, and be expelled from the Star Network."

Wow~

This is going a bit too far.

However—

If it really is a scammer, this kind of punishment is exactly what they deserve.

For a moment, many people were unsure whether to report it right away or not.

The first few who spoke up immediately said, "I'm going to report now. In the face of scammers, I'd rather wrongly kill a thousand than let one go!"

Someone echoed, "Right! Exactly! Only by making it everyone's responsibility can we help build a harmonious, fair, transparent, and trustworthy business environment in society!"

"Ah! If that's the case, I'll also go report."

"Let's go..."

"Let's go! Let's file a group complaint! The review mechanism of Star Network is very fair, as long as the shop hasn't done anything illegal, they definitely won't be falsely accused. So, everyone don't feel burdened in your hearts."

"Indeed. Then—I'll also file a complaint."

In just a few minutes from when the red-haired man voiced his doubts, to when more than half of the audience decided to report the Qingyou Shop for selling fake goods, the situation had spiraled completely out of control.

Cheng Yu's face darkened, although he tried to speak out, he was immediately drowned out by the roaring crowd.

At this moment—

Almost no one was calm enough to seriously listen to what Cheng Yu was saying.

In the crowd.

Ji You's face turned very dark, as if ink could drip from her countenance.

Someone was stirring trouble.

Definitely someone deliberately causing trouble!

Who could it be?

Qingyou's identity was confidential, except for the Star Network system, it was absolutely impossible for anyone to know her real identity. Although the shop had sold soul devices twice and caused quite a stir, they were sold cheaply, and since the last time, Ji You hadn't updated the inventory for a long time. The shelves were often empty, not even a service robot was present, and customers like Sheng Qingyan would just rush in to secure a spot on the floor and chat with each other.

Is that also stepping on someone's cake?

But—

That's not right.

Soul devices are scarce on the market, and demand is high; many mature soul artifact maker shops are not short of popularity or customers...

For instance, Master Kong Zhe's high disciple Lin Feng, since Lin Feng could independently create soul devices, he also opened his own exclusive Star Network shop, which was very popular every day. Besides selling soul devices, the shop also sold other stuff like medicinal herbs and food ingredients... all these precious items.

In the vast Star Sea, the Qingyou Shop was too small to stir up any major waves. Ji You was completely puzzled, who had she offended?

Seeing the situation progressing toward severity, Ji You quickly asked Shen Changqing and others beside her, "What impact will a large number of complaints have on the seller?"

Yue Qiyuan replied with a steady gaze, "It will be temporarily shut down."

Ji You: "Huh?"

It's that serious?

Shen Changqing added, "Before the official results are out, the shop will be temporarily closed for a while. If the seller hasn't faked anything and has not violated any laws, the Star Network system will automatically reopen the shop."

Yue Qiyuan, frowning, continued, "Normally, the verification takes at least 3 days, and if there are unexpected issues, the process might need up to 15 working days."

Ji You: "..."

Sheng Qingyan had no mood to chat idly with a few of Ji You's people. He was so anxious he was pacing around, stomping his feet hard: "Impossible! The master cannot have faked it! Absolutely impossible!"

In his agitation, even his 'oh' was thrown away.

However—

No matter how Sheng Qingyan explained, no one listened to him.

At the scene, many die-hard fans of Qingyou Shop also came out, trying to defend the innocence of Qingyou Shop and stop the situation from getting out of control, yet—

Stirred up by the instigators and further egged on by the audience wielding their sense of justice, the crowd was extremely agitated, unable to hear other rational voices.

In no time, the situation worsened further.

Cheng Yu had been live streaming for so long and had seen all kinds of storms, malicious slander from peers, false accusations... he had experienced them, but that was his own affair, so resolving them was relatively easy.

Just thinking that this involved the master's reputation and his image in the master's heart, he grew more and more anxious, the more anxious he got, the more panicked—

Suddenly—

Chapter 497: Righteous Onlookers

What to do?

Cheng Yu's forehead was beaded with large droplets of sweat.

In his panic, he could no longer care about his own little schemes. Just as Cheng Yu was hurriedly about to send a message to the Master, suddenly— —

The lights were bright, and the shop was blooming with flowers. A petite girl slowly emerged from the crowd and suddenly bellowed, "Everyone get out of the way!"

Her words were deafening!

However, how could an excited audience be intimidated by a girl?

But— —

Before the girl's words even touched the ground, she suddenly raised her hand, thrust her arm violently, and a giant chopper flew out diagonally, tracing a straight line, grazing the earlobes of viewers in its path... straight toward the counter.

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

The intense reverberations hammered into everyone's hearts.

Everyone, staring at the Big Chopper now embedded in the counter, turned their heads in unison to look at the girl who had suddenly made a move with such an imposing manner—

Ji You nonchalantly walked towards the center of the counter, then lifted her hand, grabbed her Big Chopper, and with her eyes sharp as a falcon, she scanned the abruptly silenced crowd and crisply said, "Sorry, my hand slipped."

Audience: "..."

The Red-haired man stared at the counter, now with a huge hole from the Big Chopper, and suddenly felt joy. This girl was clearly here to disrupt the scene, just like himself.

An ally.

Definitely no mistake.

Thus, with a gleam in his eye, the Red-haired man was about to speak...

Only to see Ji You suddenly lift her hand, pointing to the Red-haired man, and loudly said, "You, Red-haired, come here for a second!"

Huh?

The Red-haired man was rather confused: Is this an ally?

Ji You frowned and pressed impatiently in a louder tone, "Stop blinking those little eyes of yours! Yes, you! I'm telling you to come over!"

Red-haired man: "???"

Originally not wanting to pay attention, but in his bewildered state, the Red-haired man didn't understand why, ever since this petite girl had spoken, he felt his surroundings were filled with countless invisible Blade tips, an icy, bone-chilling cold spread from the soles of his feet...

Was this intimidation?

So powerful!

The Red-haired man had a feeling that if he did not comply with her, these intimidating 'Blade tips' would immediately rain down on him, possibly erasing his Spiritual Body in an instant.

So——

Under his bewilderment, the Red-haired man unwittingly walked up to Ji You.

Ji You eyed him and asked, "Did you just ask everyone whether any Master could make a Soul Device out of something worthless like Companion Stone?"

The Red-haired man opened his mouth.

Ji You casually stroked the blade and loudly said, "Did you?"

Red-haired man: "Yes... I did ask that."

"Alright!" Ji You nodded her head, suddenly snapped her fingers around her, and asked, "Is there anyone here who was Lucky Goose that bought a Soul Device from the Qingyou Shop last time? Please give a shout!"

"Me!"

"Me!"

"And meee..." Sheng Qingyan stomped her foot and hurriedly pushed through, "There's me too!"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's eyebrows twitched, deliberately ignoring Little Cutie, turned to the other two, and asked, "What material was used for the Soul Devices you purchased last time at the Qingyou Shop?"

The two immediately said loudly, "Companion Stone!"

Wow~

This statement, like a babbling brook, instantly sobered up many onlookers.

That's right!

Everyone had flocked here to grab Soul Devices because they'd heard that true True Soul Artifacts had been sold here.

And—

The Soul Devices from last time, I heard they were made from Companion Stones. That's why they caused such a sensation.

This, hadn't many people already known?

So, why are people suddenly being instigated to lodge a complaint against the shop for fraud?

Ji You didn't give people time to think, and again asked, "Did you get your previous Soul Devices verified by an authoritative institution? Are you carrying the appraisal results with you now?"

The two men smiled and said, "We've got it, not only the appraisal results, but also the Soul Devices we bought last time."

As they spoke, one of the burly men hurriedly lifted his hair next to his ear to reveal a pink earring on his earlobe—

A rugged-looking, burly man wearing a pair of pink earrings... That's kind of... Spicy Eye...

But—

The intervention and the provided soul artifact appraisal certificate from these two instantly doused the excited crowd with a bucket of cold water.

Ji You turned to the red-haired man, word by word saying: "About that Red-haired, you got your answer now! Can you accept that the Green Glaze Master can turn trash like Companion Stones into Soul Devices, or can't you?"

Red-haired: "..."

Damn it!

A backstab from supposed allies!

This is the enemy!

Sheng Qingyan leaped over in a bound, stepping harshly on Red-haired's foot, hands on her hips as she scolded: "You red-haired piece of crap, what's your motive for messing up the Master's shop so suddenly?"

Red-haired: "..."

His foot in pain, the Red-haired man frowned and muttered: Where has this sissy lunatic popped out from?

As Red-haired was in a tough spot, Ji You suddenly pursed her lips, snickering with a "Hehe," and said: "Of course, it's good and right for everyone to question potential swindlers. We can't eradicate fraudsters, but as long as we all work together, we will expose the fraudster and leave them nowhere to hide. So Red-haired bro's actions aren't all that overboard—"

Huh?

Red-haired, in shock: "???"

Allies?

Red-haired was bewildered, and while he was still confused by this turn of events, Ji You suddenly raised her hand, patting Red-haired's shoulder, and asked crisply: "Hey Red-haired, where did you make your fortunes? You must've made a tidy sum with this gig, right? Next time you've got work, bring your bro along."

Red-haired: "..."

Audience: "..."

Cheng Yu immediately stepped forward, loudly rebuking: "Exactly! Making money through conscienceless deeds, did a dog eat your conscience? Why would you defame our family's shop? Speak!"

Red-haired man opened his mouth: "...You... You're talking nonsense!"

Sheng Qingyan opened her mouth to spray: "Talking nonsense my foot! You're just a rotten egg! The Companion Stone Soul Device that people bought last time is still fine... Green Glaze Master can't be a fraudster..."

Cheng Yu seized the moment to explain: "Everybody listen up, our shop guarantees a tenfold refund for any fake goods. Red-haired questioned our ability to present an appraisal, and first of all, I must clarify that Star Network has a rigorous inspection process for all goods listed for sale. Secondly, we have the appraisal results, and here they are—"

Having said that.

Cheng Yu hurriedly showcased the appraisal results he made; the audience looked at them and nodded in agreement. The appraisal seemed legit.

Cheng Yu stated: "We welcome everyone to oversee our products at any time. After purchase, the goods can also be taken for professional institution appraisal, but we will take necessary actions against malicious complaints and sabotage, and we will definitely file an appeal."

The situation was quickly brought under control. For a while, many loyal fans of Qingyou Shop took the opportunity to speak up, loudly condemning: "It must have been a paid job, I felt something was off about a few people next to me, chanting slogans as if wanting to beat up and kill the shop, I wouldn't know better, I'd think their husband or wife had been seduced by Green Glaze Master or something."

"This dirty money can't be made."

...

The crowd buzzed with comments, and Red-haired along with a few other instigators were squeezed out until they had nowhere to hide.

Ji You also received high praise from the crowd for bravely standing up to contradict, making her a little embarrassed. She cleared her throat and loudly announced, "Everybody, no need to admire me, I stood up because I'm just a justice-filled, enthusiastic melon-eating bystander."

Chapter 498: The Shameless Film Queen Is Ji You

Red-hair and his crew, no matter their intent or who's behind them, have been marked by Ji You as utterly unforgivable.

If this little shop's reputation gets trashed, forced to close down for a while, or - heaven forbid - gets its business license revoked, the losses would be in the tens of millions.

Cutting off someone's livelihood is like murdering their parents.

Thinking Ji You would just swallow her anger and suffer in silence?

Impossible!

Had she not been guarding the shop, these troublemakers might have smashed the place to bits. The more Ji You thought about it, the angrier she got. She bent down abruptly and pulled out the Big Chopper, taller than she was, pointing it directly at Red-hair: "Red-hair, scram!"

The vigorous momentum of this blade was plain to see.

That "scram" carried the weight of thunder.

Red-hair's neck shrank in fear, his knees went weak, and though he thought of running away, he remembered the task by his boss and didn't dare flee. He could only brace himself and retort: "You want me to scram just like that? You think this is your home?"

Oh, look at that!

Got some nerve, huh.

Ji You's eyes darkened in an instant: "Don't block my way to buy a Soul Device, I'll say it again: scam!"

Boom—

In an instant, all of Red-hair's hairs stood on end, each nerve taut to the breaking point... Accessing the Star Network relies on spiritual power, so what was under pressure here was Red-hair's spiritual power...

With a snap—

He dared not delay any longer, pushing through the crowd and hastening away.

Ji You turned her head to the other dozens of people: "You lot, scam too!"

Whoosh—

Like smoke, the rest vanished without a trace.

Ji You, with her overpowering aura, had frightened away the troublemakers, and for a moment, silence reigned, so quiet you could hear a pin drop...

After a while.

Audience A: "Holy shit! What a badass."

Audience B: "Holy shit! Awesome."

Audience C: "Holy shit! Clever."

Audience D: "Holy shit! Badass!"

Ji You casually shouldered her Big Chopper, maintaining her cool and domineering style, raised a hand, brushed her hair out of her forehead, and chuckled: "Don't worship me, I'm just a concerned bystander."

Audience: "..."

Afterwards.

Ji You turned to Cheng Yu and asked casually: "Clerk, give me 10 Soul Devices."

Cheng Yu: "..."

Cheng Yu opened his mouth: "That... Miss, our Soul Devices need to be fought over during a snap-up sale. Also—there aren't even 10 of the new models."

Although... But... Indeed... it was thanks to this hot-tempered big sister's enthusiastic help that the crisis in the store was resolved, but—this hot-tempered big sister demanding 10 Soul Devices all at once was a bit...

Anyway—

Even Cheng Yu, who prided himself on being well-experienced and informed, had never encountered such an unusual character.

Ji You heard this and scratched her head: "Ah... then give me 7!"

Cheng Yu: "..."

The audience who witnessed this scene was dumbfounded: "What? She asked for 10 all at once?"

"That big sister, come on now, you gotta leave some for us to have a taste."

"Big sis, leave a little room; so we can meet with smiles in the future!"

...

In an instant, the crowd was spitting venom, practically drowning Ji You with their saliva.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You pulled out the Big Chopper and shouted: "Everybody simmer down! Would buying 2 be okay?"

Audience: "That's not okay."

Ji You couldn't be bothered with their nonsense, turned to Cheng Yu, and directly asked: "After all the trouble I went through to clear up the mess for your shop, shouldn't I at least get the privilege to buy first?"

With that, Ji You stepped forward and patted Cheng Yu on the shoulder: "Big guy! Don't break the hearts of the enthusiastic public, don't let the blood of the enthusiastic public run cold."

Cheng Yu: "..."

Cheng Yu, faced with one thing after another, was totally dumbfounded.

But—

Indeed.

Cheng Yu hesitated then said: "This... I need to ask the Master. If the Master agrees, then there's no problem."

Ji You patted his shoulder, urging, "Hurry up and ask."

Cheng Yu trotted backstage and sent a message to the Green Glaze Master.

Ji You carried the Big Chopper, maintaining a cool and badass demeanor.

Moments later.

Cheng Yu ran back, smiling and said, "The Master agreed."

Ji You's mouth immediately spread into a grin, beaming with joy, "Big brother, thanks a lot. People's blood runs hot, their hearts are warm, wishing for true feelings everywhere, for true love in every corner of the world."

Cheng Yu: "..."

Audience: "..."

After a brief silence, the onlookers suddenly felt something was off. There were seven Soul Devices, and this guy had taken two. This meant that the rest of them, with however many years of swift fingers, could barely hope to grab one?

Instantaneously, the crowd erupted into a wave of wails and accusations:

"Damn it! That's way over the line."

"Damn it! That's shameless."

"Damn it! That's deceitful."

"Damn it! She came out feigning righteousness, but was this her scheme all along? Why didn't I think of that?"

"Where's Red-haired? Is it still possible to beat up Red now?"

...

No matter what the audience said, how they despised, or how they protested, Ji You always had that heh-heh grin on her face, waiting for Cheng Yu to give her the purchasing rights for two Soul Devices...

Then—

Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiyuan, and Yue Qiguang finally squeezed through the crowded audience, all staring at Ji You in unison, and said, "Do you even have the money?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's face crumbled.

Sheng Qingyan leaped forward with a swift stride: "You poor dead thing, I'll lend you money and you split one with me, okay?"

Chu Jiaojiao was not to be outdone, staring at Ji You with wide-eyed eagerness, her face full of flattery, "Ji You, you're so handsome, so cool, so awesome today... like an angel descended to earth... Just give me one Soul Device, and I'll never look at your face again, you'll be my life."

Yue Qiyuan casually put his hands in his pockets, glancing at Ji You, and said, "There's true feelings among people, there's true love, now is the time to test you."

Yue Qiguang folded his arms, stating directly, "I'll pay for the Soul Devices, and I'll take them all, but I'll give you 100,000 credit points as a token of my appreciation."

Seeing how her friends were putting up various tricks, Shen Changqing, who was usually reserved and restrained, hesitated for a moment, then suddenly whispered, "I can offer you 150,000 as a convenience fee."

Ji You: "..."

Sheng Qingyan: "Look at me, you dead penniless ghost."

Chu Jiaojiao: "Pick me!"

Yue Qiyuan: "Think carefully."

Yue Qiguang: "Choose anyone else but daddy here, and you're dead."

Shen Changqing: "I'm... the most sincere."

Ji You expressed that she really... really... found it hard to choose.

While her friends were privately discussing, Cheng Yu went backstage and swiftly updated the parameters. When he came out, he gave Ji You the purchasing rights for two Soul Devices. As soon as Ji You saw the amounts, her face collapsed again...

One for 5.5 million credit points.

Another for 5.8 million credit points.

Total payment required: 11.3 million credit points.

Cheng Yu beamed and said, "Young student, our store doesn't accept credit, you know."

Ji You took a deep breath and shouted, "Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, it's your turn to pay."

The two were named, Chu Jiaojiao instantly spread a wide grin and burst into wild laughter with her hands on her hips.

Shen Changqing also relaxed his brows in a flash, rapidly transferring the money without a pause.

...

After settling the deal, facing the wrath of Sheng Qingyan, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, the sincere compliments from Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, as well as the envy, jealousy, and resentment from the surrounding audience, and Cheng Yu's gratitude... Ji You casually raised her hand, nonchalantly brushed back a lock of hair from her forehead, revealing a mysterious smile:

My acting skills—

Have reached the pinnacle!

Unrivalled!

The Oscar Little Golden Man in my presence would only be left to prostrate itself in shame.

And, with this explosive performance...

Who would still associate her with the shop owner, Green Glaze Master?

#### Chapter 499: Speed Battle Showdown

Shen Changqing and Chu Jiaojiao swiftly paid for Ji You, then Sheng Qingyan rolled up his sleeves, looking at Ji You with such an expression as if his eyes weren't eyes and his nose wasn't a nose: "You poor dead, you're done... Do you know what you've lost?"

Ji You snorted: "What?"

Sheng Qingyan said: "You've lost the friendship of the world's number one Little Cutie."

Ji You hummed: "I don't need the friendship of this Little Cutie."

Sheng Qingyan was momentarily choked up and stomped his foot fiercely: "This has infuriated Little Cutie! So infuriating..."

Beside them, Yue Qiguang and Yue Qiyuan looked at Ji You with expressions that practically had the word 'Disdain' written all over their faces.

But Ji You didn't care about all that; she was just enjoying herself inside.

Shen Changqing promised to give 150,000!

From Chu Jiaojiao, she should at least extract 100,000 or 80,000.

Considering this, without much effort and just by flipping the Soul Device, she netted a clean 250,000.

Thinking of this, Ji You smiled until her eyes were almost squinting: Genius!

In the whole wide world, who could be more talented than herself?

No one!

Absolutely no one!

"What are you laughing at!" Ji You, who suddenly split her lips into a silly smile showing eight teeth, was tugged on the elbow by Sheng Qingyan who covered his mouth with disgust and said, "Even drooling unknowingly, don't know what you are laughingly being silly about... The sale is about to start, get ready... Remember to flip it over to someone else if you manage to snatch it."

Drooling?

Ji You subconsciously touched the corner of her mouth.

No?

At this moment—

Cheng Yu explained once again the details of the five Soul Devices for sale, loudly declared: "Ladies and gentlemen, the Soul Devices are about to go on sale—"

"3!"

"2!"

"1!"

Boom!

Suddenly, numerous pink hearts burst open in the air above the shop, and they fluttered down slowly...

Rustling...

Swoosh...

In an instant, everyone in the shop and even people on the surrounding streets tensed up, ready for action, and the moment the countdown ended, nearly everyone jumped up simultaneously and frantically grabbed at the flying pink hearts...

Among these pink hearts, only five represented the Soul Devices, the rest were empty. Empty hearts, you could pop them with a finger poke.

When all five Soul Devices were grabbed, the game would end...

Everyone at the scene, their minds were completely hooked by these pink hearts, even the usually reserved and protocol-abiding Shen Changqing had a visible excitement on his face.

Chu Jiaojiao was the craziest, grabbing the hearts while yelling loudly.

Yue Qiguang and Yue Qiyuan, being twins, had great coordination at this time, they swept clean a radius of tens of meters around them of any hearts, leaving no stone unturned...

Sheng Qingyan, who didn't seem serious, when he started to focus, his speed was no less than Shen Changqing and Chu Jiaojiao... In an instant, he cleared all the hearts around him and immediately moved to another spot.

...

Watching this scene, Ji You, while catching the hearts, couldn't help but admire Cheng Yu's strategic abilities; I must say, orchestrating this event not only boosted the customers' shopping enthusiasm but also entertained everyone physically and mentally, and even increased the shop's popularity...

Huh?

This heart looks a bit odd.

Ji You glanced over.

And glanced again.

And then—

Ji You noticed that this heart seemed to be conscious, as if it didn't notice her gaze, it deliberately shook its body towards her then silently turned its back, only facing her with the back of its head...

Is this a Soul Device heart?

Just as Ji You was about to reach out, suddenly a white, slender arm flew sideways, its hand attempting to snatch it...

The Soul Device heart's entire body trembled violently.

Ji You yelled: "Stop right there!"

The owner of the arm, not heeding Ji You's stop, in a blink of an eye, grabbed towards the heart.

"There's a Soul Device heart here!" Ji You yelled: "Jiaojiao! Go!"

"Spicy Eye! Go!"

"You guys... hurry up!!!"

As soon as these words came out, not only Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang, and Yue Qiyuan rushed over, but it also attracted a swarm of people from the surroundings.

However—

It was already too late.

The owner of the pale fingers had grabbed the Soul Device Heart, and was about to take off.

Ji You pounced fiercely!

The owner of the pale fingers got startled and yelled, "Holy crap! It's broad daylight, don't mess around."

Eh?

That voice?

The person retreated, and then retreated some more, barely avoiding Ji You's sneak attack. Ji You only managed to catch a glimpse of half of his name: What Weak Chicken?

Then—

The person simply logged out.

"Idiot? Didn't you grab it?"

"How come you didn't grab it?"

"Poor dead, good for nothing and always messing things up!"

Yue Qiguang, Sheng Qingyan and the others saw that their opponent had disappeared without a trace, which instantly infuriated them, and they immediately redirected their frustration by reproaching Ji You!

As for these words, Ji You let them go in one ear and out the other. She stretched out her hand, touching her chin, "Just now, that guy, his voice really sounded a bit like Weak Chicken, and his name was something Weak Chicken too. Could it be the same person?"

In the competitive matches, Ji You has encountered countless opponents, but the only one who severely screwed her over was that Weak Chicken.

Every time she thought of that jerk, Ji You's teeth gnashed with fury, itching to grab him and give him a good beating.

But—

Weak Chicken seemed to have disappeared, never showing up in the arena again, which left Ji You frustrated and unable to find him whenever she wanted to take her anger out.

The person who just tried to steal the Soul Device Heart just now sounded similar, looked similar, and even the feeling of his spiritual power was somewhat familiar...

Suddenly—

In the noisy shop, everyone heard a system announcement: [5 Soul Device Hearts have been captured, congratulations to the five friends who have successfully obtained the Soul Devices, and thank you all for coming to support our event. The event at Qingyou Shop has ended, please look forward to the next new arrival.]

Huh?

It's over?

So quickly?

All together, it must have been less than 5 minutes since it started, and the results were already out.

"Who?"

"Who exactly stole my Soul Device?"

"Who?"

"Make a sound, will you."

No one responded.

No one replied.

At this moment, the 5 lucky ones who got the Soul Devices, who dared to make a sound? Keeping a low profile was how they'd 'stay alive.'

Qingyou Shop announced closing, and no matter how dissatisfied the crowd was, this Soul Device sale had truly ended.

Then—

Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan grouped together, everyone glanced at each other.

Ji You, arms crossed, couldn't help but ask, "Stop hiding it, quickly say, who got it?"

Shen Changqing shook his head.

Chu Jiaojiao shook her head, "Yingyinging..."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath, "Your fake crying, it looks just like Teacher Mu watching a horror movie."

Chu Jiaojiao: "..."

Yue Qiguang frowned heavily, "Idiot! Don't look at me, I didn't get it."

Yue Qiyuan sighed, "Just not my fate."

Everyone simultaneously turned towards Sheng Qingyan, Sheng Qingyan stomped her foot, "I don't have it either."

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"Really not?" The group was skeptical and persisted in questioning with suspicious looks on their faces.

"I really don't have it!" Sheng Qingyan pouted and stomped her foot with force: "Why would I lie to you guys?"

"Oh—" Hearing that Sheng Qingyan didn't manage to grab it either, Ji You and others immediately lost interest in her. Ji You glared at her buddies by her side and disdainfully said: "Boring! A bunch of non-chiefs! Stay away from me during lucky draws from now on, lest you jinx me."

Everyone: "..."

I really want to beat her up, what should I do?

It's kind of urgent.

Seeing the itchy expressions on their faces, Ji You curled her lips and said: "Don't be unconvinced. If it weren't for my quick thinking, not one of us would have managed to grab anything."

Everyone: "..."

Such shameless, sinister, and cunning methods, aside from Ji You, indeed not many could have thought of them.

Ji You yawned and said, "I'm off to sleep."

"Hey!"

"Oh right!" Ji You stopped and stared at Shen Changqing and Chu Jiaojiao, saying: "Shen Changqing, about the 150,000, please transfer it to me immediately. I don't extend credit here."

Shen Changqing said earnestly: "I don't have the tradition or the mindset to give credit either."

Hey!

Is this honest person making fun of me?

Ding Dong—

The system notification indicated an addition of 150,000 credit points in the account.

Ji You smiled and looked towards Shen Changqing, saying: "Classmate Shen Changqing, you must keep up your fine traditions and mindset."

Without waiting for Shen Changqing to say anything, Ji You immediately turned towards Chu Jiaojiao and said: "Jiaojiao, I'll also give you the other Soul Device I have, but you have to give me 150,000 as a service charge."

She originally intended to ask for 100,000, but on second thought, considering Chu Jiaojiao, this tycoon, this fat sheep, it'd be a waste not to fleece her!

Might as well rob the rich to help the poor.

Upon hearing this, Chu Jiaojiao didn't say a second word and immediately made the transfer, still giggling: "Ji You, you're so pretty, I really like you so much!"

Ji You: "..."

Got fleeced and still helping to count the money, that must be referring to a fool like Chu Jiaojiao, right?

Hehe~

Fortunately, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, and others didn't know her alt account, otherwise...

After a session of compliments, Ji You was satisfied and ready to log off. Before doing so, she looked up and glanced at Sheng Qingyan, who was pouting and stamping her feet, pretending to be angry and frustrated because she hadn't snatched a Soul Device...

This guy!

Compared to her own act, which could even make the Oscar Little Golden Man feel ashamed, Sheng Qingyan's acting could hardly be described as 'exaggerated' in just two words.

Ji You was certain that in just a few seconds, the secret that Sheng Qingyan had sneakily grabbed a Soul Device would be discovered by Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang, and others.

Alas!

Unable to bear watching his wretched state later, Ji You decided to log off and rest.

Of course, the reason why Ji You knew Sheng Qingyan had grabbed a Soul Device wasn't that she was prescient or saw him grab it, but because she had sneakily cheated for Sheng Qingyan in the backend.

With the cyber competition finals looming, that person called Little Cutie, Ji You was 100 percent sure it was Sheng Qingyan.

Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee was Chu Jiaojiao.

Xiaoqing was Shen Changqing.

Adding herself from Lanyue Star Military Academy's freshman class, as far as Ji You knew, in total, only 4 people had made it to the finals. The finals circle was full of experts, and the battle would definitely be fiercer. Ji You couldn't offer much help elsewhere, but she still quietly did everything possible to snag a chance to boost the strength of her buddies.

That's why Ji You leveraged this opportunity to claim the rights to purchase two Soul Devices, and then transferred both of them to Shen Changqing and Chu Jiaojiao.

Of course, if Yue Qiguang and Yue Qiyuan, the brothers, had advanced to the finals instead of Shen Changqing and Chu Jiaojiao being eliminated, Ji You would definitely have given the two Soul Devices to the Yue Family brothers without favoring one over the other.

...

These things, Ji You did not explain clearly to her little friends, some things, there is no need to say out loud.

Hm-hmm~

Having done what she set out to do, she quietly slips away, her contributions and fame remaining unrecognized.

Watching her innocent, pure, and adorable little friends still in the dark, Ji You's face bore a slight smile as she decided to simply log off and rest.

A good night's dream.

The next day, Ji You woke up, feeling refreshed, and started counting her money.

One zero.

Two zeros.

Three zeros.

...

Seven Soul Devices sold for a total of 39.1 million credit points, Ji You was so overjoyed she couldn't close her mouth.

Look!

A craftsman will never starve anywhere, as long as they have a skill, they'll never worry about not making money.

And then—

Ji You thought of her 500 million debt, and her smile faded in a blink.

At this moment, Ji You received a message from Cheng Yu. Thinking of the red-haired man who caused trouble yesterday, Ji You's face grew serious, and she immediately entered the Star Network to initiate communication with Cheng Yu.

Cheng Yu did not expect the Master to respond so quickly, and even took the initiative to send him a communication request. For a moment, his heart was both happy and a bit bitter.

Quickly.

Connected.

Cheng Yu looked at Green Glaze Master, still wearing a mask and hiding her true appearance, forced a smile on his face and said, "Master, you're up early today."

Ji You said, "Good morning, you worked hard last night. I've just transferred your compensation."

1,000 credit points to hire a sales talent, such a deal was simply too profitable.

At this moment, Cheng Yu was not using his Star Network avatar, but his real appearance. With a weary look on his plump face, he still mustered up the energy and said, "Master, there is something that, after long consideration, I've decided not to hide from you... it's..."

Ji You, watching the expression on Teacher Cheng Yu's face, already understood and said, "You're talking about the red-haired incident, aren't you?"

Cheng Yu was slightly surprised: "Master, you guessed it?"

Ji You said, "I've somewhat guessed it. Do you have a grudge with the red-haired man? Or with the person behind the scenes who directed the red-haired man?"

Cheng Yu's lips showed a bitter smile as he shook his head and then nodded, saying, "I don't know the red-haired man, but I investigated his information overnight and found some clues. I'm certain that he came for me. It's actually a family disgrace. I have a half-brother who has always opposed me, and he recently discovered my online identity. So, when he learned that I was working for your store, he stepped in to intervene."

Ji You frowned slightly, listening in silence.

Cheng Yu chuckled bitterly, continuing, "He's doing all this, in fact, just to spoil the relationship between you and me. By causing trouble for the Master, you would certainly get sick of me and fire me right away. My brother's personality is extremely insidious; he will not stop until he achieves his objective. His plan failed yesterday, but he will surely have other tricks up his sleeve, so..."

Speaking of which, as if making up his mind, Cheng Yu turned to Ji You, and said, "Master... after thinking it over, I've decided not to cause trouble for you anymore. I won't be your salesman in the future."

Saying this, despite the regret, Cheng Yu also felt as if a burden had been lifted from his shoulders.

Ji You knit her brows and said, "The employees I hire, have no reason to ask to resign on their own."

Cheng Yu: "Master?"

Ji You: "Rejected!"

Cheng Yu: "..."

Overbearing!

But—

This kind of overbearing, unreasonable Master, strangely shines with human warmth.