

Scavengers 511

Chapter 511: Damn Rabbits

Ji You turned her head toward Lin Lele and found that everything was harmonious between the people and the rabbits over there, leaving Ji You utterly speechless and choked up.

Then, she tried to approach these little rabbits, but they got even more skittish, some shrinking into a corner, trembling violently, looking very scared.

Robot: "Warning! Warning! Warning! Inappropriate approach."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath and asked, "Can you give me a hint?"

Heaven knows—

She was just here to clean, not to provide psychological counseling to the little rabbits.

Robot: "Please explore on your own. Additionally, warning, some of the little rabbits are severely frightened, which will affect their grazing amount, please think of a remedy as soon as possible..."

Ji You raised her hand and rubbed her forehead hard: "How am I supposed to remedy this? Can I eat grass on their behalf?"

Robot: "..."

"Pfft—"

Suddenly, a discordant laughter rang out nearby. Ji You looked up and saw Lin Lele quickly shut her mouth, pretending as if nothing happened.

Ji You complained: "I should have chosen those white rabbits."

Lin Lele glanced at Ji You, arrogantly raised her head, then turned her back and started shoveling rabbit droppings...

Ji You's mouth twisted, mocking: "Even though your posture lifting your head is perfect, don't forget how awkward you look when you bend down to shovel rabbit droppings."

Lin Lele: "..."

Lin Lele snorted coldly: "None of your business."

Ji You chuckled and said, "Sister, how about we swap?"

Lin Lele quickly turned away.

Ji You forced a smile, faced her own tough-to-handle little rabbits again, slowly bent over and crouched down, coaxing the little rabbits in the corner: "Little rabbits, be good, don't be scared, I'm just here to make soy sauce."

The little rabbits were still quivering.

Ji You grinned: "Let me tell you a story. Once upon a time, there was a big bad wolf..."

The little rabbits shook even harder.

Robot: "Warning! Warning! Warning! Please find an effective solution immediately!"

Ji You yanked her hair in frustration: "What do you want me to do, tell me. I just want to clean..."

At this moment—

A group of people walked in through the door, just in time to see Ji You squatting in the corner, trying to reason with a group of trembling little rabbits. The group paused slightly, and the leader looked at Mu Jianling, smiling said: "Jianling, your students here are quite patient with these little rabbits."

Mu Jianling tugged at his mouth, saying: "She's just here to clean the rabbit droppings."

Visitor: "Oh? What did this kid do wrong?"

Ji You: "..."

Upon hearing this voice, Ji You felt it was very familiar, but couldn't quite place where she had heard it. Unable to remember, she stopped trying to reason with the troublesome little rabbits, turned her head, and was stunned: "Zhang... Aunt Zhang?"

This person was Aunt Zhang from Taoyuan Space Station, responsible for the breeding operations. Her specific name was unknown to Ji You and others; they just knew her as 'Aunt Zhang'. Moreover, Aunt Zhang was a former instructor at Lanyue Star Agricultural College, who later transferred to Taoyuan Space Station.

Seeing Ji You's face, Aunt Zhang burst into laughter, saying, "So it's you, kid."

Ji You grinned and quickly jumped out of the rabbit shed, happily saying: "Aunt Zhang, you still remember me!"

Aunt Zhang raised her hand, patted Ji You's head, and laughed: "Of course, I remember. After all, among the students I've seen over the years, you're the only one as short as this."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's smile at the corner of her mouth froze instantly.

Mu Jianling frowned and said, "Do your work, what are you standing around here for?"

Ji You's face wrinkled in an instant, bitterly saying, "Teacher... it's not that I don't want to work, it's that these rabbits aren't cooperating. As soon as I get close, they get scared, stop eating grass, stop drinking water, stop defecating, and such... What can I do?"

"Pfft—"

Ji You followed the sound of laughter and her mouth twitched slightly.

It was Lin Lele again.

This girl, aside from taking pleasure in others' misfortune, can't she do something productive?

Seizing the opportunity, Ji You complained to Teacher Mu Jianling. Nearby, Aunt Zhang, after listening, said nothing but approached the little rabbits and softly said, "We're doing cleaning, make way..."

Then—

The little rabbits obediently moved back a few steps.

Moreover, for some reason, they weren't shivering anymore; they lowered their heads and started nibbling the grass.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You glowered and said, "Could it be that these little rabbits also judge people by their appearance?"

Aunt Zhang chuckled softly and kindly said, "It's probably your spiritual power that scares them. Remember to restrain it a bit and try as much as possible not to make them feel threatened."

Ji You, surprised, asked: "They can feel the spiritual power?"

Aunt Zhang smiled and said, "Animals have the sharpest senses. Your spiritual power has been constantly released; you just don't realize it. If your Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate is high enough, you should be able to sense the Spiritual Network around you being particularly active, which is why the little rabbits are afraid of you."

After listening, Ji You was momentarily speechless because—

In fact, this is what was happening inside her Spiritual World:

Boss: "Ahhh!!! Spicy rabbit!"

Second: "Ahhh!!! Braised rabbit!"

Third: "Ahhh!!! Stir-fried rabbit!"

Fourth: "Plain stew, hotpot, dry fry, Yellow braised... mine, mine, all mine."

Old Five: "Master, when do we eat?"

Sixth: "Master, can't wait any longer, want to eat! Want to eat!"

Ever since she stepped into this rabbit shed, Ji You's Six Gluttonous Threads had gone crazy with joy, each one throwing tantrums in the Spiritual World, clamoring to eat rabbits, all kinds of rabbit dishes... causing Ji You to be insanely troubled...

Now, Aunt Zhang tells Ji You that the reason she can't deal with these rabbits is because of her silly Silks?

Ji You's face darkened instantly, and she scolded in the Spiritual World, "All of you, calm down."

The Six Spiritual Threads, seeing their Master angry, albeit reluctantly, restrained themselves a bit, but—

Their gaze at the rabbits still made the rabbits' scalp tingle, shivering in fright...

The activity of the Spiritual Silks around Ji You noticeably decreased in an instant. Aunt Zhang, sensitive to this change, her eyes brightened and she said with a smile, "Student Ji You, good comprehension. However, restraining the release of spiritual power shouldn't be rushed; it takes practice and guidance by a good teacher. Why not transfer to our Agricultural College, and I will teach you personally?"

Mu Jianling's eyelid twitched, coldly saying, "Zhang Si, do you really think I do not exist?"

Aunt Zhang showed a look of regret and said, "Jianling, it's just a joke. Why so serious?"

Mu Jianling: "Hmph!"

Aunt Zhang, not minding his attitude at all, suddenly raised a smile and turned to a tall, straight figure behind her, saying, "Fu Feng, what do you think of this place?"

Chapter 512: Hapless Little Cutie

Zhang Si looked back at the boy behind her with a smile on her lips and a hint of eager anticipation in her voice, asking, "Fu Feng, what do you think of this place?"

The boy in question, standing behind Zhang Si with an upright yet slightly frail figure, remained quiet. Upon hearing her, he slightly tilted his head, revealing half of his face gleaming in the sunlight, fair and delicate, while the other half was hidden in shadow, concealing his expression...

But—

Even just glimpsing his profile was enough to take one's breath away with his unquestionable beauty.

The atmosphere around them became eerily still for a moment.

The boy simply looked around with curiosity, his face calm and composed, a bit reticent.

Zhang Si spoke in an even gentler tone: "Fu Feng?"

The boy promptly showed a polite smile, graciously saying, "I think it's very nice."

Zhang Si instantly beamed, her smile radiant.

However—

Standing nearby, Mu Jianling heard the boy's voice and her face turned as black as the bottom of a pot. She glared fiercely at Zhang Si and almost snorted through her nostrils, saying, "What's so good about this place? The rabbits are stinky and dirty, the breeding methods are unprofessional, the space is cramped and small, how can any of this compare to the wide ranch of the Agricultural College?"

The boy's eyes dimmed slightly upon hearing this, but he remained silent.

Upon hearing Mu Jianling's words, Zhang Si quickly responded, "Jianling, what are you talking about? I think the rabbit shed is done quite well here, and the horse stables next door too. Later on, if Fu Feng likes it, I'll personally allocate a few hundred rabbits for you guys."

Mu Jianling's gaze turned slightly cold.

Heh~

Such a grand promise.

A few hundred?

The Agricultural College had been so generous lately, with Old Hong shamelessly begging at their door before the New Year. The tightfisted group at the college had only given 200 rabbits, and now Zhang Si was offering a few hundred to the Military Academy right off the bat? How magnanimous is that?

Arms crossed, Mu Jianling coldly said, "Keep so many rabbits for yourselves at the Agricultural College to take care of. Our temple is too small here to accommodate them."

Upon hearing this, Zhang Si didn't get upset but instead laughed, saying, "These rabbits are just for Fu Feng to play with, mere toys, so there's no need for you guys to take much care of them."

"Heh heh..." With her arms wrapped around her chest, Mu Jianling replied coldly, "This is the Military Academy, not the Agricultural College. Naturally, if one prefers tending to plants and animals, the Agricultural College would be the first choice."

Zhang Si continued with a smile, "I personally think the Military Academy is better. Look, you guys are raising rabbits and horses really well here, aren't you? Moreover, the kids here are livelier and cuter. The Agricultural College students are just honest and only know how to dig in the soil; you can't beat a fart out of them with a stick. How can they compare to your students?"

Saying that, Zhang Si pointed at Ji You squatting by the entrance of the rabbit shed and said with a grin, "Look—Ji You here, I find her especially cute."

Ji You: "???"

What's going on?

Unwilling—

Suddenly, Zhang Si waved at the bewildered Ji You, saying, "Little Ji You, come here for a moment."

Ji You: "Huh?"

Confused, Ji You instinctively began to walk forward...

Then suddenly—

A foreboding chill, powerful and spine-chilling, rapidly overtook Ji You, giving her the shivers. She abruptly stopped in her tracks and looked up in bewilderment at Mu Jianling, whose eyes seemed to sharpen into blades.

When Mu Jianling saw her stop, the chill in her gaze slightly subsided.

Ji You: "???"

What's happening?

Why was the atmosphere between Teacher Mu Jianling and Aunt Zhang so eerily strange? Describing it as 'tension-filled' would be no exaggeration.

Completely lost in the fog and unable to grasp the situation, Ji You turned her head slightly bewildered to look at the handsome boy named 'Fu Feng.' However, the boy maintained his serene expression, looking very well-behaved.

Zhang Si gave Mu Jianling a reproachful look, chiding, "What are you doing, scaring the kid like that?"

As Zhang Si's words fell, the oppressive force that had filled the air began to dissipate...

Mu Jianling's gaze grew slightly heavy.

Ji You also took the chance to steal a breath, finally free from the suffocating force of intimidation.

But—

Before Ji You had a chance to catch her breath...

"Aunt Zhang sees you're scared..." Zhang Si glanced at Mu Jianling who had been frowning the whole time and smilingly beckoned Ji You, speaking in an extremely amiable tone: "Come over to Aunt Zhang, with me here, your teacher won't dare to do anything to you."

Mu Jianling, with her arms crossed, said indifferently: "Come here."

Ji You: "..."

Huh?

Was Ji You flustered, finding herself caught in the crossfire, as the battle reached out towards her, an innocent Little Cutie?

Zhang Si kept smiling: "Child, come over here quickly."

Mu Jianling remained silent, merely glancing at Ji You with a light lift of her eyes.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You felt like she was going bald.

But—

Under the gentle and kind smile from Aunt Zhang, resembling a lovely granny's 'benevolence,' and Mu Jianling's cold, fierce glare like a wolf grandma, a timid Ji You, as scared as a mouse, eventually...

Slowly...

Slowly...

Slowly...

Took determined steps towards Teacher Mu Jianling.

...

What international joke is this?

Even if Aunt Zhang were scary, she's just a minor character with few appearances. But Teacher Mu Jianling? She's the Demon King who controls life and death at any moment! Even if Ji You had a hundred heads, she'd never dare to purposefully disrespect Teacher Mu Jianling at this time.

Is she not interested in living anymore?

Seeing Ji You's movement, a faint smile finally appeared on the cold face of Mu Jianling...

As soon as Ji You went over, she immediately obediently stood behind Teacher Mu Jianling and asked with a fawning face, "Teacher... did you need me for something?"

Mu Jianling did not answer immediately; instead, she suddenly raised her hand and patted Ji You's head, saying, "It's nothing, just stand there nicely."

Ji You: "..."

Watching the scene, Zhang Si couldn't help but snicker, asking, "Does Zhang Si look scary to you, Ji You? Why didn't you come over?"

Mu Jianling's gaze turned frosty.

Ji You: "..."

Sensing the air pressure beside her mysteriously lowering another notch, a distraught Ji You looked towards Aunt Zhang with a forced, bitter smile, "Aunt Zhang, please give me a way out, don't make things difficult for a cute kid."

Zhang Si: "Pfft—"

Ji You chuckled and said: "You don't look scary, but—" My teacher is scary. This sentence, Ji You, with her timidity, dared not say.

Zhang Si raised her eyebrows, her eyes encouraging: "Hm?"

Ji You: "But you look clearly like someone who eats people."

Zhang Si: "..."

Zhang Si laughed and scolded: "You little rascal."

Ji You pouted: "One second you call someone Little Cutie, the next second you scold them as a little rascal..."

Mu Jianling raised her hand to her forehead and said softly: "Enough, this has nothing to do with you, go squat obediently over there."

Upon hearing this, Ji You was more than happy, without needing any urging, she cheerfully found a corner and squatted obediently.

Then—

She sneakily lifted her eyelids, trying to eavesdrop on the situation ahead, but immediately locked eyes with the cold gaze of the young man.

Chapter 513: Passing the Buck

Ji You sneakily lifted her eyelids, and inadvertently, her gaze collided with the youth's pair of clear, cold eyes...

Ji You: "..."

Ji You tugged at the corner of her mouth, smiling: "Hey—"

Youth: "..."

Youth in a soft voice: "Hello."

After exchanging polite greetings, both turned their heads away. The youth concentrated on looking at Zhang Si and Mu Jianling, while Ji You squatted in the corner, bowing her head to count her toes.

1.

2.

3.

...

Pah!

After counting again and again, there are only 10 toes.

Not counting anymore.

Boring.

Ji You appeared utterly bored on the surface, but her heart was pricked by endless curiosity: What's going on?

What's going on?

What's going on?

Here, the tension between Mu Jianling and Zhang Si which started from under-the-table moves, gradually escalated into outright self-deprecation in public.

Mu Jianling with a cold eye: "Here at the Military Academy, the place is small, always bustling and noisy, not suitable for cultivation."

Zhang Si smiled and said, "The bustle has its advantages, better than our endless farms at the Agricultural College where you can't even find someone to chat with."

Mu Jianling: "Heh..."

Zhang Si: "Heh..."

Silence.

A few seconds later, Zhang Si forced a smile on his face and continued, "The Agricultural College seems peaceful, but it can get rowdy too. Besides, our batch of chicken students are good at farming, but utterly hopeless in a fight. Not just the students' Combat Power is weak, but not a single teacher is worth mentioning either, alas! So, the security is just not up to the mark."

Mu Jianling: "Oh— I think your Combat Power alone is enough."

Zhang Si: "..."

Zhang Si: "Heh..."

Silence.

Mu Jianling crossed her arms.

The fake smile hung on Zhang Si's face.

The dead silence at the scene...

The pressure was very low.

Hiding in the corner, Ji You, shivering together with the hundreds of male, female, young, white, and gray rabbits...

Holy moly~

The dual horrors of pressure were simply breath-taking.

Then——

Ji You stealthily noticed the quiet-looking youth standing behind Aunt Zhang, his fair and pretty face gradually turning pale...

This subtle change was soon noticed by Mu Jianling and Zhang Si, who were in the midst of their clash, as both simultaneously retracted their spiritual power.

The youth gasped lightly.

Ji You pretended not to notice these abnormalities, continuing to bow her head and silently count her toes.

Then——

Zhang Si suddenly laughed and said, "Fu Feng, go over there and play with peers your age. I have something to discuss with Teacher Mu."

Upon finishing her sentence, she raised her hand, pointing in Ji You's direction, the message clear.

Ji You: "..."

The youth silently moved his feet, taking a few steps towards Ji You's direction. Upon reaching Ji You's side, he stopped, then slowly, ever so slowly, he squatted down.

Ji You: "..."

On this side.

The confrontation between Zhang Si and Mu Jianling evolved from self-deprecation to verbal sparring.

Mu Jianling said: "With the Agricultural College being such a mess, you, Zhang Si, should be the first to apologize."

Zhang Si scoffed coldly: "The Military Academy has indeed developed well in the past two years, but it's all thanks to you being shameless."

Mu Jianling's eyes were extremely cold: "Zhang Si, while standing on the grounds of Lanyue Star Military Academy, watch your tone."

Zhang Si raised an eyebrow, snorted lightly: "Wanna fight?"

Mu Jianling: "Don't be ungrateful."

Zhang Si rolled up her sleeves, smilingly said: "Come at me!"

Mu Jianling squinted his eyes and suddenly drew a longsword from his Space Button—

Only to hear—

With a swift shing sound, a dazzling white light flashed, and Mu Jianling stood with his sword, his pair of black eyes coldly looking towards Zhang Si.

Zhang Si was not to be outdone, his hand shot up suddenly, and a huge axe appeared out of thin air—

Zhang Si, holding the massive axe, confronted Mu Jianling...

Ji You: "!!!"

Ji You gaped, taking a long time to react—

What's happening?

Did they start fighting just like that?

Also, Aunt Zhang, with her gentle and delicate image, has a huge axe as her personal weapon...

That is simply—

So domineering.

It's even more domineering and imposing than my own Big Chopper.

Ji You stared with wide eyes, clicking her tongue in amazement.

Then—

That look of envy and admiration from Ji You seemed to have been noticed by Mu Jianling, who glanced over casually.

Ji You shivered all over.

Terrifying.

Ji You hurriedly exclaimed: "Damn! Teacher Mu looks so handsome! So cool! Holding a sword, peerlessly and uniquely, wandering the world!"

Mu Jianling: "..."

Zhang Si: "..."

Faced with Teacher Mu's complex gaze and Aunt Zhang's threatening expression, Ji You weakly, in a small voice: "Of course, Aunt Zhang is also a bit... handsome..."

Zhang Si: "Pfft—"

After Ji You's comedic relief, the tension on the scene dissipated in an instant—

Mu Jianling sheathed his sword.

Zhang Si withdrew her axe.

...

Watching this scene, Ji You suddenly felt a bit regretful: I really wonder, if they truly fought, who would be more powerful?

Privately, Ji You definitely hoped that Teacher Mu would win.

But—

This Aunt Zhang, who doesn't seem very strong, also has some tricks up her sleeve, effortlessly dispersing Teacher Mu's formidable deterrence, which kind of creeps out Ji You...

Then.

Mu Jianling and Zhang Si started to quarrel again, but this time their tone was more peaceful, not as hostile.

What aroused Ji You's curiosity more wasn't the two uncivilly bickering teachers, but the youth 'Fu Feng' in the corner.

The quiet youth squatting in the corner, his long, fair hand, kept drawing indiscernible ghost talismans on the floor, seemingly indifferent to everything happening before him, utterly unaffected.

Ji You: "..."

Driven by curiosity, Ji You couldn't help but naughtily asked: "Big bro, what's up with you, why don't you care?"

The youth: "..."

With pursed lips, the youth said: "Playing kick-the-can, once they're done kicking, it's all over."

Ji You: "Huh???"

The youth, lips pursed: "I'm that can."

Ji You: "..."

For a moment, Ji You didn't know whether to feel sympathy or... sympathy...

So, Ji You could only raise her hand, scratching her head awkwardly, her lips twitching with a forced laugh: "Hahaha... you're really funny."

The youth remained silent.

Suddenly—

Mu Jianling and Zhang Si, who were arguing without a clear winner, suddenly turned their faces together, looking at the youth, and said: "Fu Feng, tell us, which school do you prefer?"

The youth, with his head down, a touch of helpless indifference flashing across his face, then lifted his head; instead of answering, he suddenly pointed at Ji You and asked a question totally irrelevant to the others': "Which department is she from?"

Ji You: "..."

It's over!

Teacher Mu's face darkened completely.

A smile appeared on the corners of Zhang Si's lips.

Ji You opened her mouth, not understanding what had just happened. After a while, she said in frustration: "Young bro, what are you talking about? Why do I feel like disaster is about to strike me?"

Chapter 514: Innocent Passerby

Ji You furrowed her brows as she asked.

The boy remained silent, lifting his eyes to gaze at the girl in the corner whose whole face was scrunched up like a steamed bun...

Little bro?

Um...

Weren't you just calling me big bro a moment ago?

At this moment—

Ji You's glabella was so furrowed she could squash a fly, and she had the feeling that she was about to face a major disaster because—Teacher Mu Jianling's brow was no longer just fly-squashing; it looked ready to snap and eat someone.

Terrifying...

Terrifying indeed!

Zhang Si's smile deepened at the corners of his mouth. Seeing that neither Ji You nor Mu Jianling replied, he took the initiative to say with a smile, "This is our new student Ji You, from the Mecha Battle Department of this year, Fu Feng. If you're interested in Mecha Battle, it just so happens that Teacher Mu Jianling is the most formidable Combat Department instructor in the All Alliance."

Upon hearing Zhang Si's words, the boy's clean face broke into a docile smile, and he even sneakily craned his neck to take a careful peek at the cold-faced Mu Jianling.

Mu Jianling, with her arms crossed, coolly said, "Zhang Si, don't make unnecessary moves, let him choose for himself."

Zhang Si's lips curled into a smile as he said, "Fu Feng, take your time to think it over, we won't interfere with you."

The boy didn't answer right away but lowered his head, pondering.

Ji You, shivering in the corner like a rabbit, watched the scene unfold and how could she not realize what the boy means by 'passing the buck'?

Apparently...

Neither Aunt Zhang nor Teacher Mu wanted to take in the boy, and were squabbling over it.

And—

The reason?

Ji You was still figuring it out when suddenly, the boy with the beautiful eyes looked at Mu Jianling and extended a well-defined finger to point at Ji You, saying softly, "I want to study in the same department as her."

Ji You: "!!!"

Ji You incredulously exclaimed, "What the hell! What grudge do I have against you?"

The boy who spoke those words lowered his head.

Mu Jianling swept a fleeting look at Ji You, the coldness in her eyes solidifying into ice.

Ji You tightened her neck, wishing she could pretend to be the carbon dioxide in the air...

Zhang Si's face was all smiles as he asked softly, "Fu Feng, have you made up your mind? Your body might not be well-suited to strenuous activities. If you really want to enter the Combat Department, you need to measure your strength, alright?"

The boy nodded lightly, then cautiously asked, "Teacher Mu... Can I... join?"

Mu Jianling looked at him icily and after a few seconds, said, "Yes."

The boy's beautiful eyes instantly lit up with a bright light, but—

Mu Jianling dropped a comment and walked away.

A hint of dimness appeared in the boy's eyes.

Zhang Si raised his hand to pet the top of the boy's head, soothing him, "That's just the way Teacher Mu is—sharp-tongued but with a soft heart. Fu Feng, do you still want to take care of the rabbits? Aunt Zhang will send 500 over for you, how's that?"

The boy pursed his lips, unsure of how to respond.

Beside them, Ji You's eyes suddenly widened!

Holy crap!

500!

That's a huge deal!

You see, these are all natural food we're talking about—the ridiculously expensive kind! At the beginning of the school year, in the training ground, she and her classmates ate just a few rabbits, and Principal Hong nearly deducted all their points over it. Even now, the thought made Ji You's heart ache.

Now, Aunt Zhang casually offered to send this boy 500!

Could it be—

As Ji You guessed, this boy was Aunt Zhang's illegitimate son?

Seeming to notice Ji You's strange gaze, Zhang Si suddenly turned her head and glanced at Ji You.

Ji You: "..."

Although the look seemed kind and benevolent, Ji You couldn't shake off the creepy feeling inside. But Ji You had always been faint-hearted and, in such a situation, she mustered up her courage to say, "Aunt Zhang, I'm quite fond of rabbits too, you see..."

Zhang Si: "..."

Ji You, with a tingling scalp, added, "I wouldn't mind a hundred or eighty..."

Zhang Si smiled and said, "Ji You, I have something else to deal with, so I'll be taking my leave."

After speaking, Zhang Si led Fu Feng towards the gate of the rabbit shed, and in the blink of an eye, both of them were out of sight.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You glared with wide eyes: "Just like that, leaving? Not even a few more words?"

Then—

Less than two seconds later, Ji You received a message. She opened it and her face instantly turned as bitter as a gourd.

Mu Jianling: [Additional punishment: sweep the rabbit shed for one month.]

Ji You's hands trembled, almost disbelieving her own eyes. Steeling herself, she sent a message to Teacher Mu Jianling: [Teacher... can you tell me what I did wrong?]

She—

was just an innocent passerby, someone who just cleaned the rabbit shed.

Why, oh why did the buck stop with Teacher Mu Jianling, and why was she being blamed for it?

Ding—

Mu Jianling: [Because you're an eyesore.]

Ji You: "..."

Ji You touched her face, which had been swollen like a pig's head by the Little Robot, full of pits and bumps, indeed somewhat an eyesore.

But!!!

Was this the capricious reason from Teacher Mu Jianling?

Was this her reason for personally attacking me?

This...

THIS!!!

Who told you to mess with a big shot!

Remembering the stack of contracts, Ji You dared not speak her fury, and under her utter heartbreak, she howled:

"Ah ah ah!!!!!!!"

"I hate this unjust world!"

"I hate how twisted society has become!"

"I hate that the human heart is no longer simple!"

...

As Ji You continued to howl, the already trembling little rabbits became even more terrified. They huddled together, head to head, bodies squeezed into one another, forming a ball... and then, all the males and females in the rabbit shed went crazy, baring their teeth and jumping around in the direction of Ji You...

All along, Lin Lele, who was as if invisible throughout the ordeal, suddenly spoke up: "Can you stop yelling? You're scaring the rabbits to death."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's mouth twitched, "Sorry, I got a little too emotional."

Saying that—

Ji You tried her best to restrain the spiritual power she was emitting... She turned her head and asked in some surprise: "You... where did you just go?"

Lin Lele: "..."

Lin Lele, with a dark face: "I've been here the whole time."

Ji You, with her mouth agape: "Holy shit! How did you manage to be invisible the entire time?" If she had this skill, she wouldn't have been lashed out at by Teacher Mu Jianling, wouldn't have been used by that detestable Aunt Zhang as a scapegoat, and most importantly, wouldn't be carrying the can for that damned Fu Feng.

Lin Lele: "..."

Lin Lele, with a dark face: "Even if I'm weak, what's it to you? Need you mock me?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You raised her hand, scratching her head, "Hahaha... I didn't realize that was the reason."

Poor thing...

To be neglected because of being weak.

Thinking that, Ji You immediately felt that having to shoulder some blame wasn't too hard to accept.

Seeing the sympathetic look on Ji You's face made Lin Lele's face darken even more.

Ji You looked on, then changed the subject, "Speaking of which, what's with that Fu Feng, why do both Teacher Mu and Aunt Zhang seem to dislike him so much?"

Chapter 515: A Flood of Heavenly Dog Drama

Ji You asked this question, merely murmuring to herself, not expecting an answer.

But!!!

Lin Lele suddenly said: "Don't you watch any international news at all?"

Ji You tilted her head: "Huh?"

What does this have to do with international news?

Lin Lele's mouth twitched slightly, somewhat speechlessly saying: "You've seen the news from the neighboring Empire, right?"

Ji You blinked: "Huh?"

Lin Lele: "..."

Lin Lele, with an incredulous face, said: "You've seen the recent news from the neighboring Empire, right? That person just now, was the deposed crown prince."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You: "!!!"

Ji You, shaking, asked in disbelief: "You... you're joking, right?"

Lin Lele humphed lightly, with a touch of disdain: "Joking with you? Am I that close to you?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath and said: "Indeed we're not close. But!!! Can you not blurt out something so frightening all of a sudden, please?"

Lin Lele raised an eyebrow: "That frightening?"

Ji You nodded vigorously: "A bit."

Lin Lele suddenly crossed her arms, her tone disdainful: "A country bumpkin who's never seen the world."

With that said.

She immediately turned her back, no longer paying any attention to Ji You.

Ji You, still blinking, was somewhat bewildered: "That Fu Feng just now, was he really the deposed crown prince from next door?"

Lin Lele, with her back to Ji You, clearly didn't want to answer such a foolish question, and even quickened her pace to clean the white rabbit shed!

Ji You didn't care if Lin Lele wanted to talk to her or not, she opened her mouth, clicking her tongue: "How did the deposed crown prince from next door end up in our Alliance? That's a bit strange. Was he, perhaps, kicked out into the street?"

While speaking.

Ji You continued clicking her tongue: "What a pitiful crown prince, unemployed, kicked out onto the street, and... and treated like a kicked around ball despised by everyone..." Now that she understood his identity, Ji You also began to understand why Teacher Mu Jianling and Aunt Zhang had been passing the buck.

This—

The title of deposed crown prince was a hot potato.

And a deposed crown prince from a neighboring country was even hotter to handle.

Who wouldn't want to throw that away?

Though deposed and unemployed, he was still the Emperor's son, one shake of his stature, and he could cause rivers of blood... Ah spit! It's not that exaggerated, but his father is the Emperor, and despite being unemployed, he still holds the noble title of Prince...

Besides, since he is the deposed crown prince from a neighboring country, if mishandled, it might become a huge issue that jeopardizes the diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Ah!

No wonder Teacher Mu Jianling and Aunt Zhang did not want to take responsibility.

Whoever held the deposed crown prince had to serve him well, protect him; otherwise, if anything happened to him on Alliance territory, the one who ends up unlucky is certainly the unwilling recipient...

So—

Teacher Mu Jianling really has it tough.

It's really tragic.

Of course, being implicated by the deposed Crown Prince, this great Buddha, my own situation is also truly miserable...

Thinking about the extra month of cleaning duty in the rabbit shed I inexplicably received as a punishment, Ji You couldn't help but struggle to find it amusing: "This deposed Crown Prince is really a curse! What's he doing coming to our school?"

"Living in his grand Prince Mansion, bearing the title of Prince, served by crowds of Palace Maids... isn't that cozy for him?"

"Why come to our little place to nest?"

Bent over, sweeping with a broom, pinching her nose, Lin Lele, upon hearing this, couldn't hold back any longer, and said: "Don't you watch the news, or at least understand the international situation at all? The deposed Crown Prince's mother, Empress Xia Man, is from our Alliance's Lanyue Star, and the Crown Prince's maternal family is the local noble Xia Family of Lanyue Star. Get it now? Back then, the relationship between the Alliance and the Empire was tense, on the brink of war; if it weren't for the presence of Empress Xia Man, it's possible the two sides would have gone to war long ago. It was precisely because of Empress Xia Man that an internal war among humans was avoided, as well as the sacrifice of countless innocent people and warriors."

When Lin Lele said this, her tone was imbued with sincere admiration. Then, suddenly changing the subject, she glared fiercely at Ji You and said, "And one more thing! The Galaxy Empire doesn't have the inhumane profession of eunuchs! Don't flaunt your filth as ignorance."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You opened her mouth, "I just said it without thinking. No other implications..."

Lin Lele looked genuinely shocked by Ji You and also suppressed by her own forcefulness. For a moment, she got a bit carried away, and her box of words opened up, saying: "Empress Xia Man and the Emperor of the Empire were truly in love when they got married, and it was because of her that the relationship between the Alliance and the Empire softened. Unfortunately, Empress Xia Man died young, otherwise... the relationship between the Alliance and the Empire would not have become tense again..."

Ji You: "..."

She...

She really didn't know.

Just surviving with difficulty, improving her strength, to ensure her own survival in the possible imminent Beast Tide, and to protect her friends and family... she was already busy enough, she really didn't have the time for gossip.

Besides, Xiao You clearly wasn't the type to gossip; regarding these matters, perhaps Xiao You didn't care at all, which is why Ji You didn't know from Xiao You's memories.

Moreover, how does listening to the gossip of the Galaxy Empire's Royal Family always feel like a huge pot of melodrama?

Empress Xia Man and the Emperor were truly in love, so Empress Xia Man died young?

The Emperor remarried the new Empress as soon as she passed away?

And, the new Empress gave birth to the Second Prince within just a few months?

Seems...

The age difference between the Second Prince and the deposed Crown Prince Fu Feng isn't much either.

Tsk!

Ji You didn't dare to think any further. If she did, she could write a melodramatic court drama of several million words by herself.

On this side.

Lin Lele spoke with admiration and reverence: "Empress Xia Man is undoubtedly one of the most outstanding figures of our time, and also the most beautiful. When I was a child, my mother took me to visit the Empire, and we even toured Empress Xia Man's other palace. There, I saw many of Empress Xia Man's daily holographic images, really, really, she was very beautiful! Even without fancy attire or makeup, she was hundreds of times more beautiful than the current Queen."

Ji You kept silent, mainly because she had never seen a photo of Empress Xia Man and had no idea how attractive she really was.

Lin Lele grew more and more excited and couldn't care less that her audience was Ji You, whom she detested. She continued: "Speaking of which, Prince Ji has features very similar to Empress Xia Man. When I first saw him, I was shocked and thought I saw wrong."

Ji You: "He is... somewhat handsome."

Just—

Just—

Just this Fu Feng, always seems a bit bad!

What grudge do I hold against him? Why is he framing me for a punishment, aaah?

Ji You couldn't believe that even if Fu Feng didn't mention her, just by saying he chose Lanyue Star Military Academy, teachers like Mu Jianling and the school administration couldn't refuse him.

So—

Why bother to wrong me?

Chapter 516: Not Playing Fair

Rabbit shed.

Hundreds of rabbits, hopping up and down incessantly; Ji You had tried half the day but still couldn't manage them. When she took a glance over at Lin Lele's side, the people and rabbits were in perfect

harmony. Ji You couldn't hold back anymore and roared into the Spiritual World: "Whoever dares to make another racket, I'm docking your rations for a month."

In an instant—

Six Strands fell silent as cicadas in winter.

Then—

Ji You found that the rabbits around her were still trembling, a few of them even started kicking up their legs and convulsing...

Ji You got anxious, "What's going on?"

If the rabbits died, wouldn't she have to compensate with money?

Heaven knows, she was just here to clean.

Heaven knows, she is just a humble cleaner.

...

No way—

Seeing the little rabbits about to kick the bucket, Ji You hurriedly left the rabbit shed. In her panic, she was somewhat at her wit's end and messaged her friends in the group chat: [Help, how to give emergency aid to dying rabbits?]

The message was sent, and within two seconds.

Yue Qiyuan: [Mouth-to-mouth resuscitation?]

Yue Qiguang: [Set up for barbecue?]

Chu Jiaojiao: [Spicy dry-fried?]

Sheng Qingyan: [Why make it so complicated? Just send them to the canteen and be done with it.]

Shen Changqing: [You could ask Dr. Luo for help.]

The more Ji You read, the darker her face got, until she saw Shen Changqing's reply and felt it was slightly more reasonable. Indeed, among everyone, only Shen Changqing, the honest guy, seemed vaguely reliable.

Vaguely.

Because—

Shen Changqing: [But Dr. Luo isn't a vet, probably can't rescue them, so you might as well report directly to the canteen.]

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's face turned completely dark.

But still, Ji You held back her irritation with these vexing people and sent a very humble message: [@everyone, what do you all think of me? I've been a good bro, right? I... I have something I want to...]

In an instant—

Yue Qiguang: [Don't know who that is.]

Yue Qiyuan: [Who's this?]

Sheng Qingyan: [No idea.]

Chu Jiaojiao: [Vaguely remember... her face is really pretty.]

Shen Changqing: [Cough... I've got a match to go to.]

Ji You: "..."

In an instant, everyone had run off without a trace.

Ji You: [Don't run! I'm not making you help me clean the rabbit shed, I've got some big gossip I want to spill!]

No one.

Dead silence...

Ji You waited a minute, but nobody replied. Her smile stiffened for a few seconds before she stamped her foot hard and said, "I really have major gossip to tell you all, we have a deposed Crown Prince coming to our school ahhh..."

Before Ji You could send out this message, the rabbit shed's management robot issued an alarm prompt: [Ji You, your cleaning task for today has not been completed. Please continue your efforts. If you exceed the allotted time, you will receive a punishment of an extra day.]

Ji You: "..."

Ji You glared at the robot, irritably said, "Nowadays, even robots can't be trusted."

Robot: "Ji You, please watch your language, otherwise, I will complain to the Robot Association about your malicious defamation of me."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath to quell her anger and mumbled, "Can't afford to provoke...better scoot off."

But regarding the fear the rabbits felt toward her, Ji You thought it over and decided it was still better to ask someone else, like Dr. Luo, Aunt Zhang, or Teacher Mu... After thinking it through, Aunt Zhang was clearly unreliable.

What about Teacher Mu?

Too scary, Ji You didn't dare.

So, Ji You called Dr. Luo first and explained the situation.

When Dr. Luo heard it, his eyes brightened, "You're saying the rabbits are afraid of you?"

Ji You nodded vigorously, "Yes! They act as if I'm going to eat them, all scared out of their wits."

Dr. Luo asked, "Do you want to eat them?"

Ji You was somewhat speechless, "Teacher, it's not really fair of you to ask that. To be honest, when I first saw them, I even planned out where to bury their bones."

Dr. Luo: "..."

Dr. Luo chastised, "Hold back those improper remarks. Logically speaking, with your current B-level spiritual power, if you don't intentionally release your power, ordinary people can't feel it. Even if small animals are more sensitive, they shouldn't feel threatened by you, unless..." He paused briefly then continued, "Thinking it over, it must be due to your Mutated Spiritual Power."

At this point, Dr. Luo laughed, "Wait a second, I'll send an assistant robot over to record some data, which can be included in the research of your spiritual power later. By the way, since being near the rabbits activates your spiritual power to such a degree, I'll talk to your teacher. From now on, you'll be responsible for cleaning the rabbit shed every day."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You glared, "Dr. Luo, aren't you being a bit unreasonable?" Teacher Mu Jianling initially punished her for a month, and then due to another incident added one more month. Ji You could accept that; it was still a fixed-term sentence. But now in Dr. Luo's hands, it magically became a life sentence...

Ji You was on the brink of tears.

Dr. Luo said with a smile, "No pain, no gain. Ji You, I believe in you."

Ji You: "..."

After listening to Dr. Luo for so long, not only did he not offer a constructive suggestion, he even dragged her into the endless pit of cleaning the rabbit shed indefinitely?

A few seconds after hanging up the communication with Dr. Luo, Mu Jianling suddenly sent a message: [I have received Dr. Luo's suggestion. After class, you are assigned to clean the rabbit shed for half an hour.]

Ji You covered her eyes, her hands trembling...

She wanted to cry...

But there were no tears...

Then.

Just when Ji You was about to ask Aunt Zhang how to communicate with the rabbits, she caught a glimpse out of the corner of her eye. A few of the rabbits, which were trembling all over as if they were about to expire, were now lively and hopping around, nibbling on green vegetables and carrots; and moreover, they were eating natural green vegetables and natural carrots...

Ji You: "..."

Good grief...

Nowadays, even rabbits could win an Oscar Little Golden Man.

Ji You on the other hand, tried hard half the day to rein in her spiritual power, but these rabbits seemed to have singled her out. As soon as they saw Ji You approach, they acted up in various ways, resulting in Ji You struggling mightily to barely manage to complete the cleaning task...

What about Lin Lele?

Lin Lele's spiritual power and physical strength were actually not low, but she was just not interested in attending the Military Academy. Moreover, she attended as a self-paid student, so she just came in every day to idle around. As a result, her true capabilities were not up to par. She could stand amidst the rabbits and none of them would notice her, which made her cleaning task extremely easy. After cleaning her assigned area, she immediately left everything and promptly departed, leaving Ji You to struggle alone in haste.

The Crown Prince, who had abdicated voluntarily from the Galaxy Empire and was now Prince Ji, actually came to Lanyue Star, and even chose Lanyue Star Military Academy—the news was sensational. Lin Lele was, after all, just an eighteen-year-old girl, with the nature of a young girl who loved to join in the excitement. As soon as she left the rabbit shed, she couldn't even bother to change her clothes, and immediately spread the news to a few of her friends. From one to ten, ten to a hundred...

In less than a moment, the entire Lanyue Star Military School was aware.

Chapter 517: Protection Fee

Ji You dragged her exhausted body back to the dormitory, hastily ate a nutrient solution, reviewed the Material Department's coursework, and then immediately went to sleep. As for the news about the deposed Crown Prince, it had already spread throughout the entire school. She wasn't concerned in the slightest, nor did she pay much attention.

The next day.

As usual, Ji You got up to go jogging, then after breakfast, she hitched a ride to class with Sheng Qingyan.

The moment she arrived at the Combat Department's training room, Ji You felt the atmosphere was somewhat unusual. What specifically was odd about it? She couldn't figure it out; students were gathered in groups, discussing in twos and threes...

Upon seeing Ji You come in, Zhang Ye was the first to rush over and ask, "Um... Ji You, were you at the rabbit shed yesterday?"

Ji You nodded: "Yes."

Zhang Ye made a face at her and chuckled, "What did you see?"

Ji You: "Rabbits."

Zhang Ye: "..."

Ji You: "Other than rabbits, what else could be in a rabbit shed?"

Zhang Ye rubbed his brow and said, "You can stop pretending now, just tell me, did you really see the former Crown Prince of the Galaxy Empire?"

Ji You suddenly realized and said, "How do you know?"

With flirtatious eyes, Zhang Ye pointed to the curious classmates all around, even patting Xuzhou's shoulder, and said, "It's not just me, even Little Zhouzhou, who barely leaves the house, is curious. Don't hide it any longer, if you have any juicy news, spill it quick."

Ji You looked up and, indeed, found herself quickly surrounded by people. Even Xuzhou was squeezing next to her, looking eager for gossip. Ji You looked at Xuzhou with some surprise and said, "Little Zhouzhou, I wouldn't have guessed you'd be interested in gossip?"

Xuzhou's face showed slight discomfort as he dropped his gaze.

Ji You chuckled and said, "Since Little Zhouzhou wants to know, of course, I have to tell him..."

She was about to speak—

Suddenly, the bell for class rang.

Zhang Ye urged, "Quick, tell us! Did the person really come to our class? I heard he's going to attend class with our Combat Department?"

Ji You opened her mouth—

"Cough..."

Mu Jianling, with a cold expression, walked into the training room and said, "What are you all doing gathered here? Sit down in your places right now."

All the students, in less than a second, obediently took their seats, sitting erect with their hands on their thighs, resembling elementary students awaiting inspection—none dared to act out at this time...

But—

At this point, there was no need for Ji You to answer, because everyone in the 131st batch of the Combat Department saw the handsome young man who followed Mu Jianling into the room.

This!

Could this be...

Without any further ado, Mu Jianling said, "Today, a new student has joined our Combat Department. You will train together from now on, so please take good care of him." Speaking to this point, Mu Jianling raised his hand, "Alright, new student, come over and greet your classmates."

Then, the young man standing beside Mu Jianling slowly made his way to the podium. His face seemed somewhat pale, devoid of any color, and in the light, his beautiful, pitch-black eyes quietly observed the students below.

Silence surrounded them.

The students all looked up at him.

The young man pursed his lips, seemingly unsure of how to begin or hesitating about something. After a few seconds, he finally said, "Liu Fufeng, please take good care of me."

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

That's it?

The students: "???"

Is that the whole introduction?

Students craned their necks, staring at the brief-spoken Liu Fufeng on stage, a bit surprised.

This...

Was kind of awkward.

But Liu Fufeng didn't speak again, standing upright on the podium.

Mu Jianling apparently didn't expect such a brief introduction either, originally planning to have him say a bit more. But seeing that Liu Fufeng wasn't speaking, he immediately gestured, "Alright, go find a seat for yourself."

On hearing this, Liu Fufeng nodded slightly, then lifted his foot and walked into the crowd of students.

One step.

Two steps.

Three steps.

...

Then, he suddenly stopped in front of Ji You and didn't move.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You pointed to the seat next to her and asked, "Do you want to sit here?"

Liu Fufeng didn't answer. Instead, he lowered his head and took out an item from his Space Button, which looked very expensive at first glance, and handed it to Ji You. He said softly, "I heard you are the strongest in the Combat Department. This is my protection fee, please accept it."

Ji You: "!!!"

Everyone around: "!!!"

In an instant — the whole training room erupted!

"Holy cow!"

"Ji You's the strongest?"

"Number 4444 is the strongest?"

"Did anyone ask me?"

"Did I, Yue Qiguang, agree to this?"

"Did I, Yue Qiyuan, agree to this?"

"Did I, Louise Carter, agree to this?"

"Did I, Lance Yuri, agree to this?"

"Ji You may be the prettiest, but the strongest is me! It's me, Chu Jiaojiao!"

"I, the world's number one Little Cutie, can't even bear to listen to this! How could a poor dead ghost possibly be the strongest?"

...

It must be said that the new student Liu Fufeng, upon arrival, with just two sentences totaling less than 50 words, had managed to flatten the entire ocean of people! It was easy to see that this person was obviously not going to be low-maintenance.

Ji You stared at the 'protection fee' in the hands of the former Crown Prince Liu Fufeng, quite salivating...

This!

This thing definitely looked very valuable, and who knows what it even was.

And—

Shouldn't you ask someone first before speaking?

The strongest in the Combat Department!

Ji You grinned so wide his teeth were showing: "Whoa there! Student Fufeng, you don't seem like much, but you've got a good eye."

Everyone around: "..."

Yue Qiguang was the first to object: "Shameless!"

Sheng Qingyan puffed her cheeks and said: "Even this Little Cutie can't stand to watch."

Xuzhou also muttered quietly: "The title of the strongest in the Combat Department is still quite disputed."

...

The students unanimously tskekd Ji You, ganging up on him. Ji You pointed at Liu Fufeng and said, "Look at those eyes of his! Dark and shiny, clearly very observant!"

Liu Fufeng: "..."

"And look at that mouth of his? Bright red, clearly he wouldn't tell a lie!"

Liu Fufeng: "..."

Ji You, hands on hips, laughed loudly: "Anyway! You all are just jealous of me! You're just envious of me!"

Liu Fufeng watched Ji You's triumphant smiling face, lowered his head slightly, and pushed the item in his hand a few inches closer to Ji You, saying, "This is my protection fee."

"Cough, cough..."

Suddenly——

Mu Jianling cleared his throat, and suddenly shouted loudly, frowning as he said, "What are you all standing around for? Aren't you going to train? Got too much free time, have we?"

Whoosh~

In an instant, the students scattered.

Mu Jianling looked at Liu Fufeng, frowned and said: "Put your stuff away, I don't allow any mess here. Also —— go do some stretching exercises, get used to the training rhythm. With me, don't think about slacking off; I don't allow any special treatment or exceptions!"

Liu Fufeng packed away the item, glanced at Ji You, then obediently walked away.

Mu Jianling glanced at Ji You and shouted loudly: "Number 4444, continue sparring with the Little Robot. If you can't last 10 minutes this time, you'll train for an extra hour."

Ji You: "..."

Then——

Ji You rolled up his sleeves, ready for a major battle with the Little Robot, when suddenly a flash of White Light appeared——

Bang!

Ji You was knocked to the ground! She was a bit dazed, wondering since when had the Little Robot's attacks become so ruthless? Just then, Ji You noticed a gaze focusing on her...

Seeing Ji You suddenly take a tumble, Liu Fufeng seemed a bit surprised, his calm eyes suddenly contracting sharply.

Then——

Everyone around burst into a roar of laughter: "Tsk! The strongest in the Combat Department!"

Ji You: "..."

Chapter 518: Reprimand

Ji You, who was kicked in the butt and fell to the ground by a Little Robot, had a slightly ugly expression on her face.

This!

This is frickin' embarrassing!

Laughter erupted all around: "Tsk! The Combat Department's strongest!"

Ji You got up, patted the dust off her butt, and faced the snickering of her classmates. Internally she felt so humiliated she wanted to slam her head against a wall, but outwardly she remained perfectly calm, just waved her hand with the air of a master and said, "Don't stare at me, I am just a bit cooler than you guys."

Everyone: "..."

Despite already knowing Ji You's shamelessness and thick skin, her maneuver still surprised everyone. After a moment of speechlessness, they shook their heads, forehead in hand: "Indeed, between me and invincibility, the only difference is a face as thick as a city wall."

Ji You chuckled and bowed with her hands clasped: "I concede! Thank you for letting me win!"

Liu Fufeng witnessed all of this, blinked his handsome eyes, and said: "Wow, what a bigshot!"

Everyone: "..."

Yue Qiguang couldn't hold back, and blurted out: "What's impressive about that? You must be blind!"

Liu Fufeng looked very serious and sincere, saying, "It's her thick skin that's impressive."

Ji You: "..."

Everyone: "..."

Immediately after, everyone started slapping their thighs: "Hahahaha....."

Ji You twitched at the corner of her mouth and couldn't help but say, "Student Fufeng, if you don't know how to speak, then speak less."

Liu Fufeng: "Okay."

Ji You held her forehead with her hand: "Little brother, what exactly are you trying to do? Don't try to flatter me, I haven't even taken your protection money yet!"

What does he mean by that?

Is he trying to suck up to me?

Doesn't seem like it.

Is he mocking me?

Doesn't seem like that either. His tone and expression are all very serious and earnest.

Then, in full view of everyone, Liu Fufeng suddenly took a few steps closer to Ji You and earnestly asked, "How much is the protection fee?"

Ji You: "???"

Everyone: "???"

Liu Fufeng hesitated for a moment, then seemed to make up his mind and said, "I can't pay too much at once, I don't have that much cash. Can I pay monthly? 500 thousand credit points a month, is that okay?"

"Holy shit!" Ji You stepped back in shock: "Big brother, are you serious?"

Liu Fufeng nodded: "Yes."

It seemed that everyone's shocked expressions made Liu Fufeng a bit embarrassed, so he explained: "I think you're very strong. Strong in every way."

There was a collective gasp around them, Sheng Qingyan covered her mouth directly, in a completely disheveled state, and with a tone as if even the universe's number one Little Cutie couldn't handle it, she said: "Can his blindness be cured at all?"

Everyone said in unison: "Looks pretty hopeless."

Ji You laughed out loud, "As it turns out, the blind ones are you guys!"

Everyone: "..."

Ji You slapped her thigh, laughing so hard she could barely stand up straight, and in that moment, someone approached silently and kicked out.

Clang—

Ji You got up from the ground, clenched her fists, and with a fierce look in her eyes, yelled at everyone around: "Who! Who's trying to do a sneak attack from behind!"

Mu Jianling, with arms crossed: "Me."

In a flash, Ji You instantly transformed her expression in front of everyone. Her face shifted from anger to a smile, and she approached Teacher Mu Jianling sheepishly, fawningly saying: "Teacher... how could you possibly trouble yourself to come over? It wouldn't be good if you strained your foot..."

Everyone: "..."

Mu Jianling's eyelid twitched, and he snapped: "So annoying, get lost."

Seeing that the alert was over, Ji You cheerfully ran off. In the blink of an eye, she sprinted from one end of the training field to the farthest end, so fast that describing her speed as a matter of life and death wouldn't be an overstatement.

Liu Fufeng watched Ji You's actions and moved to follow her.

At that moment—

Mu Jianling suddenly said: "Stop."

Liu Fufeng halted and cocked his head to ask: "Teacher... do you need something?"

Mu Jianling asked with an icy stare: "Are you very rich?"

Upon hearing this, Liu Fufeng pursed his lips and honestly replied: "I have a lot of fixed assets, but not much cash."

Mu Jianling drew out his tone, saying: "Oh—so you're saying you have quite a bit."

Liu Fufeng, hearing this, remained silent.

Mu Jianling, with a cold expression and even colder tone, said: "I've said it before, no one under my supervision gets special treatment, and that includes you. Otherwise, you might as well withdraw from Lanyue Star Military Academy voluntarily."

Liu Fufeng pursed his lips.

Mu Jianling continued: "From now on, all your school expenses will be converted to Alliance University points. As for how many points you have, that's for you to figure out. If you can't adapt, then withdraw on your own."

Liu Fufeng pursed his lips: "Okay."

Mu Jianling glanced at him, then swept his gaze across all the students in the training field. When they were touched by his icy gaze, all the students shrank their necks, pretending they were quails...

Mu Jianling, with arms folded, said: "So you all want to be the number one in the Combat Department?"

The students: "No, no, no..."

With arms crossed, Mu Jianling said: "The end-of-term exams are next month. Anyone who fails to pass the assessment faces make-up exams. What's the point in competing to be the strongest in the Combat Department? It's better to compete to be the first bear."

"Bear, as in the animal," Mu Jianling added.

"..." After hearing this, the students went silent.

"Now get back to training!" Mu Jianling commanded in a deep voice: "If I catch anyone slacking off, they will be punished with an extra hour."

In an instant, the students scattered in all directions.

Today's routine was group-based team training. Watching everyone else form teams while she was still alone, Ji You admitted she felt a disparity, but after continuous training against the Little Robots, Ji You actually understood Teacher Mu Jianling's painstaking efforts.

—He wanted to specifically train Ji You's Physical Strength.

Ji You's biggest weakness was not spiritual power, but her Physical Strength.

Having used a plethora of Medicine Baths and the Fierce Tiger Body Forging Technique, Ji You had trained for some time. Her Physical Strength still remained at Level D, but her bone and bloodline strengths had reached the critical threshold for a breakthrough...

If she put in a bit more effort during this period, she could probably break through to Level C all at once.

Do not underestimate this one-level promotion. In reality, compared to her original Level E weak constitution when she started school, Ji You's overall Physical Strength had undergone a qualitative leap. She used to pant after running a few steps; now she could run several laps around the dormitory area without losing her breath.

Previously, when piloting a real mecha in the training room, she could only manage about ten minutes of efficient operations before feeling physically overwhelmed. Now, piloting a Small Mecha, she could run at high speed for half an hour without needing to catch her breath.

However, despite her bloodline and bones both reaching their peak values and being on the verge of a breakthrough, she was stuck at the critical point and couldn't break through. It was only while practicing with the Little Robot these past few days that Ji You felt the barrier beginning to loosen.

This indicated the training was extremely effective.

Thus, even being scolded by Teacher Mu Jianling didn't bother Ji You at all; she focused on practicing against the Little Robot—

At that moment—

Chapter 519: Genetic Disease

At this moment—

Wearing a training suit, Liu Fufeng was taking a step and gasping for breath, slowly heading in Ji You's direction. Ji You watched him, this sickly figure, afraid that she might accidentally knock into him...

So, right after narrowly avoiding Little Robot, Ji You immediately leapt in another direction.

As Liu Fufeng passed by, he bowed his head, not looking at anyone throughout.

His thin and frail figure seemed so out of place against the lively training grounds...

Beside them.

Shen Changqing, who was quickly targeted and knocked out of the team battle by the enemy, suddenly said, "What's the significance of his choosing our school?"

As Shen Changqing's adversary, Yue Qiyuan, who was also targeted and forced out of the game due to his S-level spiritual power, touched his chin and said softly, "Maybe, he just wants to change the scenery to relax?"

Shen Changqing shook his head and said, "It's not that simple."

Yue Qiyuan frowned and said, "I rather wish it was simple." The centennial Beast Tide is approaching, and with current international affairs being constantly unstable, even interstellar pirates have been causing trouble frequently...

After all, Liu Fufeng is the abdicated Crown Prince of the Empire, with a sensitive identity. His appearance in Alliance territory, no matter how honorable the reasons he proclaims, makes people here feel uneasy.

While they were talking, Liu Fufeng almost stumbled, but each step he took was steady; it looked risky, but he didn't actually fall.

Shen Changqing let out a sigh of wishful thinking, "I hope that's the case."

Ji You dodged a fierce punch from Little Robot, then asked out loud, "What's up with this person? Why does he look like he's about to kick the bucket?"

Yue Qiyuan glanced at her, and just as Ji You failed to dodge Little Robot's blow to the face, getting hit squarely, Yue Qiyuan's mouth curved into a smile and teased, "Number 4444, does your face not hurt? Still in the mood to gossip, huh?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You retorted angrily, "What does it matter to you whether my face hurts?"

Yue Qiyuan, looking at the corner of his mouth, said, "Ruining my mood, be careful I sue you for destroying the city's appearance."

Ignoring him, Ji You rubbed her sore behind and hopped about dodging, then turned to Shen Changqing and asked, "Classmate Shen Changqing, do you know what's going on?"

How should I put it?

Ji You asked this because she felt that this unemployed Crown Prince of the Empire, who seemed as weak and harmless as a white flower, was in fact a black-hearted lotus.

The reason?

No reason.

Two words: Intuition!

Exactly.

It's that simple.

Ji You actually didn't quite believe that this black lotus could really be so weak?

But——

Looking at Liu Fufeng's weak appearance, it didn't seem faked, and for a moment, Ji You got a bit curious.

Upon hearing Ji You's question, Shen Changqing spoke in a low voice, "I heard that his Physical Strength's been weak since childhood, and for that reason, he requested to abdicate." Indeed, for this reason, after the Emperor consented to the Crown Prince's abdication request, although the Empire's citizens were dissatisfied with the Emperor's decision, they reluctantly accepted the outcome.

"Huh?" Ji You found it a bit strange: "In this day and age, are there still illnesses that can stump current medical technology?"

Amputated hands and feet can now have cells cultured and reimplanted, which reflects advanced medical technology, but Liu Fufeng's condition is incurable?

Yue Qiyuan said, "I guess it's a genetic illness."

Ji You widened her eyes, incredulously asking, "Is it that serious?"

Ji You knew about genetic diseases; nowadays, after generations of genetic enhancements, the average lifespan of humans could exceed 300 years, and commonly, women would be over 1.75 meters tall and men over 1.85 meters tall. Of course, Ji You, standing at 1.65 meters, is an exception and shouldn't be used as a reference.

The benefits of genetic enhancement include significant improvements in spiritual power and physical strength...

However, even now, there are still medical and technological challenges humanity cannot overcome. For instance, genetic diseases result from problems in the body's genetic chain. Those who suffer from these diseases have poor physical strength and spiritual power and appear sickly and frail, and they usually have a lifespan much shorter than that of a normal person... Of course, such diseases are extremely rare—out of hundreds of millions of people, there may not even be one or two.

And these diseases are incurable.

Of course, whether Liu Fufeng's condition is such, the Empire has never officially announced. Therefore, this is just Yue Qiyuan's speculation. Yue Qiyuan said, "This is just my guess, please don't spread it around."

Ji You nodded.

At that moment—

Liu Fufeng, who had been running around half the training ground, stopped and then lifted his head to look in the direction of Ji You, Yue Qiyuan, and Shen Changqing.

The three of them had sharp spiritual power and sensed his gaze instantly.

"Uh..." Yue Qiyuan touched his nose, "Talking about someone behind their back is not good, not good."

After saying that, he slipped away.

Shen Changqing also stood up and said: "I'm off."

Ji You no longer felt like gossiping and started to focus on her training. For some reason, whenever Ji You felt her strength had increased, the next day when she battled the Little Robot, she found that its strength had increased as well.

Confused, Ji You directly asked, "Are you cheating? I feel like you're faster today?"

The robot, with its electronic voice, answered routinely: "Please do not insult the dignity of a robot. Robots never cheat. My strength has increased because I have been instructed to upgrade my chip."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You retorted, "Isn't that the same as being ordered to cheat?"

The robot said, "How can obeying orders be considered cheating?"

As it spoke, it threw a punch at Ji You.

"Using this move again? You really think I'm easy to bully!" Ji You tilted her head, avoiding the blow, then lifted her leg and swept it out, attacking directly at the robot's chip—

Bang!

Right on target!

The robot almost toppled over due to Ji You's hit, but in less than half a second, it went on the offensive again.

Ji You concentrated her energy, forcefully exhaled and said: "Take a whiff of my carbon dioxide and die!"

The robot: "Sorry, I do not have a sense of taste."

Everything Ji You did was just a blind eye method; while saying that, she had already been preparing all her moves and released all her spiritual power, determined to hit her mark and disrupt the Little Robot's chip signal waves.

second!

All that was needed was 1 second for Ji You, and she could knock this annoying robot to the ground.

Boom—

As Ji You anticipated, the Little Robot crashed to the floor.

Using the same technique, Ji You kicked the Little Robot's butt hard and stood with her hands on her hips, laughing heartily: "Hahaha! This is called a gentleman's revenge, never too late, even after ten years!"

However—

Ji You's triumph lasted only two seconds before the robot forcefully flipped her onto the ground. The robot, looking at her lying there, said emotionlessly in its electronic voice, "Learned it. A gentleman's revenge, never too late, even after just 1 second."

Ji You, covering her face with her hands: "Yingyinging... you've changed! You've become worse."

Just as Ji You was fake crying and uncovered her eyes, she found herself looking into Liu Fufeng's clear eyes—

Ji You: "..."

Chapter 520: Watching the Show

Ji You withdrew her hand and found herself staring straight into Liu Fufeng's bright eyes. Both: "..."

Their gazes met, and they both fell silent for a moment...

Ji You felt a twinge in her heart and then heard Liu Fufeng say, "I was just passing by."

Ji You: "..."

Liu Fufeng asked, "Need help?"

With a stiff smile, Ji You replied, "How could you help?"

Liu Fufeng pondered seriously and then suggested, "Take a photo for evidence and file a complaint with the Robot Management Association against it?"

Ji You: "..."

Gratefully, Ji You said, "Thanks, onlooker, but please step aside."

Liu Fufeng: "Sure."

As soon as the words fell, Liu Fufeng stepped aside and continued jogging...

Throughout, Liu Fufeng did not glance sideways.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You scratched her head, mumbling to herself, "Is it just my imagination, or did this guy come here on purpose to laugh at me? Or what?"

During the short time Liu Fufeng was close by, Ji You could feel a slight spiritual fluctuation in the active Spiritual Network around her; the fluctuation did not cause any sense of crisis nor was it anything special... so, Ji You didn't pay it much attention at the time.

Looking at Liu Fufeng's slender and lean-back figure, Ji You grabbed her hair: Eh? That spiritual power fluctuation from just now, what exactly did it feel like? Why can't I seem to remember it all of a sudden, nor describe it?

At this moment—

The Little Robot suddenly said, "Ji You, are we going to continue fighting?"

Ji You shook off the fleeting thought she couldn't understand, glared at the unscathed Little Robot with gritted teeth, and declared, "Yeah!"

The Little Robot replied in a flat electronic voice, "However, I must clarify that my fight with you is approved by the Robot Management Association and is legal and compliant, so all complaints are invalid. The officer in charge is Teacher Mu Jianling, and if you have any objections, you may raise them with the officer."

Ji You: "..."

Somewhat speechless, Ji You said, "You cunning Little Robot, you want me to raise objections with Teacher Mu, are you trying to kill me? Stop talking nonsense and let's fight! Fight!"

The Little Robot said, "Please be ready."

Whoosh—

After a faint ping sound, the Little Robot, which had been standing still, disappeared from its spot in the blink of an eye. By the time Ji You realized, it was already behind her, about to smash its fist down on her head. Ji You bent over and narrowly avoided the attack.

The Little Robot immediately switched tactics, changing its punch to a kick—

Ji You's eyes rolled quickly, feigning a hit about to fall to the ground, Little Robot: "A trick?"

It hesitated for a slight moment...

With a sudden movement, Ji You grabbed one of the Little Robot's legs, clenched her teeth, and exerted all her energies, flinging it powerfully...

Clang—

The Little Robot crashed onto the floor, Ji You raised her hand and slammed down hard!

Whoosh—

The Little Robot had vanished from the spot, making Ji You's strike miss. A gust of wind passed behind her, and she was kicked in the rear, falling to the ground once again.

Ji You pounded her chest and stamped her feet in frustration: "Damn it! You're just taking advantage of me not being as fast as you!"

The Little Robot offered in a flat tone: "I am just making full use of my advantages."

Ji You gritted her teeth: "Again!"

Fell down.

"Again!"

Fell again.

"Again!"

"Again!"

"Again!"

...

Countless attacks, countless failures, countless beatings, Ji You felt so sore all over her body it was unbearable, and moreover, she felt her entire face was so swollen it couldn't even be looked at, guessing even her eyes had swelled into slits...

During this time, Liu Fufeng passed by countless times, glanced at Ji You countless times, and then continued jogging.

Besides Liu Fufeng, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiyuan, and others also came to watch Ji You become a laughingstock, and then, after Yue Qiyuan excessively taunted her a few times, he received indiscriminate attacks from Ji You and the Little Robot and was beaten until his face swelled up like a pig, which made Yue Qiyuan and the others no longer come to watch.

The bell signaling the end of the class rang, and Mu Jianling announced the end of the training—

Ji You collapsed on the ground, panting heavily: "Just a little bit more! It's just missing a little bit more."

Stuck at the critical point of a D-level Physical Strength, she was still unable to break through, which made Ji You a bit unwilling. She wanted to keep fighting, but the Little Robot began to act finicky, saying, "Sorry, I refuse, this is not within my working hours."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath: "You, a robot, have working hours too?"

The Little Robot remained silent and just shut down.

Ji You: "..."

At this moment, Mu Jianling, who had turned off the bloody soap drama, walked over and said, "Do you know why you can't break through?"

Ji You's face was bitter as she wailed, "Teacher... I don't know."

She really didn't know.

Mu Jianling looked at her coldly and snorted, "Because you always want to win with skill, but a real expert can handle ten sessions with just strength. I've said it before, the real battlefield, real combat—it all requires your full strength each time. Especially combat with a Star Beast, there's no room for you to hold back."

Ji You pursed her lips and said, "But... but Teacher, doesn't skill also count as part of strength?"

Mu Jianling glanced at her sideways: "You can't even beat a weak Little Robot, and you still think you can win with skill?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You with a pained face: "That hurts."

Mu Jianling didn't even look at Ji You, whose face was wrinkled like a pig's, and suddenly turned to Yue Qiguang, "Yue Qiguang, you try it."

Yue Qiguang was bouncing about, about to rush towards the cafeteria, but upon hearing Teacher Mu's words, he ran over immediately.

The Little Robot restarted.

The battle was ready to commence.

Yue Qiguang kept jogging, nimbly dodging the Little Robot's attempts to probe, and then suddenly threw a powerful punch!

Bang!

The Little Robot clattered onto the ground—

Crack!

At the same time, Ji You heard the sound of the Little Robot's arm breaking, she stared wide-eyed at the Little Robot that fell to the ground and couldn't get up: "You... you're kidding, right?"

The alarm of the Little Robot's internal system went off: [Warning, Master, my main control system is damaged and needs immediate repair, I will stop working after 10 seconds, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6...]

Ji You: "..."

Yue Qiguang withdrew his fist and looked at Ji You with slight disdain, then burst out laughing, "Idiot, dumbstruck, aren't you? But Dad's move here, you won't be able to learn."

Ji You: "..."

Mu Jianling waved her hand dismissively at Yue Qiguang, "Alright, you can get lost."

Yue Qiguang immediately turned and fawned over Teacher Mu saying, "Hey! Teacher, then I'm leaving, if you have any orders, I'll be at your beck and call."

Saying this, afraid that Teacher Mu might ask him for repair and maintenance costs for the Little Robot, Yue Qiguang ran away so fast it was like lightning, slipping out the door in less than a second.

Mu Jianling folded her arms in front of Ji You and said, "See?"

Ji You was speechless and choked up.

Mu Jianling said, "Do you think the gap between you and Yue Qiguang is just a little bit?"

Ji You had no words to respond.

Mu Jianling folded her arms at the elbows and said coldly, "With such weak Physical Strength, stop thinking about saving effort. You'll have to keep practicing the Fierce Tiger Body Forging Technique I gave you, as well as using Dr. Luo's Physical Strength Medicine Bath. As for the barrier between D-level and C-level, once you reach the Peak value, it will naturally break. If you feel you've hit the critical point and can't break through, it's only because you haven't reached your Peak value yet."

Ji You nodded vigorously: "Teacher, I understand."