

## Scavengers 521

### Chapter 521: The Detested Beggar

After each training session in the Combat Department, students who are injured during the training are required to stay and receive treatment from the treatment instrument to repair their damaged bodies, so as to prevent any lingering injuries.

Ji You lies in the Repairing Chamber, waiting for her body to be repaired. Just as she steps out of the Repairing Chamber, she comes face-to-face with Liu Fufeng.

Liu Fufeng's pupils contract slightly: "Ji You?"

Ji You is a bit puzzled and asks, "What's with that look as if you've seen a ghost?"

Liu Fufeng tightens his lips and says, "Your face..."

Ji You raises her hand to feel her face.

Upon touching it, she is shocked: "Holy shit! My face!"

Chu Jiaojiao, hearing Ji You's voice, rushes over frantically: "What happened? What happened?"

Like a gust of wind, even before she arrives, Chu Jiaojiao's anxious voice can already be heard: "What's with your face?"

Ji You touches her face, smiles broadly and says, "My pig face, it's gone! It's gone! Hahaha..."

Shen Changqing and Yue Qiyuan, following nearby: "..."

Chu Jiaojiao is absolutely overjoyed: "Oh my God!"

Staring at Ji You's flawless, white, and tender cheeks, Chu Jiaojiao clutches her chest fiercely, "Mama mia... I... I've fallen in love again."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You rolls her eyes and says, "Get ready to be heartbroken at any moment."

Chu Jiaojiao: "..."

Chu Jiaojiao, covering her face, the gaps between her fingers reveal a pair of bright, dark eyes, staring intently at Ji You's face: "I won't! I won't! I can't accept this terrifying thought again."

Ji You ignores her, turns around, and looks at the treatment instrument. She realizes it wasn't Mu Jianling being generous on his own initiative to repair her face, but instead—while everything else was free, just the facial repair alone deducted 5 points from Ji You.

points!

Instantly, Ji You feels such heartache that she can't breathe, and lets out a wail comparable to the slaughter of a pig: "Give me back my points! I don't even care about my face ahhh!!!"

Surroundings: "..."

Mu Jianling's voice is not loud, barely audible, as he casually throws out a sentence: "I ordered the repair. Any objections?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You immediately stops her howling, mumbles, and says, "Teacher... I really don't need the repair."

Seemingly afraid that Mu Jianling won't believe her, Ji You repeats herself, asserting her stance:  
"Really!"

"I don't need it!"

"I don't need it at all."

It's just a face.

Why would I need it?

Are points not more important?

Upon hearing this, Mu Jianling's lips curve slightly, seemingly in a good mood, his voice lifts slightly and says, "You still need to pick up your face. So, I've laid down a new rule: during training, if one suffers a facial injury, it will cost 5 points per point for mandatory repairs."

Having said that, Mu Jianling looks around, his gaze indifferent, and adds, "This rule applies to all of you."

The students: "..."

The students swallow their grievances, hardly able to vent them...

Mu Jianling strolls away leisurely and before leaving, he remarks: "A face is essential; how can you not want it?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You takes a deep breath, watching as Teacher Mu Jianling leaves, and then, with a complicated expression, she stares at the Little Robot and the treatment instrument which repaired her body... Both are devils, absolute devils.

And now, forced by Teacher Mu Jianling, when Ji You spars with the Little Robot or with her classmates in the future, she will need to be careful to protect her face, because if she turns into a pig face again, she will be forced to deduct 5 points to repair it.

Nearby.

Yue Qiyuan's eyes are filled with a deep sense of grievance as he looks at Ji You and before leaving, he remarks: "Troublemaker."

Ji You: "..."

Sheng Qingyan, also with an annoyed face, glares at Ji You and says: "You, a troublemaker, have angered Little Cutie so much."

Shen Changqing looked at Ji You for a few seconds, hesitating, and then blurted out before running away, "This time, I'm siding with Ayuan."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You grabbed her hair, "I'm the one being wronged here! I'm even worse off than you guys!"

Everyone else had left, leaving only Chu Jiaojiao, who was covering her face with both pain and surprise, almost like an actress possessed, said hesitantly, "Although I'm devastated about the points I'll lose, but... but as long as Ji You's face is alright, everything is worth it."

With that, she covered her mouth and ran away yingyingying.

Ji You raised a hand to her forehead and told herself to breathe in, breathe out, breathe in, breathe out...

Finally, she calmed down.

Then—

Ji You stared bewilderedly at Liu Fufeng, the crown prince standing beside her, asking, "What the heck, why are you sticking around me?"

And, with this look of wanting to say something yet stopping short and sneaking around, it really did not put Ji You at ease...

Seeing Ji You's questioning look, a hint of redness quietly flashed across Liu Fufeng's face.

As the redness quickly faded away, and just when Ji You thought her eyes were playing tricks on her, Liu Fufeng, who was standing like a little wife in front of Ji You, suddenly said, "Ji You, could you lend me 100,000 points?"

Whoosh~

In an instant, Ji You leapt up, "Dude! In broad daylight, don't scare people like that."

Liu Fufeng bowed his head, his face turning red, clearly feeling embarrassed, "Can... can you lend them to me?"

Ji You jumped back several meters in a blink of an eye, as if avoiding the plague, saying, "You've got the wrong person... I don't know you."

What a joke!

Asking for 100,000 points just like that could scare someone to death, okay?

Not to mention 100,000 points, Ji You wouldn't even lend 1 point.

What a joke!

Haven't you heard it's easy to borrow money, but hard to collect debts?

When borrowing money, they treat you like a lord, but when you come to collect the debt, you're treated like a nobody! About this, Ji You had already learned her lesson in her past life. Not to mention, she had also witnessed numerous examples on the internet of people refusing to pay back their debts.

No way!

Absolutely cannot lend!

And also!!!

The thing that Ji You couldn't figure out, she now completely understood, thoroughly!

Why did Liu Fufeng blatantly lie, flattering her as the strongest in the Combat Department?

He had this sneaky plan all along!

He wanted to sugarcoat his words, and once she was sweet-talked and dizzy, he would ask her for money, for points!

Despicable!

This seemingly soft and delicate white flower is actually a dark lotus at heart!

Utterly shameless!

Utterly detestable!

Watching Ji You's desperate avoidance, Liu Fufeng's expression darkened slightly, as he hesitantly spoke again, "Then... can you lend me 50,000?"

Ji You coldly responded, "I must be going."

Dropping those words, she immediately took off.

In the blink of an eye, Ji You was gone without a trace.

Liu Fufeng: "..."

Liu Fufeng opened his mouth, raising his hand intending to call her back, "5000... even 500 would do."

However—

Not only had Ji You vanished without a trace, but the surrounding poor and miserly students, upon hearing him openly asking Ji You for points, dispersed in an instant, and in the blink of an eye, not one was left.

Liu Fufeng: "..."

Borrowing money—does it really make one an object of contempt?

Chapter 522: Playing the Victim Won't Work

Canteen.

As if avoiding the plague, after dodging Liu Fufeng, Ji You hurried to the canteen, fortunately catching the canteen at the time they supplied natural food. She lined up at the window serving braised pork ribs.

The queue inched forward.

When it was Ji You's turn, she looked up to find herself facing Senior He Bi's scumbag face. Her mouth twitched as she said, "Serving food here, get me a serving of braised pork ribs."

He Bi's mouth twitched:

Serving food?

Ji You raised her hand, knocking on the window: "How's it going? Hurry it up, or I'll complain about you."

He Bi: "..."

He Bi said with a smile, "Awfully arrogant today, aren't we? But your pork ribs are gone."

Ji You's momentum disappeared instantly, like air from a popped balloon, deflating with a bang. She chuckled sheepishly, cozying up with a flattering smile, "Just kidding around, don't take it seriously, Senior."

He Bi: "I mind."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You with a pained expression said, "Senior, I don't usually have too many faults, it's just that I'm a bit foul-mouthed, please don't hold it against me."

He Bi: "Hmph!"

Ji You pandered with a fawning smile, "Senior, today you are truly incomparably handsome, unparalleled under the heavens."

As she spoke, Ji You's eyes were fixed unwaveringly on He Bi's hand—

That hand was already moving towards the braised pork ribs, and then, with a swoosh, scooped up a large spoonful!

Ji You's pupils constricted.

She tensely awaited the upcoming spoon shaking action...

And then—

Then she saw Senior He Bi scoop a big spoonful onto Ji You's plate.

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

piece!

pieces!

pieces!

...

At least 13 pieces! Maybe even 14!

Subsequently, He Bi handed over the plate to Ji You: "500 credit points, or 5 points, to be settled now, no credit allowed."

Ji You, trembling, hesitated to accept: "This is... really for me?"

He Bi drew his hand back: "Don't want it?"

"Want, want, want..." Ji You swiftly took it from him, fearing Senior He Bi would change his mind, and quickly transferred 500 credit points, saying, "Thank you so much, Senior! You are a full 1.8 meters tall today!"

He Bi: "..."

He Bi: "Insulting me, huh?"

"2.8 meters! 2.8 meters!" Ji You hastily corrected, "I was so excited, I kind of got all tongue-tied..."

He Bi waved his hand as if shooing a fly: "Get lost already!"

"He he he..." Ji You nearly bowed all the way down, "Your servant is leaving, leaving right away!"

Suddenly He Bi said, "Come back!"

Ji You, hugging her plate, was about to flee: "There's no taking back what's already given away."

He Bi: "..."

He Bi took a deep breath and asked, "Why use credit points?"

When Ji You heard this, her face showed a touch of melancholy, "I was scammed by the greedy, all my points are gone, yingyingying... Senior, could you lend me 100,000 points?"

He Bi's eyelid twitched: "..."

He Bi had heard about the first-year junior's business before, including her renting the Material Department's auditorium and having a bit of a tussle with Director Wang... After a moment of consideration and a quick thought, he understood how Ji You's points had disappeared. He felt a twinge of sympathy, but sympathy aside, lending points? Not even a landlord has surplus food. He Bi said with disgust, "Get lost! Quick about it! Otherwise, your pork ribs are gone!"

Ji You chuckled, blissfully clutching her plate and skedaddling. She found an empty table, guarding her plate with her hands and shoulders, and counted again—14 pieces!

She was right!

This scumbag He Bi had completely reformed.

And then—

From behind, Sheng Qingyan's ethereal voice floated over: "Someone saw you, oh."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You scowled: "Do you have the nose of a dog? Even when I'm hiding in a far-off corner, you can still find me?"

Sheng Qingyan stretched out her chopsticks to grab some ribs: "Finders keepers!"

Ji You pulled her arms in, protecting her food.

But somehow, Sheng Qingyan managed to sneak a piece of braised pork rib through a tiny gap with her chopsticks—so fast that Ji You didn't even react!

Sheng Qingyan popped the rib into her mouth, then said with a grin: "Snatched food does taste a bit better, huh."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You cursed: "I'm not in the mood to beat anyone up yet, so scram!"

Sheng Qingyan gave her a sidelong glance and dropped a remark: "If it wasn't for the extra braised pork ribs you had, I wouldn't have bothered coming over."

Saying so, she sauntered off.

Ji You nearly exploded with irritation.

Learning from the mistake, anxious that Sheng Qingyan—or other nuisances like Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao—might show up again, Ji You hugged her plate and lowered her head, licking all the remaining braised pork ribs.

Done!

Ji You finally felt a sense of relief.

Then—

She looked up, only to meet Liu Fufeng's gaze.

Liu Fufeng's fine features froze for a split second when he witnessed the girl's ridiculous actions, but it quickly passed, and with a slight purse of his lips, he softly asked: "Is this seat taken, Ji You?"

Ji You's mouth twitched as she shook her head: "No, it isn't."

Liu Fufeng was about to sit with his tray—

When Ji You suddenly said: "You can sit, but no borrowing money."

Liu Fufeng: "..."

Still bent over with impeccable manners and a straight back, Liu Fufeng hesitated over whether to sit down or not.

Then.

Liu Fufeng plopped down.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You was surprised and quipped: "I didn't expect you to have such thick skin."

Liu Fufeng: "..."

Liu Fufeng set down his tray, maintaining his upright posture, picked up a pair of chopsticks, slightly bowed his head, and took a single bean sprout...

It was only then that Ji You noticed what else he was eating:

Stir-fried bean sprouts on the side.

Ji You's mouth twitched:

Had she not witnessed this with her own eyes, she would never have believed it!

The noble Crown Prince of the Galaxy Empire! Ah, no! The former Crown Prince, now Prince Ji, was humbly eating a plate of stir-fried bean sprouts right in front of her—and upon closer inspection, these bean sprouts barely had any oil on them...

Tsk!

How pitiful!

One can only say, the world is full of wonders.

Seemingly detecting Ji You's speechless gaze, Liu Fufeng's face flushed with a hint of red as he explained: "I... I don't have enough points."

In class, Teacher Mu Jianling had spoken, making it clear that Liu Fufeng should not receive any special treatment and should be held even stricter than other students. All his expenses at the school had to be paid for with points.

A foreigner who had just arrived at the school, how could he possibly have any Alliance University points?

It was unthinkable.

This also explains why Liu Fufeng had wanted to borrow points from Ji You.

However—

At this moment, Ji You's sympathy had completely evaporated, and she replied defensively after hearing Liu Fufeng's words: "Acting pitiful won't work! I won't lend it no matter what!"

What a joke!

If acting pitiful could actually borrow you 100,000 points, she wouldn't have waited for Liu Fufeng to pull this stunt.

Ji You would have become filthy rich overnight.

Chapter 523: The Acting Rabbit

Liu Fufeng slightly lowered his head, revealing a smooth, pretty forehead...

Ji You ignored it and bent her head to gnaw on the ribs.

Liu Fufeng picked up his chopsticks and gently put the stir-fried bean sprouts into his mouth...

Ji You slurped on the ribs, getting her hands covered in oil.

Liu Fufeng swallowed the dry bean sprouts, followed it with a glass of water to mask the bland taste in his mouth, and then scooped a spoonful of white rice. Smelling the rich meat fragrance from across, he suddenly felt he couldn't swallow anymore, no matter what.

After a while.

Liu Fufeng ate the rice and drank a mouthful of clear water.

On the other hand, Ji You seemed to have not noticed and had already finished off the ribs and rice, even licking the plate clean. Afterward, she held her belly and let out a comfortable burp: "Ah—what wonderful food."

Liu Fufeng: "..."

From the corner of his eye, he noticed that there was still more than half of the food left on Liu Fufeng's plate. Ji You immediately showed a disapproving expression and said, "Student Fufeng, every grain of rice and every natural vegetable took a lot of resources to cultivate, so our food is very precious. Wasting it is particularly shameful."

Liu Fufeng: "..."

Liu Fufeng pursed his lips and whispered, "I understand."

Then, he lowered his head and struggled to finish the remaining food on his plate.

Honestly—

Even when he was a deposed Crown Prince fallen on hard times, Liu Fufeng had never eaten such poor fare as just water and bean sprouts. Now, he not only had to worry about his meals each day but also had to listen to a classmate righteously criticizing him...

For a moment, Liu Fufeng felt his morale breaking.

He pursed his lips, bowed his head, hiding all his grievances and sadness in the shadows...

However—

Ji You simply picked up her plate and walked away brashly.

Walked away.

Walked away.

With such decisiveness, as if she was completely indifferent to whether the Imperial Prince's acting was realistic or not...

Liu Fufeng lifted his head to watch her leaving, the surprise on his face not having time to dissipate...

Over here.

After finishing her meal and cleaning up the stables with her friends, Ji You went alone to clean the rabbit shed.

This time, the rabbits in the shed were still uncooperative, squealing as if holding deep grudges the moment they saw Ji You coming...

It took Ji You a lot of effort and she was still not done cleaning when she looked up and saw Lin Lele, who had finished and was clapping her hands ready to leave.

Ji You gaped: "You're done cleaning?"

Lin Lele, who was punished along with Ji You to clean the same rabbit shed, arrived later than Ji You and finished earlier. She took off her cleaning suit, saw Ji You's astonished expression, proudly tilted her head, and ignored her.

However—

Seeing Ji You's teetering look of breakdown, Lin Lele felt extremely pleased with herself. Before leaving, she smugly said, "Can't even handle a rabbit, stupid."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You yelled: "Come back! Let's get this straight! What do you mean by 'can't even handle a rabbit'?"

Lin Lele didn't turn back, continued walking, and said, "You want me to go back just because you say so? Who do you think you are?"

Ji You: "..."

She was looked down upon.

She was actually despised by Lin Lele, which felt outrageously unfair to her.

Ji You glared at the Spiritual Silk in her Spiritual World: "It's all your fault, can't you guys hold back your drool? Look at how scared the rabbits are."

Boss: [Master, impossible, wow.]

Second: [Master, can't do it, ah.]

Third: [Master, it's tough, oh so tough.]

Fourth was sitting on top of Old Five, pulling at its tail, [Master, if you don't drool, Sisi won't drool either.]

Upon hearing this, Ji You's face was strewn with black lines.

Old Five, fixated on the rabbits, couldn't shift his gaze: [Master, when do we eat the rabbits?]

Sixth chased after Boss' tail, [Master, how long are we going to raise the rabbits before we can eat them?]

Ji You lifted her hand to her forehead: "Forget it, talking about this with you food barrels, I must be sick."

Just then, a soft and sweet voice of a young girl suddenly echoed in Ji You's mind: [Sister...]

Ji You's eyes immediately lit up, and she exclaimed joyfully: "Xiao You, can you finally communicate with me again?"

Xiao You said happily: [Yeah.]

Ji You quickly asked, "How do you feel? Is there any discomfort?"

The last time Ji You's Spiritual World nearly collapsed, causing the Iron Plate and Xiao You, who were residing in Ji You's Spiritual World, to almost suffer a catastrophe. Fortunately, with the help of Mu Jianling, Doctor Luo, and Principal Hong, not only was the Spiritual World stabilized, but the Spirit Level was also greatly enhanced.

It can be said that it was a blessing in disguise.

But!

Since then, Ji You hasn't been able to communicate with Xiao You inside the Iron Plate, only vaguely knowing that Xiao You was okay, but she knew nothing about Xiao You's specific situation.

The girl's soft voice gently answered: [No problem, no discomfort. Sister, the space I'm in now has expanded.]

Ji You quickly followed up: "Expanded? How did it expand? What are the specifics inside?"

Xiao You pursed her lips, her voice tinged with excitement: [It's big, it's expanded a lot, my previous activity space was less than 10 square meters, now it's about 20 square meters.]

square meters...

For a moment, Ji You felt a pang of sorrow; her dear Xiao You, her daily activity space was only this tiny...

But!

This was already a wonderful surprise for Ji You. She remembered how she spent a fortune to buy Cloud Mist Tea from Teacher Mu Jianling, and that only added about 2-5 centimeters to the Iron Plate Space.

That's right.

A space of 2-5 centimeters.

Such a minor change, if it wasn't for Xiao You being inside and her confirming it was indeed only such a slight increase, Ji You would not have believed it.

Now, a blessing in disguise had doubled the space of the Iron Plate. Indeed, it was a great joy.

Xiao You continued: [Besides the space change, everything else is the same as before.]

Upon hearing this, Ji You felt quite disappointed: "Only the space increased, huh?"

No other abilities?

This Golden Finger...

Sigh!

I don't want to complain.

Xiao You nodded: [Yes, only the space increased, but I feel much more comfortable now. My heart has strengthened too.] It was originally only the size of a soybean, now it's as big as a peanut, when you reach out and gently touch it, you can feel a clear heartbeat...

Thump thump thump...

This gave Xiao You a feeling that she was still alive.

That's nice.

Hearing Xiao You's detailed explanation and description, Ji You's eyes sparkled, and she said with a smile: "Xiao You, let's keep going, I guess, as long as the Iron Plate's space keeps increasing, your heart will grow to the size of a normal human's, and even—"

Even—

She might regrow into a complete body.

Xiao You listened and squinted her eyes, softly laughing: [Yeah, Sister, I'm looking forward to it too.]

Ji You was communicating with Xiao You, but her hands never stopped working. She was holding a broom, sweeping the rabbit shed when suddenly, a rabbit started convulsing, foaming at the mouth...

Ji You glared: "Fuck! Not again!"

Does this acting rabbit not know that the same trick doesn't work twice?

Suddenly, Xiao You sensed Ji You's mood and asked a bit puzzled: [Sister, what's wrong?]

Ji You glared at the rabbit and asked in turn: [Xiao You, want some roast rabbit?]

Xiao You blushed slightly: [I do!]

Ji You put her hands on her hips: "Wait for this rabbit to kick the bucket, I'll roast it for you! My superb roast rabbit skills just happen to have no place to shine!"

The moment the words landed—

The foaming rabbit suddenly got up with a roll, and with a dart, vanished without a trace.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You: "Heh! Trying to show off your acting in front of your grandpa the acting emperor? I think you just don't find steaming spicy enough and want to be stir-fried, right?"

Chapter 524: Forcing Her Forward

With just a remark, Ji You successfully scared off the feigning dead rabbit. Suddenly, an idea came to her—she seemed to have found a way to handle these crafty rabbits!

Befriending them was useless!

She had to intimidate them!

If she didn't show them some color, they'd think they were vegetarians!

So—

Ji You placed her hands on her hips and pointed at a large, grey male rabbit, saying, "What's all the noise? You're the loudest; I'll eat you first."

The male rabbit: "..."

Then, Ji You pointed at a female rabbit darting about and said, "Why the jumping? Keep it up, and I'll stew you and your babies together."

The female rabbit: "..."

Next, Ji You lifted a curled-up baby rabbit and said, "What're you hiding for? You hardly have enough meat for two taels. Call your parents over!"

The baby rabbit: "..."

Suddenly, all the rabbits in the shed, which had been hopping around, became as quiet as chickens, not daring to move an inch.

Now content, Ji You said, "Stay put, all of you. I'll let you move after I've finished cleaning."

The rabbits curled up and trembled but really did follow Ji You's orders, not daring to stir...

Seizing the opportunity, Ji You grabbed the broom and quickly got to work.

Swoosh—

Swoosh—

Swoosh—

The rabbits were obedient, allowing Ji You to finish everything in just 10 minutes. She took off the cleaning suit, removed her mask, and after stepping outside the rabbit shed, felt like she could finally breathe fresh air again.

Then, not even a full minute after leaving the shed, Ji You heard an alarm go off.

Several rabbit shed management robots rushed into the shed and began administering emergency aid to several rabbits.

Ji You stopped in her tracks, thinking to herself that this wasn't good.

It was at that moment a rabbit shed management robot came out and told Ji You, "Student Ji You, due to your oversight (which upon investigation was confirmed to be an attempt at intimidating the rabbits), three female rabbits suffered from excessive fright and prematurely gave birth. Although we managed to save the rabbits and their babies, and they're not in grave danger, your actions caused severe psychological harm to the mother rabbits, potentially leading to depression. Therefore, Teacher Mu Jianling has been notified of your improper conduct, and as a punishment for your mistake, 100 points will be deducted. Let this be a lesson to you."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You clutched her chest, a bitter smile on her lips: "No... really?"

That serious?

The robot said: "Very serious. We hope you take this punishment as a lesson and correct your behavior promptly. Otherwise, if it happens again, the penalty will be doubled."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You was beyond tears now.

Speaking of which—how many points do I have left?

Still have 100?

Meanwhile—

Doctor Luo, hearing about the punishment given by Mu Jianling, was taken aback and said, "Jianling, aren't you being a bit too harsh on student Ji You?"

Mu Jianling raised an eyebrow: "Harsh?"

Doctor Luo counted on his fingers and said, "Director Wang took 100,000 points from her, your Body Building Technique cost her another 50,000, and with all my deductions, a few tens of thousands more... Oh my!"

Doctor Luo, having said this, couldn't help but feel sympathy, "Tsk tsk... this kid is really out of luck."

Mu Jianling's eyelid twitched as he retorted: "I also have rather bad luck when it comes to encountering her."

As he spoke, Mu Jianling looked down at the ring pendant around his neck...

Dr. Luo laughed so hard she was shaking all over. It took her a while to say, "Speaking of which, running into her was quite the misfortune for me, too. She's nearly exhausted the medical room's decades-worth of supplies. But that kid really doesn't show much promise. She's had no significant breakthrough in spiritual power or physical strength. Especially her physical strength—it's so weak...I could squish her to death with one hand."

Mu Jianling, arms folded, stated indifferently, "That's why we have to push her."

Dr. Luo smiled warmly, "Indeed, we do need to push her."

Thus—

The question of whether it's too cruel to push someone to the point of having zero points was no longer a concern for the two teachers.

In the eyes of the two teachers, what else could make a flat broke pauper understand the importance of hard work?

When someone is pushed to the brink of poverty, struggling even to afford meals, they must figure out a way to solve their problems, right?

...

Mu Jianling frowned and said, "But her control of spiritual power is still lacking. I hope she'll be smart enough to find the key to her problems soon." Cleaning the rabbit shed, where one needs to calm hundreds of easily frightened rabbits, actually trains one's control of spiritual power the most efficiently.

Dr. Luo stroked his chin and said, "Oh! I don't know if this kid is really dumb or just pretending to be. Lin Lele has a ready approach right beside her, and she doesn't even take the time to study and reflect on it..."

Mu Jianling, sounding a bit frustrated, said, "Who cares? If she can't figure it out on her own, just let her suffer more!"

Dr. Luo: "Agreed!"

...

Ji You had no clue about all this. Ever since she had terrified the rabbits, causing a mother rabbit to give birth prematurely and losing 100 points, Ji You just couldn't lift her spirits... even Xiao You inside the Iron Plate could clearly feel it.

Xiao You hesitated for a while before speaking up: [Sister! Sister! Don't be sad, I...I won't eat rabbits anymore.]

Ji You: "Huh?"

The girl's voice sounded somewhat guilty: [Sister...don't be sad, I...I won't eat rabbits anymore, so...don't be sad.]

Ji You: "..."

Ji You was both amused and annoyed, saying, "Xiao You, it's not your fault. I'm just crying over my own stupidity. I feel so dumb that it's depressing."

Xiao You blinked and asked, [Isn't sister very smart? Xiao You always thought that sister is the smartest person in the world.]

Ji You blushed with embarrassment for the first time when she heard Xiao You's words.

Cough!

Speaking of being smart, Ji You felt quite ashamed. She thought she was clever, but as Principal Hong said, it was all just petty cleverness; she lacked true wisdom. Otherwise, why would she keep doing such foolish things?

Take the incident with the rabbits, for example. It was an utterly brainless act. The rabbit shed cleaning guide clearly included risk warnings, but Ji You just had to defy the warnings and court disaster.

Losing 100 points was not unjust.

It's just—

Frustrating.

Xiao You asked, [Is cleaning the rabbit shed that difficult?]

Ji You replied with a wry smile, "Difficult!"

And difficult it was indeed.

One had to endure the stench of the rabbit shed and the emotional torment of the drama queen rabbits...

Apart from this dual torment, the key issue was resisting the urge to eat rabbit meat.

Cough cough!

Of course, she would not mention the last point to Xiao You.

Thinking it over, Xiao You said, [But sister, didn't you say that classmate Lin Lele managed it quite easily?]

Hm?

Ji You's eyes sparkled immediately, and she slapped her thigh in realization: "That's right! How did I not think of that?"

Chapter 525: Harmless

Ji You's eyes sparkled: "In what way is Lin Lele really better than me?"

Speaking of which, Ji You really didn't know much about Lin Lele, just that, like her, Lin Lele was also self-funded, paying for their school fees, and typically just there to get a diploma, not really loving to study at all.

Ji You had interacted with Lin Lele a few times, but even when close, she never felt her spiritual fluctuations, which proved that Lin Lele's spiritual power level probably wasn't all that great.

Why guess blindly when you can verify yourself?

Ji You directly called Sheng Qingyan.

After picking up, Sheng Qingyan showed an unhappy face: "What do you want? I'm squatting outside Green Glaze Master's store... If it's because of you that I miss the chance encounter with the Master, can you afford that responsibility?"

Ji You, after hearing this, was speechless: "Green Glaze Master has that much free time?"

Sheng Qingyan, with a frowning face, said: "That internet-famous Ah Da could be chosen by the Master to be a salesperson, why not me who is so outstanding and cute? I'm on lookout at the store because I want to self-recommend to the Master."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You couldn't help but say: "Come on, the Master would be blind to see you, how could he possibly choose you to be a salesperson?"

Sheng Qingyan's face showed unhappiness and denial, saying: "I'm not listening! I'm not listening! I'm not listening!" Mid-speech, Sheng Qingyan suddenly asked suspiciously: "Hey, poor dead, what do you actually want from me? Just to be clear, I won't lend money, nor points, nor Soul Devices, nor..."

Ji You's forehead throbbed: "Fine, fine, I don't want to borrow anything! I'm asking you about that Lin Lele, what is her talent? How much is her spiritual power?"

Sheng Qingyan rolled her eyes unceremoniously: "Why didn't you just say so... She's just a Double B-level talent... weak as can be, I could crush her with one hand!"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You said exasperatedly: "Blowing your own trumpet without a draft, thanks!"

Saying that, she was about to hang up.

Sheng Qingyan suddenly asked: "Hey, poor dead, want to come with me to the chance encounter with Green Glaze Master? Maybe one of us could be the next salesperson..."

Ji You uninterestedly said: "My aspiration is the stars and the sea! Not to be a mere sales clerk; you go if you like, but don't drag me into it."

With that, Ji You hung up directly.

Staring at the disconnected call, Sheng Qingyan muttered, "What a visionless one. If you clung to the Master's thigh, you wouldn't have to worry about travelling the stars and the sea?"

Of course, Ji You couldn't hear this sentence.

Ji You pondered: "Lin Lele is B-level Physical Strength, B-level spiritual power, but—so weak! I can't feel any threatening presence from her." It wasn't just Sheng Qingyan, even Ji You herself felt that she could beat Lin Lele, not just with one hand, but easily with both hands.

Lin Lele was a typical case of having talent but lacking practice and any combat skills... Such an empty shell, mere show with no substance; just a little more strength would easily take her down.

Ji You recalled carefully about Lin Lele and her behavior when cleaning the rabbit shed, her eyes brightened, and she laughed: "I get it now. She has such low Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate and basically

doesn't know how to use spiritual power, leading her effect on small animals to be completely harmless."

The rabbits couldn't sense any danger, nor any fear or anomaly, and of course, they wouldn't reject Lin Lele.

Xiao You nodded and added, "Sister, it should be like that. Your strands of Spiritual Silk are all too... too lively."

Originally, Xiao You wanted to say they were too horrible and too gluttonous... but after some thought, she chose a more euphemistic adjective.

Ji You was also a bit troubled and said, "With them being so lively, how am I supposed to control them? Make them look as pollution-free and harmless as Lin Lele's?"

Xiao You: "Cough cough..."

Ji You chuckled and said, "Just joking, this feels really hard."

That's because, even if Ji You bluntly threatened the Spiritual Silk, threatening to cut off their ration, the silks still couldn't completely eliminate their intimidating power... it wasn't that the Spiritual Silk was disobedient, but rather they were truly trying their best to contain the menace they naturally exuded...

Thinking of this, Ji You suddenly envied teachers like Mu Jianling and Principal Hong. These bigwig-like figures, their control over spiritual power was so effortless, to retract when they say retract, to release when they say release, especially Teacher Mu Jianling. Normally, during her time in the training room watching melodramatic TV series, she was just like a middle-aged auntie addicted to dramas, totally harmless... but once she gets angry, the entire training room could feel her pervasive Spiritual Pressure!

Ji You thought about it and envied: when can I achieve what Teacher Mu Jianling has?

Regarding this question, Xiao You was also a bit troubled: "Sis... Sister... I don't understand it either. What should we do?"

Ji You waved her hand and said, "Let's not worry about this for now; we can only experiment step by step." After all, for the foreseeable future, she'd be forced to clean the rabbit shed, where all the rabbits would be Ji You's test subjects... cough cough! They were partners to play with.

Having said that, Ji You suddenly became very serious and said, "Xiao You, I'm planning to officially challenge Xu Siyu soon, what do you think?"

Xiao You was startled: "Ah?"

Ji You said solemnly and quietly, "We can't delay this matter any longer. We don't want to stir up more trouble at school, but from time to time, there are still rumors spreading about our past plagiarism. Behind this, it's impossible that no one is fanning the flames. Whether it's Xu Siyu or not, this person's goal is certainly not to let me off easy. With that being the case, it's time to completely eradicate this stain on our reputation."

Xiao You's voice trembled lightly: "But... but Sister, we don't have any evidence."

It's because they had no evidence that they couldn't clear their names, allowing things to escalate to an uncontrollable situation and... also leading Xiao You to despair, with no other option, to take the most cowardly way out.

Ji You pursed her lips and said, "If we don't have evidence, then we'll find it."

Xiao You's heart quivered: "I... I don't know where to find it."

Ji You frowned and asked, "Back then, when you shared your ideas with her, did you leave anything behind? Like manuscripts, concept sketches... or anything that can prove your idea came before hers?"

Xiao You's face took on a bitter expression, curling up with her legs, burying her head between her arms, and said with a voice filled with bitterness, "I did. It was a manuscript. But... she borrowed it and never returned it to me."

Ji You asked, "Just the manuscript? Nothing else was left behind?"

Xiao You replied, "Mhm, only the manuscript, I didn't keep anything else. She also knew I didn't keep anything else, so she confidently slandered me."

Ji You's brows furrowed:

This indeed made things a bit difficult.

However—

Chapter 526: Running Into

Ji You furrowed her brows, deep in thought:

The manuscript that could directly prove Xiao You hadn't plagiarized had been tricked away by Xu Siyu and never returned. Ji You figured that Xu Siyu had definitely destroyed any trace of the manuscript long ago. Such an item, given Xu Siyu's caution, would certainly not be left behind. However... there wasn't no solution at all.

Ji You said softly, "Xiao You, do you still remember the content of the manuscript?"

Xiao You pursed her lips and replied, "I remember."

How could she not remember?

In the countless days after her death, she kept recalling the content, unable to understand how something that was clearly hers had become someone else's?

Ji You said, "Every detail, every word, are you sure you remember? It would be best if you could write a copy from memory."

Ji You had the memory, but after all, she wasn't Xiao You herself. Naturally, this task had to be left to Xiao You.

Xiao You nodded vigorously, saying, "I can!"

Ji You blinked and smiled, "Good. Then hurry and write the content of the manuscript from memory and send it to me. I'll take it from there when the time comes."

Xiao You's soul resided in the Iron Plate, while the Iron Plate resided in Ji You's Spiritual World. All communication between Ji You and Xiao You was through a Spiritual Connection. As long as Xiao You wrote down the manuscript content from memory, Ji You would know the details.

Xiao You said, "Sister, I'll write it now."

Ji You thought for a moment and then added, "The original concept was just a rough version, but we've already got an improved version, haven't we? Write down that improved version in a systematic manner, too."

Xiao You nodded, "Hmm, I will do it well."

Speaking of which, Ji You's talent was in creating Soul Devices and combat. As for the Material Department, it was Xiao You who had studied it thoroughly and in-depth. With this matter in Xiao You's hands, Ji You was completely at ease.

After the two had discussed the plan, Ji You felt somewhat mentally fatigued and ended the conversation.

\*\*

The next day.

Ji You continued sparring with the Little Robot, which seemed to know that her weakness was her face, so it specifically targeted her face. Ji You tried hard to protect her own face but still ended up with a bruised face.

In the end, amidst Ji You's immense frustration, 5 points were deducted to repair her face.

Calculating it this way, Ji You felt increasingly financially embarrassed.

She was very vexed.

After class.

A group of students had finished eating in the cafeteria and were on their way back to the dormitory when they accidentally ran into several teachers from the Material Department. Behind Professor Ye Hong and Professor Jiang Yulan, there were also a dozen students in Material Department uniforms, who seemed to have just come out from the lab or classroom.

Ji You and the students behind her all stopped in their tracks: "Hello, Professor Ye, Professor Jiang, hello teachers..."

Professor Ye Hong, with his hands clasped behind his back, just nodded slightly, "Hmm."

Professor Jiang Yulan looked at the students with a smile and said, "Hello to you all."

Just as the group headed by Professors Ye Hong and Jiang Yulan prepared to go upstairs, one of the students following the professors muttered quietly, "Wasn't there someone named Ji You among that bunch of first-years just now?"

"Yes."

"She's particularly short, very recognizable, can't mistake her."

"Isn't she the girl who plagiarized Si Yu's work?"

"That's her."

"How can such a person still be allowed to stay at school?"

"I heard she has a thick face and brazenly self-funded her way into the school."

"A big mouth eats the world; a big face walks the world."

...

Throughout, Xu Siyu who was closely following behind Professor Ye Hong, didn't utter a word. She knew that at this time, keeping silent was the best course of action.

Professor Ye Hong, walking in front, frowned when he heard the students' discussion behind him.

Professor Jiang Yulan also looked slightly displeased.

But neither of them said anything and were about to step away...

Suddenly—

A clear and loud voice of a young girl came from behind, "Could my senior brothers and senior sisters wait a moment? Especially Senior Sister Xu Siyu, please wait, I have something to say."

Whoosh—

The several second-year students turned around in unison to look at Ji You.

Ji You had a smile on her face and said, "I have thick skin, so I'm brazenly asking the seniors to wait a moment and hear me out."

A male student next to Xu Siyu frowned and said, "What do you want to say?"

Ji You, with an innocent and kind smile on her face, said, "I want you to shut up."

The male student: "..."

The expressions of the others also darkened in an instant.

This was—

The rhythm of stirring up trouble.

The male student had a hot temper and was the first to lose his patience. He said, "You think being thick-skinned is a compliment? Since you don't like to hear things put delicately, I'll just speak bluntly. What right does a shameless plagiarizing dog have to stand before us and tell us to shut up?"

"Wu Xing, don't say anymore," Xu Siyu's face turned pale as she quietly stopped him.

The male student named Wu Xing, on hearing that Xu Siyu didn't want to cause a scene and wanted to play it down, felt even more indignant for her and raised his voice, "Si Yu, it's your kindness that lets these bad people bully you. Faced with such a disgusting plagiarizer, we should unite and kick her out! Let her have no place to hide!"

Glancing at the grim faces of the two professors, Xu Siyu opened her mouth, "Wu Xing... really, stop talking."

The two professors stopped walking but still didn't say a word.

Ji You, still smiling, said in an indifferent tone, "Senior Wu Xing, have you finished speaking? If so, please step back."

Wu Xing: "You!"

Ji You ignored him completely and turned her gaze to Xu Siyu, frankly speaking, this was the first time Ji You had seen Xu Siyu in the school, and the first time she had truly seen the legendary Xu Siyu. Initially, in the large cafeteria, she publicly challenged Xu Siyu and all Material Department first and second-year students, but unfortunately, Xu Siyu did not appear.

Seeing her today, how should I put it?

Xu Siyu had a kind of delicate beauty, fresh and appealing – with willow-shaped eyebrows, small lips, watery eyes... It was easy to elicit favorable impressions from people. Especially in a place like the Military Academy, where girls were rougher and more masculine than boys, Xu Siyu's frail and sweet appearance was quite attractive to male students.

But!

Being pretty was not a reason for her to bully Xiao You, to bully me.

Ji You usually didn't like to cause trouble, but if she did, it was going to be a big deal!

So—

Ji You stared at Xu Siyu, her lips curling up as she said, "Senior Sister Xu Siyu! Do you want to have a competition with me?"

Xu Siyu's brows furrowed slightly.

Ji You said, "Let's have a showdown to see who is the real plagiarizing dog, shall we? If I lose, I promise to crawl out of the school like a dog! And never set foot in it again."

Hiss~

As soon as these words came out, there was a sharp intake of breath around.

This!

That's quite daring self-deprecation, isn't it?

Could it be—does this girl named Ji You really not care about her reputation?

Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, Shen Changqing, and others next to Ji You also frowned upon hearing this: they'd never seen such self-deprecating behavior from Ji You before.

Chapter 527: Confrontation

Chu Jiaojiao gazed at Ji You's face; this was the first time Ji You spoke with such a self-mocking tone.

This—

Was so unlike Ji You.

Despite her low strength, Ji You's eyes always sparkled with confidence, optimism, and a fierce determination to never give up and always fight hard. These qualities were inescapable for anyone who knew her or had spent time with her.

Though her talent was modest, she never belittled or undervalued herself.

Chu Jiaojiao liked this aspect of Ji You the most.

But now?

A second-year student from the Material Department named Xu Siyu had pushed Ji You to say such things.

For a moment, Chu Jiaojiao felt indescribably upset.

Not just Chu Jiaojiao, but even Sheng Qingyan, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiyuan, Yue Qiguang, and others felt uneasy watching Ji You.

The scene was silent.

No one spoke.

Ji You stared quietly at Xu Siyu, waiting for her response.

Under everyone's watchful eyes, Xu Siyu felt somewhat cornered and after thinking for a moment, she said, "Ji You, I'm sorry, I have something to do right now."

Ji You curled her lips slightly and slowly said, "Are you so busy that you don't even have time to face my challenge? Or are you—afraid of losing to me, Senior Xu Siyu?"

Immediately, Wu Xing standing next to Xu Siyu said, "How could Siyu possibly lose? Why should she accept your challenge just because you say so? Who do you think you are? Do you think everyone has as much free time as you?"

After Wu Xing spoke, Xu Siyu indeed felt relieved. Her concern was that saying those things herself would be inappropriate, but having Wu Xing speak for her eased her nerves significantly.

But!

Suddenly, Chu Jiaojiao next to Ji You said, "And who are you? Are you Xu Siyu herself? As just a bystander, don't you understand the simple principle of keeping your mouth shut? Or are you looking for a fight?"

Saying this, Chu Jiaojiao started rolling up her sleeves, preparing to step forward.

Yue Qiguang jumped in: "Count me in for the fight! Dad's fists haven't thrown punches in a while."

Sheng Qingyan, Yue Qiyuan seemed somewhat eager to move, and even the usually well-behaved Shen Changqing had a glint in his eyes...

Seeing this scene, Ji You raised her hand to stop them, saying, "Jiaojiao, step back. As for fighting, I prefer to handle it myself."

Hearing this, they all promptly retreated behind Ji You, saying no more.

Wu Xing was getting frustrated with the back-and-forth from them and was about to say something—

At that moment—

Ji You took a few steps forward, and looking solemnly at Professor Ye Hong and Professor Jiang Yulan, she said, "Professor Ye Hong, Professor Jiang Yulan, I have a manuscript here that I've been reorganizing recently; I would like both of you to take a look."

Ji You didn't intend to confront Xu Siyu any longer. Given Xu Siyu's attitude of clear reluctance to face her directly, Ji You decided...

To try a different approach to force Xu Siyu to accept.

As Ji You spoke, Xu Siyu's brows instantly furrowed.

Professor Ye Hong and Professor Jiang Yulan's brows also slightly furrowed. Professor Ye Hong asked, "What manuscript?"

Ji You said, "This was my initial conception, recording my interest in the subject of materials since I was twelve, continuing with self-studying material processing, and devising a set of methods. Though rudimentary, they were indeed conclusions drawn from my own practice."

Professor Jiang Yulan said with a smile, "Oh? Is that so? I must have a look then."

Professor Jiang Yulan had a very good impression of Ji You, having wanted to exceptionally accept her into the program during the ceremony at the auditorium, but this idea was dismissed when Mu Jianling suddenly intervened.

Ji You opened her Light Computer, and sent the organized manuscripts by Xiao You to both professors.

Observing Ji You's actions, Xu Siyu's eyes flickered with unease, sensing something unfavorable, but then she remembered that Ji You's manuscript, which she had borrowed, had been destroyed, and she was confident that apart from that manuscript, Ji You had no other evidence to prove originality...

Thinking of this, Xu Siyu felt a surge of relief.

After receiving the manuscripts, Professor Jiang Yulan appeared indifferent, but Professor Ye Hong's face grew darker and more somber.

A few minutes later.

Professor Ye Hong asked in a stern voice, "What are you trying to imply?"

The content of this manuscript was identical to the one Xu Siyu submitted to the school's review committee as evidence of Ji You's plagiarism! What was Ji You trying to do? Confirm the fact that she plagiarized?

Ji You said solemnly, "Professor Ye, do you find this manuscript familiar, identical to the one that Xu Siyu submitted for your review?"

Professor Ye Hong, with a composed face, said, "Yes."

Ji You continued, looking at Professor Jiang Yulan, then at other classmates, and said with a smile, "Initially, everyone knew I plagiarized, but they did not know exactly what I copied, nor what evidence Xu Siyu provided, right?"

Originally, when Xu Siyu obtained the manuscript, she immediately created a copy using her own notes and published Ji You's concepts and ideas on Star Network ahead of Ji You, leaving her traces...

So Ji You was left speechless, and all the explanations could not outweigh Xu Siyu's substantial evidence.

...

Hearing Ji You's question, several students from the Material Department present began to ponder and remained silent.

Xu Siyu opened her mouth and said, "Ji You, when you stole from me, it almost caused me to be unable to enroll, and I have publicly stated I won't fuss about it anymore, it's all in the past, why do you keep bringing it up?"

Ji You stared into Xu Siyu's eyes and said, "Because, it wasn't you who was plagiarized and wronged, it was me!"

Xu Siyu, agitated, her face turning pink, said, "You... don't talk nonsense."

Ji You stared at her, articulating each word, "I am the one being slandered! I am the one who was expelled! I am the one who had all savings confiscated... and even desperate to the point of seeking relief through suicide!"

As Ji You's words fell, the atmosphere became increasingly silent.

Xu Siyu looked at the gloomy faces of Professor Ye Hong and Professor Jiang Yulan, feeling a bit anxious, and said, "Ji You, don't talk nonsense, the situation has long been clarified by the teachers present..."

Ji You suddenly asked, "Xu Siyu, have you ever been to Zone 10?"

Xu Siyu, "What?"

Ji You said, "You know how to answer my question, have you been there, or not?"

Although Xu Siyu didn't understand why Ji You asked this, her eyes quickly shifted, and sensing something, she blurted out, "Yes. Of course, I have been."

Ji You nodded and said, "Good."

Ji You no longer looked at Xu Siyu, but turned to Professors Ye Hong and Jiang Yulan, speaking softly, "Professors, I just asked senior Xu Siyu, and she confidently answered that she has been to Zone 10. Here, let me explain to everyone where Zone 10 is..."

Then, in a clear voice, Ji You explained the situation of Zone 10 to everyone present.

Chapter 528: Do You Dare to Refute?

As Ji You explained, the surroundings became quiet.

After Ji You introduced the general situation of Zone 10, she concluded: "Zone 10 of Garbage Planet 101 is the place where I was born and grew up. It is the most barren place among the 10 zones of Garbage Planet 101. I believe it might also be the most barren place in the Alliance today. The residents only have two means of livelihood: working as laborers on the Star Network or scavenging and collecting in the wilderness. Regarding this, may I ask if Si Yu, who hails from the Sixth District, has any objections?"

The Sixth District is the most prosperous and safest place on Garbage Planet 101. Xu Siyu's family is wealthy there; the hardships Ji You faced since childhood are unimaginable to Xu Siyu.

When Ji You mentioned her again, Xu Siyu tried to maintain her composure and said, "Of course. That's how it is. That's why I took special care of you when I found out you were from Zone 10."

Ji You bared her teeth at her: "Thank you for your care."

Xu Siyu pursed her lips: "I genuinely considered you a friend initially, but I never expected you to do such a thing."

Ji You waved her hand: "Senior, let's not mention this matter again and again. Your continuous insinuations are not very clever; anyone with clear sight can see that you are anxious, which doesn't suit your style. Why are you so eager to brand me as a 'plagiarism dog' on the pillar of shame? Even if it's a few seconds late, I will surely be branded as such eventually. Let's not talk about this now; I have a few more questions to ask you."

Xu Siyu remained silent.

She did not like this feeling.

It was a completely uncontrollable, unpredictable, and terrible feeling.

What the other person was going to do, what to say, what detrimental impact it might have on oneself... none of it was within her control.

Seeing Xu Siyu's slightly ugly expression, Ji You smiled with a hint of malice, "Si Yu, do you dare to answer?"

Xu Siyu pursed her lips.

Ji You watched her smile and raised her eyebrows: "Senior doesn't dare to answer? These questions are very important; they concern who the real plagiarist is between us. If you refuse, I have good reason to suspect you are guilty."

Damn!

Ji You felt secretly delighted when she said this; she now understands why many people like to suppress others. Given the current situation, with countless eyes watching and countless ears listening, if Xu Siyu really refuses to answer—then she will definitely be presumed guilty.

If one is truly upright, why fear a few questions?

Why fear confrontation face-to-face?

A few seconds later.

Xu Siyu bit her lip and nodded: "Okay, you ask."

Ji You laughed, looking around, and said: "The questions I want to ask Si Yu are not tricky or troublesome because she said she has been to Zone 10 and is quite familiar with its ecology. So, my first question for you is whether you know several common animals and plants in Zone 10?"

Xu Siyu was startled.

The surrounding students were also slightly startled, not understanding why Ji You asked this question.

After pondering a bit, Xu Siyu replied: "Iron Pear Wood, grass seeds, Carrion Rat, long-eared rabbit..."

Ji You smiled and said: "The ones senior mentioned are common in Garbage Planet 101, but they are not the most common in Zone 10."

Xu Siyu's facial expression turned a bit ugly.

Nearby, several teachers also looked slightly displeased.

Ji You continued: "The most common in Zone 10 is actually Star Grass."

With these words, the surroundings fell silent; nobody spoke because everyone was unfamiliar with the situation in Zone 10 and didn't know whether what Ji You said was true.

Ji You then said: "Star Grass is a perennial herbaceous plant with very strong vitality, spreading across the residential areas and wastelands of Zone 10. Regarding this, I won't mention more. My second question is: does senior know how many substances can be extracted from Star Grass?"

Throwing out this question, Xu Siyu's face immediately darkened slightly.

The gazes of everyone around turned to Xu Siyu, waiting for her answer.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

Xu Siyu lowered her head, pondering, clearly unsure for the moment.

Ji You watched her with a smile, suddenly turning to Professor Ye Hong and Professor Jiang Yulan, and said: "Before Si Yu answers, let me send my previous research report on Star Grass to the two professors, it contains all my research data over the years, all of which can withstand any verification."

After saying that, Ji You immediately sent it.

After Ye Hong and Jiang Yulan received it, they lowered their heads to check; the more they saw, the brighter their eyes got, but at the same time, their expressions became more and more astonished...

At this moment.

Ji You turned to Xu Siyu and asked with narrowed eyes: "Does Si Yu have an answer now?"

Xu Siyu's face turned a shade paler, saying: "30 kinds."

"Wrong," Ji You smiled, "The exact answer is 108 kinds."

Faced with the puzzled looks around, Xu Siyu frowned and explained: "Sorry, I have not conducted detailed research on this question, so I'm not aware."

"Oh—," Ji You's tone rose: "Senior actually hasn't conducted research on Star Grass?"

Xu Siyu looked troubled: "Yes... that's right."

Hearing Xu Siyu answer this question, Ji You laughed; she turned to Professor Ye Hong, Professor Jiang Yulan, and other present teachers, saying: "Then, my third question is, how could Si Yu derive that S53 and X7 substances could combine the Disassembly Method with the Melting Method, when she has not conducted any research on Star Grass?"

This question threw the crowd into further scrutiny of Xu Siyu.

Xu Siyu bit her lip and said: "I found out through other methods."

Ji You asked: "What methods?"

Xu Siyu remained silent.

The atmosphere at the scene became somewhat strange, everyone was looking back and forth between Xu Siyu and Ji You, unable to decide who to support for the moment.

Ji You waited a while, and seeing that Xu Siyu still provided no answer, she laughed and said: "The reason senior doesn't know is that I never mentioned to you the process of discovering S53 and X7. You only got the results; thus, you took the results of my numerous experiments and then practiced the combined effects of the Disassembly Method and the Melting Method. May I say that, senior, do you dare to refute this?"

A stir~

With these words, all eyes in the vicinity were focused on Xu Siyu.

Feeling the unshielded stares around her, Xu Siyu felt uncomfortable for the first time; she bit her lip, thinking about how to give a reasonable explanation.

Professor Ye Hong's face turned extremely ugly as he asked sternly: "What's going on?"

Chapter 529: Step by Step

Professor Ye Hong's face darkened as he asked sternly, "What's the matter?"

Xu Siyu pursed her lips, saying, "I saw on a Material Department journal that the X7 material is compatible with many substances, so I directly used it."

Ji You laughed upon hearing this and said, "But does Senior Siyu know? It's not the X7 material that is truly compatible with many substances; it's the R7 material which is obtained after the water-soluble X7 material is further subdivided."

Xu Siyu's eyes widened slightly.

The expressions on Professor Ye Hong, Professor Jiang Yulan, and several other teachers' faces were becoming increasingly ugly.

With a smile on her face, Ji You continued, "The reason Senior Siyu doesn't know is because every time you prepare the material, you use the water solution method, and after the X7 is diluted in water, naturally, some R7 is produced to support your experiment. However, due to various effects of proportions of materials, temperature, humidity... the content of R7 produced each time is unstable, varying in concentration, which is why your experiments sometimes fail and sometimes succeed."

As Ji You explained, apart from Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang, and a few others from the Combat Department who did not understand, all the students and teachers from the Material Department present understood Ji You's point.

Everyone's eyes widened as they looked towards Ji You.

Ji You spoke at a steady pace, her words clearly entering everyone's ears: "The key factor in maintaining the stability of the R7 substance is the S53 substance."

Faced with the skeptical looks of the crowd, Xu Siyu's face turned a shade paler, and with pursed lips, she said, "All of this that you're saying, I am aware of; I have done countless experiments, of course, I know."

"Oh?" Ji You raised an eyebrow, smiling as she asked, "Then, Senior Xu Siyu, my fourth question is, do you know why the S53 substance can maintain the stability of the R7 content?"

Upon hearing this, the crowd fell into deep thought.

Xu Siyu clenched her palm, the questions thrown at her by Ji You forcing beads of sweat to form on her forehead, despite having no clear answer. Xu Siyu tried to maintain her composure, but her voice trembled ever so slightly, "Because of the stability of S53! This material, it can stabilize not just liquids, but solids as well... it can... it can..."

As her gaze met Ji You's smiling eyes, Xu Siyu suddenly found herself at a loss for words.

Ji You smiled and said, "Hmm—stability is indeed correct. However, what Senior Siyu doesn't know is that the S53 substance contains a type of molecule that acts as a purifier and cleaner, which effectively allows the R7 content to meet the fusion requirements by purifying the R7."

Whoosh~

With these words, the students of the Material Department present all stared wide-eyed at Ji You.

Chu Jiaojiao couldn't understand, but she knew Ji You was extraordinarily competent, so she exaggeratedly exclaimed, "Ji You, you are so amazing!"

Yue Qiguang, with his arms folded, said, "Number 4444, aside from being a bit weak in fighting, you're quite impressive in other aspects."

Yue Qiyuan, Shen Changqing, and Sheng Qingyan all remained silent, continuing to watch the situation unfold.

Hearing her friends' compliments, Ji You laughed and humbly waved her hand, "What's so impressive about that? As long as you research more, delve deeper, analyze carefully, aren't afraid of failure, and experiment over and over again, these discoveries are quite easy to make."

Easy?

The faces of the students in the Material Department became odd as they stared at Ji You!

Look at that—

How glibly she talks, as if it's very easy... But those who are truly immersed in the world of materials know just how difficult it is! Ji You's research process and results, as professional and precise as those of the top experimental labs in the material sector, how could an average novice achieve that?

Look~

Even Xu Siyu, who was enjoying the fruits of the research, was just as clueless about the specific details involved, right?

Also...

It's no wonder that Xu Siyu was stumped by one question after another from Ji You.

Compared with Ji You, all of these students focused on material sciences seemed like assembly line workers, completely lacking in creativity and innovation...

But Ji You clearly didn't intend to let Xu Siyu off the hook. She suddenly stepped forward, approaching Xu Siyu a few steps before stopping and asking, "Senior Sister Xu Siyu, how did you come up with the results without knowing any of this? Relying on that primitive and immature draft of mine?"

Xu Siyu bit her lip, "No... Not at all! Don't talk nonsense."

Ji You made an OK gesture, smiling said, "Fine, I won't talk nonsense. Then, let's talk about the draft."

Xu Siyu's pupils shrank and she opened her mouth to say, "The draft was written by me personally; I always make a note of each experiment as I go along."

Ji You looked at the two professors and said, "Professor Ye, Professor Jiang, back then, I was judged to be plagiarizing because Senior Sister Xu Siyu produced a draft and she had published a paper on this topic on Star Network – these two points. Let's not mention the paper that directly quoted my experimental results, but speaking of the draft, Xu Siyu's draft's content, I believe both of you professors have seen it, right?"

Professor Ye Hong's face was gloomy, and he remained silent.

Professor Jiang Yulan nodded and said, "I have seen it."

Speaking of which, when the school internally confirmed Ji You's plagiarism and decided to expel her, Professor Jiang Yulan was also a witness.

Ji You said with a smile, "Professor Jiang, is my draft the same as Xu Siyu's draft?"

Jiang Yulan said, "Yes, they are the same."

After speaking, she added, "Without a single discrepancy."

Wham~

This statement, undoubtedly, set off a storm in the hearts of the surrounding students.

What does this mean?

Ji You's draft could match Xu Siyu's exactly? Then—who is the real plagiarist?

To be frank, after Ji You's clear and methodical statements and Xu Siyu's somewhat panicked and disorganized responses, everyone secretly leaned toward Ji You.

Ji You looked at Xu Siyu and said softly, "Actually, they're not the same. Because the draft that Xu Siyu borrowed and then destroyed lacked the background and conclusion. The reason I started researching materials during my middle school days is that I knew my talent was insufficient, and only by studying this discipline could I find a way out from the garbage planet and that's when I began my hands-on research of Star Grass. I found that researching such an ordinary plant gave me great pleasure..."

"I achieved some results, and at that time, I didn't know they could combine two methods of treating materials. It was just a rough idea, and when I shared my discovery with my deskmate Xu Siyu, she was very interested. Afterward, she kept up with my experimental progress until I truly succeeded. She was happy and expressed her wish to join in the research with me and borrowed my notebook. After that..."

"It's a pity, Xu Siyu never returned it to me. Her explanation was that it was lost by accident." Ji You looked at Xu Siyu with a smile on her lips and asked, "Senior Sister Xu Siyu, do you agree with what I've just said?"

Chapter 530: Accepting the Challenge

Ji You's lips curled into a smile as she asked again, "Senior Xu Siyu, do you agree with what I just said?"

"The truth of the matter has been determined already," Xu Siyu replied, her lips turning pale, "It's not whatever you say it is."

Ji You smiled and said, "So, Senior Xu Siyu does not agree with the statement I just made."

Facing numerous doubtful and complex gazes from around her, Xu Siyu, suppressing discomfort, said, "I did not do it, so naturally, I do not agree."

Ji You nodded, "So, that means you disagree."

The boy next to Xu Siyu, Wu Xing, watching Ji You slowly cornering Xu Siyu into an embarrassing situation, suddenly felt pity for her; he immediately stood up, got in front of Xu Siyu, and protested, "What are you trying to do here? Siyu already said she didn't do it, so she definitely didn't. Why are you forcing her to admit to something she hasn't done?"

Xu Siyu tugged on Wu Xing's sleeve, "Wu Xing..."

Ji You looked at the tall and imposing Wu Xing, playing the knight in shining armor, then suddenly pinched her nose with a hand, a look of disdain on her face, "What's with you? Just because you say you didn't eat garlic today, does that mean you didn't? Just smell the garlic breath you're exhaling! And you still claim you didn't eat it..."

Wu Xing: "..."

Wu Xing subconsciously raised his hand, breathed out, and sniffed it.

Chu Jiaojiao was already pinching her nose, with a look of disgust, "Stinks!"

Sheng Qingyan stamped her feet and stepped back a few paces, saying, "Oblivious to his own stench..."

Yue Qiguang shouted, "Can't you just learn from others and keep your mouth shut?"

Shen Changqing and Yue Qiyuan both remained silent, but their eyes showed a restrained and dignified disdain, letting it reveal just enough for everyone to clearly see...

Afterward.

Ji You waved her hand grandly and said, "I'd appreciate it if Senior Wu Xing, the garlic lover, could kindly stand aside, and to avoid affecting the air quality, please try to keep your mouth shut as much as possible."

Wu Xing's face turned an ashen hue, the remark, clearly a jab at him, but!

But!

Wu Xing clenched his fists, wanting to argue on principle when suddenly, Professor Jiang Yulan spoke with a stern face, "Wu Xing, shut up. Those who aren't involved should also keep quiet, otherwise, I'll deduct 10 points."

Whoa~

What did Professor Jiang Yulan mean by that? Was she trying to let Ji You and Xu Siyu clarify things on the spot?

Xu Siyu's face suddenly took on a very unpleasant look.

This turn of events was not what she had wished for.

Xu Siyu turned towards Professor Ye Hong. In the whole school, the person who most admired and supported her was Professor Ye Hong. If only Professor Ye Hong would show her a slight bit of partiality...

Professor Ye Hong had a stern face and said, "Did everyone hear that clearly? Those unrelated to this, no speaking."

Upon hearing this, Xu Siyu gently bit the corner of her lip.

Ji You, after hearing the professors' statements, quickly said, "Thank you both professors for your understanding and support. I shall handle this matter properly with Senior Xu Siyu."

Saying this, Ji You looked around and spoke aloud, "I have publicly stated a phrase before: the only thing that can be stolen is the finished product of the dead, but not the living soul and creativity. Since Senior Xu Siyu refuses to admit to what she has done, there is only one way to prove my words. I, Ji You, from class 131 self-funded class, now publicly challenge Senior Xu Siyu and accept the supervision of both professors, as well as all the teachers and students of the Material Department... Senior Xu Siyu, do you dare to accept the challenge?"

Xu Siyu clenched her palms.

Silence.

She remained silent...

The surroundings were quiet, and no one uttered a word to disturb the two at the center of the storm; everyone's gaze focused on Xu Siyu.

Would she—

Accept the challenge?

Or—

Ji You was very patient; she quietly stared at Xu Siyu without urging her or saying anything more.

In fact, Ji You understood that regarding the manuscript she provided and her previous strategic moves, as long as Xu Siyu adamantly refused to admit it, Ji You couldn't truly convict her.

Therefore, it was essential for Ji You and Xu Siyu to settle who was superior!

Only by demonstrating her solid foundation in material processing in front of everyone and resoundingly defeating Xu Siyu could more people be persuaded to believe in her. The stains on her reputation would also start to clear...

Furthermore, both Professor Ye Hong and Professor Jiang Yulan take academics very seriously and are people of high integrity. They would absolutely not allow something as despicable as one of their students stealing someone else's achievements and then slandering the victim to occur.

Therefore, this was also the reason Ji You chose to retaliate against Xu Siyu at a time when Professor Ye Hong, Professor Jiang Yulan, and several other teachers from the Material Department were present.

Even if Xu Siyu wanted to retreat or avoid confrontation, she couldn't back down in front of so many teachers—she had no choice but to go forward.

Xu Siyu had no choice but to grit her teeth and accept the challenge.

A few seconds.

It wasn't a long time, but looking at the teachers, Xu Siyu hardened her resolve and said, "I accept."

Xu Siyu was well aware that she was in too deep to back out now. To salvage the situation, she had to accept Ji You's challenge. Xu Siyu thought to herself: Ji You had been delayed for a year, while she enrolled earlier and started systematic study of the material courses. As long as she could leverage the extra year of knowledge to stabilize the situation and gain an advantage, everything that Ji You had done would naturally unravel.

As soon as Xu Siyu finished speaking, Ji You's face lit up with a smile. She eagerly looked at Professor Ye Hong and Professor Jiang Yulan and said, "Professor Ye, Professor Jiang, could I trouble you to provide a venue for our competition?"

The last time, publicly challenging all first and second-year Material Department students cost Ji You 100,000 points. Ji You still winced at the expense. Now that she had forced Xu Siyu to agree, Ji You's inherent thriftiness kicked in again.

Professor Jiang Yulan said, "Let's go to the Material Department auditorium."

Ji You blinked, "Is it free?"

Professor Jiang Yulan: "..."

"Let's go!" Professor Ye Hong, with a darkened face, stepped forward and strode toward the auditorium.

The determination of Ji You's alleged plagiarism was led by Professor Ye Hong. If there turned out to be a mistake, Professor Ye Hong would bear the main responsibility. Thus, his mood was extremely sour at the moment. He prided himself on being fair and just and had dedicated his teaching career to being diligent and meticulous. He was quite strict with his students, but never had he encountered a major mistake. If it was true...

If Xu Siyu really did this, then...

It would be an insult to Professor Ye Hong.

Needless to say, Professor Ye Hong was furious.

Professor Ye Hong's steps were quick, and in a few strides, he had covered several meters. Seeing this, Professor Jiang Yulan turned to the other teachers and said, "Let's follow; this matter is very serious. The experimental seminar can be put aside for now."

The teachers nodded in agreement and followed suit.

Hearing Professor Ye Hong's words, Ji You looked at the rushing figure of the old man and quickly called out, "Professor Ye, we're coming! Right away! We won't delay."

As she spoke, she also turned her head, looked at Xu Siyu with a beaming smile, and made a welcoming gesture, saying, "Xu Siyu senior, after you—"