

The Interstellar Queen of Scavengers #Chapter 61: Returning to School - Read The Interstellar Queen of Scavengers Chapter 61: Returning to School

Chapter 61: Chapter 61: Returning to School

Damn it.

If every time I use the Golden Finger, it's going to be like this, I'm really going to die.

"Yingyingying..."

"I'm in so much pain..."

It's also this time that Ji You deeply realized the harm of her F-level trash spiritual power, she must enhance her spiritual power, otherwise, she can't even afford to use her own Golden Finger.

...

How to enhance it?

Of course, by buying all sorts of Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures.

The problem is—

Where does the money come from?

Before Ji You's eyes, suddenly emerged the figure of a fat man, atop his head a huge halo with [I Have One Hundred Million], but it was just a flash, Ji You quickly shook the thought out of her head, "Even Huang Shiren wouldn't exploit like this, I can't just keep shearing a fat sheep."

Alas!

It's all because the 100 million mentioned by that fat man was too big a stimulation for her.

...

After thinking it over, Ji You couldn't figure out where to get the money. She turned around, opened the detection chamber again, and laid down inside, "Run the check again."

Previously, after drinking Butterfly Honey worth 3.8 million credit points, Ji You didn't believe that her spiritual power hadn't improved at all, so now she needs to check it again.

Soon, the test result came out.

Physical Strength: Level E.

No change.

Spiritual power threshold: 121, Level E.

Ji You's eyes sparkled:

Damn—

As expected, the spiritual power threshold actually went up to 121, and she had indeed broken through the barrier of Level E.

Ji You almost burst into tears:

She is finally no longer F-level trash spiritual power.

Hmm?

What specific changes come with the level upgrade?

Ji You carefully felt it, there was no special feeling, but—within the entire room, the furnishings, and the subtle movements, such as the 24-hour self-cleaning system quietly sucking away the dust in the corner of the wall... these subtle changes, Ji You was blind to them before, but now, she could actually feel them.

Besides that, there was no other difference.

Thinking that she was only at Level E at the moment, she was not disappointed. She believes that later, she will rise to Level D, Level C... and even Level S!

It must be said, Ji You really dares to dream, having just reached Level E, she's already thinking about Level S things.

But—

After all—

One must have dreams.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if they accidentally came true?

...

With a whopping 1.2 million credit points in her pocket, a bad thought of wanting to splurge all of it kept attacking Ji You's belief, eroding her will... after several struggles, she could no longer resist and was about to open her Light Computer to connect to the Star Network, to buy 100,000 or 80,000 worth of natural food at once, if she couldn't finish, she would just eat and spill the rest...

At this moment, the contact alarm suddenly rang.

Ji You stopped her hand.

She answered the call.

The gentle and sweet voice of Sister Li Ya came through: "You, what have you been up to these past days? Yesterday, I invited you to pick up garbage, but didn't receive your reply. By the way, I'm going back to school tomorrow, I still have some handwritten notes on physical training, do you want to borrow them to read?"

"If you need, come to my place."

Ji You quickly replied, "Yes, yes, yes..."

The learning materials provided by Sister Liya over the past period had been a great help. Hearing that there were also handwritten notes, how could Ji You refuse?

As for the matter of spending 100,000 or 80,000 credit points in one go, since the money was in her pocket, it didn't matter which day she spent it.

Ji You immediately withdrew her hand and swiftly left the door.

Today's garbage planet was sunny and the air was clear—of course, this referred to within the protective shield; outside the protective shield, the scattered garbage still obscured the sky... Walking on the street, Ji You happily hummed a tune.

When she arrived, Lea had just come out of the training room. She was wearing a fitted training suit, which clung to her snow-white skin, and streaks of sweat flowed down from her forehead... This sight—

"Ouch!" Ji You held her head, looking at Lea who had just finished making a move: "Sister Liya, why did you flick me?"

This is the advantage of having superior physical strength and spiritual power over others. With Sister Liya's small movements, Ji You, even if she noticed, was completely unable to resist.

Sigh!

Lea chuckled, "As a girl, where are your eyes wandering all day long?"

Ji You: "... Sister Liya is so beautiful; it'd be a waste not to look."

Lea: "..."

For a moment, she was at a loss for words.

Ji You giggled and said: "Sister Liya, why are you suddenly going back to school? Isn't there half a month left before the term starts?"

Lea pursed her lips and said, "Aqiong and Lingzhi are leaving earlier, so I'm joining them. Recently, there has been unusual activity from the Star Beasts, and I'm worried that if we delay too long, an incident may occur on our route here. It's better to leave a few days earlier."

It would take about three days to travel from planet 101 to Lanyue Star by interstellar spaceship.

Ji You was surprised: "Could there be potential accidents on the route?"

Lea rubbed her temples and said, "I'm not worried about the route itself, but the possibility of another Star Beast anomaly in the Erathia Triangular Zone. We are quite close to that area, and if something happens there again, the Alliance might choose to block our route here. Once it's blocked, no one knows when the ban will lift, making it impossible to travel for a short period."

Ji You suddenly understood.

Lea softly said, "You, I'll get the notes for you."

Ji You: "Thank you, Sister Liya."

Although not a biological sister, she was even better than one.

Soon, Lea handed her notebook to Ji You.

Ji You carefully took it, holding it very precious in her hand. This notebook was made of actual paper. In this day and age, to still possess something like paper was deeply moving.

Lea said with a smile, "You, take good care and preserve it. I'm just lending it to you to look at, but I've not agreed to give it to you."

Ji You was already very content, squinting her eyes: "Mhm. I understand."

Lea smiled gently, a hint of nostalgia in her voice: "Such a notebook is quite novel, isn't it? I bought it on the Star Network Antiques Street with the pocket money I saved up when I was 10 years old."

"It was a birthday gift I gave myself, and I've been too reluctant to use it until I started training both my body and spiritual power, and then I started using it for taking notes."

So precious?

Of course, Ji You would take good care of it.

After talking for a while, Ji You suddenly sighed, "Sister Liya, you, Brother Qiong, and Sister Lingzhi are all leaving, huh?"

With the departure of the three youths, Ji You suddenly had no peers around her.

Sigh!

This sentence seemed to suddenly awaken Lea. She looked at Ji You and suddenly said, "You, have you ever thought about going back to school?"

Ji You was startled: "Going back to school?"

During this time, the concept of self-study was the only thing on her mind; she had never considered returning to school.

Lea nodded and said, "Yeah. If you go back to school, you can study in a systematic and standardized way. With your intelligence, you'll definitely be able to catch up with others quickly."

Ji You: "Can I... still do that?"

She had been expelled from the Lanyue Star Military Academy. How could any school be willing to accept her with such an indelible stain?

Chapter 62: Chapter 62: Iron Apples, Flowing Money

Lea looked at Ji You and nodded gently: "It's possible."

Ji You's eyes widened in disbelief: "Really... Really?"

Lea seemed unsure how to phrase it, and after pondering for a moment, finally said: "If you want to continue your education, there's currently only one way."

Ji You leaned in, staring at Lea, filled with hope yet unable to suppress her anxiety, and asked: "What... What way?"

Lea said: "Sponsorship."

Ji You exclaimed: "Huh???"

'Sponsorship' – the term itself sounded very expensive.

Lea said: "The Alliance reserves a portion of student places every year in both public and private schools, which can be obtained through sponsorship. After all, when you want to attend a good school but can't qualify due to residence status, academic performance... and other factors, money becomes the most useful tool."

Ji You certainly knew about this and thus became even more nervous: "...Then, how much is the sponsorship fee for entering Lanyue Star Military Academy?"

After hearing this, Lea suddenly remembered something and immediately regretted bringing it up. At this moment, she gave You hope, only to then plunge her into the abyss... Better she had not been told.

Lea let out a long sigh, regretting her impulsive slip of the tongue, and now didn't know how to proceed.

Seeing Sister Lea stumbling over her words, Ji You couldn't help but press on: "Sister Lea, how much is it? Tell me."

Lea's eyes dropped slightly as she said: "1 million credit points."

Ji You: "!!!"

Oh no~

It's over!

The 1.2 million is at risk...

It's doomsday~

These words were a fatal blow to Ji You, but what Lea said next made Ji You's head spin even more: "This is just the borrowing fee for school enrollment. Afterwards, your tuition, supplementary class fees, material fees... and all miscellaneous expenses including food, clothing, housing, and transportation, all have to be paid out of pocket."

While those of us who officially passed the exams to enter Lanyue Star Military Academy, everything except food is free, and if we achieve excellent grades each year, we also receive a substantial scholarship."

Ji You, listening to this, nearly spewed out a mouthful of old blood.

Lea took a step forward, reaching out to hug Ji You, softly saying: "You, I was rash before. Pretend I never said those things." Privately, Lea truly hoped Ji You could go to school to learn further.

However—

Reality is always so cruel.

Blame her.

She shouldn't have given You hope.

Lea thought that after her words, Ji You would be utterly disheartened, but when she looked up, she found Ji You looking at her with bright, shining eyes. Lea: "...Aren't you... upset?"

Ji You nodded vigorously: "I am upset. I was upset for 2 seconds."

Lea: "..."

Ji You: "2 seconds is enough. I don't allow myself to waste too much time."

Having heard this, Lea smiled slightly, her tone immediately becoming lighter: "Yeah, very optimistic."

Ji You looked eagerly at Lea and asked: "So—Sister Lea, how much would tuition, miscellaneous fees, and living expenses for a whole year be, roughly?"

Lea started, clearly knowing Ji You was serious, and after a bit of thought, conservatively said: "By my rough estimates, at least 200,000 for one year. That's assuming you only eat low-level nutrient solutions every day, live in the worst collective dormitory, do not take medicine baths... That's the conservative estimate of 200,000."

Ji You: "..."

It's a disaster.

The 1.2 million—

Really in the blink of an eye—gone.

And—

It's not enough.

Is she to be estranged from credit points for life?

The despair on Ji You's face was undeniable, so much so that Lea couldn't pretend to ignore it, even if she tried. A splash of sympathy flickered in Lea's eyes, rising with a flood of helplessness, as she soothingly said: "You... don't be too sad, you can still make something of yourself by studying at home. I believe you can definitely do it. Later, I will send you my study notes and my learning insights every day."

Ji You: "Yingyingying..."

Not upset? Impossible.

Absolutely impossible.

In her mind, she seemed to see a flock of white bills waving their hands, bidding her farewell~

Lea sighed: "Sigh."

After saying goodbye to Sister Liya, Ji You returned home with a face full of gloom.

She looked at the floor, so empty...

Looked at the ceiling, so bare...

Turned to the wall, so white...

These.

That.

...

Every single one reminds Ji You: she's poor, dirt poor.

But—

The opportunity lies right before her eyes. If she's willing to spend all the money in her account, she can get a chance at enrolling.

A chance to become stronger.

A chance to clear her name.

A chance to protect herself and protect Xiao You.

...

Give up?

No!

Even if it means gnawing the floor clean, punching through the ceiling, tearing down the walls, I will not give up.

A defeated glint in Ji You's eyes suddenly blooms into a beam of determination.

She must go to school. She, this primitive, bumpkin, foolish hick... If she doesn't carve out an opportunity for herself to learn and improve, she will eventually be eliminated by this rapidly changing, Star Beast-infested, utterly cruel society.

During this period, Ji You has been self-studying, but her progress is painfully slow. She only has the study materials from Xiao You's memory, and when she tries to apply them, they are often abstrusely difficult to understand. Hence, Sister Liya was right—going to school for systematic, formal education is fundamental.

Ji You is desperate to learn, to become stronger, and not just for herself.

She—

Also has Xiao You, trapped within the Iron Plate, in mind.

Ji You can't imagine how fearful and panicked a child must be, alone in a sealed, peopleless, dark space. If it were her, she might have gone mad from suffocation.

Xiao You says she doesn't want to come out now.

But what about later?

Ji You doesn't want to wait until Xiao You wants to come out and see, or wants to come out, and she herself lacks the ability and strength to make it possible.

In the past, she was alone and just scraped by, but now, with Xiao You, Ji You feels the weight on her shoulders has grown even heavier.

She must work hard.

Not even waste a single minute.

Thinking it over, Ji You raises her hand to touch her chest, softly asking, "Xiao You, can you hear me? I'm planning to spend all our money to buy a place at the Lanyue Star Military Academy."

Silence.

Ji You doesn't feel disappointed, she continues, "What do you think?"

Not a sound around her, nor any beating from her heart.

...

Ji You sighs.

Then, abruptly, she clenches her teeth, logs on to the Star Network, and spends 100,000 to buy 100 grams of Low-level Butterfly Honey, even going so far as to spend an additional 500 credit points for expedited, express delivery.

After the purchase, Ji You's gaze unintentionally lingers on the variety of natural foods, especially that large apple from the Beikena Mountain Range; her look is filled with grievances:

That huge apple is always there, but the money in her account could hardly last a few days.

Desolation—

Truly an iron apple alongside fleeting credit points.

Ah ah ah—

When can she, unrestrained and carefree, gallop freely into eating a large apple?

Ding-dong—

The express delivery that cost 500 credit points is indeed very fast; in less than half an hour, Ji You receives the Butterfly Honey she ordered.

She signs for it and downs it in one gulp.

Ji You patiently waits.

After a while, as she had expected, Xiao You's soft, mushy voice comes through her mind: [Sister!!!]

Ji You's face brims with exuberant laughter, "Xiao You, did you hear what I said just now? I want to spend money to buy an enrolment spot at Lanyue Star."

[I heard it.]

[I support Sister...]

Going to Langyue Star Military Academy was Xiao You's dream; she's actually very happy about it.

That cheerful emotion infects Ji You, and getting Xiao You's affirmative response, Ji You's indecision becomes utterly firm.

Go!

Chapter 63: Chapter 63: Shock

"Go!"

A single word, crisp and decisive.

A decisive blow.

Ji You's ability to take action was outstanding; she didn't allow herself the chance to regret, and immediately went on the Star Network to look up the enrollment details for Lanyue Star Military Academy, with particular attention to the procedures and process for sponsored admission.

After figuring everything out, Ji You promptly visited the enrollment office of Lanyue Star Military Academy, filled out her application form, and carefully reviewed it before clicking send.

Afterward.

All she needed was a few days of patience. After the enrollment office received her application, they would review the materials she submitted, and upon passing the review, they would conduct an online interview with Ji You on Star Network for admission.

As long as she succeeded in the interview, she would have the opportunity to enroll. On the day of registration at the start of school, she would pay the sponsorship fee and tuition to the school's finance office and officially go through the enrollment process.

Waiting was always excruciating.

To keep herself from overthinking, Ji You immediately started making the Grass Seed Fruit Pendant.

Out of the last dozen grass seeds, twelve were wasted, and now, she only had three left in her inventory. This time, with her mind's iron plate gleaming fully and her own spiritual power quite abundant.

Ji You perked up and began turning the bead.

With her hands in motion, the small lathe clattered—

Quickly, the husk of each seed was peeled away, revealing the rounded, smooth core of the grass seed fruit.

Ji You picked up one, following the memory of her previous attempt, and started the process step by step. At first, it went very smoothly, but when Ji You wanted to carve the lines of the flowers along the predetermined pattern and connect them to the stems and leaves, she suddenly hit a snag.

Ji You's face tensed.

This simple stroke, if drawn down, would connect with the foliage, but—no matter how hard she tried, her fingers always veered slightly off course.

...

Failure.

Another waste.

Ji You raised her hand, rubbing her brow.

The steps and methods were correct, with not one misstep. Where did the problem lie?

Thinking hard but finding no solution, Ji You vaguely knew that her trouble lay in her feeling; she lacked that seamless integration of mind and spirit, like a fish in water, where hands, feet, and consciousness were perfectly unified... That feeling of freedom.

Of course—using lack of sentiment or inspiration as descriptions was also fitting.

This was a very mysterious matter.

By now, Ji You had finally understood why soul artifact makers had such low success rates.

Because—

Soul devices just weren't something you could mass-produce.

Sigh—

Briefly out of ideas, Ji You turned to Star Network and entered the Beikena Mountain range specialty store. She stared at a 250-gram bright red apple for over ten minutes, her gaze growing more resentful and irritated as she looked until the gleam in her eyes started to reek of credit points...

Ji You thought to herself:

[Whether I buy the apple or not, it's right here, neither more nor less. When the money's paid, it comes or goes, and it's all up to me...

So—

What is my mission?

—Earn credit points, of course.]

After such consolation, Ji You felt full of drive, as if she could make eight or ten soul devices in one go. Right when she was about to log off, she caught a glimpse in the corner of her eye of people hurrying about, darting off in one direction.

Eh?

What happened?

Ji You followed instinctively.

Soon enough, she learned what happened—it turned out that at the very center of the East District's main square on Star Network, a battle video was being shown.

—A video of a human battling a Star Beast.

Ji You had just squeezed into the square and looked up when she collided with a pair of huge blood-red pupils. Her body shivered, only then realizing it was but a virtual image. However, just a quick glance at the massive beast was enough to scare someone to death.

Before Ji You could calm her pounding heart, she was shocked by the scene before her.

She saw—

The monstrous beast's fangs parted, its bloody maw wide open, ready to swallow a few weak, exhausted humans in its line of sight. Just then, a silver-white mecha suddenly crashed into it. The mecha's sleek form hammered against the beast's sharp teeth, and everyone heard a crisp 'crack.'

The beast's teeth showed a crack—

Clearly enraged, the beast spat out the bite-sized humans and lunged at the swiftly retreating mecha with its mouth open...

"Ah ah ah... Admiral Bai Ji is truly Admiral Bai Ji, his bravery and attention to detail are incomparable. Just now, those few were about to fall into the mouth of the Thunder Leopard Beast and rescuing them while avoiding collateral damage meant there was no chance to fire the energy cannon, yet he thought to ram into the Thunder Leopard Beast with the mecha itself! So bold! The control of force was incredibly precise... Splendid! Just splendid! Keep in mind that the mecha Admiral Bai Ji is piloting is a lightweight Wind Wing, designed for speed and agility. It doesn't have the thickness and toughness of a heavy-duty mecha! Yet, he dared to ram into the teeth of an eight-level Thunder Leopard Beast!"

"That's an eight-level Thunder Leopard Beast!"

What does eight-level even mean?

Ordinary people, such as Ji You, upon encountering a level 1 or 2 Star Beast, would turn tail and scurry away in panic...

But level 8—

At least it's a king among beasts.

On the screen, the battle between Bai Ji and the level 8 Thunder Leopard Beast was intense. Ji You's spiritual power was insufficient to make out the details; she could only see sparks flying across the screen...

"Bai Ji!"

"Bai Ji!"

"Bai Ji!"

"Victory is ours!"

"Victory is ours!"

"Victory is ours!"

"Ah ah—"

"Bai Ji—my idol!"

...

The crowd around the square couldn't help but burst into waves of shouting—

Then—

At the critical moment of the screen, Ji You only saw the silver-white Mecha retreat, move back, turn around, and look back... A series of moves performed seamlessly in one go, quickly aiming the Energy Cannon at the gaping mouth of the Thunder Leopard Beast—

—Amidst the roar of the Thunder Leopard Beast, a dazzling Particle Cannon shot out.

Boom—

Fireworks that shock the heavens—

Bloom—

Disperse—

Fall—

The crowd thought it was over, but the Thunder Leopard Beast was still alive, suddenly leaping towards the Mecha to attack. Amidst the exclamations of the people, they saw a smooth sword light slashing down from the silver-white Mecha, a sword that seemed to carry the power to split heaven and earth, cutting the Thunder Leopard Beast in half—

Only then did the Thunder Leopard Beast truly die.

Wow—

Applause erupted from all around, and men and women, young and old on the square... all cheered!

"Bai Ji!"

"Bai Ji!"

"Bai Ji!"

...

Ji You's eyes were also full of admiration.

This—

Is this what Mecha is like?

This—

Is this what strength is like?

...

Exactly.

This—

This is the power and strength she strives for!

This—

Is the direction and guiding light of her future struggles and efforts.

The Thunder Leopard Beast was dead, but the battle was not over. The silver-white Mecha, after a fierce close-range collision with the Thunder Leopard Beast, was already severely damaged. As the crowd listened to the cracking and crumbling of the Mecha with bated breath, suddenly, a slender figure leapt out from the Mecha.

It was a very young man with distinctive features, thin lips, and phoenix eyes. Jumping out of the Mecha, he took big strides, his gaze unblinkingly fixed on a certain spot, a sharp light shining in his dark pupils. With just this fleeting glimpse, before the audience could fully appreciate his refined features, they suddenly heard him say: "The Mecha, give it to me."

The soldier with a broken leg and smashed face, holding on to his last breath, tossed the Space Button to the young man.

After that.

The young man strode forward with an incredible speed, logging into another Mecha.

He turned around and swiftly, with the efficiency and speed of a meat grinder, cleaned up the remaining Star Beasts around.

...

The screen went black.

Ji You was speechless for a long time.

Chapter 64: Chapter 64: Farewell

Ji You opened her mouth, wanting to say something, but then she closed it.

Originally—

This is the power that is unmatched.

Previously, she struggled at the edge of survival, never caring about reality. This was Ji You's first time ever witnessing such a wildly dominant and brilliant combat scene, which had a great impact on her.

...

After a long while.

Ji You finally regained her composure.

Applause surrounded her.

After the video was played, what followed was the Alliance news broadcast, which reported on recent Star Beast movements to the public and concluded: [Admiral Bai Ji, leading the entire Sixth Legion, swept through the territories of the Alliance following the directions of all Star Beast movements... Please, citizens, ease your minds, do not worry about safety issues...]

And so on.

...

Discussions buzzed around.

Having listened to the chatter, the panic and unease caused by the recent Star Beast disturbances seemed to dissipate after witnessing the decisions of the Alliance and the bravery of Admiral Bai Ji. Indeed, everyone's hearts felt more at ease.

"With Admiral Bai Ji leading the Sixth Legion to escort us, the impact of this Beast Tide should definitely decrease, right?"

"Admiral Bai Ji is leading the Sixth Legion to clear the Star Beasts causing disturbances; does this mean it's now safe to travel to various planetary zones?"

"Admiral Bai Ji is taking personal action, it must be safe."

"That's reassuring. I was planning an interstellar trip soon; I was scared to go because of the Star Beast riots."

"..."

That briefly glimpsed young man is the War God of the Alliance, the Guardian God of the Alliance, a hero in the eyes of the public. His blade, swung towards the Star Beasts, cold and ruthless, but it protected the peace of countless citizens... His great name permeates all territories of the Alliance, bringing people faith, confidence, and a sense of security—

"It's fortunate for the citizens to have such a powerful Guardian God," Ji You muttered to herself, her voice hoarse. She just couldn't help herself and screamed and cheered wildly with the people around her, making her throat a bit raspy.

After logging off the Star Network.

Ji You put the elusive Admiral Bai Ji out of her mind and didn't delay a moment, continuing to work on the Grass Seed Fruit Pendant.

This time, she emptied her mind completely, without a trace of distraction, and crafted freely.

...

After finishing this state of total emptiness, Ji You looked at the exquisitely lifelike Grass Seed Fruit Pendant in her hand and a flicker of satisfaction crossed her eyes. Her instinct as an Artifact Maker told her, without needing a test, that this was definitely a real Soul Device.

Ji You casually placed it aside, continuing to make the last Grass Seed Fruit.

This time, treating it as an experiment, Ji You thought and tried to completely replicate the trajectory of the previous one... Sure enough, as she started, it felt very awkward. But she still tried to complete making this Grass Seed Fruit Pendant.

Ji You held it up and examined it: While it had a beautiful appearance, inside, it lacked any flow of spiritual power... indicating that this was merely a beautiful artwork.

"Hmm..."

"It failed."

After failing numerous times, Ji You proved her hypothesis: Soul Devices cannot be replicated; each one, even with the same Array, is unique. Moreover, to make a Soul Device, one must be fully focused, without any distractions, and must know how to

manage and plan their spiritual power, achieving a division of labor... This step tests the utilization of spiritual power.

Ji You's eyes, though unable to see the spiritual power, sensed vaguely that her spiritual power was distributed in threads. These threads weren't many, only six in total. As she lowered her head, her hands polishing and carving, these six threads of spiritual power always appropriately landed on certain points, then followed the lines carved by the chisel in Ji You's hands...

Still not understanding the principle of Soul Device manufacturing, but faintly gaining some insights.

...

After finishing, Ji You felt mentally exhausted. She did not continue, but rather packed up the two Grass Seed Fruit Pendants and sent them to Cheng Yu.

After sending it off, Ji You sent a message to Cheng Yu:

[Grass Seed Fruit Pendant sent, accounts settled.]

The next day.

As dawn broke, Ji You got up and hurried to Lea's family.

Xie Chuanqiong, Xie Lingzhi, and Lea had already packed their bags, dressed neatly, and were ready to take the Floating Car to the interstellar space station.

Ji You looked at them and said, "Brother Qiong, Sister Lea, Sister Lingzhi, have a smooth journey."

Xie Chuanqiong smiled and said, "You, take good care of yourself."

Ji You squinted her eyes, "Mm."

Lea smiled warmly and said, "You, make sure to read all my notes carefully."

Ji You laughed and said, "Don't worry, this is Sister Lea's painstaking effort, I won't let you down."

Among them, Xie Lingzhi didn't give any specific instructions, she just looked at Ji You, her mouth opened, and in the end, it turned into a snort.

Oh—

Tsundere.

Ji You instantly understood Xie Lingzhi.

Grandma Jenny, watching the children, choked up, "You three, take good care of yourselves at school, we're all family, don't stir up any conflicts, make sure to unite and love one another..."

Lea nodded gently.

Xie Chuanqiong said, "Grandma, don't worry, I will take good care of Lea."

Grandma Jenny looked at Xie Chuanqiong, whose face was still green but who was steady, and felt somewhat reassured.

As another parent, Xie Yi didn't say much, only instructing them to focus on their studies and report back to the family regularly.

Afterward.

The three took the Floating Car and gradually departed.

Grandma Jenny turned away, secretly wiping her tears.

Xie Yi didn't cry, but stretched his neck, continuously watching the Floating Car departing into the distance—the children, though gone, brought hope to Xie Yi, the hope of a beautiful and stable future life.

...

After sending off Xie Chuanqiong, Xie Lingzhi, and Sister Lea, Ji You also felt a bit saddened, that helplessness of falling behind, the loneliness of not being able to catch up with her peers, gnawed at her.

But it was only a moment.

Ji You snapped back to reality, remembering she had no time for sadness or to waste, and so, she immediately entered the training room and began her first day of training.

The training equipment purchased for 200,000 credit points had an in-built program that was quite ideal, especially for beginners like Ji You. It came with a complete beginner's adaptation plan; Ji You had to follow the prescribed route, meet all the standards, then she could choose other training items on her own.

The first item: Bone Strength.

The skeleton is the foundation of physical strength, and the cornerstone of the body. Without sufficient bone strength, it's impossible to complete high-intensity training. Bone strength is measured in two aspects:

1. Bone Density: Specifically refers to the bone content. Taking Ji You's body as an example, her physical level is E, this means her total bone strength capacity is at level E, but often, the body wears out, and the bone content may decrease. Conversely, persisting in training can increase bone content, but this value isn't limitless; it only increases up to the maximum capacity of one's physical level and then stops.

Upon examination, Ji You's bone density is 70%, indicating that her bone content isn't full, and hasn't reached the peak value of the E-level physical capacity, there is still 30% growth space.

2. Bone Strength: Refers to the load-bearing capacity. To put it simply, imagine the human body as a skyscraper, and the bone strength is the maximum load capacity of this skyscraper.

Upon examination, Ji You's bone strength is only 50%, indicating that her body is fundamentally a shoddy construction project, unable to bear more than 50% of the total load capacity. She must avoid careless bumps and knocks, cannot undergo overloading training, and cannot participate in high-intensity combat... Once it exceeds this bearing limit, her shoddy construction might immediately collapse—done for!

(Note: The above is all made up, purely for the plot, don't fact-check it.)

Chapter 65: Chapter 65: Devil Training

Of course, both bone density and strength can be improved through acquired training.

Ji You's current bone density is at 70%, and bone strength is at 50%. Both can reach saturation and completion through persistent training. Only when these two aspects are complete can Ji You's bone strength be considered to have truly reached the peak of an E-level.

Think that once bone strength training is complete, everything is all set?

Of course not.

If you only have bones without flesh, the 'high-rise building' that is the human body can only be considered an empty frame. Therefore, it needs 'steel', 'cement', 'gravel'... and so on to fill it, to be called a complete high-rise building.

Therefore—

Second item: Blood vessel strength.

The strength of the blood vessels can be further divided into two subcategories:

Flesh: Refers to all parts of the human body composed of flesh, other than the bones.

Meridians: The network through which all blood vessels in the body flow.

After testing, Ji You's values in these two areas were far from ideal, with flesh strength at 50% and meridian strength even worse, at only 30%.

What does this indicate? It shows that her flesh and meridian strengths are particularly poor and especially fragile. Take any ordinary metal weapon, like a kitchen knife, and a casual swipe at her body would immediately slice open a huge gash!

...

What Ji You needs to do now is to train these two fundamental aspects: bone strength and blood vessel strength.

Previously, her Physical Strength had always been E-level, but this only indicated that her body had the capacity for E-level Physical Strength; yet it wasn't filled. Only once it's fully saturated, to the point of overflowing, is her Physical Strength considered to have reached the E-level Peak.

Only after reaching the E-level Peak, does one possess the strength to break through to the C-level.

Without reaching the peak value, it's impossible to break through to the next level.

...

Using the training room for the first time, Ji You didn't dare to be too bold. She followed the training room's guidelines step by step, and yet after just one hour, she was crawling out of the training room on all fours.

Merely an hour of training, and Ji You felt like she had become a soaked sponge, arms and legs, head, neck... every organ seemed too heavy to even lift.

During her rest time, Ji You did not waste a moment, hugging Sister Liya's notebook and observing carefully.

When Ji You saw the following entry in Sister Liya's diary:

[First training session, muscles so sore it was unbearable, didn't even have the strength to eat nutrient solution, and too ashamed to ask my roommate to feed me. No choice but to find a long straw, diluted the nutrient solution into water, lying in bed while sipping and reflecting on life:

How many days can I endure this darned training? I bet I can only last 3 days.]

After 3 days.

[Having eaten straw-fed nutrient solution for 3 days, it tasted quite good, but there's one question that keeps bugging me: how am I still alive? — Haha, it must be because I'm too beautiful.]

...

Ji You: "..."

Unexpectedly, the gentle-looking Sister Liya had such a playful heart.

And—

Quite self-admiring too.

Ji You couldn't help but laugh, thinking about how she always followed Sister Liya around, sugarcoating her words and praising her beauty to the skies, yet Sister Liya always remained cool and indifferent. Who would have thought she's so vain inside.

Humph—

Maybe she was secretly delighted inside when I complimented her.

With this humorous distraction, Ji You recovered a bit and continued to enter the training room for more workouts. Physical Strength training is a long-term battle of perseverance; the longer one endures, the more apparent the effects.

Ji You crawled into the training room.

Then.

She crawled out of the training room.

...

After several cycles, she felt drained to the point of exhaustion, not daring to push herself further. Barely making it out of the training room, her hands trembling, feet shaky, and cheeks quivering constantly...

In such a state? Truly not having any strength left even to eat nutrient solution.

...

After resting for half an hour, Ji You finally managed to crawl up again, using all four limbs, she struggled painfully over to the storage cabinet. The moment she opened the drawer, her gaze sharpened slightly:

It's over!

The nutrient solution has run out.

Ji You's complexion instantly turned half a shade darker!

No choice, she trembled all over, logged onto Star Network, and bought 20 vials of nutrient solution from a nearby store. After purchasing, she checked her credit points balance:

[Account Balance: 1,098,504 points.]

Life, sigh—

It really makes your hair fall out!

Now, I don't even have a 1.2 million balance, just under 1.1 million.

After paying the sponsorship fee, Ji You estimated that her school fees, living expenses, and various miscellaneous fees at the academy would definitely not be enough.

What to do?

For a moment, Ji You's mind flashed back to Ah Da's 100 million on his head. She shook her head hard, suppressing her wicked thoughts of slaughtering a fat sheep...

Since she bought the nutrient solution from a nearby store, the delivery was quick. The robot courier knocked on the door for a long time, but no one came out to receive the package. The robot then deduced that the customer was not at home and was about to leave when the door was pushed open from the inside.

Robot courier: "Customer, your package. Please receive it."

Ji You crawling on the ground: "Sir, could you please squat down? You're standing too tall, I can't reach."

Robot courier: "???"

This scene was beyond the understanding of the robot courier's programming. It tried to analyze Ji You's behavior but only got a string of nonsense codes and, in the end, it stopped insisting and chalked it up to the customer's particular preferences.

Some people like spiders.

Some people like ants.

And some people like birds...

Human preferences are always bizarre, it's not strange for some to enjoy crawling.

The courier bent down, making eye level with Ji You, and handed her the package to sign for.

Ji You raised her hand and casually drew a line, and the sign-off was successful.

"Customer... Here's a friendly tip: The environment and soil of Planet 101 are not suitable for crawling, please take care of your body." This delivery robot wasn't just an inflexible domestic bot; it had some intelligence, roughly that of a 5-year-old human child. Out of humanitarian consideration, it said the above.

"..." Speechless for a moment, Ji You could only manage an awkward but polite smile.

After expressing his concern, the courier said politely: "Customer, enjoy your meal. Don't forget to give our store a five-star rating."

Ji You: "...You take care."

Alone with her thoughts, Ji You was embarrassed for a good while before sighing, "With my ghastly appearance, I can even scare a robot."

Next.

With her arms weak, Ji You tried the method from Sister Liya's book, diluted the nutrient solution with water, and used a long straw to eat her lunch.

Then—

Her face turned dark.

What kind of dark cuisine is this?

The nutrient solution was already hard to swallow, and after diluting it with water, the taste became a hundred, no, a thousand times worse. The nutrient solution was originally concentrated, and once it was diluted, it expanded several times.

How—

To finish eating it?

Ji You swallowed it while pinching her nose, only managed to eat half before she couldn't bear it anymore and threw away the straw.

Ahhhh—

How indescribably disgusting!

Ji You flipped out Sister Liya's notes again, wanting to see what she thought of such dark cuisine, only to discover after a whole night that Liya mentioned in a teasing tone that this was a prank by the senior students of Lanyue Star Military Academy, specifically to fool the new students who knew nothing. It's a tradition! It's a legacy, too, and Liya also wrote that she was one of those who had been pranked.

In the end—

Liya wrote in small print, asking: [You, did you try it? How's the taste? Is it unforgettable for life?]

Ji You: "...."

Chapter 66: Chapter 66: An Unexpected Interview Result

Never would Sister Liya have expected to prank herself.

Yingyingying—

Big apple.

She needed a big apple.

Only a juicy, sweet big apple could alleviate the despair in her heart.

Ji You wasn't sad for but a few seconds before suddenly receiving a communication request, which turned out to be from Lanyue Star Military Academy's admissions office.

In an instant, Ji You's sorrow and sadness were thrown to the back of her mind, she spirited up and even tidied her messy hair, making sure there was nothing wrong with her appearance before accepting the communication request.

On the holographic screen opposite, sat three interviewers: a middle-aged man with a serious face and slightly balding, a competent middle-aged woman, and a kind-looking elderly professor.

First, Ji You chatted with the middle-aged man, who introduced himself as the director of admissions. The questions posed by the man were very official, and Ji You answered each one. After finishing, the man gave no indication of his thoughts.

The competent middle-aged woman, however, was more talkative, asking related questions and also inquiring about Ji You's hobbies. Ji You behaved very obediently, earnestly, and patiently responded to each question.

Then, it was the elderly professor's turn.

Seeing the kind-looking elderly professor remain silent caused Ji You's heart to slightly panic.

After a long pause.

The elderly professor suddenly asked, "As I know, you were initially admitted to our school before being disqualified. Now, you still plan to enter our school through sponsorship. What are your intentions?"

"..." The elderly professor, looking benevolent, came on fiercely with his first question cornering Ji You. His eyes flashed with a chilling light that was terrifying... Ji You bit her lip before saying, "I want to stand up where I fell, I believe it's my freedom. Moreover, I do not think I am guilty. You might say, under the law and evidence, I cannot deny the charges against me. But I want to say an old saying: gold always shines. And the truth—one day, the water will recede and the rocks will emerge."

The elderly professor angrily said, "Even now, you still want to argue! A person without morals or talent like you does not deserve to be a student of our school! I oppose this application."

Ji You's eyes suddenly reddened. But she clenched her teeth, enduring without showing any sign of weakness or compromise.

The atmosphere became tense.

Ji You started considering, if Lanyue Star Military Academy didn't accept her, what other options did she have? Lanyue Star is dominated by the Military Academy. Besides, there is another public university, which is an agricultural school, focusing on improving agricultural crops. Nowadays in interstellar society, natural food is rare and greatly affected by the environment. The Alliance is also increasing funds for natural crop research annually—this type of agricultural university still has a very high application rate.

Should—

Should she switch to studying agriculture?

The more Ji You thought about it, the more the frustration, sadness, anger in her heart diluted, leaving only a facial expression full of dilemma.

Alas!

Such is fate.

...

Just when Ji You was disheartened, she bucked up again, thinking: Maybe studying at an agricultural school could be a roundabout way to save my situation.

Then—

Ji You suddenly heard a competent female voice saying, "I agree with student Ji You's application. Our Lanyue Star Military Academy welcomes every diligent, progressive, and eager-to-learn student."

The elderly professor: "Mu Jianling, you—"

This particularly named instructor Mu Jianling, who was very aloof, merely glanced indifferently at the nearly furious elderly professor without paying heed to his outcry.

Beside them, the director of admissions said, "I also agree with this student Ji You's application. After all—this year's sponsored class quota is not yet full..." In other words, more students bring more sponsorship fees.

"You!"

"Absurd!"

The elderly professor left the session in anger.

Two votes.

Passed.

Ji You still hadn't processed what just happened.

Then—

She received a letter of admission, which noted one point: The sponsorship fee of 1 million must be paid within 15 working days after issuing the notice.

days later, would be the official start of the school year at Lanyue Star.

Interview ends.

Ji You: "..."

Who am I?

Where am I?

What am I doing?

— Is this what they call "when the path ends in despair, hope appears where least expected"?

In short:

Ji You was admitted to Langyue Star Military Academy.

She spent 1 million credit points to get accepted.

She felt like crying—

She really wanted to cry.

Then, Ji You truly shed tears. The tears silently fell, drop by drop, gently sliding down.

"Xiao You, did you hear? I... I got admitted to the Lanyue Star Military Academy."

"Really."

"Look, look, you gotta see—this admission notice is hot off the press, still fresh..."

Her tears kept dropping while her smile grew wider and wider, and the joy and excitement in her voice resembled an eagle spreading its wings and soaring joyously for the first time in the sky...

Perhaps Ji You's emotions were too intense and infectious. The quiet girl staying inside the Iron Plate felt something, suddenly stood up, and rushed to the confining wall where she found a bright light.

The light was small, but it was hot and warm.

The girl stood beside this beam of light for a while and then heard Ji You's voice.

Ji You softly said, "Xiao You, let me tell you the great news: from now on, we are going to step into the Lanyue Star Military Academy! Once we're there, we will truly rise from where we fell! As long as we are not dead, no one can defeat us again!"

Tears glistened in the girl's eyes as she nodded gently, "Hmm!"

"Ah!"

"Xiao You!"

"You can actually speak!"

"You can speak without eating Butterfly Honey!" Ji You was shocked.

The girl smiled sweetly: [Sister... I felt you calling me, so I ran to the wall to listen and see if it was real. I never expected it to be true. I'm so happy to be able to talk to sister today.]

Ji You, mouth agape, almost wanting to scream: "Ahhh... Girl! You're missing the point! The point is we didn't eat Butterfly Honey, we didn't spend a dime! You can still speak!!! Ahhh..."

You see, last night just to get Xiao You to talk, she gritted her teeth and bought 100,000 credit points worth of Butterfly Honey.

Now—

No money was spent.

What does that mean?

It means that even without spending money, Xiao You can communicate smoothly with her.

This news was truly delightful and exciting.

[Hmm!]

[So happy.]

[Sister...]

[If I could always talk to sister without spending money, then sister won't have to work so hard to earn money.]

Ji You's eyes gleamed with fervor:

It's definitely possible.

There must be a way.

The Interstellar Queen of Scavengers #Chapter 67: All Kinds of Speculation - Read The Interstellar Queen of Scavengers Chapter 67: All Kinds of Speculation

Chapter 67: Chapter 67: All Kinds of Speculation

Receiving the admission notification from Lanyue Star Military Academy, Ji You was so thrilled that she immersed herself in her Conscious Sea, chatting happily with Xiao You. They envisioned countless beautiful possibilities for their future school life.

Then...

As they were talking, Ji You suddenly heard Xiao You yell out:

[Ah—]

[It's no use...]

[The light is fading...]

Then—

Ji You could no longer hear Xiao You's voice. At the same time, a deep fatigue suddenly crept up on Ji You. She raised her hand and pinched the philtrum hard, but still couldn't fight off the feeling of exhaustion.

Eh?

Was it a huge consumption of spiritual power?

This feeling was very similar to the exhaustion she felt after crafting a Soul Device.

Could it be—

Almost an epiphany, a guess popped into her mind:

Was the successful communication with Xiao You actually using her own spiritual power?

If that's the case—

As long as her spiritual power was strong enough, would she be able to communicate with Xiao You without any barriers in the future?

Not just communicating with Xiao You, which required spiritual power, crafting Soul Devices also needed a continuous supply of spiritual power.

...

Ji You's eyes sparkled, feeling she was very close to the truth.

So—

Her current most important task, which would also be an ongoing effort in the future, was:

To improve her Physical Strength and spiritual power!

With the direction clear, Ji You's original confusion and puzzlement vanished as if clouds had been scattered, and everything became crystal clear.

"I'm going to strive..." Before she could finish saying the word "strive," her head tilted suddenly, and she fell asleep.

The next day.

The warm sunshine filtered through the roof and into the room. Ji You had just completed a set of bone exercises and was climbing out on all fours. After a short rest, she climbed back in again—

Climbed out.

Climbed in.

...

The training was relentless. Set on being fierce, Ji You went beyond the training system's recommendation, which was to train no more than three times a day, each time no more than one hour. Exceeding this limit could cause injury to the trainer's body, and the system did not advise exceeding the body's capacity. Nevertheless, Ji You found a loophole. She kept track of the time, exiting the training room just before the system could issue a warning.

After a brief recovery, she climbed back in.

This cycle repeated throughout the day, and Ji You did it eight times until the evening, when she could no longer move her limbs and finally stopped this crazy behavior.

To increase the number of daily trainings, Ji You spent 20,000 credit points to buy a simple version of a Repairing Chamber. After each workout, she would quickly lie down

in the Repairing Chamber, which promptly repaired muscle strains, soreness, and other symptoms of discomfort.

The result of such intensive training was: Ji You went from being able to enter the training room up to 8 times a day, with each session lasting a maximum of half an hour before feeling overwhelmed, to being able to train up to 10 times a day, with each session extended to 40 minutes.

The direct effect was: Ji You's specific numbers for Bone Strength were: Bone Density 75%, Bone Strength 55%, both of which had increased by 5%... truly a cause for celebration.

Ji You was nearly moved to tears when she saw the check-up results.

Continuing.

Not wanting to neglect any area, Ji You set aside training to increase Bone Strength to focus on enhancing her Blood Vessel Strength; otherwise, the flesh and meridians would be unable to adapt to the enhanced bones, leading to various problems in the body.

In the following days, Ji You's hard work wasn't in vain as her Blood Vessel Strength also saw notable improvements, with muscle strength increasing to 56% and meridian strength to 33%.

Soon, Ji You discovered a problem:

The meridian strength was proving to be the toughest nut to crack.

With the same training intensity, the numbers for increasing Bone Density, Bone Strength, and muscle strength were almost identical, but meridian strength had only increased by 3%. This wasn't scientific at all!

What was the reason?

Ji You racked her brains, flipping through Sister Liya's notes and a variety of books freely available on the Star Network to all citizens, and still could find no explanation.

Unable to find it, Ji You simply tossed it aside.

Following that,

Ji You checked her spiritual power threshold once more. Before the test, she was filled with boundless expectation, thinking that her physical strength had improved and logically her spiritual power should have increased as well.

However—

The result was a cold slap in the face.

The result was as follows:

[Spiritual power threshold: 121.]

It had neither increased nor decreased.

Ji You violently grabbed her own hair, annoyed: "Could it be that this thing can only be improved by eating Butterfly Honey?"

Who could afford that?

**

In the distant stars, Cheng Yu packed a pile of luggage and sent it to the teaching staff dormitory at Lanyue Star. Then he opened his mailbox again and found no letters from any masters.

Cheng Yu was very disappointed.

It had been several days since he had sent many letters to the Master, but not a single reply had come from the Master. Cheng Yu stared at the last letter from Green Glaze Master: [The Grass Seed Fruit has been sent, the account is cleared.]

Sent.

Cleared.

...

Did this mean that the connection between him and the Master was cut off?

Master—

Did he no longer need me?

Could it be—

The doubts I had about Master initially were noticed by him, and he became angry, no longer wishing to contact me?

Cheng Yu's bun-like face wrinkled into a ball.

"This is not what I wanted."

"What I need is to become friends, family with the Master..."

"And the loving care from the Master..."

"Yingyingying..."

After his sorrow, Cheng Yu closed the email and once again gazed at the two Grass Seed Fruit Pendants in his hands. In fact, in the last few days, he had looked at them countless times, but each time he was still amazed by the craftsmanship displayed by the Master.

What brilliant craftsmanship.

...

Among these two Grass Seed Fruits, after identification, only one was a Soul Device, while the other was a pure art piece.

This new Soul Device had a more complex Array Diagram, its circulation system was more stable than the last one, and upon a close look, one could see the crystal-clear kernel constantly emitting a delicate luminescence.

—This was the manifestation of spiritual power slowly circulating.

Wearing these two Soul Devices, Cheng Yu had almost never felt tired these past days, and moreover, more than ten days had passed, and there were no signs of collapse in either the old or the new Grass Seed Fruit Soul Device.

What did this imply?

It suggested that their longevity far exceeded his estimate of one month.

It was very likely that their lifespan could reach more than three months.

Typical short-term consumable Soul Devices have a lifespan of about 10 days to 6 months. If the materials used are poor, they would definitely collapse after about ten days. Those made with slightly better materials could last about 2-3 months. The ones crafted from Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures have records of lasting up to 6 months. But Grass Seed Fruit—

Such inferior material could last more than 3 months...

This was a huge difference compared to the analysis data of the Grass Seed Fruit Soul Device that Cheng Yu had published on the Star Network.

Slap in the face.

Such a slap in the face.

He really knew nothing about this mysterious Master.

Chapter 68: Chapter 68: Daytime Scavenging Chaotic Scene

Ji You was opening an email from Cheng Yu while hiding in a filthy hole, outside a fierce wind raged, carrying a sky-covering blanket of trash that seemed poised to engulf the whole ground world...

The place where Ji You was hiding was originally a burrow excavated by a Carrion Rat, but now, the poor Carrion Rat had become a ghost under her knife, its corpse still lying at her feet—

The already small cave was getting increasingly compressed and deformed by the garbage mound on top, shrinking smaller and smaller. Ji You could no longer turn around and had to curl up as much as possible to avoid being completely buried.

She wore protective clothing and turned on the oxygen circulation system inside it. Her personal safety was secure for the short term. But—since her protective suit was a second-hand and old one, it had little energy left, and the oxygen circulation system could only last for 24 hours. If the storm did not stop after 24 hours, she was done for.

Ji You regretted it internally; she shouldn't have taken the bet. The weather forecast said no storm today, so she believed it, but she never expected that even in the interstellar era, the forecasts were still hit or miss.

And today, it just wasn't accurate.

If she had just stayed at home and exercised her Physical Strength, there would have been no problem at all.

Sigh!

Complaining was useless.

Ji You didn't allow herself to be too negative. Instead of fretting, she figured it was better to find something to pass the time. Thus, she connected to the Star Network, planning to go to someone's home garden to work as a laborer...

And that's when she discovered that Cheng Yu had sent her 99+ emails.

She casually opened one.

[Dear Master Soul Artifact Master:

Seeing this letter is like seeing you. You must feel the fervent respect and affection I hold for you, like a stormy wave! I think of you day and night, anticipating your presence...]

Ji You: "..."

This guy really doesn't know subtlety.

Bunch of blabber, not a single point of importance.

Skimming over everything, Ji You finally found the information she wanted, confirming her expectations as she predicted: among the two grass seeds she sent to Cheng Yu, one was a Soul Device, and the other was not.

She breathed a sigh of relief.

This meant her judgment was correct. This experiment was validated, which has significant reference value for her future Soul Device manufacturing, definitely increasing her success rate.

Then, she casually flipped through a few more of Cheng Yu's emails, finding the content roughly the same, full of praises and cheesy lines, not worth further reading, so she replied with only one message: [Read.]

Originally, she wanted to write more, specifically asking Cheng Yu to keep his emails concise in the future, but considering her high aloof Master persona, naturally, she wouldn't be verbose—

So, Ji You held herself back, even starting to doubt whether the aloof Master persona she had taken up that day was a mistake.

hour passed.

hours passed.

hours passed.

...

Day turned into night, Ji You was coiled up alone in this rat hole, feeling as if heaven and earth were unresponsive, unaware if the storm outside had stopped yet.

Crouching here, Ji You didn't dare immerse herself in the Star Network in case something sudden happened outside, which she couldn't react to in time, she occasionally went offline to check the outside situation.

Lifting her hand, she gently brushed aside the entrance of the cave, glanced outside, realized the wind had stopped, and the airborne trash, unsupported, was trickling down. Ji You was about to peek her head out only to nearly get struck by a trash bag. Fortunately, thanks to her persistent exercise, her physical response had become much sharper, allowing her to avoid it.

Besides the trash bag, Ji You's luck was very good. After crawling out of the hole, she immediately ran towards the safety net, not forgetting the spoils she had collected while scavenging during the day. Venturing out to pick up the trash in the daytime, Ji You had quite the haul, collecting 3 abandoned energy boxes, a damaged domestic robot (just a broken shell since the internal chips and all were gone), and various other recyclable items.

All in all, these could likely fetch her 200 credit points at the recycling station.

This adventure, in one word:

Worth it!

Ji You felt a wonderful delight inside as she carried a big sack of scraps, dashing towards the protective barrier like the wind.

Then—

Disaster struck.

A large group of Carrion Rats, squeaking shrilly, swarmed towards Ji You.

Ji You's face turned ashen.

With one hand, she clutched the sack tightly, and with the other, she firmly gripped her energy machete.

A particularly large Carrion Rat lunged at her first; Ji You lifted her wrist and the light from the energy machete harshly slashed down.

Crack.

The Carrion Rat was split into two halves.

However—

The thing about Carrion Rats that was so bothersome was that they weren't afraid of humans at all, had no fear of death, and most annoyingly, they fought in packs without any shame!

One, two, three...

...

Ji You didn't know how many she had slain as her second-hand protective clothing got scratched several times.

Dodging and attacking simultaneously, Ji You was nearly exhausted.

Just then, a gust of powerful wind came, and a Carrion Rat, about the size of a goat, fiercely pounced towards Ji You's neck—

[This is the end!]

Ji You inwardly cursed.

Suddenly—

A flash of silvery-white sword light streaked past, directly piercing through the leading Carrion Rat.

Boom—

The heavy body of the Carrion Rat fiercely smashed in front of Ji You.

Ji You looked up, eyes flashing with surprise, "Ryan!"

A hint of disapproval crossed Ryan's handsome face as he said, "Move behind me."

How could Ji You dare to disobey? She quickly scrambled up, not even bothering to dust off the trash on her buttocks, and darted behind Ryan.

Ryan's swordplay was rapid and fierce. In just an instant, he had cleared all the Carrion Rats within a meter around him... His tall figure was like a mountain, offering Ji You an immense sense of security. She hid behind Ryan, occasionally striking a few more blows.

...

Ten minutes later, the ground was piled with many Carrion Rat corpses, and the few remaining stragglers finally scattered in fear.

Ji You's eyes sparkled brightly: "Ryan, thank you. You've saved me several times already..."

Ryan turned his head, glanced at the dirt-covered girl in front of him, stayed silent for a moment, then said, "Don't do such reckless things again."

Ji You nodded earnestly, "I understand. I won't take risks anymore." She had thought about venturing out when the spaceship was dumping trash to pick up fresh scraps, betting on finding better items.

Fact proved, Ji You's idea was not wrong.

But—

—Venturing out during the day to scavenge was indeed a chaotically dangerous scene.

Chapter 69: Chapter 69: At the Moment of Parting

Ryan took the lead, and as he strode forward, Ji You leaped from the pile of garbage, hauling her big hemp bag back onto her shoulder and hurried to catch up with him.

But—

The broken robot shell in the hemp bag was an old model, large and cumbersome. Simply carrying it was a struggle for Ji You, so naturally, her pace slowed down...

Suddenly.

Ryan came to a stop, and Ji You nearly bumped into his back.

Ryan said, "Give it to me."

Ji You, face flushed red, replied, "Ah? How could I impose like that?" As she spoke, her hands involuntarily handed over the open mouth of the large hemp bag.

Ryan took it, shoved it into the Space Button, and said, "Keep up."

"Okay!" Ji You responded.

With Ryan's protection, Ji You found the journey much smoother; not even a mosquito—let alone Carrion Rats—bothered them...

Once they entered the protective net, Ryan handed Ji You's bag of garbage back to her. As they were about to part ways, Ryan suddenly said, "I'm leaving planet 101 in three days."

Ji You exclaimed in surprise, "Ah? Why so suddenly?"

Ryan's dark eyes gazed into the distance, the depths of his pupils seemingly concealing something.

The atmosphere grew quiet for a moment. Ryan came back to himself and said, "It's time to go."

As for anything else, he didn't explain.

Ji You's post-disaster joy gradually faded; she wasn't even sure how to feel:

Sad...

Disheartened...

Heartbroken...

...

All of the above.

With words on the tip of her tongue, Ji You opened her mouth to ask softly, "So— Brother Ryan, where will you go after leaving planet 101?"

In reality, Ji You didn't have much private communication with Ryan. After she traversed to this world, under the care of Grandma Jenny and Uncle Xie Yi, they followed Ryan to scavenge for waste. Ryan, with his formidable strength, had always protected them unconditionally.

Ji You's every encounter with Ryan was when she joined everyone to scavenge waste. Ryan was reserved and spoke little, but Ji You knew he was genuinely kind-hearted. Otherwise, he could've simply ignored the weaker ones like herself and Grandma Jenny, but instead, he chose to protect them.

Where did he come from?

What was he doing here?

And where would he go?

...

All these questions weren't that people didn't want to know; they just tactfully kept them buried in their minds.

When Ji You suddenly asked this question, she felt a bit presumptuous and quickly added, "Brother Ryan, if it's inconvenient for you to say, then don't worry about it, but—will we be able to see you again?"

Ryan looked down at Ji You with a faint smile and said, "I will be staying on Main Star for a while, but as for afterwards..." He paused, looked into the distance, and said softly, "I don't know."

Hmm?

Ji You opened her mouth as if to speak...

Ryan suddenly smiled and said, "You, I hope to see you again." Of course—He knew that after parting ways with the girl before him, they would most likely never have the chance to meet again.

Ji You pursed her lips, smiling: "Mhm, Brother Ryan, we have each other's contact information, we should keep in touch. When I make big money in the future, I'll come visit you on the Main Star."

Ryan nodded: "Mhm."

Ji You lifted her head and said: "Ryan, I'm also planning to leave home to study at Lanyue Star Military Academy. I've passed the self-funded entrance exam and will be leaving in a few days."

Ryan was clearly taken aback.

Ji You narrowed her eyes: "After all, my friends have all gone their separate ways, I can't just stand still."

Ryan wanted to ask something else, obviously not this. Ji You seemed to know what he was about to say and hurriedly explained: "About the money, I've already got it sorted out. I went to the interstellar bank and took out a student loan."

Ji You was extremely cheerful, saying: "I've got it all figured out!"

She wasn't lying to Ryan; she had indeed taken out a student loan at the interstellar bank the day before yesterday. She borrowed a total of 500,000 credit points, and as long as she repaid it within a year, there was no extra interest. If not repaid within a year, the daily interest rate would be 0.03%. This was the Alliance's preferential policy for impoverished students—if you had good credit and no past delinquencies, anyone over the age of eighteen could enjoy such policy benefits.

The Alliance had very strict credit control for its citizens. If you thought about taking the money and fleeing—then you could forget about enjoying the rights and benefits of being an Alliance citizen ever again.

But let's not dwell on these details.

In short, Ji You wouldn't need to worry about school expenses for a while.

After hearing this, Ryan fell silent for a moment, then nodded: "Going to study on Lanyue Star is a good choice." Since the girl had her own plans and had acted on them, he decided not to interfere or offer additional support because—everyone has their own path to walk alone.

Ji You: "Mhm, I will study hard."

After saying goodbye to Ryan, Ji You walked home, not knowing why, but she still felt listless even though she was carrying a big bag of junk.

Brother Qiong, Sister Liya, Sister Lingzhi...

They had left.

Now, Ryan was leaving too.

Life seems to always involve various departures—whether you're willing or not.

...

Despite feeling extremely upset, Ji You still put these emotions aside and carefully reviewed her actions of the day. The reason she had boldly gone to the wilderness to scavenge during the day was mainly because her recent Body Building efforts had paid off and she thought of the Level 2 energy machete she had, only operating around the perimeter of the protective net, so she felt fairly secure about her safety.

However—

The storm and the appearance of Carrion Rats were a harsh lesson for Ji You's arrogance and wishful thinking. If it hadn't been for Ryan's sudden appearance, she might have ended up as garbage, swarmed and devoured by Carrion Rats—

Even now, her heart was still filled with waves of fear.

Ji You understood that if she wanted to take risks in the future, she must do all sorts of research and have more life-saving means at her disposal. She could no longer be so rash.

**

Several days later, under the gaze of Ji You, Grandma Jenny, and Xie Yi, Ryan boarded the flight to the Main Star.

At the same time, Ji You also brought up her forthcoming enrollment to Uncle Xie Yi and Grandma Jenny.

Grandma Jenny wasn't too regretful about this; she was actually quite happy: "You, I'll email Lea to come pick you up when it's time."

Xie Yi also smiled: "This is good news. Actually, Aunt Zhen Ni and I had guessed that you would find a way to go to Lanyue Star Military Academy, but we didn't expect you to move the date forward this much. Ah! It makes me feel old—all the children have grown up and are leaving..."

Ji You hurriedly said: "Where is Uncle Xie Yi old? He's still a handsome uncle."

This made both elders laugh, instantly lifting much of the sadness.

Since she had decided to leave, Ji You didn't delay. She quickly packed her bags and sent the bulky and inconvenient items to Lanyue Star Military Academy through Light Speed Express. Afterwards, she only needed to carry some simple luggage with her.

The training room Ji You spent 200,000 on was certainly not forgotten; she packed it all up and sent it to Lanyue Star Military Academy. The school would help store it temporarily until she had completed the enrollment procedures, at which point she could retrieve them.

Everything was ready for the move.

Chapter 70: Chapter 70: Sailing Into the Vast Universe

Ji You carried her suitcase, her back laden with a large bag filled with all sorts of local products: apple pies baked by Grandma Jenny, artificially synthesized dried fish, artificially synthesized dried sweet potatoes... Grandma Jenny seemed worried Ji You would go hungry and stuffed the bag full of food. Uncle Xie Yi was more reserved; he gave Ji You several ordinary metal knives of various sizes and lengths he had crafted himself, which he said could serve as both weapons for self-defense and tools for use. This was something his children, Xie Chuanqiong and Xie Lingzhi, had sought from him before returning to school, and Uncle Xie Yi believed these would definitely come in handy there.

Originally, Ji You had very little luggage, so little that a 20-inch suitcase was not even filled. But after meeting with Grandma Jenny and Uncle Xie Yi, her suitcase was crammed full, and she mysteriously had an extra large backpack.

Ji You felt a soft warmth in her heart. Just before boarding the spaceship, she couldn't help but turn around to glance at the crowd below, where Grandma Jenny and Uncle Xie Yi maintained brilliant smiles. When Ji You looked back, both of them simultaneously lifted their hands and vigorously waved at her.

Ji You felt an unexpected surge of emotion, and tears threatened to rise.

...

After waving goodbye to the two elders, Ji You turned back with difficulty and quickly boarded the spaceship.

This was a large passenger spaceship, capable of carrying up to 30,000 people. It frequently shuttled back and forth between the Sixth Star Domain, with Tiangou Star as its starting station and Lanyue Star as its final destination. Planet 101 was merely a tiny stop on its route.

Stepping onto the spaceship, Ji You located her cabin, set down her luggage, and instead of entering the cabin to sleep, sat in her seat, awaiting takeoff.

minutes later.

The spaceship slowly began to move.

"Xiao You..."

"We're departing."

After several attempts, Ji You had managed to grasp a bit of skill in communicating with Xiao You through the iron plate. The method seemed simple, but was difficult to execute. She just needed to focus her spiritual power and extend it into the iron plate.

Because Ji You's spiritual power was weak and the six strands of spiritual power in her mind were still scattered, it was a test of patience, perseverance, and control power to converge them into a single thread. She had tried many times, just barely able to extend a strand of spiritual power into the iron plate.

[Sister...]

[Really?]

The girl's voice, excited and joyous, with a hint of nervousness.

"Yes." Ji You chuckled softly, then suddenly spoke a line that was very cringeworthy: "Our journey, officially begins!"

[Yes!] The young girl nodded vigorously.

The brief exchange had already exhausted Ji You. After speaking to Xiao You, she immediately cut off the connection.

By then, the spaceship had already passed through the atmosphere and plunged into space.

Through the protective window, Ji You glanced at the starry sky below. The planet she had lived on now appeared in space without any of the scars it bore on its surface, surrounded by earthy yellow interspersed with hints of green. In the silent outer space, it unexpectedly radiated beauty.

Subsequently.

To Ji You's naked eye, Planet 101 grew smaller and smaller, until it turned into a black dot and ultimately disappeared from sight.

...

For the first time venturing into space, Ji You was amazed. No matter what, she couldn't have imagined that one day, she would be able to fly into space and roam the universe...

Ji You earnestly displayed the naivety and curiosity expected of a country bumpkin. While everyone else lay in their hibernation pods, she pressed herself against the seat, unblinkingly staring at everything outside the window, wishing not to miss even a mote of dust.

However—

The sight of space disappointed the 'country bumpkin.'

As the spaceship continued on its trajectory, aside from the occasional celestial body flying past, the vast expanse of space was nothing but pitch black.

Indeed.

Black as far as the eye could see.

Except for black, there was still just black.

All around was silence. The spaceship, traveling through space, was so stable that not even the occasional jolt or sound of wind could be felt or heard while shuttling through the universe.

...

Ji You crouched and watched for 20 hours with no findings, feeling utterly exhausted, so she had no choice but to lie down in the hibernation pod to sleep.

This journey would take a total of five days.

On the first day, Ji You was brimming with excitement, spending almost all her time, except for when handling physiological needs, intently watching outer space.

On the second day, Ji You's enthusiasm did not wane.

On the third day, Ji You opened a book to study seriously, occasionally glancing at outer space.

On the fourth day, Ji You was quite calm, feeling that the spaceship ride was less thrilling than a Floating Car.

On the fifth day, as the spaceship began to make an announcement to the whole crew about landing and to prepare, Ji You suddenly woke up, closed her book, and during the descent, stared at the planet below, her eyes flickering with wonder: Lanyue Star actually looked very similar to Earth, with its deep blue seas, rolling greenery, and black and yellow land...

After the airship docked at the space station, the passengers left in an orderly manner.

Ji You, dragging her suitcase and carrying a large backpack, felt a mix of excitement and a vague sense of loss after disembarking the spaceship.

This—

Is this it?

Had she been soaring through outer space, traversing hundreds of light years, to set foot on another planet?

All that which people from the 21st century longed for but could not achieve... had she just effortlessly realized it all?

Fantasy.

...

This unreal dreamlike feeling made Ji You, upon stepping off the spaceship and onto the firm soil, pinch herself hard on the philtrum as the first thing:

Ouch!

It hurts!

"Tsk..."

A light tsk fell into Ji You's ears, and she looked up in bewilderment, scanning ahead, and then her eyes widened: "Sister Lingzhi!"

Xie Lingzhi stood with her arms crossed, chuckling, "Stop making that shocked face... Even without trying, others can tell you're a country bumpkin."

"..." Ji You lifted the corners of her mouth, saying happily, "... Sister Lingzhi, I didn't expect you to come pick me up! Where's Sister Lea?"

Xie Lingzhi snorted, "What, you're not happy to see me?"

"Not at all, I'm very happy to see Sister Lingzhi," Ji You immediately shook her head. She had long learned to selectively listen to Xie Lingzhi's words. A little sharp tongue like this, she'd been immune to for eight hundred years.

Hearing this, Xie Lingzhi hummed and instantly walked off.

"Hey!" Ji You quickly caught up, stopping Xie Lingzhi, and grinned, "Sister Lingzhi, since you're here, you should at least act like you're here to pick someone up."

Before she could finish her sentence, Ji You shoved her cumbersome backpack into Xie Lingzhi's hands.

Xie Lingzhi: "..."

Ji You smiled innocently, "Please help. A person with Physical Strength E like me can't carry it."

Xie Lingzhi: "..."

Ignoring the increasingly dark look on Xie Lingzhi's face, Ji You familiarly hooked her arm and cheerfully said, "Sister Lingzhi, so this is Lanyue Star. It's beautiful here, and what's more amazing is that the city's skyline here doesn't have protective nets, the air is so fresh, it smells of the fragrance of grass and trees, and there's a breeze brushing against the face..."

Ji You was almost intoxicated.

Having her arm affectionately hooked like this was an intimacy that Xie Lingzhi had never experienced with anyone, making her body stiffen and her mind whirl as if gusts

of wind were sweeping through, a vein throbbing on her forehead... She was on the verge of losing her temper and beating someone up.

Ji You caught a glimpse from the corner of her eye and couldn't help but curl up a smile: [Heh! You dare to call me a country bumpkin, let me show you what a country bumpkin is capable of. Can't cure a little tsundere? Well, we'll see about that, won't we?]