

Scavengers 641

Chapter 641: Bragging

Ma Changyi had finished cleaning when Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, Sheng Qingyan, Chu Jiaojiao... as soon as they caught Ji You's gaze, they were ready to bolt—

Ji You took a deep breath: "Dear heroes, please stay your steps!"

No one was listening and they all took several steps forward.

Ji You clenched her teeth and said, "If you leave, you'll definitely regret it! I guarantee it!"

Yue Qiguang was the first to turn around, giving Ji You a disdainful glance, "Hmph! Dad never learned the word 'regret.'"

Yue Qiyuan didn't even bother to make up an excuse and simply said, "I'm off, I'm off."

Shen Changqing was silent, but the rejection in his eyes couldn't be clearer.

Chu Jiaojiao chuckled and said, "Ji You, it's not that I don't want to help you clean the rabbit shed, but as a rough and unrefined person like me, I can't handle such delicate work."

Sheng Qingyan yawned and said, "I'm going to Green Glaze Master's shop to apply for a salesperson position, I have no time to waste here with you guys."

Listening to her plastic friends, one after another, Ji You's lips curled into a mysterious smile and said, "Don't you want to know why the Rag Queen's spiritual power is so strong?"

At this statement, their hurried steps abruptly halted.

Yue Qiguang was the first to turn back, somewhat awkwardly saying, "Dad wants to make it clear that dad isn't regretting anything, just curious about the reason, that's all."

Yue Qiyuan, Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao all turned back in unison—

Yue Qiyuan: "I'm off, I'm off, going to clean the rabbit shed."

Shen Changqing glanced at Ji You, his pitch-black eyes filled with a thirst for knowledge...

Chu Jiaojiao flashed a grin and said, "Ji You, you look so serious, I will definitely join you in cleaning the rabbit shed."

Only Sheng Qingyan, not really interested, turned to leave but was grabbed by Chu Jiaojiao next to her and didn't get away—

Plastic.

All just plastic camaraderie.

But—

Forget it.

Ji You pressed her lips together and said, "You all can be heartless, but I can't be ungrateful; it's not in my nature. As a future ruler destined to stand at the World's Peak, I never beat around the bush, so I'll just straight up tell you guys."

The first few phrases were as if Ji You was just farting around, but after she finished the last sentence, everyone made a show of listening attentively.

Ji You kept a straight face and said, "Because—my Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate is very high. Speaking of Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate, I dare say everyone here is simply trash."

Everyone: "..."

Chu Jiaojiao laughed and said, "Ji You, stop joking, everyone is listening seriously."

Beside her, the two S-level Spiritual Level Talents, Shen Changqing and Yue Qiyuan, glanced at each other. Yue Qiyuan said, "I believe you and Shen Changqing does too. What's your cleaning rate now?"

Ji You chuckled, "100%."

Yue Qiyuan: "..."

Yue Qiguang cursed directly: "Stop boasting! If you've achieved 100%, I'll quit, I'll be your grandson."

Yue Qiyuan's face darkened, and he immediately said, "Yue Qiguang, shut up."

[Idiot!

If you want to be someone's grandson, don't drag me into it.

Cough...]

Yue Qiyuan didn't say this out loud.

Ji You hooked the corner of her lips, just about to say 'My good grandson, call me grandpa and let me hear it.' Unexpectedly, she got a stern glare from Yue Qiyuan: "Number 4444, you shut up too!"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You thought to herself: Never mind, I won't take advantage of the situation today.

On this side.

Chu Jiaojiao, with her eyes wide open, stared dumbfounded at Ji You's face, saying, "Classmate Ji You, I'm not kidding, overusing your thick skin could affect your beauty value. How about I buy you some skincare products? I've heard that herbal essences are particularly effective for facial care."

Ji You's mouth twitched: "I wasn't boasting, it's 100%. If it wasn't 100%, how could I dare to call myself the king standing at the World's Peak?"

Shen Changqing, who hadn't been saying much, hesitated for a few seconds before speaking up: "A 100% Cleaning Rate, theoretically speaking, is achievable but extremely difficult. So difficult that, throughout human history until now, there has never been anyone with a 100% Cleaning Rate. Unless it's innate." At this, Shen Changqing shook his head first, adding: "Impossible. It's not likely even for the innate."

The human exploration of spiritual power only has a history of a few hundred years, yet there is plenty of evidence proving that when spiritual silk is first formed, it's a tangled mess, which must be cleaned by acquired means.

...

At this point, Shen Changqing looked at Ji You somewhat doubtfully and asked, "Classmate Ji You, what exactly is your Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate?"

Um~

To tell the truth, Ji You's heart skipped a beat upon hearing Shen Changqing's words, though she still put up a stubborn front, saying, "Cough cough... I told you, it's 100%."

Shen Changqing shook his head, clearly disbelieving.

Ji You cleared her throat and said, "Cough cough, alright, I won't lie to you anymore, it's 50%."

Shen Changqing and Yue Qiyuan both widened their eyes in surprise, then thinking about it, they both found it very plausible. Ji You's Spiritual Level was low, but she had been training with everyone for so long, and every time she achieved surprisingly good results. Shen Changqing and Yue Qiyuan had both speculated on her Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate.

Now that they had the answer, both had a clear picture in their minds.

Ji You threw out a question, asking, "Right now, the highest should be Classmate Shen Changqing, right? Have you reached 15% or is it 18%?"

Shen Changqing replied, "18%. Almost reaching 19%."

Ji You nodded and said, "What was it before you enrolled?"

Shen Changqing said, "Less than 15%."

Ji You turned to Yue Qi, Chu Jiao, and the others.

Everyone nodded in unison, saying they had indeed seen significant improvement recently.

Ji You blinked and said with a smile, "I believe you've all looked for the reasons. First, this term, we have been training hard every day, constantly honing our spiritual power. Second, you've all used Soul Devices, haven't you?"

Everyone nodded.

Shen Changqing said, "The Soul Device I bought from Master Qingyou's shop had a very obvious effect on me."

Chu Jiaojiao hastily added, "Me too."

Afraid that the topic would steer towards the Soul Devices, Ji You quickly said, "The school's natural food and the Candy Beans awarded by teacher Mu Jianling... Let's not talk about these benefits for now. I believe you've all used these things since childhood, and the effects have never been as pronounced as they have been during this period, right?"

Everyone nodded once more.

Ji You continued, "Have you also noticed? Our cleanup of the horse stables and rabbit shed has greatly improved the Cleaning Rate of our spiritual silk."

Huh?

Under everyone's puzzled gazes, Ji You said, "Think carefully about the process of cleaning the stables and the condition of your spiritual power afterward. Was there a noticeable change? And about this issue, I have already consulted Aunt Zhang from the neighboring Agricultural College. Taking care of crops and raising animals can indeed improve spiritual power and Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate."

The crowd pondered.

Chapter 642: Five Free Laborers

Shen Changqing, Yue Qiyuan, Yue Qiguang, Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan all fell into deep thought...

Ji You had a smile at the corner of her lips, waiting calmly for them to offer to help clean the rabbit shed.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

Sheng Qingyan was the first to speak. He glanced at Ji You with annoyance and said, "You poor dead, even if what you say is beneficial for us, don't think you can trick us into working for free. Let me tell you, if you want us to clean the rabbit shed for you, you must agree to one condition."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You waved her hand, "Go away, I don't want you."

Sheng Qingyan's face stiffened, and he pouted, "I haven't even mentioned the condition yet."

Ji You covered her ears, "I don't want to hear it."

Sheng Qingyan stamped his foot, "I just needed you to join me in watching the Green Glaze Master's shop..."

Ji You: "Can't hear you."

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Sheng Qingyan turned around and left, "I'm going, who's the fool to work for her for free."

As soon as he finished, he took a few steps and found that no one followed him. He frowned and couldn't help but look back, only to find there were still plenty of fools around. For a moment, Sheng Qingyan almost got depressed.

The moment Sheng Qingyan turned his head, Shen Changqing was the first to step forward. He looked serious and asked sternly, "Ji You, is your conversation with Aunt Zhang true?"

Ji You glared at him, "Do I look like a liar? If you don't trust me, go and verify with Aunt Zhang yourself. Even if I lie, Aunt Zhang, such a respected elder, wouldn't help me lie."

Shen Changqing thought for a second, then suddenly said, "From now on, I will help you clean the rabbit shed."

Ji You laughed, showing her teeth and not her eyes, "Let me be clear, I can't offer any reward, not points, nor credit points, I have nothing." In other words, not a dime.

Shen Changqing said, "I don't want a reward."

As Shen Changqing and Ji You were speaking, Chu Jiaojiao, after some thought, immediately said, "Ji You, let me help you clean as well."

Ji You glanced at her.

Chu Jiaojiao caught on quickly, "I'll help for free."

Ji You narrowed her eyes, smiling so her eyes curved, "Jiaojiao, you really are my good sister."

After speaking, Ji You glanced at the Yue brothers casually and said, "With the three of us cleaning, it probably won't even take an hour to finish. Speaking of which, cleaning the rabbit shed is even more of a workout for spiritual power than cleaning the stables. You don't know, those rabbits are all drama queens, and if you're not careful, they might cause trouble, so it really trains your spiritual power, as well as your patience and perseverance. Why do you think I've won so many matches on Star Network? It's because I've been dealing with rabbits lately, I can't afford to be careless at all..."

As soon as her words landed—

Yue Qiguang took a big step forward, "Enough chit-chat, let's clean the rabbit shed."

Yue Qiyuan wasn't behind either, saying, "Let's give it a try..."

Actions speak louder than words, in any case, whether 4444 is a liar, a trial will tell.

Of course, this is not to say that Shen Changqing, Yue Qiyuan, and others are foolish and easily tricked, but rather—during this time cleaning the stables, they already had some insights and knew the benefits it brought to them, but they were all a bit vague, lacking a clear, systematic understanding. Now, awakened by Ji You, everyone became serious and decided to observe closely the changes in their spiritual power.

So—

The group of four, without Ji You having to urge them, directly headed towards the rabbit shed.

Ji You hooked up the corner of her mouth, following with a mischievous smile.

Witnessing all this, Sheng Qingyan: "..."

This unreasonable world—leaves no room for Little Cutie to shine.

Seriously—

These honest fools, don't they realize they're playing hard to get? He purposely made an excuse to leave, just waiting for no. 4444, that poor deadbeat, to spontaneously offer, so he could then lay down conditions.

Even if cleaning the rabbit shed greatly benefits the improvement of one's spiritual power and Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate, he shouldn't have to work for Ji You, that deadbeat, for free. You should know this guy is particularly good at taking advantage...

Sigh!

Staring at the silhouettes of his foolish friends, Sheng Qingyan stamped his foot forcefully, turned back and followed them.

Fine!

Fine!

Let's just consider Little Cutie is doing charity work!

Watching this scene, Ji You nearly laughed her head off: 5 laborers!

volunteers!

Estimating, cleaning the rabbit shed today should definitely be done in half an hour. Once the volunteers are skilled workers, Ji You is sure that what would normally take at least an hour to clean by herself, might only take 10 minutes!

With the time saved...

Ji You could do some extra chores, like crafting Soul Devices, make one, throw one and so on...

Cough cough...

Of course, the reason Ji You today strongly cajoled this group of plastic friends to work for her, is not for later, but mainly because she has an appointment with Senior Shi Ya after school today, and Ji You needs to clean but didn't want to keep Senior Shi Ya waiting, hence, she thought to let her friends display some class spirit.

Cough cough...

Next, during the cleaning of the rabbit shed, although there were several unexpected incidents, such as Shen Changqing and Yue Qiyuan's S-rank spiritual power scaring the rabbits into huddling together, and Yue Qiguang and Chu Jiaojiao, who were too rough and only managed to frighten the rabbits... but the cleaning of the rabbit shed was completed smoothly and within the half an hour as Ji You anticipated.

In it, what extremely shocked Ji You and the others was Sheng Qingyan...

He had never done tasks like this before, but after understanding the precautions of cleaning the rabbit shed, Sheng Qingyan picked it up pretty easily, not only that, the rabbits even grew fond of him, crowding around him...

Ji You couldn't help but ask: "You spooky dude, how did you do it? Why aren't the rabbits scared of you?"

This guy has Physique A, Spiritual Power A, in fact, it's proven that the weaker and more cautious animals like rabbits, the higher your spiritual power, the more frightened they are, like Shen Changqing and Yue Qiyuan.

Sheng Qingyan's Double A Talent should theoretically make rabbits scared of him, but—

But the reality is so magical...

Facing his friends' puzzled looks, Sheng Qingyan puckered his lips, boasting smugly: "What's there to be surprised about? I'm the Universe's first Little Cutie, of course rabbits like me."

Everyone: "..."

Everyone spoke in unison: "Get serious, will you!"

Sheng Qingyan curled the corner of his lips, smiling very smugly, saying: "Of course, it's because I'm smart..." sensing the murderous glares from everyone, Sheng Qingyan quickly became serious again, saying: "Of course, it's because I know how to control the release of spiritual power better than you guys."

Chapter 643: Even Rabbits Dislike Her

Upon hearing that, everyone finally restrained the fierce light in their eyes and started pondering...

The so-called control of spiritual power release is essentially just the micro-control of spiritual power. In this world, there are not a few people who possess high-level spiritual power but don't know how to use it. On the contrary, there are quite a lot of them.

But Sheng Qingyan is an exception. As a Double A, having both his spiritual power and physical strength stagnant over the years, he had to patiently refine his spiritual power control techniques bit by bit.

Accumulating little by little, like water grinding stone... Sheng Qingyan became a standout in this aspect, even matching up against Shen Changqing and Yue Qiyuan without falling short.

Also, due to his long-term refinement of spiritual power, Sheng Qingyan's Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate is also very high, higher than Shen Changqing's, having reached 30% — a remarkably high figure. Of course, Sheng Qingyan has no interest in publicizing this, so the vast majority of people are unaware.

...

Ji You seemed thoughtful.

She had previously suspected that Sheng Qingyan's micro-control of spiritual power was strong, and his Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate was definitely not low, because — his sniping skills were strong. When Ji You matched against him, she couldn't confidently say she could beat him...

Now, it confirmed her speculation.

Spicy Eye, indeed, looks can be deceiving, appearing lazy and sloppy, but getting serious when it matters. Could it be that he's always mouthing about living a careless life but secretly trains hard every day?

Ji You highly doubted it—

Of course, now was not the time to delve into this, knowing that Ji You had cleaned the rabbit shed for such a long time before realizing she had to carefully control and release her spiritual power, yet Sheng Qingyan knew the tricks right when he arrived...

Really—

Ji You felt a bit jealous in her heart.

What made Ji You even more distressed was that those rabbits, who originally avoided her as if fearful, always plotting tricks against her, were cared for by Sheng Qingyan so casually for a few minutes, and each rabbit behaved as if they met their dear father...

Infuriating!

Ji You angrily said, "Oh weirdo, what did you do to the rabbits that made them think you're one of them?"

Hearing that, Sheng Qingyan rolled his eyes and retorted, "Can't you speak normally? Saying that rabbits think I'm one of them, are you implying I'm not a person? Unfortunately, I won't do as you wish."

Ji You chuckled and said, "Stop the nonsense, quickly tell me the tricks."

Sheng Qingyan continued to roll his eyes. Just about to speak, he noticed that Shen Changqing, Yue Qiyuan, Chu Jiaojiao, and Yue Qiguang all pricked up their ears, planning to eavesdrop quietly—

Immediately shifting tactics, Sheng Qingyan said, "I can tell you, but for the next week, you, Aqing, and Jiaojiao each have to give me two ribs and half a bowl of rice per meal..."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You, Shen Changqing, and Chu Jiaojiao immediately shook their heads, speaking in unison, "We'll figure it out ourselves."

Sheng Qingyan raised his chin, showing a face of 'do whatever you like'.

second.

Chu Jiaojiao was the first to lose patience, saying, "One rib, a small amount of rice."

Ji You: "..."

The words were already out, and Ji You couldn't stop them, really— why so impatient? It was supposed to be free, yet she chose to pay.

After Chu Jiaojiao spoke, Sheng Qingyan glanced at her lightly, "Jiaojiao, are you feeding a beggar? At least give two small amounts of rice." How could that little rice be enough for him?

Chu Jiaojiao, also straightforward, said, "Take it or leave it, that's all I can offer."

Sheng Qingyan thought for a moment, slightly aggrievedly agreed, "Fine..."

Then, he turned to Shen Changqing, "Aqing, do you want it?"

Shen Changqing: "Yes."

Sheng Qingyan immediately beamed with joy, saying, "Alright, you two come here secretly and listen, don't let unrelated people hear." With that, he meaningfully glanced at Ji You and Yue Qiguang.

Ji You's mouth twitched, cursing, "Keep dreaming, don't even think about getting my ribs, I will never give them to you."

Who knew—

Yue Qiguang, frowning, suddenly said, "Sheng Qingyan, about the ribs and rice for dad—can I owe you for now?"

Ji You: "..."

Upon hearing this, a smile formed on Sheng Qingyan's lips: "Sure."

Ji You felt incredibly frustrated inside.

These idiots—

Why are they so stupid?

second.

Ji You: "I'll buy too!"

It's just a rib and some rice, right?

I'll buy!

Just deduct it, and it's done!

But knowledge is priceless.

With a beaming face, Sheng Qingyan said, "Okay, then I won't whisper anymore, I'll let you all hear."

The crowd became serious.

When Sheng Qingyan truly started explaining, he became very solemn, with a straight face he earnestly said, "Have you noticed? Rabbits are extremely sensitive to spiritual power. If you add even a little more, they will react differently. So, you should observe them carefully, and initially don't be greedy, just focus on experimenting with one rabbit."

"The first time you interact with them, you should use a low spiritual power threshold repeatedly, and reduce it immediately if you find it's too much."

"Also, try not to extend all your Spiritual Silk at once, stretch them out one strand at a time, and if the rabbit reacts poorly, withdraw them immediately."

"..."

"Lastly, and this is the most important bit. When interacting with rabbits, don't think about using physical force, brute force to suppress them, coerce them, or any other harmful intentions. You should approach them with a happy, friend-making attitude. Even..."

"Even... if you think of yourself as a cute little bunny, they might like you even more..."

Hearing this, everyone: "..."

Seeing everyone's expressions, Sheng Qingyan pouted his lips, "I truly believe, deep down, that I am a cute little bunny."

Everyone: "..."

Chu Jiaojiao raised her hand to her forehead, "I can't do this."

Ji You was also impressed, saying, "This kind of self-perception, not seeing oneself as human, I can't do it either."

Yue Qiguang frowned, unusually silent.

Yue Qiyuan, enduring the crowd's peculiar looks, said, "I'll give it a try."

Shen Changqing nodded, "I'll try as well."

Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao: "..."

Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao: "Can you really think of yourselves as cute little bunnies?"

Shen Changqing and Yue Qiyuan blushed simultaneously; Shen Changqing stayed silent, Yue Qiyuan knitted his brows, "We are just conducting an experiment! Just an experiment! Do you understand?"

Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao: "Oh—"

Both: "..."

Although Sheng Qingyan's reliability was questionable, his advice still made sense. Ji You, Shen Changqing, and others tried his method and soon, the situation improved for the four—Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiyuan, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang, who were previously scorned by the rabbits; at least the rabbits no longer growled or showed aggression towards them...

Only Ji You was still detested by the rabbits.

Chapter 644: Senior's Invitation

Ji You felt aggrieved inside. She couldn't help thinking that after taking such great pains to look after these rabbits for so long, she was still not as popular as the newcomer Sheng Qingyan. It seemed that rabbits were indeed ungrateful creatures that you couldn't win over.

She was furious!

But!!!

Ji You clenched her teeth and held back her anger. She dared not scold the rabbits. On the contrary, she had to suppress her anger and force a smile, trying to curry favor with the rabbits: "Little bunnies, you're really cute."

As soon as Ji You spoke, a group of hopping rabbits instantly clustered together, huddling up closely.

Ji You's face stiffened as she chuckled awkwardly, "Would you like to be friends with me?"

No sooner had she finished speaking than the huddled rabbits scattered in all directions...

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath, trying hard to adjust the release of her spiritual power while still smiling gently, "Don't be scared, bunnies, I'm also a cute little bunny."

The rabbits in this compartment didn't stay a moment longer; in the blink of an eye, they had all scampered away.

Ji You: "..."

Following the direction of the fleeing rabbits, Ji You saw Sheng Qingyan being surrounded by them, her face growing even more sullen.

Sheng Qingyan raised his head, deliberately showing a smile towards her: "Hey poor dead, look, the little bunnies are risking a breakout just to escape your clutches. What exactly have you done to them?"

Ji You replied irritably, "I did nothing, I waited on them hand and foot like they were my ancestors, and still got no appreciation from them."

Sheng Qingyan curled her lip, her eyes filled with obvious skepticism...

Ji You twitched the corner of her mouth, saying irritably, "Really, I didn't do anything, just casually thought about braised rabbit, spicy rabbit, steamed rabbit..."

"Cough..."

Immediately, a chorus of coughs and the sound of swallowing saliva came from around...

In a flash, the rabbits surrounding Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiyuan, and Yue Qiguang disappeared into thin air.

Only the rabbits around Sheng Qingyan remained unaffected; he frowned and scolded sternly, "How can you bear to eat these cute bunnies? You're all devils, devils..."

"Let's go..."

"Bunnies, let's not play with them..."

With these words, Sheng Qingyan turned his back and took big steps towards the ranch inside the rabbit shed. Miraculously, just as he finished speaking, the rabbits also cooperated, following behind him one by one, hopping away.

Ji You and the others: "..."

After a moment—

Watching Sheng Qingyan still mingling with the rabbits, the faces of the other five were beyond description.

Ji You, her eyelids twitching, said, "Spicy Eye here really thinks he's a rabbit, doesn't he?"

Chu Jiaojiao stroked her chin, saying, "I think it's possible. He might really think he's not only a rabbit but also a cute little bunny."

Yue Qiguang and Yue Qiyuan, the brothers, shivered at her words, while Shen Changqing remained relatively calm. After a moment of silence, he suddenly turned and walked towards the rabbits—

Then—

Shen Changqing gently released his spiritual power, his expression and tone incredibly tender: "Little bunnies, I'm also a cute little bunny, don't be afraid of me..."

Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, and the Yue Family brothers: "..."

"Great, another one suffering from species identity confusion," Ji You covered her forehead, somewhat torn between laughter and tears: "I'm starting to regret coaxing... ahem, asking you all to come help me."

Honestly—

This is torture!

Next.

Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, and the others also followed suit. Each of them either bent down low, squatted on the ground or made themselves small... In short, they were cajoling the rabbits as if wooing their own children, and the effect was indeed quite noticeable, with quite a few rabbits getting fooled.

Ji You was different from the others. While others were employing the energy of cajoling a child, she was more like flattering an ancestor, yet it was ineffective.

Absolutely no effect!

Ji You rubbed her head in frustration.

Her spiritual power had advanced to B rank, but it was a long way from advancing to A rank. If she wanted to improve quickly, she would need to continually consume Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures and keep on training her spiritual power...

This was a grind, and it couldn't be rushed.

Unable to deal with the group of rabbits, although Ji You was annoyed, she also tried her best to persuade herself not to be anxious. She patiently trained herself to release her spiritual power specifically, where each initial release was between 5-10 points. Later, she could control it within 3-5 points, and then even closer to around 3-4 points...

Ji You's goal was to fine-tune her control to between 0.5-1 point.

This was very difficult.

But the real fear is not having a goal, not difficulty.

...

After cleaning out the rabbit shed, the group left with their own insights.

Ji You quickly sent a message to Senior Shi Ya: [Senior, I've finished cleaning the rabbit shed, do you have time now?]

After sending, Ji You patiently waited.

A few seconds later.

A message from Shi Ya came through: [Come to the Mechanical Manufacturing System building, I'm waiting for you in Laboratory 203.]

Ji You narrowed her eyes, her lips curling into a smile involuntarily: [Okay.]

It wasn't too far from the Mechanical Combat Department to the Mechanical Manufacturing System - about a 10-minute ride on an auto Floating Car. But she didn't want to keep Senior Shi Ya waiting, so Ji You, not stingy with her credit points at this moment, chose an auto Floating Car and rushed to the Mechanical Manufacturing System.

minutes later.

The Floating Car stopped in front of a majestic building. The gate to the Mechanical Manufacturing System was different from that of the Combat Department - the latter looked like the gaping maw of a Star Beast, quite terrifying, while the gate to the Mechanical Manufacturing was standard, modeled after a Mecha entry pod, very understated and distinguished.

Ji You had not chosen to study the Manufacturing System, so this was her first visit here. She had just settled in when a small robot suddenly came out from the door and asked, "Are you Student Ji You?"

Ji You nodded: "Yes, that's me."

The Little Robot said, "Hello, I am Student Shi Ya's assistant. Please follow me."

Ah-ha?

Senior Shi Ya actually has a dedicated robot assistant?

Ji You was shocked.

She didn't ask further and simply followed.

This assistant Little Robot, much like Senior Shi Ya, was mostly silent as it led her, only replying with a couple of words when Ji You asked a question.

And, this Little Robot was only half Ji You's height, reaching her midsection. Since arriving in this world where everyone was tall, it was the first time short Ji You felt like she had long legs.

Then—

After the Little Robot led Ji You to Laboratory 203 of Mechanical Manufacturing, it suddenly grew to two meters tall.

Ji You: "..."

The Little Robot said: "Student Ji You, we've arrived. Student Shi Ya has already given you access, you can go in now."

Standing at the door, Ji You wasn't in a hurry anymore, and she couldn't help but ask, "Why did you suddenly grow so tall?"

The robotic voice of the Little Robot methodically replied, "My body is crafted from retractable materials, in fact, I can even grow this tall—"

As it spoke, the Little Robot's body grew even taller, reaching 5 meters, 6 meters, 10 meters...

Ji You: "..."

Ji You looked up:

Damn it!

I can't even see its head anymore.

Chapter 645: The Senior's Return Gift

Ji You looked up, her expression becoming indescribable.

Then—

The robot finally retracted its body, returning to a height of 80 centimeters.

Ji You said, "Um~ Robot Lady, I think your height is lovely, very elegant and beautiful."

Indeed.

This robot was a lady.

The robot said with a smile, "Really? Actually, I prefer being 3 meters tall, but my master doesn't like it." After saying this, it shrugged its shoulders and added, "Can't help it, I mostly have to maintain this height."

Eh?

Master?

That must be referring to Senior Shi Ya.

So Senior Shi Ya doesn't like tall ones, huh.

Cough cough...

Ji You felt like she had stumbled upon a little secret about Senior Shi Ya.

At this moment—

The robot said, "Student Ji You, please extend your hand, the door lock system will automatically recognize your identity information."

Ji You did as instructed and extended her hand.

A light flashed—

Soon after, the doors of the laboratory opened wide.

Ji You looked up and saw Senior Shi Ya, who was half-crouching and focused on making Mecha parts, her eyes lit up, and she smiled, "Senior, are you still busy?"

Shi Ya glanced at her, nodded in greeting.

The robot followed inside, and then, the doors of the laboratory closed once again.

Despite being just a laboratory, the interior space was quite spacious and filled with all kinds of equipment: materials, parts, semi-finished products, workbenches, testing instruments... Everything was orderly and meticulously organized.

Shi Ya was working on assembling the Mechanical Legs, with thousands of parts scattered on the ground...

Ji You didn't want to interrupt her work, so she stood quietly to the side and watched. Shi Ya's movements were almost non-stop, with part after part swiftly spinning in her hands and quickly coming together in tight assembly.

A few drops of sweat quietly slid down her fair face...

Her hands were far from fair, covered in calluses instead, but they were nimble and agile, as if endowed with magic, captivated Ji You's gaze!

Ji You gaped:

So the mundane craft of Mechanical Manufacturing could also be pleasing to the eye.

A few minutes later, Shi Ya's fingers paused, she turned her head to look at Ji You, and said with pursed lips, "Under the third workbench, in the second drawer, the first compartment—open it."

Hm?

Ji You blinked in confusion, "What?"

Shi Ya said, "You go open it."

Ji You narrowed her eyes, nodded, and said, "Alright."

After Shi Ya returned to her work, Ji You moved towards the third workbench.

Found it.

Following the instruction, Ji You reached for the second drawer, opening it to find about 100 compartments inside, uncertain of what they contained, but she guessed it might be some small parts or similar items.

Without much curiosity, her finger stopped at the first compartment and opened it directly.

The moment it opened, Ji You's eyes widened in astonishment: "This!!!"

She couldn't believe it and quickly turned towards Senior Shi Ya.

Shi Ya, without turning her head, simply said, "It's for you."

Hearing this, Ji You's face immediately beamed with joy, "Is it really for me?"

Shi Ya responded, "Yes."

Dropping that single word, she fell silent again.

Ji You stared at the candies and sweet treats in the compartment, still disbelieving, and said, "Is this really for me?"

The candies were wrapped in twinkling wrappers, small and exquisite, like stars surrounding a box of circular sweets.

The sweet treats were doughnuts covered with candied fruit, including strawberries, raisins, grapes, blueberries... all garnished around. They were laid out on a pristine sheet of baking paper, which also held a bundle of mini flowers. Upon closer inspection, these flowers weren't real but carved from various fruits and vegetables...

It really is exquisite, compact, beautiful, and fascinating.

Ji You rubbed her eyes, somewhat disbelieving, and couldn't help asking: "Senior, is this edible?"

Shi Ya: "..."

Shi Ya, pausing with her fingers, pursed her lips and said: "Yes."

Ji You giggled with a smile, her eyes unwilling to move away from the candies and desserts, saying: "Wow! These are made so beautifully, I can't bear to eat them."

She truly couldn't bear to.

Ji You swallowing her saliva, asked again: "Senior, where did you buy these from?"

The school's cafeteria certainly doesn't sell them.

Shi Ya, working with her back to Ji You, hence Ji You couldn't see the tension on her face, but even so with a nervous heart, Shi Ya's tone was still cold as she said: "I made them."

Huh?

Ji You was instantly wide-eyed!

These were actually made by Senior Shi Ya herself?

Oh my gosh!

The smile at the corners of Ji You's lips was unstoppable: "Senior, you're so talented! The candies and doughnuts look so delicious, and they smell so sweet and fragrant!"

Shi Ya remained silent.

Ji You opened the floodgates of conversation, chattering away, and added: "Senior, how did you learn to make them? I really can't believe you could make candies, really, it's completely unexpected."

To know, Senior Shi Ya seemed just like an unmelting iceberg, wouldn't that make it surprising that she also knows how to make desserts and candies?

Shi Ya: "Hmm."

What Shi Ya didn't say was— the skills to make candies and desserts, as well as cooking skills, were all learned from her father, and also, these were the treats Shi Ya liked to eat as a child.

She didn't know—

If—

She liked them?

Ji You talked a whole lot, still reluctant to eat, Shi Ya was a bit anxious, but she didn't show it on her face, still focused on installing the Mechanical Legs.

Finally—

Ji You couldn't hold back any longer and said: "Then, may I start eating?"

Shi Ya frowning, nodded: "Hmm."

Reluctant to eat the doughnuts for the time being, Ji You thought for a moment, picked out a pink candy, and gently tore open the wrapper, discovering that the candy was shaped like a little star.

Very cute.

Ji You put it in her mouth, and instantly, a sweet taste spread through her mouth.

This is—

Ji You narrowed her eyes, smiling: "This tastes like pomelo."

Shi Ya remained silent, but she had already turned her head, her lips pursed, staring at Ji You.

Ji You's smile was radiant: "It's delicious."

Shi Ya: "Hmm."

At the same time, her tensed lips corners, quietly relaxed a bit.

Catching all this, Ji You inwardly laughed uncontrollably: Turns out Senior Shi Ya can get nervous too! It's just that her nervousness isn't too obvious, if not for her strained lip corners giving it away, I wouldn't have noticed.

Could you be any more tsundere?

And—

Could you be any cuter?

Ji You's eyes and brows smiled as she said directly: "I really like it!"

In an instant—

Shi Ya's tensed lip corners, completely relaxed. She nodded slightly uncomfortably, saying: "Hmm, glad you like it."

Ji You couldn't help asking: "Senior, why did you make candies and doughnuts for me?"

Shi Ya was silent for a moment, and then said in a deep voice: "As a return gift."

Huh?

A return gift?

Ji You was puzzled, but she quickly understood that this return gift Senior Shi Ya spoke of must be referring to the Ring Soul Artifact she gave her last time.

Chapter 646: Sweet!

After saying the words "reciprocal gift," Shi Ya quickly lowered her gaze, her eyes fixated on the Mecha parts in her hand, her demeanor extraordinarily cold and calm, as if she didn't care at all about Ji You's reaction to the gift.

But!!!

Shi Ya's petite, rounded earlobes unconsciously perked up, listening to the sounds around her—

Ji You didn't make a sound or any other gesture; she just stared at the gift box in her hand, carefully examining it.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

Somehow, the atmosphere around them started to become oppressive.

The air pressure also gradually lowered.

Shi Ya focused on assembling the Mecha parts.

Ji You focused on the gift from Senior Shi Ya.

...

After a while.

Ji You reached out again, plucked a star-shaped candy from the box, and popped it into her mouth. It was strawberry-flavored, sweet yet tangy, incredibly delicious... In an instant, Ji You smiled. As she ate, she lowered her head and counted the candies in the box, then realized that there wasn't a single flavor repeated with varieties like apple, blueberry, chocolate, milk, watermelon, peach...

Ji You looked at Senior Shi Ya's slender, frail figure, seemingly distant, and softly said, "Thank you."

Hmm?

At those words, Shi Ya's ears twitched, her fingers suddenly pausing, but she remained silent.

Ji You pursed her lips, her eyes smiling, "I really like the gift from Senior. I'll accept it all."

Shi Ya's face stiff, and turning her head away, muttered, "Hmm."

Inside the lab, Shi Ya fully let her guard down and began to immerse herself entirely in her work. She was tasked with assembling a standard Alliance Mecha, the Wind Wing. Although this model was quite common, the Wind Wing was among the most frequently utilized Mechas in the Alliance forces. Even though its manufacturing techniques were fully matured, with most parts being producible on an assembly line, the core chip system and assembly still required a Mechanical Manufacturing Master to design and load, as well as a special Mecha inspector for quality checks...

Mecha destined for the front lines could not have any quality issues; hence, even though Wind Wing's technology was mature, not every Mechanical Manufacturing Master could construct it.

Shi Ya was only in her second year, theoretically not yet qualified to design and assemble a Wind Wing on her own. However, her talent was profound; already in her first year, she had assisted her mentor in constructing a Wind Wing and knew the entire process by heart, what she lacked was just practical experience.

...

Shi Ya was very earnest, once engrossed in her work, she was hardly ever distracted, but today, there was a pair of clean, clear eyes watching her, causing Shi Ya to be unusually distracted.

She turned around, facing Ji You, and noticed Ji You watching her, looking hesitant yet wanting to speak. Shi Ya lowered her voice, "Is there something you want to ask?"

Ji You raised her eyes. Her black eyes glistening as she looked at Senior Shi Ya. Then, with the corners of her lips unconsciously curving up revealing a slight dimple on her pure white cheeks, she said, "Senior, are you really my biological sister?"

Shi Ya: "..."

At that, the atmosphere strangely shifted.

Ji You also felt a bit awkward, just about to say something to break the tension when suddenly—

Shi Ya said in a deep voice, "It's possible."

Huh?

Ji You: "???"

Ji You stared with wide eyes, full of confusion and perplexity...

What... what is possible?

Shi Ya's body tensed, her hands involuntarily clenched into fists; her beautiful face furrowed with tightly knit brows, her red lips pursed into a straight line...

Silence.

A few seconds later, Shi Ya's tightly pursed lips stretched slightly, stiffly pulling into a semblance of a smile, she uttered, "You..."

Ji You: "Yes?"

Shi Ya, with a cold expression, said, "You can consider me as your biological sister."

These few words seemed to exhaust all her strength as Shi Ya's fists clenched tighter, unknowingly exerting more force...

Ji You instantly smiled, her smile bright and dazzling: "Senior, I've long considered you as my real sister! Isn't that wonderful! So, are we both in agreement?"

Silence.

second later, Shi Ya pursed her lips and said, "Hmm."

Ji You, adept at seizing opportunities, immediately leaned closer, almost losing her eyes in her big smile, and cheered, "Sister Yaya!"

Shi Ya's face remained cold: "Hmm."

Ji You whispered by Shi Ya's side, "Sister Yaya, the candies you made are so delicious, the donuts must be really tasty too, let's eat them together." After saying this, she without hesitation shared a few candies, took a knife and fork, cut the donut in half, handed one half to Shi Ya, and stuffed the other half into her mouth. As soon as the donut entered her mouth, it was soft, fragrant, sweet, and as she chewed carefully, even the candied fruits on top tasted sweet, sweet enough to touch one's heart depths...

Shi Ya's body was tense, her clenched fingers gradually relaxed, and after a moment's hesitation, she reached out to accept it.

Then—

Shi Ya gently put it in her mouth.

Ji You squinted her eyes, smiling, "Sweet, isn't it?"

Shi Ya, expressionless, replied, "Hmm."

Sweet.

Not just sweet, it was so sweet that it was almost too much, inexplicably bringing a warmth to the eyes.

Shi Ya, with a stern face, took one bite, then another, and another, swallowing half of the donut with a tightly controlled expression, showing no fluctuation of emotions.

Ji You tasted hers in small bites, noticing how Shi Ya was devouring hers in big bites, like a cow chewing peonies, and couldn't help but smile somewhat:

Indeed—

Her feeling wasn't wrong. Although Senior Shi Ya appeared cold on the outside, she was actually warm inside, her heart even softer than anyone else's... This angelic lovely girl had to endure so much hardship...

Senior Shi Ya had no family.

Neither did she.

But!!!

That was no longer the case.

From now on, she and Senior Shi Ya were real sisters!

After a slight thought, Ji You's smiling mouth could not be concealed any longer, she grinned looking at Senior Shi Ya and softly said, "That's really wonderful."

Shi Ya didn't make a sound.

Ji You: "Really wonderful."

Shi Ya still didn't make a sound.

Ji You, like an old granny, nagged and rambled, repeating 'really wonderful' several times, Shi Ya watched and listened without showing the slightest impatience.

After a while.

Shi Ya remembered that her meeting with Ji You wasn't to acknowledge her as a sister nor was it specifically to give her a return gift, but—

Somehow, as soon as Ji You stepped into the lab, Shi Ya had forgotten the serious matters.

Thus, Shi Ya suddenly changed her demeanor and said in an unusually serious tone, "The gift you gave me is a Soul Device, and it's just one step away from becoming an Intermediate Soul Device, do you know?"

Ji You hesitated for a moment, then whispered, "Sister Yaya, did you discover?"

Shi Ya, with a serious face, said, "The gift you gave me, regardless of where it came from or whether you made it yourself, but—besides me, don't reveal it to anyone else."

Hmm?

Ji You pondered for a moment, considering how to respond, whether to directly tell the senior that it was made by herself, or—

Before Ji You could speak, Shi Ya said coldly, "I don't need to know such details. I just need to know, you haven't mentioned it to anyone else, have you?"

Ji You nodded, honestly saying, "Hmm. Besides Senior, no one else knows."

Shi Ya: "Hmm."

Suddenly—

The tense atmosphere inside the room gradually livened up.

Chapter 647: Unable to Refuse

Hearing Ji You's affirmative answer, Shi Ya's tense expression gradually softened, though she herself was unaware and still coldly said, "Exposing sufficient ability to attract covetous eyes without enough ability to protect oneself is a foolish act of self-destruction."

This girl—

She might not know what Soul Devices mean to others, let alone an Artifact Maker who can independently create Soul Devices...

After hearing Senior Shi Ya's words, Ji You pursed her lips and smiled, pondering whether to tell her about her ability to make Soul Devices—

Who knew—

Shi Ya's gaze suddenly sharpened: "I said, I don't need to know anything else."

Ji You swallowed the words she was about to speak.

Shi Ya coldly said, "I don't need a foolish little sister."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You looked at Senior Shi Ya somewhat aggrievedly, "But... I'm not stupid."

Shi Ya, seeing Ji You's pitiful look yet still maintaining a stern face, said, "Stupid or not, isn't up to yourself to decide."

Ji You: "..."

Seeing Senior Shi Ya pretending to be indifferent and unfeeling while clearly lacking the heart to be harsh, was honestly too adorable. Ji You nearly burst out laughing but then she thought for a moment and looked at Senior Shi Ya, speaking softly, "Senior, I won't say it now. If you want to ask anything later, I'll tell you then."

Shi Ya: "Hmm."

Shi Ya, not skilled in conversation and not one for many words, thought for a while and couldn't help adding, "You also don't need to tell me later, because I can't guarantee that knowing won't bring you harm. In this world, you can only truly rely on yourself."

Ji You opened her mouth...

Shi Ya raised her hand, stopping her, "Alright, that's it."

Does this mean she's sending me away?

Ji You blinked and wanted to stay a little longer, so she asked, "Sister Yaya, did your mission go smoothly? How long will you stay at the school?" She had heard from scumbag He Bi that Senior Shi Ya might have done something risky, but Senior wasn't willing to talk about it, and Senior He Bi didn't seem to know much either.

Ji You was a bit worried.

Hearing this, Shi Ya's voice returned to its previous indifference, "It's completed." The mission was quite complex and had several mishaps, but fortunately, everything went smoothly, especially since the Soul Device Ji You gave her significantly increased her stagnant spiritual power, helping her avoid a lethal crisis. Shi Ya's return to school was to participate in the end-of-term assessments.

Hearing this, Ji You just relaxed when Senior Shi Ya continued, "After the final exams this term, I will take on another task and leave, the timing is uncertain."

Ji You frowned, "Do you have to take on tasks outside? You can learn a lot in the school too."

Shi Ya didn't respond, but her intention was clear—she was definitely going to go.

Ji You didn't hide the worry in her eyes as she said, "Sister! You're the only real sister I have. I won't oppose you going out, but you must inform me before you do, and, please, make sure you can keep in touch with me at all times."

"Can... can you do that?" Ji You asked hopefully.

Shi Ya pressed her lips together, silent.

Ji You raised her head, gazing at her.

After a while, Shi Ya said, "I can't keep in contact all the time, but I will make regular contact with you."

Ji You heard this and was somewhat dissatisfied, but having not interacted much with Senior Shi Ya, she already understood her personality well; she would never make a promise about something she couldn't do, but anything she did promise, she would definitely fulfill.

Although not able to contact at any time, Senior's promise to make regular contact was somewhat comforting.

Ji You frowned and said, "Um, can we contact every three days?"

Shi Ya: "..."

Regular contact and contacting every three days are indeed very different in meaning.

Regular? It can be 5 days, 7 days, a fortnight, a month, or even half a year... As long as one remembers to keep in touch, being a day early or a day late is not an issue.

Three days? That's setting a strict timeline for oneself.

Shi Ya remained silent, but looking into the girl's hopeful eyes and the rays of light... The words of refusal that were about to slip out were quietly swallowed back; she frowned...

A moment later.

Shi Ya said: "Okay."

As her words fell, Shi Ya clearly saw an extremely bright smile blossom on the girl's face, a smile that could even outshine the bright moon.

Ji You squinted her eyes and sincerely said: "Sister Yaya, you are really good to me."

After saying this, she smiled again, "Why are you so good to me?" She was almost skeptical about whether she was really related to Shi Ya by blood, but Ji You knew that was not possible.

Shi Ya paused slightly when she heard this.

Then.

Shi Ya did not answer but reverted to her usual indifference: "I need to work now, you should go back."

Ji You looked at the pile of parts waiting to be handled, knowing that Senior Shi Ya indeed needed to work, so she didn't delay her further, saying: "Senior, then I will go back to the dorm."

Shi Ya: "Mm."

As Ji You walked out the door, holding the unfinished candy, the smile on her face couldn't be stopped...

Real sister.

Haha...

Senior Shi Ya really agreed to be her sister.

...

The more she thought about it, the happier Ji You felt.

Deep in her mind.

Ji You stretched out Six Spiritual Threads, continually probing into the depths of the Spiritual World and trying to communicate with Xiao You: [Xiao You! Xiao You! Xiao You!]

Ji You was excited: [Xiao You! Xiao You! Xiao You! Great joy!!!]

Xiao You quickly responded, her voice soft and sweet, and her tone also carried a clear smile: [Sister, I already heard about it, Sisi told me. Senior Shi Ya agreed to be our sister's sister.]

Ji You frowned and said: [She's our sister! Not just mine, but Xiao You's too.]

Xiao You nodded, her smile beaming: [Yes, our sister.]

Ji You then rambled to Xiao You about everything that happened during the day, turning them into funny stories to share with Xiao You, who patiently listened until Ji You finished, and then laughed along, laughing, with her voice soft, she remarked: [That's wonderful.]

Ji You covered her mouth, gleefully whispering: [Mm-hmm, all those plastic friends agreed to help me clean the rabbit shed, saving time for cleaning which allows us more time to practice Material creation and also time to make the Soul Device.]

Xiao You stared at the only light source at the top of the enclosed space, her tone clearly excited: [Sister... my skill in handling materials has improved a lot. Also—]

Here, Xiao You stretched out her hand, touching the place over her heart—the only physical part of her ethereal body, which felt warm, giving Xiao You the sensation of truly being alive.

Ji You, unable to wait, asked anxiously: "What about the heart?"

Xiao You squinted her eyes, her smile sweet: [It has grown a bit, now it's the size of a fingernail cover.]Originally it was only as big as a small yellow bean, but now it has grown to the size of a nail cover, sparking a glimmer of hope in Xiao You:

One day, will she be able to grow a complete body?

Chapter 648: Various Hypotheses

Hearing what Xiao You said, Ji You was very happy.

During this time, Ji You had purchased Candy Beans and Cloud Mist Tea from Teacher Mu. And since Ji You's Spiritual Level had already reached B, the Candy Beans and Cloud Mist Tea did not further improve her spiritual power, but—her Six Spiritual Threads had become thicker and more robust.

Moreover, the range of her Spirit Space seemed to have expanded a bit, only about 10 centimeters or so, but these tiny 10 centimeters gave Ji You immense confidence:

One day, her Spirit Space would become very large... and broad...

Apart from benefiting Ji You herself, the Candy Beans and Cloud Mist Tea also brought benefits to Xiao You: the heart at the location of Xiao You's heart, which was originally the size of a soybean, had gradually grown to the size of a fingernail.

What does this imply?

It implies that, someday, Xiao You's heart will grow as big as an adult's heart.

What about the other organs, besides the heart?

If the heart grows properly, won't the other organs start to develop as well?

...

All of this is enigmatic and difficult to figure out, but it draws one in with a longing and filled with anticipation...

But!!!

All this is based on the assumption that Ji You's hypotheses and imagination are correct.

What if there's a mistake in this guess? After all, Xiao You's condition is so mysterious, and the Iron Plate that traveled through with Ji You is so enigmatic and uncontrollable; to this day, Ji You still doesn't understand what the Iron Plate is, what its specific uses are... she can't even make the Iron Plate appear or disappear at will...

This means everything about the Iron Plate is uncontrollable for Ji You.

This is very bad.

What's even worse is—Xiao You's soul is currently residing inside the Iron Plate!

If any problem arises with the Iron Plate, Xiao You would definitely be the first to be impacted...

...

Ji You frowned tightly, somewhat refusing to accept such an awful assumption. She'd rather believe that everything about the Iron Plate is beneficial for her and Xiao You... The reason for its mystery so far, is just because she lacks sufficient strength and has yet to unravel the mysteries it holds...

With a stern face, Ji You focused and tried to carefully sense the Iron Plate, but it remained unresponsive, and she did not know where it was at the moment... Ji You knew it was hidden deep within her own mind, but she couldn't pinpoint its exact location.

At this moment—

Six robust Spiritual Threads were joyfully bounding around in Ji You's Spiritual World... Outside of her Spiritual World, it was surrounded by a solid, indestructible barrier. This barrier was transparent, allowing her to see clearly the foggy world outside of it.

Ji You knitted her brows in thought: First, is the space beyond the barrier also part of the Spiritual World? Will it be hers if she breaks through this barrier?

Here, it should be noted that during this time, Ji You's Spiritual World had expanded by about 15 centimeters. This 15 centimeters used to be outside the barrier, but with Ji You's continuous training, consumption of Candy Beans and Cloud Mist Tea, which improved her Spiritual Level, increased her Spiritual Threshold, including the growth of her Spiritual Threads... The barrier was not directly broken, but rather, it had quietly receded by 15 centimeters.

That is to say, to expand the Spirit Space, it is not necessary to break through this barrier, but to strengthen spiritual power.

Second, outside the barrier, there is a foggy expanse that seems vast and limitless... Does this mean that as long as spiritual power continues to increase and strengthen, Ji You's Spiritual World will continue to expand, expand, and expand... until it becomes vast and boundless?

The third point, what are the benefits of expanding the Spirit Space?

Up to now, Ji You still doesn't know the specific benefits, but she's sure that there are significant advantages after the expansion.

...

It took Ji You only a few seconds to ponder these potential worries and benefits. Then, she narrowed her eyes, curved her lips, and said with a smile, "Xiao You, let's keep up the effort and try to grow a body soon."

Xiao You smiled lightly, "Mhm!"

The clear voice of the girl echoed in Ji You's mind; Ji You's hesitant heart suddenly firmed: What is there to fear? With Xiao You by her side, even if the path they envisioned is full of thorns, a literal mountain of knives and sea of flames, as long as there is the slightest hope, Ji You is unwilling to give up.

On this side.

In the confined space, the slender girl's lips slightly rose, her bright eyes filled with boundless hope. Yet Xiao You understood that with hope comes despair. The path she and her sister envisioned is beautiful, but what if it doesn't lead to hope, but to direct despair?

Xiao You pursed her lips.

After a while.

A strong conviction surged in Xiao You's heart: [If sister isn't afraid, why should I be? What I need to do is not to hold sister back!]

In the confined space, the girl looked towards the only source of light in the distance, her smile reappearing.

...

After returning to the dormitory, Ji You took stock of her current assets, starting with the credit points. The soul devices she sold last time brought her nearly 40 million credit points, but after buying Candy Beans from Teacher Mu and various expenses, Ji You now only has 38 million credit points.

With this money, Ji You intended to pay back part of her debt, as carrying a debt of 500 million made it hard for her to sleep and eat... But what excuse could she give for suddenly coming into so much money as a poor student from a garbage planet?

The thing is, if Ji You really brought out the money, she would have to explain to the creditors that she can make soul devices. Although Ji You is very clear in her heart that Teacher Mu, Principal Hong, and Dr. Luo probably wouldn't harm her even if they knew this secret, and might even try to help her protect it... But! Ji You had just promised Senior Shi Ya that she wouldn't let anyone else know she can make soul devices until she has the ability to protect herself—

So the debt repayment is postponed, waiting for another excuse.

Besides this reason, Ji You actually had another idea: she wanted to buy some high-level soul device materials to try making middle and high-level soul devices.

At present, she had the technical ability to consistently produce low-level soul artifacts, but none that were mid-level or high-level.

Why?

After thinking it over, Ji You felt the largest likelihood was the limitation of soul device materials. The materials she used to craft soul devices, whether it's grass seed or Companion Stone, were all worthless things...

Comparing this to the information about mid- and high-level soul devices Ji You saw on the Star Network, whether they formed naturally or were made by soul artifact makers, they all, without exception, were made from extremely precious materials.

But such precious materials are rare, and as soon as they appear, they are snapped up by a few renowned artifact makers in the interstellar space. Moreover, most of these materials wouldn't even appear on the Star Network and would be directly delivered to the artifact makers.

Ji You, whenever she had free time recently, was always watching the stores of soul device materials, but unfortunately, she hadn't found any cost-effective materials for sale, otherwise, she would have bought some to try long ago.

...

In any case, Ji You, as a wild Soul Artifact Master on the Star Network with tens of millions of fans, is perceived by outsiders as rolling in wealth—an Artifact Master who regards money as dung and has an extremely noble character. But the reality of her daily life is so bitter.

Bitterness.

Chapter 649: Basic Mecha Driver's License

Ji You's assets, besides credit points, included points that could be used across all universities within the Alliance. Initially, Ji You only had a little over two hundred points, but after being employed by Shen Changqing and others, she amassed 10,000 points.

Furthermore, she earned 8,000 points combined from finishing third in the solo competition and first in the team competition.

Next, she made a few thousand points from selling Stinky Grass.

However, whether in solo or team competitions, Ji You spent many points on purchasing mechs and weapons to win the games, especially during her match against Sheng Qingyan, where she even self-destructed a Blade.

As a result, she currently only has 15,000 points left in her hand. It's not a lot, but it's not a little either; this amount of points made her quite wealthy among the student body. As long as Ji You does not spend recklessly, it's enough for her entire year of living expenses at school next year.

...

After tallying everything, aside from a debt of 500 million above her head, Ji You was temporarily without worries about food and clothing.

Next.

Ji You began to attend today's Material Department classes. As the end of the term approached, whether it was the Combat Department, the Material Department, or the Mechanical Manufacturing System, all were preparing for the final exam. Today's Material Department class did not teach new content but was a summary of the knowledge from this term by Professor Ye Hong.

Ji You listened with keen interest. After listening and reviewing, she transferred her newly acquired knowledge to Xiao You.

Inside the Iron Plate, Xiao You didn't miss a day, constantly studying the material knowledge passed on by Ji You... After learning, Xiao You would relay her understanding and thoughts back to Ji You, and they would study and ponder together.

In short—

Both Ji You and Xiao You did very well in their material handling courses, and with Xiao You's help adding a cheat-like advantage, Ji You was absolutely confident in facing the final exam.

It would be—

Even better if Professor Ye Hong wasn't so annoying.

Since Xu Siyu plagiarized and slandered Ji You, Xu Siyu was expelled from the school on the same day and had never appeared in school since. Ji You was also not curious about where she went, as it was irrelevant to her.

But!!!

Ji You originally thought that after clearing her name, Professor Ye Hong would start treating her better. However, to her dismay, the grumpy old man only intensified his efforts. The assignments Ji You handed in were either fiercely criticized or harshly mocked... Basically, the grumpy old man was an expert at nitpicking, making life very difficult for Ji You, rendering her frustrated.

Each time she submitted an assignment, she had to check, check, and check again... Not only checking, but she also had to constantly innovate and create, thinking in three dimensions was not enough; she had to think in six or nine dimensions... In short, she had to strive for perfection and try to make it impossible for Professor Ye Hong to find fault.

...

After completing the Material Department homework, without needing to participate in online competitions, Ji You felt a lot more relaxed. She exercised for a while and then went to sleep on time.

The next day.

The sunshine was splendid.

Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan, and other students arrived at the training room on time. Inside the training room, students each took their seats and quietly waited for Teacher Mu Jianling's arrival.

Teacher Mu Jianling was a very punctual teacher. She never arrived late and usually entered the training room three minutes before the class bell rang.

As the class time neared, the students dared not act out and stretched their necks to look toward the door.

Tap tap...

Following the sound of footsteps, Mu Jianling strode in.

Students: "Good morning, Teacher Mu."

Mu Jianling raised her hand, her tone neutral: "Good morning, everyone."

Silence.

Mu Jianling's eyes, sharp as a falcon's, slowly swept over the students. Under such a gaze, the students still sat up straight, maintaining a proper posture.

Mu Jianling was pleased with this, looking at the students, she said, "Everyone looks spirited, keep it up."

Students: "Yes."

After speaking—

The training room instantly quieted down, not because Teacher Mu Jianling enforced it, but it was a natural reaction developed by the students over time, and also a basic premise of being a qualified warrior.

Mu Jianling announced, "Basic Mecha Driving Assessment begins today."

Whoosh~

At her words, students in the entire training room gasped in surprise!

Basic Mecha Driving Assessment?

So soon?

Why did the teacher not reveal anything yesterday?

Of course, although surprised, the students stayed relatively calm. They have been piloting real mechs for a while and all believe they can definitely pass the assessment.

Mu Jianling said, "Firstly, I must point out, those who fail the assessment won't be able to participate in this semester's final exam. Because your final exam this semester is neither in our school nor on Lanyue Star. You will know the specific location when the time comes."

The students looked confused: "???"

A student bravely raised a hand to ask, "Teacher, what if we don't pass the assessment and can't participate in the final exam?"

Mu Jianling replied, "You'll be served cold."

That student: "..."

Mu Jianling continued, "Treat it as zero points for this period. If you miss the final exam twice, you'll be held back."

The students: "!!!"

This punishment is indeed too terrifying.

Yingyingying~

The students, who had been full of confidence, suddenly became uneasy: What if they were unlucky and failed?

Amid a chorus of groans, another student mustered the courage to ask, "Then... if we fail, can we retake the exam?"

Mu Jianling nodded: "Yes."

With these words, the students who felt dejected suddenly felt a spark of hope reignite from the ashes!

Someone asked, "How many times can we retake the exam?"

"Unlimited retries before the final assessment date," Mu Jianling replied with a twinkling glint in his eyes. But the students, overjoyed by the opportunity for unlimited retakes, hardly noticed.

However, the normally obtuse and unreflective Yue Qiguang suddenly shouted, "Fools, wake up! There's no such thing as unlimited retakes without conditions!"

Yue Qiguang's tone was unusually firm.

Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiyuan, and others were slightly surprised by his rare intelligent remark.

Following this.

Everyone promptly turned to look at Mu Jianling.

Mu Jianling's lips curved into a smile, and he said humorously: "Student number 2222, Yue Qiguang, is correct. There are unlimited retakes, but they require points. The first time is 10 points, the second time 100 points, the third time 1000 points, the fourth time 10000 points, the fifth time 100000 points..."

The students: "..."

Dead silence.

Not a single voice was heard.

Mu Jianling looked down from the stage with a smile, his tone unusually gentle, "I believe there shouldn't be any fool who fails five retakes in a row, right?"

No one made a sound.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

Mu Jianling, ignoring the students' dismayed expressions, continued, "Any other questions?"

Silence.

Complete silence.

Mu Jianling raised his hand, snapped his fingers with a laugh, and announced, "Since there are no questions, let the assessment begin."

The students: "Ahhh!!! I absolutely will not take retakes!!!"

Chapter 650: How Do I Choose?

First retake, 10 points.

Second retake, 100 points.

Third retake, 1000 points.

...

These harsh and inhumane retake conditions made the students' scalp tingle, yet most people didn't think they would be the unlucky ones; instead, they were brimming with confidence and waiting for the exam to start.

Mu Jianling raised her eyebrows, and her eyes scanned around the training room. Despite the recent emotional fluctuations of the students, they all became fully devoted. She smirked and asked another question: "Does anyone have any questions?"

No one spoke.

Mu Jianling waited a few seconds, just as she was about to announce the start, suddenly, Ji You stood up, raising her hand and asking, "Teacher, I have a question, not sure if I should ask?"

Mu Jianling: "Go ahead!"

Ji You asked: "For the basic mech assessment, are we using the same standard mechs, or can we choose mechs that we are good at?"

This question made Mu Jianling's eyes flicker.

And it struck the other students as well:

Right!

How could we have forgotten such a crucial question?

If everyone is driving the same model of mech, some are good at speed, while others are good at defense, some people... If everyone uses the Wind Wing during the assessment, those lacking in speed are definitely going to be at a huge disadvantage.

And, everyone has been training in the training room for so long using their preferred mechs, as for other mechs, many haven't even touched them...

In short, using a unified mech is obviously not good for everyone.

So, everyone stared nervously at Mu Jianling, Mu Jianling grinned and said: "You can choose mechs you are proficient with."

"Wow!"

"Great!"

"Ha!"

...

Once Mu Jianling finished her sentence, the whole training room burst into high spirits, many laughed heartily, only Ji You and a few friends beside her still furrowed their brows.

—Feeling like there's still a trap hidden here, but no idea what it is.

Mu Jianling asked: "Any more questions?"

Ji You pondered, not sure, then looked cautiously at Teacher Mu Jianling and timidly asked: "Well... Teacher, I think the retake fees are slightly unreasonable, any chance they could be lowered a bit?"

Hmm?

Mu Jianling said coldly: "No."

Ji You: "..."

Mu Jianling waved her hand, declaring: "Question time is over, the assessment starts."

Ji You sat down, next to him, Sheng Qingyan raised his head, glanced at Ji You, and said sarcastically: "You poor dead ghost, you even dare to ask Devil Mu about the retake fees... I must say you really have guts."

Mu Jianling's eyes suddenly turned this way.

"Cough..." Ji You and Sheng Qingyan both opened their mouths at the same time, desperately saying: "I/We didn't say anything..."

Mu Jianling glanced at the two and looked away.

Ji You immediately glared at Sheng Qingyan, scolding: "Stupid idiot, if you want to die, don't drag me down!"

Sheng Qingyan frowned and held his chest, saying: "What should I do? I always feel a bit uneasy."

Nearby.

Shen Changqing also suddenly said: "Me too."

Chu Jiaojiao immediately followed: "I feel the same way."

Yue Qiyuan rubbed his chin: "What exactly is the problem?"

Yue Qiguang folded his arms: "What's there to worry about? Whatever comes, we'll handle it. I'm not scared at all."

Since none of them could figure it out, all they could do was to plan like Yue Qiguang:

One word: Reckless!

No matter what traps lay ahead, just charge forward!

Continuing.

Mu Jianling lightly tapped a control button above the podium. In no time, a light wall on the right side of the training room, which had never been opened to students, slowly, very slowly opened in front of the students.

What came into view—

was an expansive space, stretching as far as the eye could see, almost as if it had pierced through the atmosphere of Lanyue Star...

This—

Isn't this a bit too spacious?

The students stared in disbelief, "This is the Basic Driving evaluation site?"

Mu Jianling nodded, saying: "Everyone, please go in."

Holding a mix of anticipation and nervousness, students entered the examination room in order.

Once inside, they lined up according to their student ID numbers, waiting orderly for their turn to be evaluated.

No panic.

No noise.

No laughter.

...

Mu Jianling watched the students' behavior, very satisfied with their discipline. As future warriors of the Military Academy, maintaining discipline is of utmost importance. With a smile, Mu Jianling said, "Before the official evaluation starts, you can familiarize yourself with the mecha for 5 minutes."

Hearing this, the students' eyes lit up: Such a great opportunity?

Mu Jianling nodded, "Now, go and choose your mecha."

When he finished,

Mu Jianling snapped his fingers, and a light screen appeared on another side of the evaluation room. The screen listed hundreds of mechas and models, and each student could freely pick from the screen. Once selected, robots in charge of the examination order would bring the chosen mechas over.

From selection to delivery, it didn't even take 5 seconds.

The process was incredibly fast; it didn't waste any time at all.

One by one, students stepped up, staring at the screen in front of them. Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, and others did the same...

The mechas listed on the screen varied greatly: speed types, defense types, scouting types...

Ji You frowned, searched for a long time, but couldn't find her usual Small Mecha which struck her as odd. Gathering her courage, she approached Teacher Mu Jianling and asked softly, "Teacher... um, where's my mecha?"

Hearing this, Mu Jianling glanced at Ji You dismissively, "The small mecha you use for training was specially made to accommodate your disabilities; it's not available in the evaluation."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's eyelids twitched, and that unpleasant premonition in her heart surged, "Then—won't you make accommodations for someone half-disabled like me in the evaluation?"

Suddenly, Mu Jianling turned around, looked Ji You up and down, and said: "Your hands aren't disabled, your legs aren't missing; no allowances will be made."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You, with a miserable face, said, "But... but here..." she raised her hand, pointing to her head, meaning to remind Teacher Mu Jianling of her Mutated Spiritual Power, these few Spiritual Silks...

"This part of me, it's different from others."

However, Mu Jianling, upon hearing this, just raised an eyebrow, unconcerned, and said, "Oh—mentally handicapped—." He paused deliberately before adding with a smile, "I'm honored to tell you—no special accommodations."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You forced a stiff smile, "Teacher, please mind your language. By saying that, I seriously suspect that you are insulting both me and my dignity..."

Mu Jianling raised her hand unapologetically and knocked on Ji You's head, scolding, "Are you choosing a mecha or not? If you don't make your choice within 1 minute, the system will choose for you!"

Ji You raised her hand, covering her face: "Yingyingying..."

It's all over!

She had always used a specially made Small Mecha for training, even at Taoyuan Space Station.

How was she supposed to choose now?