

Scavengers 661

Chapter 661: This Isn't the Ji You I Know

Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiyuan, Yue Qiguang, and others upon hearing this, simultaneously said to Shen Changqing: "The one who squanders the family wealth!"

Shen Changqing: "..."

Sheng Qingyan glanced at Shen Changqing whose face was flushed with red, and covered her mouth, giggling: "Aqing, on this point, you truly can't compare to that poor dead guy, Ji You."

Shen Changqing: "..."

Listening to his friends' teasing, Shen Changqing's elegant face, at this moment, shone like the burning clouds on the horizon. He pursed his lips and softly said: "In the next round of make-up examination, I will appropriately control the consumption of energy."

Then, Shen Changqing stopped paying attention to others' teasing and stared intently at Ji You inside the examination room.

Ji You was lying still, her eyes closed, seemingly asleep?

Asleep?

Students: "..."

At this time, she can still sleep?

For a moment, everyone was somewhat speechless.

Of course, Ji You wasn't truly heartless enough to sleep inside the examination room. The examination had a time limit, but from Challenge 1 to Challenge 4, Ji You did not take much time, thus she had plenty of time left.

She wasn't in a hurry to tackle the challenges.

Moreover, she had been too tense while attempting the previous challenges; she had to rest properly.

Challenge four was a shooting range, besides the moving targets, there were no other dangers. Where else could be more suitable for resting?

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

After quietly resting with her eyes closed for 3 minutes, Ji You then reopened them—

As soon as her eyes opened, her whole demeanor changed instantly, like a lion waking from sleep, full of sharpness!

Then—

She squinted her eyes, aiming at the nearest target within her line of sight—

Students instantly perked up: "Here it comes!"

"Will she hit it?"

"The targets are moving too fast, seems a bit risky."

"Is this really a basic driving test?"

"I doubt it too, is this still beginner's village difficulty?"

...

Ji You's expected shot did not happen; instead, she continued to half-squint her eyes, focusing on the nearest target.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

Then, Ji You abruptly pulled the trigger of the particle cannon!

Whoosh—

The particle cannon grazed through the air resistance and shot out...

Finally, with a 'bang', it just narrowly missed the edge of the target, skewing off.

Onlookers all raised their hands to their foreheads, sighing deeply:

"Ah..."

"What a pity..."

"Just missed by a little!"

...

Ji You's expression remained calm. After this shot, she did not pause. Then, she fired another shot.

Whoosh—

Boom!!!

Direct hit on the target!

The crowd cheered: "Damn!"

"Cool!"

"Awesome!"

"Rad!"

After successfully hitting the target's center, Ji You raised her hand and lightly rubbed her brow, then continued to aim—

Whoosh—

The third particle cannon was just as powerful as the second one, hitting the target at its closest point to Ji You's position.

The crowd was jubilant: "Damn! Ji You's aura today is so strong!"

Following that, the fourth and fifth shots—

All hit!

The outside cheering, Ji You completely blocked out. In her eyes and mind, there were only continuously moving targets, and as Ji You hit four, their speed seemed to get even faster.

After the cheering, the students' hearts also rose, everyone stared unwaveringly at Ji You, who was lying on the ground squinting slightly, those dark pupils bursting out a light, sharp as a drawn sword, captivating—

Here it comes!

Initially, just a faint whizzing sound, and then, everyone saw a particle cannon shooting straight towards a specific point! The target, shaking back and forth, its exact position was completely elusive, but just as the particle cannon reached—

Boom!

Hit!

Hit again!

With that, Ji You consecutively hit 5 targets right in the bullseye!

As long as she hit 3 more, she would surely pass the fourth stage.

For a moment, the students' hearts tightened even more, fluttering anxiously, but for some reason, when everyone caught a glimpse of Ji You's bright eyes, their nerves strangely dissipated.

She was too calm, aiming at the target's heart like a seasoned hunter staring down prey, with not a hint of panic in her eyes or disruption in her motion, composed and rational like a cold machine.

This emotion quickly infected the surrounding students.

Then—

Ji You fired her seventh particle cannon shot of the day.

Swoosh—

The eighth!

Swoosh—

The ninth!

Swoosh—

Three particle cannon shots, almost seamlessly executed, fired in three different directions—

The students' recently calm hearts jumped to their throats again: "!!!"

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

The students covered their eyes, unable to bear seeing the results, but the glimpses through the gaps between their fingers revealed it!

All three shots hit the target!

The students: "!!!"

"Cool!"

"Awesome!"

"Incredible!"

...

"Is this the same number 4444 Ji You I know?"

"She's a sharpshooter!"

"This accuracy, it's unbeatable!"

...

After firing 9 particle cannons and hitting 8, she had already met the criteria to pass, lifting the tense atmosphere among the students instantly, and they began to chat leisurely.

"This can't be Ji You!"

"This is Ji You on cheats."

"Cheating, nailed it!"

...

Amidst the playful teasing of the students, Ji You completely ignored them, her gaze fixed on the final target, slightly furrowing her brows:

To shoot?

Or not to shoot?

Shooting could enhance Ji You's assessment score. As long as she passed all 5 stages within the set time, she would obtain the Basic Mecha Driver's License, so the score was not very useful, only adding a nice shine to the license.

Not shooting might reduce her score a bit, but it wasn't too harmful and would save some energy.

Weighing her options, Ji You thought: Screw it, why do I need a fancy-looking license? Of course, I should save energy.

So—

While everyone was eagerly awaiting Ji You to fire the last particle cannon and beautifully finish the fourth stage, Ji You suddenly withdrew her weapon, stood up in her mecha, patted her bottom, and walked away.

Walked away?

The students: "???"

But—

The way she slapped her bottom and casually turned away was too slick and decisive, like a heartbreaker who ruthlessly dumps and leaves!

For a moment, the students collectively went: "..."

Was she—

Simply giving up on the last target?

Without another word, Ji You rushed straight for the fifth stage, through her actions declaring to everyone, as expected, which left the students somewhat speechlessly choked up:

"Her energy is still at 11%, firing another particle cannon would probably take about 1.5% of energy, it makes sense not to continue."

"Cough cough..."

"She's really thrifty."

"Cough cough..."

...

The fifth stage, actually, wasn't difficult. She just needed to break through a set up obstacle to smoothly and freely leave the examination room.

Ji You reached the critical point of the stage and then stopped.

In front of her was a formidable wall, littered with countless blades, and from time to time 'trash' would drop from the wall, which actually contained bombs.

A moment of inattention could blow you and your mecha to pieces.

Looking at all this, Ji You's brows furrowed deeply!

Chapter 662: Safe Journey, Ji You

Ji You frowned, staring at the tall wall in front of her. In fact, the most difficult part of the 5th challenge was how to get past this wall covered in 'Sword Mountain and Fire Sea'. Once over, the path ahead would be wide open...

Hesitation lasted only a few seconds before Ji You immediately took out a rope and fiercely threw it towards the top of the wall.

This rope, whose main material was the Iron Pear Wood that Ji You, Grandma Jenny, Uncle Xie Yi, and Brother Ryan had previously collected together. Iron Pear Wood is both flexible and durable, making it one of the main materials for climbing equipment. It also had a few alloys of similar properties mixed into it, hence it was one of the basic standard weapons for Mechas, and of course, also stocked in the antique mech.

Ji You tossed the rope upwards, and it immediately caught onto the top of the wall, but just as it did and before Ji You had a chance to test its sturdiness, several sharp blades shot out from the wall.

Swoosh~

Swoosh~

Swoosh~

After three sounds, the rope was neatly sliced into pieces.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's face darkened, and she couldn't help but curse, "Damn, it's just an examination, does it have to be this brutal?" This rope also cost at least 500 credit points. What if students have to compensate for the wear and tear on examination Mechas?

It was very likely something the school would do.

Ji You, heart in pain, collected the segments of rope and stuffed them back into the storage compartment.

Originally, she had planned to use the rope to climb the wall, but now it seemed that ordinary methods were clearly ineffective.

What to do?

Ji You glared at the 'wall', temporarily out of ideas. Since she couldn't think of anything, she decided to take a brief pause.

Then, Ji You glanced at the time – about 15 minutes left until the end of the examination.

And then—

Everyone saw Ji You's Mecha bend its knees slightly and plop down on its bottom on the ground, and she even deliberately lifted her hand and lightly tapped her leg.

The students: "..."

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

A full minute passed, and Ji You was still sitting on the ground. The students couldn't hold back any longer and loudly said, "Student Ji You, what are you doing? Now's not the time to rest. Look at the time."

"Yeah! Why are you so laid-back in the middle of the examination?"

"Be serious!"

"Focus!"

...

"Cough cough..." Ji You cleared her throat, feeling the complaints coming from all sides. She cleared her throat again and said with a serious tone, "You weak chickens, what do you know? I'm thinking of methods to clear the challenge here!"

Someone asked, "So, have you thought of anything?"

Ji You admitted, "No."

The students: "..."

Facing the speechless expressions of her classmates, Ji You showed not a hint of shame but instead declared boldly, "Although I haven't thought of a way, I've already got an idea!"

The students: "What idea?"

Ji You raised her hand and said with confidence, "One word: Charge!"

The students: "..."

Ji You put on a stern face, the spitting image of a rash warrior, "My head is so hard, I refuse to believe I can't climb this wall! Even if I can't climb it, I'll smash it down!"

Everyone thought she was joking, but as soon as Ji You finished speaking, she didn't waste any more words. She abruptly stood up, and the mech's thrusters were pulled to the max—a whooshing sound was heard—

The antique Mecha had already begun to soar rapidly upward.

It was at the moment the Mecha flew up that a huge amount of 'trash' poured down from the top of the wall—

In the blink of an eye, the 'trash' engulfed the antique Mecha.

Students: "..."

"How come she's so reckless?"

"We're doomed!"

"It's over!"

"We're gonna crash!"

...

The atmosphere in the waiting room suddenly became tense: she was the only student in the group who might have succeeded in breaking through and passing the test so far, but she just had to court death...

Everyone felt pained and stared resentfully at the antique mech submerged in 'trash', but thinking that Ji You with number 4444 was tough as nails, she probably wouldn't die so easily, many still held a glimmer of hope in their hearts.

Just then, boom——

A loud explosion suddenly erupted from the pile of trash, undoubtedly, unmistakably, the 'trash' bombs had detonated!

Students: "..."

This is the real deal, she's gone~

Someone covered the corner of their mouth, grimacing and howling, "Ji You, you died a horrible death..."

"Ji You, may you rest in peace."

"Ji You, every year on this date, we will never forget to burn incense for you..."

...

Amidst the doomsaying, right at the epicenter of the explosion, from within the billowing smoke, suddenly something leaped out, using both hands and feet, directly climbing up the city wall...

Students: "Holy shit!"

"She's not dead?"

"Resurrected?"

"What's happening?"

Amidst the astonished speculation, Shen Changqing cleared his throat and explained: "You all seem to have forgotten about the Protective Shield, haven't you?"

"Cough!"

"Cough!"

"Cough!"

As soon as these words were spoken, awkward coughs echoed around them, indeed, in their worry, they had been so confused by 4444's series of flashy moves that everyone had forgotten about it.

The Protective Shield is also one of the standard equipment of a mech, installed on every unit. With the advancements in technology, the Protective Shields of mechs produced by the Alliance are increasingly powerful. However, due to different performance and roles of each model, not every Protective Shield is the same, and they also vary in strength; the Protective Shield of the antique mech is clearly the weakest.

However, the students were only facing a basic mech test, and the 'trash' bombs' power was something the Protective Shield of the antique mech could undoubtedly withstand for a while.

And——

Not only that, the force of the explosion also swept up the 'trash' continuously pouring down from the top of the wall and detonated it all in a blink of an eye. Due to the chain reaction caused by the explosion, there was a brief moment of vacancy on the entire wall, and this short interval was Ji You's only chance!

At this moment, the watching students finally understood Ji You's strategy—she was taking advantage of the gap to climb to the top of the wall!

You could see——

Ji You was piloting the antique mech, clinging to the wall, like a nimble monkey, scaling a distance of a thousand meters in just a few breaths.

Spiritual World.

Boss: [Master, there's a bomb coming from 200 meters to the left, run.]

Second: [Master, there's a bomb coming from 500 meters above you, run.]

Third: [Master, to the right, to the right, 400 meters, quick, quick!!!!]

Fourth: [200 meters to the left, 300 meters to the right, Master keep it up, you're the best!]

This Fourth really is a slick one, not only not disrupting Master's important tasks but also cheering and boosting morale while they can, slapping on the flattery to strive to be the most endearing Sisi in the Master's heart...

Old Five and Sixth weren't slacking off either, as Ji You was climbing, they diligently provided warnings, helping the Master perfectly dodge the 'trash' bombs tumbling down from the wall again...

Chapter 663: I Hate the Unpredictability of This World

Under the unwavering gaze of thousands of pairs of eyes, the antique mech, battered and covered in grime from the explosions, continued to climb towards the top of the wall, dodging the relentless 'junk' bombs that kept smashing down, while Ji You also paused very regularly and rhythmically, clearly unpanicked.

This composure was enough to astonish the students, and it caused a slight flash in the indifferent eyes of Mu Jianling.

The surroundings became very quiet again, no one spoke to disturb Ji You, nor did anyone gossip at this moment...

Everyone was intently watching Ji You's every move, not daring to miss a detail—after all, everything Ji You was doing was worth emulating, very valuable for reference, and perhaps their opportunity to pass the examination lay here.

Silent.

So silent.

The climb was a race against time, not particularly long, yet not short either, until 5 minutes later, Ji You finally reached the top, and the students let out a sigh of relief, exclaiming:

"Damn!"

"She finally climbed up."

"It wasn't easy, stopping along the way..."

...

The sentiments of the classmates were also what Ji You was thinking. With victory in sight, how could she become arrogant and careless? Ji You might seem reckless and casual when she speaks, but in reality, she is incredibly pragmatic.

Taking advantage of the moment when the blades on the wall's top disappeared after climbing up, Ji You did not dare to delay, she leapt from the top of the wall—

Swoosh~

The mech glided lightly across the ground—

In view was a track similar to the first obstacle, the entire track was without obstacles, no other dangers, the only difference from the first stage was that this track was somewhat longer, about three times that of the first stage, Ji You glanced at the timer, there were 9 minutes and 20 seconds left until the examination ended.

But—the first stage's track, where Ji You had used a sledding skating technique, took her 3 minutes and 50 seconds.

Ji You's face darkened, cursing silently:

I'm screwed, there's not enough time!

But there was no time left to think, Ji You without a word retrieved her old tools: a stick, a skateboard.

Seeing this familiar set of tools, the watching students began to laugh, saying:

"Do you think, she can make it to the finish on time?"

"It's doubtful!"

"Hard!"

"Cough... Could you all have a little faith in classmate Ji You? I bet she'll fall flat on her face immediately!"

"Cough... You are being too harsh, we are all classmates after all, don't curse her like that. I bet she can only make it halfway."

"Cough... Aren't we classmates anymore? Can't you keep your mouth clean? What has classmate Ji You done to you? I guess she'll definitely make it more than halfway before going down!"

"Cough..."

It wasn't that the classmates intentionally cursed Ji You, but Ji You had just spent a bit too much energy climbing to the top of the wall, and now her mech's energy reserve was only at 1.6%.

Sad and desolate~

What can you do with that little energy?

Just maintaining the connection with the mech would consume energy, meaning this 1.6% energy could not be used by Ji You for anything else, only to maintain the mech connection.

Amidst the chorus of pessimism, Ji You had already darted out far using her old set of tools!

Not a millisecond to waste.

Ji You's eyes were calm, she cleared her mind of all miscellaneous thoughts entirely, she held her breath, pushed with her legs, slid her hands, charging forward courageously—

meters.

meters.

meters.

...

Ji You's form was light, like a fluttering butterfly, continuously weaving through the track, getting closer and closer to the finish line... and the timer hanging overhead continued to announce the time remaining—

At that moment!

System: [Countdown: 10, 9, 8, 7...]

The audience's hearts were in their throats!

Ji You was only 500 meters away from the finish line!

meters!

meters!

...

There's hope!

Everyone's eyes were wide open, not daring to blink, only 3 seconds left!

seconds to go!

second!!!

Ji You, along with her mech, hurtled forward with a whoosh, reaching the ultimate speed! She was just about to cross the finish line!

At this nail-biting moment, everyone couldn't help but shout out together:

"Quick!"

"Quick!"

"Quick!"

Then—

Ji You clenched her teeth, decisively used up the last 0.01% of her mech's energy, and dived forward—

System: [Examination time up!]

The result?

Many closed their eyes, not daring to look.

Then—

When everyone opened their eyes, they saw Ji You sprawling on the ground, furiously pounding the racetrack with both hands, her face smeared with tears and snot, she bellowed: "Arghhh!!! I hate this ever-changing world!"

"I hate this unjust Heavenly Dao!"

"I hate these blind heavens!"

The students: "..."

Just... flat-out fell?

What... what happened?

The scene of Ji You's final seconds sprinting was playing on loop, and so, when people opened their eyes again, they understood what had happened. Just as the countdown ended, Ji You was about to break through the finish line, just missing by—

meter!

Yes, 1 meter.

A distance that could have been covered by a casual step of the mech, but it just fell short by that little bit.

The entire place fell silent for a moment.

After 1 second.

The place burst into roaring laughter:

"How tragic!"

"Too tragic!"

"But forgive my lack of decorum, why do I feel like laughing?"

"Me too."

"Classmate Ji You, you truly are a tragedy!"

"No! She's a comedy!"

"Pffft hahaha..."

...

Listening to the laughter from the onlookers, Ji You pounded the ground fiercely, her heart aching as if bleeding. She even considered making a scene right there and then, asking the examination system to give her a break, to let her pass.

Or maybe, to beg for a chance, asking the system to turn a blind eye and change her examination result?

After all, it was just 1 meter short.

Just 1 meter, such a negligible error.

As these thoughts bubbled up in her mind, Ji You blinked and was about to stir—

Suddenly—

The teacher Mu Jianling's cool voice rang out: "Aren't you going to scam out of here? Do you plan to monopolize the track and incubate an egg? What egg? With your stupidity, even if you hatch something, it'd still be idiotic, a complete fool!"

Ji You: "..."

Everyone: "..."

For a moment, the waiting room burst into another round of laughter...

Ji You reluctantly got up, hanging her head low, her face filled with dejection as she walked out of the examination room. Just as she stepped out, Mu Jian suddenly added: "Wait!"

Ji You immediately froze, excitedly saying: "Teacher???"

Mu Jianling didn't even lift her gaze, she flatly said: "Protective Shield, energy box, plus one rope... All in all, the equipment damage totals up to 5250 credit points." After saying that, Mu Jianling raised her hand, pointed to a payment terminal nearby, tapped it lightly as if gesturing: "Hurry up and pay here."

Ji You: "..."

Everyone: "Pfft—"

Chapter 664: Everyone Got Screwed

"Hurry up and make the payment here." Mu Jianling lifted her hand, pointing to the card swiper beside her, and urged without a trace of emotion.

"..." Ji You stiffened completely, hardly able to believe what she was hearing, thinking she had heard wrong, "Teacher... are you kidding me?"

"Do I look like I have free time?" Mu Jianling, arms crossed, retorted with a question.

"But..." Ji You pursed her lips, unable to help but ask, "Isn't this normal consumption during the assessment process? Shouldn't it be borne by the school? Why should the student pay it themselves?"

Hearing this, Mu Jianling lifted her eyelids, saying with a smile, "Indeed, it is normal consumption, but the school only provides one free of charge. Since you've used up the mecha's energy and weapons, of course, you have to pay to replenish them. If you're not preparing to take the makeup exam, you don't have to bear the cost of this consumption."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath and asked, "So you mean, if I don't pay, I won't be able to use the mecha next time I retake the exam?"

Mu Jianling nodded, replying, "Of course. Alternatively, you can continue using this same mech whose energy has been exhausted."

Overlord clause, huh!

Ji You clutched her chest, really wanting to say she had no money, but after catching Teacher Mu Jianling's cold gaze, the words she was about to blurt were swallowed back.

Mu Jianling frowned and said, "Hurry up, don't waste time."

Ji You couldn't help but ask, "Could you... Teacher, could you help me replace this antique mech with a Level 2 energy box?" Level 1 energy just doesn't last, or else she wouldn't have missed by just 1 meter.

meter.

Just thinking about that 1 meter, Ji You felt like coughing up blood in frustration.

Upon hearing this, Mu Jianling promptly rejected, "No."

Ji You's mouth twitched, but still, with a hurting heart, she paid.

Just at this moment, an assistant robot came up, temporarily took away Ji You's antique mech for replenishment of its energy, and for maintenance.

Ji You was full of gloom.

At this time—

Mu Jianling looked up, turning to the other students who were watching the commotion, saying, "Everyone is treated the same. During the assessment, if the mecha undergoes consumption, and needs maintenance, energy replacement, weapons, or other equipment, come up and pay conscientiously."

Upon these words, the faces of all the students present suddenly showed a hint of red.

A red of shame.

99% of the students had already kneeled at the starting line, some couldn't even successfully connect with the mecha, how much energy could they consume? Not to mention causing damage to several weapons and equipment like Ji You did...

Seeing this embarrassed expression on the students' faces, Mu Jianling deliberately made an enlightened face, saying, "Oh— I forgot you bunch of idiots can't even pilot a mech, how could you cause any damage to it?"

Students: "..."

[Teacher! It's too much to hit us in the face!]

No one said a word, silently bearing the verbal irony from the poisonous-tongued Teacher Mu Jianling; originally, everyone thought the teacher would continue to mock for a few more sentences, but suddenly her tone shifted, asking, "Anyone wants to switch mechs?"

Huh?

We can change?

The atmosphere in the waiting room suddenly became livelier, and the students asked one after another:

"Teacher, can we really change?"

"Can we change anything?"

"Really?"

...

Facing the students' questions, Mu Jianling nodded without hesitation and gave an affirmative answer: "You can exchange. But only this once."

"Wow!"

"Awesome!"

"That's great!"

In an instant, a wave of cheers erupted from the dead silent, stale, oppressive waiting room. The students could hardly believe these were words from Teacher Mu Jianling; some even doubted if they had misheard.

Then.

Mu Jianling looked at the elated students and said with a smile: "To exchange mechas, it costs 50 points per exchange."

The students: "..."

Mu Jianling said: "Those who want to exchange, you can apply now."

The students: "..."

Sure enough, there's no pit too deep, only pits that are deeper.

I thought Teacher Mu was being so kind, but as expected, there was a trap set afterward. 50 points for an exchange, she might as well just rob us!

Sensing the grievances brewing in the students' hearts, Mu Jianling's smile faded, and her tone instantly turned colder: "I gave you time to choose your mechas, yet you didn't seize the opportunity. Am I supposed to hand-hold you through your selection? A Mechanical Warrior, after such long training, if you can't even be sure of what mecha suits you, if you can't even be certain about your future direction, I advise you to give up being a warrior and go back to the Star Network to toil away!"

The students pursed their lips.

Mu Jianling pressed with a serious gaze: "Or do you think you're still children, that you can be capricious at any time, that you can casually change your decisions without paying any price or taking responsibility?"

The students kept their lips pursed, but their faces couldn't help showing shame.

Mu Jianling declared: "Within 5 minutes, those willing to exchange, apply now. Don't expect to wait past that time."

The students listened silently, none speaking out, but many who were forcefully matched with a mecha by the system, or who chose the wrong mecha, hurried over to the exchange screen to make their applications.

This included Yue Qiyuan, Lou, Lance, and others who had matched with the wrong mecha.

Ji You did not move.

She was reluctant to part with 50 points. 50 points could buy 10 servings of braised pork ribs rice, isn't the ribs rice delicious? Why use it to exchange for a mecha?

Besides, having had the experience once, Ji You was now very confident in herself. Next time, during the make-up exam, she was sure to pass the assessment smoothly. Therefore, there was no need to exchange her mecha.

However—

Ji You looked strangely at Shen Changqing, who remained motionless, and couldn't help asking, "Classmate Shen Changqing, do you really not plan to exchange your mecha?"

Like Ji You, Shen Changqing had chosen an antique mech, and with his energy depleted, he had to pay extra energy charges to continue using it. However, this guy was luckier than Ji You; he had only spent an energy box level 1, just 500 credit points, unlike Ji You, who had paid more than 5000 credit points.

Hearing Ji You's question, Shen Changqing looked a bit uncomfortable, but still resolutely said: "I won't exchange it."

Ji You, upon hearing his reply, blinked, blinked again, and finally, couldn't help but sigh for this honest kid, saying: "Classmate Shen Changqing, keep it up! I believe you'll pass the assessment this time."

Shen Changqing pursed his lips and said: "Thank you. I will."

Then came lunchtime, and Mu Jianling announced that the assessment would continue in the afternoon.

The students, after lunch, didn't delay and hurried back to the examination room; then, with the time remaining, they seized every minute to get familiar with their mechas.

As soon as Mu Jianling arrived, she announced the assessment to continue.

During the first round of the assessment, the entire Combat Department of the 131st class, with a 0% pass rate, all needed to retake the exam. Everyone dutifully paid the 10 points retake fee and waited for the system to call their numbers.

The true challenge of piloting a mecha was indeed far harder to compare with the castrated version they were trained with before. Even with prior experience from the first attempt, there were still many students who fell at the first hurdle.

Chapter 665: Passed

One, two, three...

Failed.

Failed.

Failed.

Mu Jianling, arms crossed, sat at the examination room entrance, his face still impassive, but the students' hearts were anything but calm!

This!

This was too hard.

So hard that the students couldn't help but wonder, could anyone really pass this assessment?

Initially, because of Ji You's number 4444 performance, many had regained hope. Yet when it came to their own turn, they understood the difficulty firsthand—nearly everyone mimicked Ji You's skateboard from the first checkpoint, but only a dozen or so succeeded.

Such a small success ratio, way too small.

To pass the first checkpoint without consuming energy, relying solely on a makeshift skateboard, seemed even harder than using energy.

Only then did they truly realize and recognize Ji You's strength!

In what way was she strong?

The students privately discussed and analyzed this.

The main reason was number 4444 Ji You's exceptional balancing ability; she could control the mech and maintain its balance despite her unfamiliarity, which was almost inconceivable.

Inside the examination room, a boy walked out dejectedly, head down, muttering to a few friends beside him:

"Cough cough..."

"Never dare to mock number 4444 again."

"It looked so effortless at the first checkpoint; we didn't expect it to be this difficult in reality."

"Cough cough..."

"It's really tough. Let's not try to be clever anymore; this method doesn't suit us. We should just honestly consume energy."

...

One after another, students failed, but compared to the first assessment, their performance was much improved.

Finally—

It was Shen Changqing's turn.

Ji You's eyes were wide as she asked her friends, "Do you think Shen Changqing can pass this time?"

Chu Jiaojiao: "Yes!"

Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, Sheng Qingyan, and others nodded unison: "Yes!"

Ji You pursed her lips and smiled, saying, "Everyone seems to have so much faith in him." After a brief pause, she nodded as well, adding, "I'm sure he can do it too."

Shen Changqing, seemingly docile and steady in his actions, was actually quite stubborn. For instance, his insistence on using antique mechs repeatedly, like a stubborn ox, was solid proof.

Ji You also believed that Shen Changqing didn't choose the antique mech just to be different; it must be because he found it useful.

As Shen Changqing started walking towards the examination room, he heard the words of his fellow students and the corners of his lips slightly lifted, his steps firming. Approaching the entrance, Mu Jianling suddenly asked, "Shen Changqing, do you really not plan to switch mechs?"

Shen Changqing nodded, "Teacher, I won't change."

Mu Jianling said nothing more, simply raising his hand, pointing to the door, and said, "Go in."

Shen Changqing stepped in.

Once the system's countdown ended, a group of 10 students rushed out.

Shen Changqing didn't move. Under the gaze of all around, he took out the same tool that Ji You had used last time. After seeing this, the students weren't too surprised, but—they wondered if Shen Changqing could succeed?

Shortly after, Shen Changqing proved himself with his actual actions. His movements were graceful, every step, every action, was flawless, and he broke through the first checkpoint even one minute faster than Ji You.

It took only 2 minutes and 20 seconds.

Next, he leaped into the second checkpoint.

There too, Shen Changqing's performance was impressive.

The third checkpoint was shooting.

On shooting, Shen Changqing was a bit less skilled than Ji You, taking a longer time, but he still managed to pass smoothly with 10 shots and 8 hits.

Fourth level.

Fifth level.

Shen Changqing performed very steadily throughout, with hardly any major setbacks, and successfully passed the assessment.

The students cheered:

"Man, someone finally made it through."

"Shen Changqing is freaking awesome!"

"Antique mechs, are they really that strong? Makes me kinda want to switch mechs and give it a try."

"Advise you not to be a dead man walking, stick with the mech you're familiar with. You guys might think Ji You and Shen Changqing make it look easy, but let me tell you, the flexibility of an antique mech isn't even on par with a regular standard mech."

"Cough cough... I'm just talking nonsense."

...

No one was surprised that Shen Changqing passed the assessment, but they were very impressed nonetheless, because everyone had a real sense of the difficulty of the assessment. Although Ji You,

number 4444, had set a standard passing example for everyone, watching others do it is one thing, but actual practice is a whole different ball game.

And Shen Changqing?

Shen Changqing also borrowed Ji You's method of assessment, but he also had his own ideas and understanding, and, he improved Ji You's method, clearing the levels using a way he was more adept with.

Shen Changqing was the first to succeed.

The second person to succeed was somewhat unexpected - it was Xuzhou.

When Xuzhou stepped out of the examination room, Mu Jianling seldom showed a smile and praised, "Well tested."

Xuzhou, with a stern face, though trying to restrain his tone, could not hide his excitement, and firmly said, "Thank you, Teacher, I will train even harder."

Mu Jianling watched Xuzhou walk out, looked around at the students, and suddenly raised her voice, "The top 10 students who earn the Basic Driving certificate will have their make-up exam fee and wear and tear fee waived. Everyone, go for it!"

"Wow!"

"Wow!"

"Wow!"

Amidst the chorus of wows, all the students turned to look at Shen Changqing and Xuzhou with eyes full of envy, jealousy, and hatred—

Ji You, hearing Teacher Mu announce the news, felt even more frustrated. Initially, she was the first one, but now—

Very frustrated.

Even more frustrating was the fact that there were only 10 slots, and Ji You's student registration number was towards the end; by the time it was her turn, she reckoned the 10 slots would all be filled, right?

Feeling frustrated, Ji You boldly said, "Teacher, are 10 slots too few? Should we add a few more?"

Mu Jianling glanced at her and shook her head, "No."

Ji You mustered her courage and proposed, "Teacher, can I take the assessment earlier? Or, if my assessment score is higher than those among the 10, can I replace someone?"

Even though the make-up exam fee is only 10 points, that's two meals of pork ribs.

Besides, there's also the 5000+ credit points wear and tear that can be redeemed.

For that, Ji You had to strive for it.

That's how the world works; opportunities are in the hands of those who can seize them, and without opportunities? Of course, you must strive to create them.

That's how Ji You is; if she wants something, she'll try her best to fight for it.

The other students, hearing Ji You's proposal, all thought it made sense and stared at Mu Jianling with wide-open eyes, eagerly waiting.

Mu Jianling thought for a moment and nodded, "Okay! We will only record the scores of the first successful assessment for everyone, select the top 10 with the highest scores, and waive the make-up exam fee and mech wear and tear fee!"

Ji You instantly beamed with joy and without hesitation flattered, "Teacher, you're truly like a fairy descending to Earth today."

Mu Jianling: "..."

The other students: "..."

Phew!

Where did this bootlicker come from? It's clearly the Devil's incarnation.

Ji You didn't care about the others' snide comments; with hope, she felt even more confident about the next assessment.

Then, Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, Yue Qiyuan, Ji You, and others passed the second make-up examination. Ji You's assessment score is currently the highest across the Combat Department, temporarily ranking first. As long as nothing out of the ordinary happens, she is firmly locked in for one of the top 10 slots.

Chapter 666: Speculations About the Final Exam

On the first day of the Basic Mecha Driver's License assessment, only seven students from the 131st Combat Department batch - Shen Changqing, Xuzhou, Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, Yue Qiyuan, Ji You, and Yu Yi - passed the assessment. Ji You had the highest score among them, followed by Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan, and Yue Qiyuan.

Mu Jianling gave the students three days, with two days remaining. The students were not too anxious, but everyone trained even harder without needing to be pushed; everyone was very conscientious.

Not only did the students who failed the assessment work hard, but also those like Ji You and Shen Changqing who had passed. After the exams, they did not waste any time and took the initiative to train in the training rooms.

Mu Jianling watched this group of students, her icy eyes gradually softening. She said in a gentle tone, "Today's assessment is over, continue tomorrow, class dismissed."

Upon hearing this, the students all stood still.

Mu Jianling furrowed her brows and asked, "What, why aren't you leaving?"

Ji You, courageously asked, "Teacher... may we keep the mechs used for the assessment for the time being, without handing them back?"

Usually, everyone trained with castrated versions of mechs, with about only 50% of the functions of real mechs, especially the weapon system of the mech, which although looking intact, lacked actual lethality. Other systems, like the energy system, also only had about half of the capabilities of a real mech, making them incomparable to real mechs.

Though the castrated version had many drawbacks, why still use them? Actually, their biggest advantage was safety! Especially for students like Ji You, who just entered university and were new to handling such large, lethal equipment, these castrated mechs were specially made by the Alliance for students' safety.

As the students' capabilities improved, as long as they obtained the Basic Mecha Driver's License, the permissions to drive mechs would gradually be opened to the students.

...

Ji You asked this question not because she wanted to keep the mech and play with it longer, but to train her mecha driving skills further.

That was Ji You's intention, and naturally, the other students thought the same, especially those who failed the assessment; they wanted to keep the mechs to familiarize and train with them in their spare time.

Thus, represented by Ji You and having raised the question, all the students stared eagerly at Mu Jianling.

Facing the students' eager gazes, Mu Jianling's lips curved slightly, her normally indifferent face gradually smiling, appearing somewhat amiable and approachable—

Is this?

A hope?

The students all widened their eyes, waiting for the teacher's approval.

Then—

Mu Jianling said, "Yes!"

"Yay!"

"Wow!"

"That's great!"

...

Ji You furrowed her brow, feeling that there might be a catch...

Sure enough—

Mu Jianling raised her hand, interrupting everyone's cheers, and said indifferently, "Rental fee is 500 credit points per hour, all damages are your responsibility."

Students: "..."

The cheers suddenly caught in their throats.

Mu Jianling continued, "Of course, you can use points instead, 5 points per hour, entirely voluntary."

Students: "..."

Mu Jianling said, "Those willing to rent, apply through the system now. During the rental period, the mechas can only be used within the examination room and must comply with the mecha usage rules. Violators will have their Basic Mecha Driver's License assessment cancelled along with their final exam for the semester. Significant incidents will carry legal responsibility. Look up the other rules yourselves."

After that, Mu Jianling waved his hand and said, "Alright, once you're done filling it out, get out of here early."

Although it was a bit of a rip-off, no one left early; everyone stayed and filled out the application form.

Ji You did the same.

After filling out the forms, everyone left the training room one by one.

The group rushed towards the cafeteria full of excitement, with Ji You, Shen Changqing, and Chu Jiaojiao leading the way, eagerly discussing their experiences with the driver's license, with only one person remaining silent throughout —

— Yue Qiguang.

Among the group, Yue Qiguang was the only one who had failed the test twice and had not passed, making him very depressed and reluctant to talk.

At this moment, Ji You and others did not tease or mock Yue Qiguang about it, which slightly relieved him. He silently resolved that after meal and cleaning duties, he would rush back to the training room for additional practice.

Everyone lined up at the braised pork ribs serving window, chatting with each other.

Shen Changqing said, "I've applied to rent for two days, but I didn't request an antique mech, I applied for Shouheng." Both Shouheng and Po Jun belong to the Heavy Armor series, Po Jun being more offensive with balanced defense.

Shouheng, too, was well-balanced in offense and defense but primarily focused on defense, hence its agility and mobility were not as high as Po Jun's.

Everyone was stunned to hear Shen Changqing's decision, Chu Jiaojiao said, "Shen Changqing, aren't you going to continue your research on antique mechs? I thought you were going to die diving into those antique mechs."

Shen Changqing's face turned slightly red as he was about to speak—

Beside him, Ji You, with a slight squint, interjected, "What a jerk! Going for the new love and forgetting the old, the antique mech would be heartbroken if it knew."

Shen Changqing: "..."

"Cough..." Taking a deep breath, Shen Changqing's face turned red as he was about to explain when Sheng Qingyan rolled her eyes at Ji You and teased, "Hey poor dead, did you apply for an antique mech yourself?"

Ji You grinned and said, "Of course—Not!"

Sheng Qingyan immediately retorted, "What a jerk!"

Yue Qiyuan followed up with, "Jerk!"

Yue Qiguang and Shen Changqing opened their mouths to say something but eventually shut it.

Yue Qiguang had failed the assessment and had no interest in chatting, while Shen Changqing wanted to agree with Sheng Qingyan and Yue Qiyuan, but felt it was a bit impolite to speak directly about fellow student Ji You, so he held back his words.

Only Chu Jiaojiao kept her eyes brightly fixed on Ji You, naively smiling, "Ji You still looks so pretty, even when being mean."

Ji You cleared her throat and quickly changed the subject, asking, "Shen Changqing, why did you switch mechs?"

Considering Shen Changqing's stubborn nature, akin to trying to pull back eight bulls, his proactive mech switch was rather strange.

Feeling everyone's eyes on him, his face still flushed, Shen Changqing nevertheless raised his head, looking at everyone, and said, "Because I think for this semester's finals, the school might allow us to drive real mechs."

Huh?

Chu Jiaojiao widened her eyes, "That's impossible, right?" No previous freshman class was allowed to pilot real mechs for their assessments; they all used neutered versions, and it was the same on Lanyue Star and in other military academies across the Alliance.

First-year students, frankly, had limited training time, and their proficiency and professionalism in mecha driving were not sufficient. Having such large-scale lethal weapons in their hands was as dangerous as a child carrying a cannon.

So, Shen Changqing making such a statement left everyone somewhat disbelieving.

Chapter 667: Changing Mecha

Shen Changqing saw that nobody believed him and did not force them to, simply saying, "It's just my own speculation."

No one made a sound, and everyone fell silent.

Then,

Yue Qiyuan said, "It's possible." Despite the recent calm, the calmer it seems, the more it proves that the situation is not optimistic. The Beast Tide is less than 10 years away, and the Empire, the Alliance, several other countries, including the interstellar pirates hiding outside of the system... all are stirring in the dark...

It will take about 10 years for the Beast Tide to truly erupt, which seems like a lot of time, but there isn't much left for students like Ji You who are greenhorns. Before the real outbreak, there will be various mini-outbreaks, and no one can predict the exact location where they'll happen.

It can be said that for Military Academy Students, for the warriors of the Alliance, danger is everywhere, and so is battle...

At this time, the school is increasing the difficulty of the tests in advance, naturally to enhance the students' abilities and also to improve their survival skills.

After such a selection process, those with stronger abilities will be given priority access to more resources for training.

Those with slightly weaker abilities will not be hastily sent to the front lines; they will be kept in the school to continue their training, to enhance their combat and survival capabilities...

...

After Yue Qiyuan expressed the same thought, Sheng Qingyan frowned slightly and said unhappily, "How annoying, really, not a moment of rest." God knows he just wants to be a wastrel who lives off his family's wealth.

Chu Jiaojiao said, "If we really have to pilot real mechas for the assessment, then the difficulty will definitely be higher. Now that you mention it, I'm really looking forward to the final exam. I just don't know where the final exam will take place."

Shen Changqing said, "The students may be divided into groups, and not everyone will be in the same location."

Yue Qiyuan agreed, saying, "Yes, the exam locations will be arranged based on the results of the Mechanical Driver's License assessment."

At this point, Yue Qiyuan furrowed his brows, turned and glared at his foolish older brother, saying, "Yue Qiguang, put some effort in these next few days, do not rush into the assessment recklessly. Aim to rank within the top 20 in the assessment results, otherwise, you will definitely fall out of our team."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Yue Qiguang roared with frustration, "I know! No need to nag so much! Shut up!"

What the hell!

Infuriating!

His father is the first strongest in the universe, a combatant who ranks first or second in the 131st Combat Department, and yet he can't even get a Basic Mecha Driver's License, failing twice already, which was depressing enough.

And now, to be looked down upon by his own younger brother, being told to aim for a top 20 rank?

Infuriating!

The more Yue Qiguang thought about it, the more depressed he became, the anger made him impulsively pull at his hair—unfortunately, with his short red hair, he didn't manage to pull out much even after a long struggle.

Yue Qiyuan turned toward the others and said, "Aside from Yue Qiguang, the rest of us should be able to enter the first tier group. Now everyone should think about what type of mecha they want to apply for training with, don't just randomly choose anymore."

Having said that, Yue Qiyuan paused for a moment, looked towards Ji You, and asked, "Number 4444, which mecha have you switched to?"

Chu Jiaojiao was also very curious, "Right, Ji You, what mecha have you switched to?" In the entire Combat Department, not only Shen Changqing had a fondness for antique mechs, Ji You was even more so.

Now, both of them have switched mechas.

Faced with everyone's gaze, Ji You said seriously, "I've switched to Chasing Sun."

That's right, it's the charge-type mecha—Chasing Sun.

A type of mecha that's suited for both offense and defense, with speed as its main feature, commonly known as the mecha used by the Suicide Squad.

Speaking of which, since Ji You entered the Combat Department, she never had a mecha that truly suited her. Initially, when everyone chose their mechas based on their talents and strengths, Ji You was forced by her teacher, Mu Jianling, to use a simplified Small Mecha specially customized for her 'half-crippled' condition.

Throughout the subsequent training, she never switched mechas, and it seemed as if Teacher Mu Jianling had completely forgotten to help her switch to a new mecha.

Then, during the online Mecha Competition, Ji You only used the antique mech and Blade.

For this Basic Mecha Driver's License assessment, Ji You wanted to try using Blade, but unfortunately, she couldn't guarantee that she could pass the assessment with it. Therefore, after some thought, she decided to be more conservative and chose the antique mech that she was familiar with.

When the teacher said they could apply to rent a real mecha for training, Ji You immediately applied to use Blade, but then—

The system regrettably informed Ji You that the Lanyue Star Military Academy's warehouse did not have 'Blade.' Not just Blade, but also top-end mechas like 'Ghost Stab' and 'Screaming Wind,' which are the most advanced and expensive in the Alliance, could not be widely distributed and were only provided to a few Mechanical Warriors on the front lines. Thus, they were not available at Lanyue Star Military Academy.

Having no choice, Ji You had to settle for another mecha.

She decided to try 'Chasing Sun,' actually inspired by Xuzhou.

Xuzhou's spiritual power and Physical Talent were not outstanding, but what he had going for him was the balance between the two, plus he was steady, bold, and meticulous. Chasing Sun, in Xuzhou's hands, was indeed played to its full potential.

Unable to find a mecha that suited herself, Ji You wanted to give Chasing Sun a try.

Everyone was a bit surprised to hear that Ji You switched to Chasing Sun.

Shen Changqing said in a low voice: "I thought you would continue to use the antique mech."

[Heh~

Even you, the honest guy, switched mechas, how could I possibly hang myself from a single tree?]

Thinking this way, Ji You pursed her lips and smiled, saying: "I also think that we might use real mechas for the final exam. I'm worried about the antique mech's energy system; it's such a pain, it could run out of energy at any moment. It would be a huge headache, so I might as well switch."

The antique mech could currently only be equipped with an energy box of up to level 2, which was not enough. You couldn't possibly be fighting someone and, in the middle of it, suddenly shout, 'Hold on, big guy, let me change my energy box,' right?

That way, you'd be dead as a doornail.

Change.

Must change.

Chu Jiaojiao was slightly worried and asked, "Ji You, are you sure you can handle Chasing Sun?"

Ji You appeared unconcerned and waved her hand, saying, "How would I know if I don't give it a try?"

Chu Jiaojiao smiled: "Good luck!"

Then, everyone discussed more about the finals since Teacher Mu Jianling had not announced any concrete details or locations. Everything was merely speculation, and no one wanted to draw any real conclusions at this moment.

The dining queue inched forward.

Finally, it was Ji You and the others' turn.

Ji You stood on tiptoe and looked up to see that instead of Senior Shi Ya, Liu Fufeng, or the scumbag Senior He Bi, it was a third-year senior manning the food service window.

Ji You had absolutely no acquaintance with this third-year senior.

For a moment, not just Ji You, but also Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiyuan, Sheng Qingyan, and the others showed expressions of disappointment.

Chapter 668: Employment Offer Letter

The line for food was dwindling, one by one, until it was finally Ji You's turn.

Ji You squeezed out a smile and said, "Senior, could I trouble you for a serving of braised pork ribs with rice?"

This third-year senior was methodical, serving Ji You justly. As he was dishing up the meal, Ji You watched him intently without taking her eyes off him. He was just like a precise scale, serving every student an almost identical amount, without any slightest favoritism.

Ji You, with her tray in hand, was ready to leave.

Who knew, the server suddenly chuckled and said, "Don't pout, little junior, with your petite frame, I reckon you can't eat much. This portion should be enough for you."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You gritted her teeth: "Even if you give me 10 servings, it won't be enough for me. The question is whether you're willing to sell it!"

The serving senior: "..."

The server laughed, "I can't afford that, really can't."

Ji You pouted, huffing, "I'm petite and proud of it. I'm saving fabric for the Alliance!"

The serving senior: "..."

He almost couldn't resist bursting into laughter, thinking to himself no wonder He Bi enjoys teasing this little junior so much.

Carrying a hint of gloom, Ji You took her tray to an empty table and sat down. Soon after, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan, and others also sat down, ready to start their meal when—

Suddenly—

Sheng Qingyan glanced up and down at Ji You, holding back laughter, "Being petite does indeed save on fabric."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You, with a darkened face, bared her teeth: "You're asking for it, aren't you? Do you even know who you're about to offend?"

—What you're about to offend is a ruler atop the World's Peak, and—the world's most powerful Soul Device Master!

Sheng Qingyan covered his mouth, "I'm not scared of a poor dead at the peak of time. Besides, the senior server is right, with your small stature, you shouldn't be eating so much. Instead of saving fabric for the Alliance, you might as well save food."

Ji You ignored his string of nonsense, simply put down her chopsticks, and tilted her head at him: "I'll give you one last chance."

Seeing Ji You release her hold on the tray, revealing its contents in front of herself, Sheng Qingyan's beautiful eyes flickered, and suddenly he swiftly pinched a piece of rib from Ji You's tray and stuffed it into his mouth, saying vaguely, "Oh... oh... what did your uncle say? I didn't hear clearly just now."

Ji You unexpectedly showed no sign of anger, instead calmly watching Sheng Qingyan.

Huh?

What's happening?

Sheng Qingyan was a bit puzzled.

Beside them, Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiyuan, Yue Qiguang, and others were busy protecting their trays and burying their heads in their food, completely disinterested in the quarrel between Ji You and Sheng Qingyan, a true testament to 'no matter how tasty the rib rice, it's only of foremost importance once it's in your stomach—all else is but clouds.'

Sheng Qingyan, guarding the meat on his tray, stared at Ji You, confused: "You poor dead, what in the world are you scheming?"

A rib had been snatched away from her, yet Ji You wasn't angry?

Sheng Qingyan felt that when things don't seem right, there must be a demon at play, and one must be on guard.

Ji You raised her hand and pointed at Sheng Qingyan's tray, determinedly saying, "I bet that in the next second, you'll be handing over all your ribs to me willingly."

Sheng Qingyan rolled his eyes, scornfully replying, "In your dreams."

Ji You pointed her Light Computer at a letter, lightly huffing, "See for yourself."

Sheng Qingyan wasn't initially all that concerned, murmuring, "What nonsense..."

While not paying much attention, he lifted his gaze casually.

Suddenly—

Sheng Qingyan exclaimed, "No way!"

Ji You: "Mmm-hmm~"

Sheng Qingyan jumped up: "Impossible! Absolutely impossible!"

What's going on?

The others stopped their chopsticks, looked up with some confusion, while Ji You crossed her arms and allowed everyone to stare at the open letter on the Light Computer. The content of the letter wasn't earth-shattering, just a very ordinary job offer letter—from the Green Glaze Master Shop.

The content of the letter was simple, just a few sentences:

[Dear Rag Queen Classmate:

Congratulations, you have passed all of our shop's interviews and assessments. We have decided to hire you for the position of long-term sales assistant. If you are willing, please come to our shop to sign an employment contract with our manager Green Glaze on **/**/**.]

Upon reading this, the others also shouted in surprise; almost instantly, everyone's expressions and attitudes changed.

Chu Jiaojiao was the first to lean in, hugging Ji You's elbow with a flattering smile on her face: "Ji You classmate! You look unparalleledly beautiful today, I will always like Ji You classmate..."

Ji You snorted lightly: "The affection of a flatterer is worth nothing."

Chu Jiaojiao grinned: "Even if you turn into a pig face, Ji You classmate, I will still like you."

Ji You: "Hmph~"

Over here.

Yue Qiguang was the second one to react. He furrowed his eyebrows and suddenly picked up his chopsticks to put ribs onto Ji You's plate: "Daddy can't finish these, so I'm giving them to number 4444, you stupi—"

Ji You: "Hmm?"

Yue Qiguang immediately shut up and squeezed out a smile: "Big boss... How many ribs do you want? Shall I add more to your plate?"

Saying that, he even tried to give his own ribs to Ji You.

Ji You glanced at him sideways and raised her hand to stop him: "Forget it, I wouldn't want your saliva-touched ribs, my lord."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

At this moment, Yue Qiyuan was very shrewd, slipping his plate over in the gap, with a sycophantic smile on his face, saying: "Ji You classmate, you can take whichever piece of rib you fancy from my plate, I assure you, my chopsticks haven't touched any of these ribs."

Ji You turned towards Yue Qiyuan.

Yue Qiyuan with a smile on his face: "Just take any, really, please don't hold back."

Ji You with a look of disgust: "Looking at your big face, I've lost my appetite."

Yue Qiyuan: "..."

Yue Qiyuan's face darkened, really wanting to retort 'How big can my face be compared to yours!', but in the moment he took a deep breath and forced these words back, he immediately turned away, saying: "I'll hide my face, you enjoy slowly ah..."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You almost laughed.

What's the saying about being able to bend or to stand tall?

This was it.

Given time, this guy Yue Qiyuan will definitely be someone to watch.

Over here—

Watching all his buddies pull out various stunts to please classmate Ji You, Shen Changqing, who was already feeling unsettled inside, now brushed aside all the flattery and went straight to Ji You: "Classmate Ji You, I'll treat you to ribs for one month, how about that?"

Eh?

As soon as these words came out, Ji You's eyes suddenly lit up.

Wasn't this blocking everyone else's path? Besides, knowing Ji You's opportunistic nature, wouldn't she just ask for a raise? The rest glared at Shen Changqing, their faces full of anger, chorusing: "How unfair of Shen Changqing..."

Shen Changqing's face slightly reddened, and he said softly: "You're welcome to treat her too, if you like."

Chapter 669: Shameless Clinginess

As soon as Ji You heard Shen Changqing say that, her eyes lit up and she straightforwardly spread her hands, looking at her little buddies and said rogue-like: "Whoever is willing to add another month, I'll eat his food."

Several people: "..."

Everyone immediately turned towards Shen Changqing, glaring at him fiercely while cursing internally, but still with smiley faces, they chorused: "I'm willing!"

Ji You, hearing this, curled up the corners of her lips with a smile and then changed her tune: "I thought about it and felt that just 2 months is a bit too little. How about, who is willing to treat me to meals for 3 months?"

Several people: "..."

They took a deep breath, gritting their teeth and said: "I'm willing!"

Hearing this, Ji You's dark and shiny eyes swiveled around, just about to speak——

Yue Qiyuan, Yue Qiguang, Chu Jiaojiao, and the others shouted together loudly: "Don't go too far!"

Ji You put away her smile and slanted a look at everyone, scolding: "Look at how petty you guys are! I was just saying that the spare rib rice is getting cold. Once it's cold, it won't taste good. Let's just each eat our own."

Several people: "..."

Ji You snorted: "I'm not someone who can't afford a meal, why would I need you to treat me?"

She's even putting on airs now?

In a flash, several people immediately squeezed out obsequious smiles again, with Yue Qiyuan representing them, saying: "Ji You, hurry up and eat, hurry up and eat. As for whose food you agree to eat, you can tell us after you've eaten your fill and are happy."

Ji You nodded: "That's more like it."

Several people: "..."

Ah!!! So annoying!

Did the Green Glaze Master go blind? Why would he invite this good-for-nothing to be a salesperson?

Pah!

It wasn't the Master who was blind, it certainly was that this good-for-nothing used some kind of bewitching trick to fool the Master's eyes. Once they start talking to the Master, of course, they would reveal Ji You's true colors in front of him.

While several people, with Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, and others at the forefront, were groveling and trying their best to please Ji You in front of her——

Sheng Qingyan still had the look of someone who was struck by lightning, his face full of shock, unable to accept the reality.

After a long while.

Seeing that the spare ribs had cooled down and everyone else was just about full and quenched, Sheng Qingyan snapped out of his daze. The moment he regained his senses, he shouted out loud and rushed next to Ji You, staring fixedly at the employment letter, looking it over from left to right, top to bottom, scrutinizing it closely, until he finally thudded to the ground, ready to cover his face and roll around, wailing: "Woah-woah-woah..."

"People don't believe it! Ah!"

"People don't believe it! Ah!"

"People absolutely don't believe it... Ah..."

"That's impossible... Ah..."

"This is absolutely impossible... Ah..."

Ji You: "..."

Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao: "..."

For some reason, including Ji You, the five of them all felt an itch in their hands and a bit of a loss of control—

Sheng Qingyan, this guy, was completely shameless and totally unafraid of losing face. He was sitting by Ji You on the floor, gripping the sleeves of her clothes without letting go, crying a mixture of snot and tears: "Impossible... Ah..."

Sheng Qingyan's appearance of having suffered a great shock and on the verge of collapse immediately drew the attention of many people. Especially since this guy had a loud voice. When he started howling, it was deafening...

Around them, students were coming and going, and quite a few teachers passed by. Everyone's gaze involuntarily fixed on Sheng Qingyan, and along with him, at the people beside him, especially at the eye of the storm, Ji You.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's face turned completely dark.

She gritted her teeth and said furiously: "Get up!"

Sheng Qingyan: "People won't, ah!"

Ji You: "Are you going to get up or not?"

Sheng Qingyan shook his head vigorously, his voice strained: "Nope..."

"Nope..."

"Just nope..."

Ji You's eyelids twitched fiercely, the veins on her forehead were bulging, she tried to pry Sheng Qingyan's hand off her sleeve, but to no avail. He clung on like a sticky plaster, actually gripping even tighter.

Ji You: "..."

Scam!

Damn it!

It's definitely a scam!

Sheng Qingyan stealthily observed Ji You's expressions and decided to abandon all shame, not only did he refuse to let go of her sleeve but instead hugged her thigh and wailed with his mouth open, "I won't... I won't... unless you agree to do a few things for me..."

This scene was eerily similar to the one Ji You had encountered with the flower-selling kids in her past life— if you didn't buy their flowers, they'd cling to your leg forever. But those flower-selling kids had probably been forced, they might have had a tragic backstory...

But Sheng Qingyan, this guy's behavior was simply shameless!

Ji You felt a tingling sensation in her palms, feeling as if she was about to lose control of her hands and feet—

Meanwhile, the onlookers gradually gathered around—

Yue Qiyuan, Yue Qiguang, Shen Changqing, and Chu Jiaojiao also felt extremely awkward, their faces flushed red with embarrassment. They showed apologetic looks towards Ji You and were about to sneak away—running away is the wisest!

Ji You shouted, "Nobody's allowed to run!"

The others retracted their steps, their faces flashing with awkwardness as they cleared their throats:

Chu Jiaojiao: "Cough cough... Ji You, don't be afraid, I'll take care of Sheng Qingyan for you, I'll make sure he doesn't see the sunlight again."

Yue Qiguang: "Dad will make him into dust!"

Yue Qiyuan: "I'll block the path of his reincarnation."

Shen Changqing: "Cough... I can't do those things, but... I'll treat Ji You to pork rib meals for 3 months."

Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiyuan, Yue Qiguang glared: "Shen Changqing, you're so unrighteous!"

Only then did Ji You feel somewhat satisfied. Then she lowered her head, stared fiercely at Sheng Qingyan, and cursed: "Are you going to let go or not? Or do you really want to force me to use my ultimate move?"

Sheng Qingyan blinked—

Ouch~

The onion juice in his eyes was too spicy, it hurt~

But!!!

He still didn't want to let go—

Ji You clenched her teeth so hard they were almost grinding, but after a little while, her face suddenly regained calmness, and her tone became extremely indifferent: "Sheng Qingyan, are you sure you want to continue being shamelessly clingy?"

Sheng Qingyan, enduring the sting of the onion juice, looked up, and upon meeting Ji You's meaningful gaze, a chill ran through him—

This is bad!

An overwhelming sense of crisis crept over him, Sheng Qingyan scrambled up, and immediately let go of Ji You's sleeve: "Ahaha... Just kidding with you... don't take it seriously..."

Above her head.

Ji You said ominously: "Too late."

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Remembering the poor devil's threat – about to use her ultimate move—

He had no idea what this ultimate move was.

But!!!

He absolutely couldn't let her actually unleash it, so Sheng Qingyan asked nervously, "What are you going to do?"

Ji You spread her hands, pretending not to care: "I've recorded the embarrassing way you've been clinging to me just now, ready to send it to the Master. Don't worry, I will make sure to tell the Master to not sell anything to you."

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

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Sheng Qingyan's eyes suddenly widened upon hearing this sentence, his entire body as if struck by lightning, tottering on the brink of collapse. Clutching his chest, he cried out in alarm, "No... oh no..."

While wailing, he once again tried to hug Ji You's thigh.

Ji You glanced at him sideways: "If you dare to hug my leg again, I'll send you flying right now!"

Sheng Qingyan's action froze mid-air.

Ji You raised his hand, pointing to the side: "Right now, immediately, move 5 meters away from me."

Sheng Qingyan shot up and darted away 5 meters in a trice.

Ji You stroked his chin, slightly dissatisfied, "5 meters is too close. Make it 10 meters!"

Sheng Qingyan immediately jumped another 5 meters.

Ji You was then slightly more satisfied, "That's better."

Sheng Qingyan pouted, eyes reddened, looking at Ji You with an aggrieved expression, whispering, "You poor dead, I'm being so obedient, can't you just not send it to the Master, pretty please?"

Ji You hummed: "Depends on my mood."

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Sheng Qingyan used too much onion juice, his eyes burning. He lifted his head, staring at the ceiling, trying hard not to let the tears spill and feeling even more wronged, "Oh heavens... I've tried so hard, why didn't the Master choose me to be a salesperson?"

To the side.

Yue Qiguang mocked, "You're too dumb."

Yue Qiyuan: "Too spicy for the eyes."

Chu Jiaojiao clenched her fists, rolling her eyes, "Too deserving of a beating."

Shen Changqing pursed his lips, wanting to say something but then held back, merely staring at Sheng Qingyan, sighing faintly before saying, "Ayan, failing once isn't scary, just keep trying and move forward."

Wow~

The usually honest Shen Changqing is even serving up some motivational soup.

Unfortunately~

Ji You mercilessly interrupted, saying, "I contacted the Master, and the Master said that he won't be hiring salespeople anymore, meaning—oh, too bad, you're out of chances!"

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Upon hearing this, Sheng Qingyan nearly choked, immediately pulling at his throat to wail, "I'm gonna die..."

"I can't live on..."

"I..."

Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiyuan, and Yue Qiguang all simultaneously covered their ears, then calmly sat down to eat.

After Sheng Qingyan cried out for a while, realizing no one was paying attention to him, he thought for a moment, weighed his options, and then trotted over to Ji You's side, gauging Ji You's mood, and said ingratiatingly, "Ji You, do you want some Long-legged Chicken eggs?"

Ji You ignored him.

Sheng Qingyan then said, "I'll buy them for you, how about 10?"

Ji You didn't even glance at him.

Sheng Qingyan bit his lip, "How about I buy you 100?"

Only then did Ji You lift his eyelids to look at him, "What do you take me for? Do you think I can eat 100 at once?"

Sheng Qingyan biting his lip, "What I mean is, I'll treat you to one every day from now on."

That's more like it.

Ji You snorted, "Sit down."

Sheng Qingyan immediately scuttled to sit opposite Ji You, very consciously attempting to stuff a rib into Ji You's plate.

Seeing Sheng Qingyan's actions, the others didn't fall behind, chiming in one after another, "Ji You, I have some here too / Don't eat his, he has bad breath."

Ji You: "..."

Watching this scene, Ji You couldn't help but laugh inwardly, a smile curving the corners of her lips. She cleared her throat and said, "Alright, this mighty one isn't eating anyone's rib rice today."

Hearing this, everyone inexplicably breathed a sigh of relief.

Then, gorging as if reincarnated from starving ghosts, they quickly devoured the ribs in their bowls, as if afraid Ji You would regret her decision.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You then said, "But you guys, who was it that said they'd treat me to rib rice for a few months?"

A few people: "Cough cough..."

Chu Jiaojiao, looking at Ji You's face, smilingly said, "Ji You, we're good sisters, I'll treat you for a month!"

Yue Qiguang stiffened his neck, slightly uncomfortable, "Dad's allowance is a little short this semester, I'll also treat you for a month."

Yue Qiyuan was the most frank, stating bluntly, "Poor, I can only afford to treat for one month."

Ji You's expression was beyond description at this point.

She knew none of these guys ever said anything reliable. In just a few minutes, they went from three months to one month.

Therefore, Ji You did not make any statement, but simply turned towards Shen Changqing.

Shen Changqing's face turned red, and in a low voice, he said, "... I'm not wealthy either—"

Ji You's face tensed up: "Hmm?"

Shen Changqing cleared his throat and said, "Ahem... but I can still afford to treat you to braised pork ribs rice for three months."

Only then did Ji You smile, saying, "That's settled then. If there are any specials from the Green Glaze Master, Shen Changqing will be the first to know."

Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan: "..."

Damn it!

Realist!

Social climber!

Hearing this, Shen Changqing's eyes sparkled, and a slight smile appeared at the corners of his lips.

Sheng Qingyan, who had been listening, choked on the rice he had just swallowed. He glared at Ji You and said, "You poor deadbeat, I wasn't even done talking, I would treat you to six months' worth of meals! Plus 100 long-legged chicken eggs."

Ji You grinned and said, "No matter how much you treat me, you can't buy me over because while you were just throwing a tantrum, I've already decided to cancel all your privileges and discounts with me!"

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

He really felt like crying.

Thoroughly enjoying the moment of being treated like a boss, Ji You chuckled slyly but didn't push her luck. After all, these guys were just fair-weather schoolmates, so she couldn't be too harsh.

So, sensing that enough was enough, Ji You hummed and said, "Don't worry, guys. I am all about justice. Since I've eaten your food, naturally, I'll work hard to secure benefits for you. If the Master has any news or goodies, as long as I know, I will definitely tell you in advance and will try to get you some advantages."

"Cough cough..."

"We trust Ji You to handle things."

"Just listen to Ji You."

"Cough cough..."

The group, seeing Ji You's smug expression, couldn't help but insincerely flatter her.

Next.

Everyone was curious about how Ji You actually got the job as a sales assistant, so they laid it on even thicker...

Yue Qiguang said, "Dad has seen a lot of dummies, but he's never seen someone as smart as Ji You."

Ji You gave him a sideways glance and said, "Oh... I've seen many smart people, but I've never seen anyone as dumb as you."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Yue Qiguang clenched his fists in frustration but swallowed his rebuttal.

Zhou Qiyuan said, "Ji You, from the beginning, I knew you were amazing, and indeed, I wasn't wrong."

Ji You hummed, "Your brain is fine, but your vision is poor."

Zhou Qiyuan: "..."

Zhou Qiyuan took a deep breath and forced his retort down.

Seeing the Yue brothers collectively backing down, Chu Jiaojiao sat up straight, fixed her gaze on Ji You, and was about to speak—

Ji You hurriedly interrupted her, "Don't speak. You're just a face-chasing 'Ayan', no opening your mouth!"

Chu Jiaojiao: "..."

Chu Jiaojiao swallowed her words back too.

Sheng Qingyan lifted his face, opened his mouth—

Ji You glanced at him and cut him off, saying, "No words from you either, starving ghost. Spicy Eye."

Sheng Qingyan bit his lip, feeling wronged.

Shen Changqing glanced at the others, took a quiet breath, and after considering for a moment, softly said, "Ji You, I... I'm not good at fancy words, but I wish you excellent grades in your final exams! May you grow ever stronger and wealthier!"

Wow~

What a nice guy; his words are music to the ears.

Ji You was delighted, and at that moment, she also reined in her sharp tongue, promptly saying, "Shen Changqing, don't worry. As long as I'm working as a sales assistant for the Green Glaze Master, you'll always benefit."

Shen Changqing's eyes sparkled.

The others: "..."