

Scavengers 681

Chapter 681: 2B

In a quiet corner, Liu Beibei licked her wounds alone.

No one disturbed her, no one asked...

Next.

Liu Beibei logged into the Mecha again, but just 1 second later, she was ejected out.

Once.

Twice.

Thrice.

...

Ji You couldn't bear to watch anymore, quickly turned around, and continued with her own training.

At the same time, she also set her resolve.

To work harder, be more meticulous, and be more dedicated...

If Dr. Luo said that her spiritual power could completely withstand all high-end types of Mecha from the Alliance, that statement must not be made recklessly. Then why couldn't she even handle the more conventional 'Chasing Sun'?

This shouldn't be happening.

After becoming determined, Ji You no longer acted recklessly, no longer thought about forcing her way through; instead, she focused more on technique and method, emphasizing on using her spiritual power to feel, to explore how to exert force, apply force, borrow force... to better pilot Chasing Sun.

After such changes, Ji You's progress became more evident.

From one arm to two, then a leg, and two...

Her compatibility with Chasing Sun was going well, and on the other hand, Ji You's physical strength was also significantly enhanced.

The Body Building Medicine worth 500,000 credit points per dose, designed specifically for Ji You's physical strength and spiritual power by Dr. Luo, who also adjusted the formula according to Ji You's condition... the results were satisfying for both Ji You and Dr. Luo.

Ji You's physical strength smoothly progressed from Level C to Level B.

After using the Medicine Bath after class that day and feeling the surging strength within her body, Ji You vaguely sensed a breakthrough was imminent, so she entered the training room she had purchased for her dormitory and kept exhausting her strength.

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

...

Punch after punch, Ji You swung her fists tirelessly, hammering down with force.

Finally—

After a high-intensity punching session, with a loud bang, her whole swollen body seemed like a balloon, bursting!

Ji You was prepared and immediately crawled into the repair cabin she had readied.

The repair cabin continuously relieved the soreness in Ji You's body and repaired her meridians, bone marrow, and bones...

After a while.

Ji You climbed out of the repair cabin, transforming from looking like a dead pig to bursting with life!

She kicked her legs and lifted her arms, realizing that aside from feeling stronger and more energetic, there was nothing particularly unusual with her body.

Huh?

Did the advancement fail?

Ji You felt anxious and quickly ran into the training room to check herself.

Bang!

She threw a punch!

Seeing the number on the display, Ji You pursed her lips and smiled; her strength had broken through to 3500.

Then—

This private training room was something Ji You had spent 100,000 credit points on back at the garbage planet. After coming to Lanyue Star, she had also shipped the training room over. The training room was not only for body building but also equipped with simple testing devices, capable of checking the level of spiritual power and physical strength. However, the values it provided were within a broad range and not very precise.

For most people, it was enough.

After the check-up, Ji You saw the data of her physical strength, with a few capital letters:
[Congratulations, your physical strength is currently Level B, and spiritual power is Level B! Please keep it up!]

Success!

Ji You jumped with joy, three feet high.

Only Ji You understood this process; what seemed like a simple step was achieved through so much hardship and difficulty, just to advance to Level B.

...

At the first moment, Ji You wanted to share this joy with Sister Lingzhi, Sister Lea, and the others, but upon remembering they're all busy, with Sister Lea and Brother Qiong out and uncontactable to this day,

Sister Lingzhi mentioned last time that she intended to focus on the final exams and asked not to be disturbed if it's not important.

Cough cough...

Then let's not bother Sister Lingzhi.

Ji You then thought about calling Senior Shi Ya, but—Senior Shi Ya was focusing on making the Mecha Wind Wing. What if a sudden call from Ji You distracts her?

Ji You held back and didn't call directly but sent a message instead.

After waiting briefly, there was no reply.

Clearly, Senior Shi Ya was busy and had no time to reply.

Ji You scratched her head, howling, "Arghhh!!! Such a happy moment, and there's no one to share it with! Arghhh!!!" Thinking about it, Ji You almost ran off to show off to Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, and the others in their dorm...

But!!!

These folks, even the weakest in physical strength among them, Yue Qiyuan and Shen Changqing are at Level B, with Shen Changqing about to break through to A Level. Showing off in front of these plastic classmates is truly pointless.

Ji You restrained herself and suddenly thought of someone.

Ji You felt a chill and quickly shook her head, muttering to herself: "Am I out of my mind, thinking about going to show off to Teacher Mu? Isn't that just asking to be scolded?"

Cough cough...

After much thought, Ji You finally set her sights on Dr. Luo.

Thinking it, doing it.

Ji You immediately dialed Dr. Luo's contact number, and after only waiting 1 second, Dr. Luo picked up and asked, "Is there a problem?"

Ji You shook her head, grinning cheekily, "No no no... No problem, Dr. Luo, I have good news to tell you: my Physical Strength has broken through and has been promoted to Level B!"

Dr. Luo laughed upon hearing this, saying, "Send me the test data; I'll take a closer look."

Ji You did as instructed.

After reviewing the data, Dr. Luo nodded, chuckling: "Faster than I had anticipated. That means you can slightly increase your dosage of the Body Refining Medicine."

The communication was on holographic video, and on the other end of the video, Dr. Luo was evidently truly pleased. Upon receiving the data from Ji You, she immediately started recording it, even comparing it with yesterday's data...

Ji You was very happy and said, "Dr. Luo, does this mean I can probably advance to Level A soon?" If I can upgrade to Level A, that exhausting little fairy Chasing Sun will surely be obedient.

Dr. Luo didn't respond; suddenly, a familiar voice butted in, "You can't even walk properly yet, and you're already thinking of running?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You jumped in fright: "Teacher Mu, you... What are you doing in the medical room?"

Mu Jianling's voice was cold: "Do I need to report my whereabouts to you?"

Ji You: "Of course not... Cough cough..."

Mu Jianling: "Hmph~"

Since Teacher Mu was there, Ji You's joy was unstoppable, and she couldn't help showing off to Teacher Mu, "Teacher Mu... I'm now at Level B Physical Strength."

Mu Jianling: "Hmm."

The expression and tone were very calm, not showing any signs of happiness for her, and Ji You wasn't disheartened at all. She continued to brag, "Don't forget, my spiritual power is also at Level B... Less than one semester, both spiritual power and physical strength upgraded from E Level to B Level, it's like rocket speed. Tell me, which student in the world is as talented as me?"

Ji You was waiting for Teacher Mu's praise—

Mu Jianling, upon hearing this, replied indifferently, "Oh—Double B."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You gritted her teeth: "It's Double B!"

Mu Jianling raised an eyebrow: "What's the difference?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You was so choked up, she almost couldn't catch her breath.

Cough cough...

But she mentioned this not to be humiliated, no.

So Ji You tried hard to take a deep breath, squeezed out a smile, and coyly asked, "Teacher... uh... I've made such quick progress, does the Alliance have any special rewards for outstanding students like me? Something like Candy Beans, Cloud Mist Tea, just a little bit would be nice."

Mu Jianling glanced at her: "Just go to bed earlier."

Ji You: "..."

Chapter 682: Transfer to Another Department

The joy of promotion was thoroughly doused by Teacher Mu Jianling.

Chilled to the core.

Ji You lost the urge to boast. At that moment, Dr. Luo finished compiling the data Ji You had sent over, and with a slight frown, said to Ji You, "There's a bit of a large error with the data. Why don't you come over now so I can check it thoroughly again?"

Now?

The night had already shrouded the windows, with just specks of light scattering from a room in a nearby tall building, perhaps from a student who hadn't gone to sleep, still secretly training...

The night was serene.

Ji You stood up, preparing to head to the medical room.

After Dr. Luo spoke, she put down her pen and seemed to only then realize how late it was. She hurriedly said, "Never mind, let's do it tomorrow, it's getting late, get some sleep early."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You asked, "Are you sure I don't need to come over now?"

Dr. Luo shook her head: "No need."

Ji You thought for a moment, then nodded: "Okay."

With that said, Ji You looked at both her mentors, Teacher Mu and Dr. Luo, and politely said, "Dr. Luo, Teacher Mu, good night, see you tomorrow."

Dr. Luo: "See you tomorrow."

Mu Jianling: "2B, see you tomorrow."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath, reminding herself: Let it go, let it go, it's because I can't beat her.

...

The next day.

Training as usual.

After class in the afternoon, Ji You went to the medical room, and this time Dr. Luo personally conducted the examination for Ji You, confirming that she indeed had broken through the B-grade physical strength and meticulously recorded the data. After updating the Body Building Medicine formula, Dr. Luo patted Ji You on the shoulder, smiling and saying, "Not bad, you really are 2B now."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You said a bit gloomily, "Dr. Luo, could we perhaps not bring that up anymore?"

Really—

Just thinking about it is depressing.

"2B is 2B, you have to face reality bravely." Dr. Luo giggled, her eyes curving slightly, lips forming a faint dimple...

Ji You: "..."

Let it go, let it go, who asks her reliance on Dr. Luo for her path of promotion?

Ji You gritted her teeth and said, "Don't worry, I will advance to Double A as soon as possible, I won't give you a chance to laugh at me anymore."

Upon hearing this, Dr. Luo's gaze circled around Ji You then settled on her chest, and she said with a smile, "A good goal."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You said speechlessly, "Dr. Luo, why are you acting like a rogue? At least pay attention to your image! You have to know, all the students of Lanyue Star Military Academy see you as a gentle, kind, and understanding big sister!"

Dr. Luo said with a smile, "I am still that understanding, gentle big sister, Student Ji You. If you have any development issues, I have many health remedies to improve them, guaranteed harmless."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You: "Goodbye!"

After leaving the medical room, Ji You returned to her dormitory, continued with today's Body Building Medicine. After soaking, she trained in the gym until rest time before going to bed to sleep.

In the following days, Mecha training continued as usual. Mu Jianling had the students train individually, and then she checked on each of their progresses one by one. Whenever she found something that needed correction, Mu Jianling would offer guidance for error correction...

During this period, Ji You's progress was slow. Although she still couldn't control Chasing Sun and was overwhelmed by its weight every day, she kept improving. Now, she could completely control both arms and one leg of Chasing Sun and occasionally take a few steps on one leg.

Thus, in these days, the students in the training room developed a new hobby: guessing how many steps Ji You could take before falling with one leg.

Ji You didn't disappoint them. Each day, she took 2 steps more than the previous day, not even one more, like a stingy ghost.

Later on, everyone lost interest in guessing how many more steps she could run. Instead, they found amusement in watching her comedic falls on one foot.

Ji You just curled her lip in response and retorted with a few words: "Mortal pleasures, this boss doesn't bother to care!"

Ten days were left until the end-of-term exams. Ji You thought it would be another ordinary day when the bell rang for the end of class. Just as Mu Jianling was about to announce the dismissal...

Suddenly—

A male student stood up: "Report to the teacher..."

Mu Jianling looked up and said, "Speak."

This male student wasn't tall, only about 1.8 meters, which didn't stand out among the Combat Department students. Not only was he physically unremarkable, but his training performance had also always been at the bottom.

The student lowered his head, his face filled with dejection as he spoke softly, "Teacher... I want to apply to exit the Combat Department."

Upon hearing this, the room fell silent.

No one expected the student to say this, and for a moment, nearly a thousand students in the training room all looked up at him. The atmosphere gradually became tinged with a sense of oppression...

Mu Jianling watched him all along, and her expression showed no surprise at his decision, but she didn't immediately respond.

Silence.

It spread continuously around the room...

Teacher Mu Jianling remained silent, making the male student a bit anxious. He cautiously lifted his head and asked, "Can... can I?"

Mu Jianling said, "Yes."

Her voice was clear, decisive, and natural, without a hint of displeasure or annoyance.

The male student sighed in relief but then heard Teacher Mu Jianling suddenly ask, "Which department do you plan to switch to?"

The student looked up at Teacher Mu Jianling.

Mu Jianling, who asked the question, had shed her usual strictness and chilliness. Her tone was unexpectedly gentle and caring. This side of Teacher Mu, not just the male student but also the other students from the Combat Department, had never seen before.

Being looked at by such a Teacher Mu, the dejection on the student's face lessened a bit, and the anxiety in his heart slowly dissolved. He mustered his courage and earnestly said, "I'm planning to transfer to the Mechanical Manufacturing Department!"

Compared to the Mechanical Manufacturing System, the Mechanical Manufacturing Department has lower requirements for spiritual power and personal creativity. After graduation, there are many relevant jobs, and it's a group of talents highly needed by the Alliance.

Hearing his choice, Mu Jianling smiled and said, "The Mechanical Manufacturing Department is very good and suits you well. My suggestion for you is also to transfer to this department."

Upon hearing this, the student felt a release from his tension and confusion, and he nodded vigorously. Opening his mouth, he started talking more, "Yes, initially I hesitated a long time between the Combat Department and the Mechanical Manufacturing Department. But I've always had a dream of becoming a Mechanical Warrior and protecting our nation, so even though I knew it wasn't right for me, I still chose the Combat Department. Now, I realize I'm really not suitable to be a Mechanical Warrior, I've awakened from that dream, and it's time to face reality."

After he finished speaking, it was like he had unloaded a heavy mountain that had been oppressing his chest for years, and he felt much more relaxed.

Mu Jianling's tone was still gentle as she smiled and said, "Protecting your home and country doesn't only mean being a Mechanical Warrior. A Mechanical Manufacturing Master, Mechanic, Material Master... even actors, as long as you stand firm in your post, can contribute to the Alliance and help build it up."

Throughout this time, the male student stood straight, and as Teacher Mu's voice settled, he raised his hand, saluting with a standard warrior's salute, and loudly said, "Yes! I will heed Teacher's instruction."

Mu Jianling said, "Submit your transfer application later, and I will approve it." After speaking, Mu Jianling looked around and saw the other students' expressions were a bit listless, not very spirited.

Mu Jianling didn't concern herself with that and directly said, "Class dismissed."

After speaking, she left with a step.

The students left the training room one by one.

Ji You moved a bit slower and was among the last to leave the training room. She felt somewhat suffocated and saw the first boy to apply for the transfer still standing still. He quietly stood inside the training room, back facing the door, with his shoulders shaking slightly...

In the silence, there was a faint, low sound of crying...

Chapter 683: Dreams and Reality

When the barrier between dreams and reality shatters, forcing one to choose, everyone is compelled to mature—pursue dreams? Or face reality? This is a difficult choice to make.

Persist in clinging to dreams?

Give up dreaming and return to reality?

Whichever you choose, you cannot determine or verify right and wrong at the moment of choice, because only time can testify to it.

But most people are just ordinary; after awakening from dreams, they lack the courage to stand alone and the daring to abandon all to chase their dreams. They often choose to bow to reality, to compromise with themselves...

This boy is one such person.

Is he wrong?

No!

Ji You even believes he is brave, at least, he has taken the first step toward the truth by crossing the barrier.

But—

Being forced to grow up, to recognize oneself, to give up dreams, still, isn't it a very painful, very painful thing?

...

The boy stood still and silent, not stepping out of the training room, those slight, low, and suppressed sobs began to echo in the room, barely concealed...

The last students to leave the training room, including Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan, Yue Qiguang, and Yue Qiyuan, did not disturb him. They all pretended not to hear, not to see...

Chu Jiaojiao was the first to step away and leave.

Sheng Qingyan followed close behind.

Shen Changqing, Yue Qiyuan, and Yue Qiguang caught up.

Ji You was at the very end.

Everyone left the training room without looking back or turning their heads.

As the students left, the faint gasping sounds behind slowly grew louder...

The boy raised his head, quietly looking at the spacious training room he was in.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

The boy raised his hand, unconcerned with appearances, and vigorously wiped the tears from the corners of his eyes with his sleeve.

After wiping them away,

He stepped forward decisively and walked out of the Combat Department training room.

Goodbye.

Combat Department.

Goodbye.

Training room.

Goodbye.

My dream.

...

After eating and completing all her cleaning duties, Ji You headed straight to the medical room.

As she pushed the door open, she brushed past Liu Beibei, both halting in their steps. Ji You displayed a radiant smile on her face: "Liu Beibei, what a coincidence."

Liu Beibei, with her head slightly lowered and face reddened, said, "Ji You, what a coincidence."

After saying that, she clutched the Body Building Medicine Bag in her hand, looking uneasy and anxious.

Ji You pursed her lips and smiled, saying, "I won't bother you any further; I'm off to see Dr. Luo."

Liu Beibei let out a sigh of relief and whispered softly, "Okay."

With that,

Liu Beibei saw Ji You push open the door and step into the medical room, she took a breath of relief, then finally moved on.

Ji You sighed: Truly a shy girl.

At Lanyue Star Military Academy, the Combat Department, regardless of gender, was all rough folks; even the girls from the Material Department weren't as timid or prone to blushing as her...

Liu Beibei...

Cough cough ...

Really is that sort of—

Soft...

Jiaojiao's...

Every time you say a word to her, you can't help but lower your voice, afraid of disturbing or scaring her.

Dr. Luo saw Ji You coming in and smiled, "Student 2B is here, welcome."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You turned around to leave.

However, after only a few steps, she immediately rushed back in a flash.

Dr. Luo smiled, "Not leaving anymore?"

Ji You held a serious face and said, "Dr. Luo, I am now solemnly telling you that your previous words have seriously damaged my physical and mental health. I formally protest to you, and if you don't restrain yourself, I will complain to the school!"

Dr. Luo raised his hand, knocked on the desk, pointed to the Body Building Medicine Bag on the table, and smiled, "Alright, take your medicine and leave quickly."

Ji You reached out, grabbed the medicine bag, and decisively turned around.

Behind her, Dr. Luo muttered, "Such a short stature, such a small temper. What's wrong with students these days? They're getting worse with each generation."

Ji You: "..."

With twitching eyelids, Ji You turned around and looked at Dr. Luo with some helplessness, "Dr. Luo, I solemnly protest against your behavior..."

Dr. Luo winked at Ji You with a smile, "By the way, I have a secret recipe for growing taller, want it?"

Upon hearing this, Ji You's anger and humiliation were thrown out the window!

She dashed up to Dr. Luo's desk, asking with a fawning face, "Really?"

Dr. Luo smiled, "Not really."

Ji You: "..."

Dr. Luo covered her mouth, giggling.

Frustrated Ji You, peripherally glanced at a draft document on Dr. Luo's desk. She didn't read the details, but it was mainly concerning Liu Beibei's body and spiritual power improvement plans one to three...

Ji You paused, couldn't help but ask, "Dr. Luo, the Body Building Medicine that Liu Beibei used these days, was it effective?"

Dr. Luo went back to being serious, "Yes, slightly."

Ji You pursed her lips.

Dr. Luo sighed, "The main issue is that her spiritual power can't handle the strong effects of the Body Building Medicine, so we can only use conventional materials, improve little by little, step by step."

Ji You didn't ask further.

Took the medicine and left the medical room.

...

The next day.

Training in mechs ended for the day, and just as Teacher Mu Jianling announced the end of the class, on the spot, 3 more students accepted reality and requested a department transfer.

Among these three, there were two girls and one boy.

After giving up on the Combat Department, both girls applied to transfer to the Material Department.

The boy applied to transfer to the Mechanical Manufacturing System.

Teacher Mu Jianling immediately approved the applications of the three students on the spot.

Looking at the heavy atmosphere in the training room, Mu Jianling's brows rose suddenly, and he sternly said, "Cheer up, all of you, what do you look like? Transferring departments is not a big deal. In your life, you'll face countless situations where you're powerless and have to give up. Does that mean, you'll just stop living? Can't get on with your day? Let me tell you, every day, the constant star that brings light will still rise as per usual, no matter how terrible your days, you'll have to live through it!"

"Feeling miserable?"

"Hold it in!"

Students: "..."

The teacher's words were so unreasonable, yet so assertive and powerfully delivered!

And...

You really had to just hold it in.

Mu Jianling waved his hand, "Class dismissed."

The students didn't dare linger and all left the training room one after another.

The two girls who had applied for a transfer looked up at the training room, then glanced at each other, and holding hands, they walked out of the Combat Department together.

The boy hung his head low, silently walking at the very end of the crowd.

In this way, of the 11 students who failed the basic mech test, 4 had left, leaving 7.

But—

Like a domino effect, in the following days, another 4 students chose to apply for department transfer.

Out of the 11 who failed the assessment, now only 3 remained, still not giving up.

Chapter 684: Progress

Among these three people, there's one girl and two boys:

Liu Beibei.

Xu Jia.

Zhang Jiang.

All three of them are extremely stubborn, clenching their teeth and persisting, but every time they log into the mech, they are forced to exit in just a few seconds, repeating, repeating, endlessly repeating...

It seems like there's no end in sight.

As for all this, the students all train in silence, not disturbing one another. Teacher Mu Jianling sees everything but doesn't rush these three students to change their major. The choice is theirs to make.

Ji You's progress isn't very promising either; she can still only control the arms and one leg of Chasing Sun. What's slightly reassuring is that her control is getting more and more agile, especially the pose when she's running on one leg, which is particularly cool. The duration she can persist has also increased from a few seconds at the beginning to a few minutes now...

Every day when Ji You steps into the training room, many students start teasing her: "Classmate Ji You, are we seeing a one-legged standing pose or a lame run today?"

Ji You's face darkens as she curses: "I want to perform a mighty sweep across the horizon and blast every one of you to smithereens."

The students burst out laughing, and someone covers their mouth and says: "Sure, go ahead, come at us. As long as you can stand on both legs, I'll let you blast me. What's the big deal?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You is really frustrated.

She just can't figure out why, out of the four limbs of the mech, she can only control three?

Why can't she control the other leg at the same time?

It's been several days, and the situation hasn't improved at all. Ji You may appear calm on the outside, but inside, she's cursed Chasing Sun, that tormenting little fairy, to high hell.

With a face full of gloom, Ji You prepares to log into the mech.

At this moment, Xuzhou suddenly comes over and softly says, "Classmate Ji You..."

Ji You's eyes light up: "Little Zhouzhou! You..."

Xuzhou: "Cough cough..."

Can't this embarrassing nickname be dropped already?

Hearing Xuzhou's cough, Ji You grins and says, "Little Zhouzhou, what do you need from me? Just a heads-up: borrowing money is off the table!"

Xuzhou: "Cough cough..."

Xuzhou's face, resolute and youthful, turns red from Ji You's teasing. But he keeps a straight face and asks, "Classmate Ji You, why did you choose Chasing Sun?"

That hit the spot.

Ji You clutches her chest, glancing at Xuzhou with a bit of reproach: "Had no other choice, did I?"

Xuzhou: "..."

Xuzhou, a bit embarrassed, says: "I came to tell you some tips on driving Chasing Sun."

Ji You's eyes suddenly sparkled brightly: "Little Zhouzhou, you really are a good kid."

Xuzhou: "..."

Ignoring her words, Xuzhou says, "To master Chasing Sun, it's mainly about being meticulous. Because Chasing Sun is usually used for charge attacks and also for scouting ahead, you need to allocate each of your Spiritual Silks properly, and you must fully control every operation key of the mech..."

As Xuzhou speaks, the sparkle in Ji You's eyes grows dimmer and dimmer...

What the heck?

Just six strands of Spiritual Silk, and you want me to master more than hundreds of thousands of operation keys for Chasing Sun?

Ji You tastes bitterness in her mouth.

After Xuzhou finishes speaking, he notices Ji You's strange expression and feels puzzled.

Ji You complains with a hint of grievance: "Little Zhouzhou, I feel like you came here just to show off..."

Xuzhou seems a bit embarrassed: "I... I didn't."

"Cough cough..." Ji You clears away her gloom and laughs heartily: "Just kidding with you, don't be nervous. What you mentioned just now, it's quite enlightening for me, thank you, Xuzhou classmate!"

Regardless of anything, Xuzhou had good intentions in explaining things to her.

Xuzhou thinks a bit and then says, "Actually... If you don't want to go into such fine details, you can categorize the mech's operations into several major types. This way, you don't need to use many Spiritual Silks, you just need to manage these main categories properly."

Hmm?

A gleam appears in Ji You's eyes; in fact, after continuous setbacks, she had planned to do the same.

Since she can only use six strands, starkly alone, she'll just divide the mech's functions into six major categories and let each strand take care of what it's best at.

Xuzhou finished speaking, then said, "So... if you have any questions, you can ask me again."

Ji You pursed her lips and smiled, "Okay, Little Zhouzhou, thank you, Little Zhouzhou..."

Xuzhou: "..."

As Xuzhou turned around, he couldn't help but leave a remark: "Cough cough... Classmate Ji You, the way you stand on one leg like a golden rooster is kind of funny."

Ji You: "..."

That hit right in the feels!

Even the honest kid's making fun of people now.

This is big news.

...

After a conversation with Xuzhou, Ji You gave it a try. After countless failures, just when she thought she really couldn't do it, suddenly, Ji You completely gained control of Chasing Sun's limbs.

Ji You was so overwhelmed with joy that she could cry.

She patted her chest and exclaimed, "AAAH!!! I can finally stand on my feet!"

Beside her.

Out of the blue, Mu Jianling let out a light huff, "Oh—So the gorilla learned how to stand upright, what is there to be happy about?"

Ji You: "..."

The people around: "Pfft—"

Standing next to Chasing Sun, Mu Jianling suddenly lifted his foot and gave a light kick forward—

Clang~

Ji You, along with her mech, tumbled down in a sprawl.

Ji You: "..."

Mu Jianling curved his lips into a smile and said, "Look! The wobbly gorilla."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath and told herself not to get angry, not to get angry. Some day when she had the sword in her hand, she'd definitely beat her into a pig-headed mess!

After teasing Ji You, Mu Jianling looked around and said indifferently, "What are you looking at? Don't you have training to do?"

The students all shrank their necks back.

Then.

Walking with his hands behind his back, just like an old grandpa, Mu Jianling swaggered through each training booth, kicking anyone he found displeasing to the eye or giving them a butt nudge. In the end, he would drop a phrase that was exasperating to the point of death.

His loathsome behavior truly infuriated the students to the point of gritting their teeth.

...

Having successfully mastered control over her limbs, Ji You's subsequent training went off without a hitch; it was like she had an epiphany. She managed to operate Chasing Sun to hop and skip about, even doing a lithe split and gathering her legs back effortlessly.

Ji You could not have been more proud.

Apart from Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan, and Yue Qiyuan made great progress in their training, except for Yue Qiguang.

Shen Changqing and Yue Qiyuan had strong spiritual power and were not lacking in physical strength either, both reaching B-level and on the verge of breaking through to A-level. Thus, operating a real mech wasn't much of a challenge for them.

What about Chu Jiaojiao?

She was simply a natural-born Mechanical Warrior with immense talent in this area. With S-level Physical Strength, B-level spiritual power, and a natural sharpness for combat, she could already charge and dominate in a training room with her mecha.

Sheng Qingyan?

The Double A talent, Sheng Qingyan, had been training half-heartedly until Teacher Mu Jianling could no longer stand watching. She sacrificed 10 minutes of her daily TV drama watching time to give Sheng Qingyan some special attention. As a result, Sheng Qingyan quickly mastered her mech and gained combat ability. When it came to fighting, Sheng Qingyan was capable of holding her own even against Chu Jiaojiao.

The only one lagging behind was Yue Qiguang, whose main issue was not physical strength but an inability to be meticulous with his spiritual power, closely related to his personality. He was naturally careless, discarding any strategy or method and finishing things with his fists!

But!

Reality served Yue Qiguang a loud slap across the face.

When Teacher Mu Jianling kicked Yue Qiguang along with his mech Po Jun down, Yue Qiguang didn't get up for quite a while.

"Everyone come and see." Mu Jianling clapped his hands, pointed at Yue Qiguang, and smiled, "This example tells us that even a primitive gorilla needs to have some brains. Otherwise, when you step outside, you are just meat in someone else's bowl."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Hatred!

Chapter 685: Material Assessment

Five days before the final exams for the Combat Department, Ji You could finally maneuver Chasing Sun up and down, although she couldn't perform complicated maneuvers, she could run, jump, fly, and use weapons...

Ji You was very satisfied with this.

All of this was due to the continuous use of Body Refining Medicine which constantly enhanced her physical strength, her blood vessels, bones... all improved significantly and so far, there seemed to be no side effects.

Then,

Ji You continued to coordinate with Chasing Sun and was also preparing for the graduation exam of the Material Department. Unlike the Combat Department, the Material Department's exam required students to produce five different types of materials on-site in the examination room.

The examination was limited to one day.

Those who did not meet the standards within a day would fail the examination.

As most students in the academy took multiple disciplines, the exams for each discipline were staggered, with the Material Department's assessments scheduled five days before the Combat Department's.

That day, for the sake of the Material Department's examination, Ji You specifically asked Teacher Mu Jianling for a day off.

Mu Jianling glanced at Ji You and said, "Your combat talent is stronger than your material talent, I personally suggest you give up the Material Department and focus on combat."

"Cough cough..."

How was she supposed to explain herself? Ji You insisted on studying material processing mainly for Xiao You, but on the other hand, Ji You also enjoyed handling materials alone, the feeling of crafting items with her own hands...

Fearing that Teacher Mu might suddenly force her to quit the Material Department, Ji You cleared her throat and said, "I really like the discipline of material processing, and it hasn't affected my other studies so far."

Hearing this, Mu Jianling was noncommittal and indifferently said, "But if you want to achieve something, it's better to be focused."

Ji You smiled, standing firm in her position: "Teacher makes a good point, but I still want to balance both."

Mu Jianling: "Stubborn fool!"

Ji You giggled stupidly.

Mu Jianling waved his hand, scolding: "Go! If you fail, come back early."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You complained speechlessly, "Can't you say something auspicious?"

What does he mean by failing?

Mu Jianling, sharp-eared, raised an eyebrow: "Auspicious words? What do you want?"

Ji You immediately shook her head: "No, no... I don't want anything."

Can you really listen to Teacher Mu's idea of auspicious words?

Absolutely not.

Ji You ran off in a hurry. The teaching areas for the Material Department and the Combat Department were far apart, and it took about 20 minutes to reach by Floating Car. Ji You gritted her teeth and spent 5 credit points to take a Floating Car.

Upon arrival, the examination room of the Material Department was already full of students, with Professor Ye Hong sitting at the head of the room, looking down at the documents on the desk, not particularly paying attention to the students who were entering the exam room one after another.

The moment Ji You stepped into the examination room, she still attracted quite a few sideways glances, mainly because she had publicly skipped the class that day and had not entered the Material Department's door since.

Later, the enmity and entanglement between Ji You and Xu Siyu caused quite a stir.

Moreover, Ji You, who had not attended a single material processing class, challenged publicly and swept through all the students of the first and second years, which was a harsh slap in the face for all the students in the Material Department.

...

For all the above reasons, although Ji You was not present in the Material Department, her reputation there was not weaker than others, and even subtly, there were rumors in the Material Department that Ji You was indeed the top student of the 131 cohort of the Material Department.

However...

There were still many who were discontent, because, when Ji You openly challenged the first and second year students, those who came out to accept the challenge were not particularly outstanding, which also dissatisfied some real talents in the Material Department.

...

Ji You walked into the examination room, surrounded by curious, probing, dissatisfied, and hostile gazes...

She took it all in and then brushed it aside.

She was here just for the exam, not to cause trouble; what these students thought of her didn't matter to her.

Each student in the examination had their own workbench, randomly assigned by the system, and the materials used were also uniformly distributed by the system—the examination room had a 360-degree view with no blind spots, making any form of cheating impossible.

Ji You found her assigned spot according to the system's prompt.

Then.

Ji You: "..."

Her spot was right under the watchful eyes of the venerable Professor Ye Hong, less than 1 meter away.

Ji You was speechless for a while, muttering to herself, "What a coincidence?"

Could there be some trickery involved?

Could it be that the annoying old man took a dislike to her and gave her 'special attention'?

Puzzled, Ji You took her designated seat.

At this moment, she heard the sound of a desk and chair being moved in front and Professor Ye Hong lifted his head from the desk, glancing at Ji You, but he kept his lips tight and his expression sour, as if everyone owed him money.

Ji You opened her mouth, wanting to say: "Hello, Professor Ye..."

But before she could speak, Professor Ye glanced at Ji You and immediately lowered his head, continuing to look at the data report in his hands.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You closed her mouth, not feeling too embarrassed inside; after all, embarrassment couldn't be used as food, so why bother?

Thus, Ji You sat down with composure, and then seriously began to review the examination guidelines.

Professor Ye Hong lifted his head from the desk, glanced again at Ji You, who was conscientiously preparing, with a slight frown between his brows.

Time ticked away...

The examination officially started, and the assistance robots distributed the materials needed for the examination to each student's workbench and then began the countdown—

A total of 5 materials.

Of these, 2 were taught in class about how to process, which was not difficult for students from the Material Department. The other 3 were new materials that the students had not processed before; nonetheless, if one understands one, they understand them all, and the properties of these 3 new materials were similar to 3 that appeared in the textbooks, presumably the processing methods were similar too.

Ji You, after receiving the materials, didn't rush to start but first used tools to analyze the composition and content of all 5 materials before beginning the processing.

First, the 2 she had learned about.

The first was a piece of ore; Ji You swiftly cut off the impurities associated with the ore, which were actually companion stones. These companion stones were dull in color and not very appealing in appearance, and the material was somewhat brittle, easily crushed with a bit of force...

This?

It was clearly unsuitable for making Soul Devices.

Ji You decided to give up and confidently threw it into the recycling bin.

After finishing the first material, Ji You started processing the second one.

The second was a vial of Star Beast's blood, which contained complex components and a large amount of Star Beast Poison Liquid that needed to be refined before use. Refining Star Beast Poison Liquid was a basic skill for every student in the Material Department, and Ji You completed it quickly.

When the clock pointed to 10 minutes, Ji You had already finished processing both materials.

Witnessing all this, Professor Ye Hong's brows tightened once again!

Chapter 686: Transfer Major Recommendation

Ji You took 10 minutes to process two materials, when other students were still buried in the first one, even the top female student from the Material Department had only managed to process the first material to 80%.

The female student took another 5 minutes to finally complete the processing of the first material. Unable to resist, she raised her head, wanting to see the reaction of those around, and inadvertently caught a glimpse of Ji You, her lips stiffening in an instant:

Huh?

She had thought she'd be the first one to finish.

Slap in the face!

It was indeed a slap in the face.

The female student dared not get distracted anymore and began working on the second material.

Professor Ye Hong watched his proud pupil regaining her focus and diligently starting on the processing, and couldn't help but nod slightly, feeling somewhat relieved inside. However, the moment he saw Ji You, his eyebrows knitted so tightly they seemed they could kill a fly:

minutes?

Professor Ye Hong thought to himself, even at his fastest, it would take at least 8 minutes to finish the processing. He was an experienced mentor who could identify and process all the materials on the market blindfolded.

But what about this student, Ji You? How old was she?

How many years?

It was heard that she had just turned 18. Excluding the compulsory 15 years of basic education mandated by the Alliance, even if she had early exposure to the subject of materials, at most, she only had a mere 3 years of experience.

This was Professor Ye Hong's second time witnessing Ji You processing materials; her foundational skills were very solid, nearly flawless. Her movements were smooth, like flowing clouds and water, natural and complete in one breath.

But!!!

It was precisely this that made Professor Ye Hong upset.

Professor Ye Hong originally thought that someone taking only 10 minutes to process two materials couldn't possibly achieve good quality, but a mere glance at the finished products created by Ji You shocked him! With his years of expertise, Professor Ye Hong had a very discerning eye. The two pieces of work in front of Ji You had an effective utilization rate of no less than 99%, something that a student who had been enrolled for less than half a year managed to achieve, already comparable to many Material Masters who had been in the profession for decades.

Such a student was only minoring in the Material Department.

Professor Ye Hong's face was stern, and he felt extremely uncomfortable inside.

...

Ji You was completely unaware of Professor Ye Hong, the female student, and the reactions of others. She was processing the third material with a serious face, meticulous in her approach.

At this moment, all things around her seemed to dissolve into nothingness, leaving only the material in hand. How to cut, how to remove, how to fuse... It was as if Ji You had a ruler in her heart, crafting with confidence.

Deep in her mind:

Xiao You: [Sister! Sister! I've made the third piece, how about you?]

Ji You glanced at the clock, only 5 minutes had passed, and couldn't help but tug at the corner of her mouth, replying in her mind: "Xiao You, can you give your sister some face? I've only just finished half of this one."

Before the exam, Ji You had already sent the data for the five materials to be assessed through the Spiritual Connection to Xiao You inside the Iron Plate. Then, Xiao You processed the materials using thought simulation.

Without any physical materials in hand, Xiao You had to rely on a series of data to infer and practice.

But!!! Even with such tough conditions, the materials deduced by Xiao You and the actual results of Ji You's processing were nearly identical, and often Xiao You's results were even better, promptly correcting any deviation that Ji You occasionally made.

This was talent!

Ji You couldn't help feeling amazed. If Xiao You could be freed and have a body of her own, she would be the greatest Material Master of the interstellar era!

Hearing Ji You's response, Xiao You's sweet smile lifted, whispering softly: [Then... shall I wait another 5 minutes for my sister?]

Ji You: "..."

Ji You said, "I can't finish in 5 minutes, it will take at least another 10 minutes."

Inside the Iron Plate, Xiao You swung her little feet, laughing softly: [Okay, I'll wait another 10 minutes for my sister.]

While replying verbally, Ji You's hands didn't stop; she seized the time to continue processing.

minutes later.

Ji You completed the processing.

Xiao You urged excitedly: [Sister, sister... let's start the fourth material competition, this time, I'll give you a 10-minute head start.]

Ji You: "..."

Ji You protested: "I quit, this is bullying!"

Xiao You covered her mouth, giggling: "No, no, I'll go easy on big sis. How about I give you a 20-minute head start?"

Ji You grumbled but reluctantly agreed.

No helping it, as long as it makes Xiao You happy.

Xiao You was the most excited person about this assessment.

The normally shy girl was very active today, her soft voice sounded a lot louder, and she even took the initiative to tease Ji You.

Done processing.

Xiao You excitedly yelled, "Big sis! I'm finished processing again. How come you've only completed 30%? Oh my! I don't even want to win against you anymore. There's no sense of achievement in beating you."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You put on a stern face: "Nonsense, I obviously let you win."

Xiao You giggled, "I know, I know, big sis let me win. Every time we start, you only start 5 minutes, 10 minutes, 20 minutes ahead of me."

Ji You: "..."

This kid, she actually remembered every single time she was given a head start so clearly.

Thinking about this, Ji You revealed a pampering smile and thought: Oh well, let the child tease me once or twice. No helping it, she is my little sister after all! If I don't indulge her, who will?

...

When Ji You had finished processing all five materials, she lifted her head to check the time. Less than two hours had passed, and there were still two hours left till the end of the morning assessment. The school had allocated a total of eight hours for students to process five materials. Four hours in the morning, and four in the afternoon. That is to say – Ji You's assessment was over.

Hm?

Submit now?

Or wait for everyone else?

Ji You didn't hesitate and chose to submit right away.

Time is money, she couldn't afford to waste a single minute. The moment she chose to submit, the examination system's notification popped up: "Are you sure you want to submit? Once submitted, it cannot be changed. Please submit carefully."

Ji You: "Confirm."

System: "Submission complete."

Soon after.

An assistant robot immediately secured the five materials Ji You had processed and submitted them for evaluation to the examination system.

The results would be announced in about ten minutes.

Watching Ji You's series of operations, sitting at the top, less than one meter away from Ji You, Professor Ye Hong's expression looked terrible!

Impatient!

Too impatient!

To have finished processing in just two short hours, such talent, yet lacking a heart that continuously seeks and delves deeper! Such students deserve to be disciplined and educated!

In Professor Ye Hong's view, as a Material Master, one must strive for perfection.

After submitting, Ji You was preparing to leave the examination room, so she needed to report to Professor Ye Hong, but seeing his stern face made her feel uneasy:

What happened? Why does he look so displeased?

Who's fault was it?

Professor Ye wore a dark, brooding gaze. Ji You, with a tingling scalp, said, "Professor Ye, my assessment is over. May I leave the examination room early?"

Professor Ye's face was stern.

Silent.

...

A few seconds later, Professor Ye suddenly said, "Your Material talent is stronger than your Combat talent. I personally suggest you give up the Combat Department and focus solely on Material."

Ji You: "Cough..."

That sounded oddly familiar, as if it was precisely what Teacher Mu Jianling said, just switched around.

Chapter 687: Bickering

Ji You never expected Professor Ye Hong to say such words to her, and for a moment, she didn't know how to respond.

Mainly, they were not acquainted with each other.

Facing Teacher Mu Jianling, Dr. Luo, or even Principal Hong, Ji You could crack a few jokes, but in front of this aged, rigid, and serious professor, Ji You dared not speak recklessly for fear of upsetting him.

So—

Even the air around them carried an awkward tension.

Seeing Ji You not responding, Professor Ye Hong frowned and said seriously, "It is a sin for a person to waste their talent."

"Cough cough..."

Ji You coughed violently, thinking this professor was really taking things too seriously now.

Really——

She didn't know how to respond.

Ji You could only laugh awkwardly: "Professor, don't worry, I understand, I understand, I won't waste my talent."

Professor Ye Hong glanced at Ji You's expression and felt she wasn't taking it seriously and did not grasp his good intentions; otherwise, she would have promised him right then to quit the Combat Department and focus solely on the Material Department.

His meaning had already been very clear. She was pretending not to understand. For a moment, Professor Ye Hong's face darkened, and his voice grew even more severe: "I've said what I have to, you had better take it to heart."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You glanced cautiously at the professor, not understanding how she had suddenly angered him.

Cough cough...

What a difficult old man to deal with...

Forget it, forget it, even if she could beat him, she couldn't bring herself to raise a fist against an elderly person.

Sigh!

Ji You straightened her expression and said seriously, "Professor, to avoid affecting the other students' assessments, I'll take my leave first."

Professor Ye Hong didn't make a sound.

Ji You lifted her foot and tentatively took a step forward. Seeing Professor Ye Hong not stopping her, she quickened her pace and disappeared in a flash.

Professor Ye Hong's face was grim.

The more he thought about it, the angrier he became, and without regard for anything else, he threw the documents in his hand and sent a message directly to Mu Jianling: [Unremitting in destruction!]

On this side.

In the training room of the Combat Department, Mu Jianling, with her hands behind her back, was slowly weaving through the group of students. Suddenly hearing the message alert, she opened it immediately, and her face turned dark instantly:

[Crazy old man, what are you saying!]

After replying to the message, Mu Jianling caught a glimpse of Yue Qiguang piloting Po Jun and moving in circles stupidly. Her eyelid twitched, and she immediately stepped forward to kick him: "You're supposed to be fighting with your mech, not playing games."

This kick, sudden and unexpected, caught Yue Qiguang off guard and he fell to the ground with a thud.

Furious, Yue Qiguang wanted to curse out loud but didn't dare, so he held it in.

Mu Jianling walked a few steps around to another student, and at that moment, Professor Ye Hong's reply arrived: [You know very well what I'm talking about. If you had any shame at all, wouldn't you know what to do?]

Any shame?

What should I do?

This crazy old man, if he doesn't get to bite someone every day, he's not content, is he?

Seems like last time's blacklist didn't keep him quiet?

If it wasn't because they were both faculty members and needed to contact each other occasionally, Mu Jianling couldn't be bothered to take him off the blacklist.

Now?

Mu Jianling took a deep breath and replied directly: [Getting too big for your boots, can't be bothered with you!]

After saying that, Ji You immediately blacklisted Professor Ye Hong.

Professor Ye Hong, upon seeing the message, was so angry that his whiskers bristled and his eyes bulged. He was about to retort when a system prompt informed him that the other party had already blacklisted him.

Professor Ye Hong: "..."

Professor Ye Hong took a deep breath and sent a message straight to Principal Hong: [Principal Hong: I believe that certain faculty members in our school are tyrannical and completely disregard the actual situation of the students...]

Blah, blah, blah, a whole bunch of stuff...

Principal Hong was in his office discussing the school's financial issues with Director Wang, and when he saw the message from old Professor Ye Hong, he was a bit baffled, "What's gotten into Old Ye now?"

Director Wang was quite curious and leaned over to take a look, then laughed: "Reading between the lines in Professor Ye's message, it seems like he's hinting at Teacher Mu."

Principal Hong thought for a moment and, instead of replying to Professor Ye Hong right away, dialed Mu Jianling's contact number to find out what was going on.

Mu Jianling felt utterly frustrated and responded bluntly: "What could it be? Just the old lunatic throwing a fit and biting people randomly."

Principal Hong cleared his throat and said, "Ahem... Jianling, we are all colleagues after all, colleagues. There's no need to speak so harshly."

Mu Jianling raised an eyebrow: "Harshly?"

Principal Hong: "Ahem..."

In just a few words, Principal Hong figured out what happened and couldn't help but find the situation rather amusing. He had no choice but to mediate both sides, calming both Mu Jianling and Professor Ye Hong down after some effort.

After ending the communication, Principal Hong smiled and said: "It's about the kid Ji You. Initially, we thought she was of average aptitude, but unexpectedly, both her talent for Mecha Battle and Material are excellent. Both Jianling and Old Ye want her to specialize solely in one field."

When Director Wang heard the name Ji You, his eyes lit up since a fattened lamb like this was a rarity in his many years, one that he had managed to butcher. But on recalling that this particular lamb was currently not in a position to be further exploited, Director Wang touched his chin, slightly regretful, and smiled: "What's so difficult about that? Since she has talent in both areas, just let her study both."

Principal Hong said, "That's what I told the two of them."

Then, Principal Hong and Director Wang went back to discussing serious matters.

...

After Ji You finished her exams, she didn't delay and returned to the Combat Department's training room to exercise.

In the afternoon, the Material Department's assessment was complete, and the results were out.

Ji You took the first place in the Material Department of the 131st class with an absolutely superior score.

Regarding this, there was a lot of discussion on the side of the Material Department...

But all of this had nothing to do with Ji You.

Ji You continued to train in the posture techniques of Chasing Sun, and there were no shortcuts when it came to operating mechs. Only training, training, and more training...

Time flew by.

There were only 2 days left until the final exams.

The atmosphere in the entire training room became more serious, and the students eagerly awaited Teacher Mu to announce the location and rules for the assessment.

At that moment.

Liu Beibei, Xu Jia, and Zhang Jiang, the three students who had not obtained their Basic Mecha Driver's Licenses, were frantically training these past few days and desperately synchronizing with the mechs. However, limited by their Physical Strength or spiritual power, none of them could successfully connect with the mechs.

The atmosphere among the three became increasingly despondent.

Mu Jianling let the three students struggle without giving encouragement or advising them to give up.

After training ended that day, Xu Jia could no longer bear the disappointment, or perhaps had truly resigned himself to his fate, and proactively submitted a transfer request to Teacher Mu.

Mu Jianling agreed on the spot.

Another male student, Zhang Jiang, glanced at Xu Jia, then at Liu Beibei who was still stubbornly persevering, his heart undecided for a moment. After a while, Zhang Jiang's face was filled with pain as he requested a transfer.

Mu Jianling also agreed on the spot.

Only Liu Beibei was left.

...

Chapter 688: Exclusive News

Only Liu Beibei remains...

What choice will she make?

Withdraw?

Continue?

The entire Combat Department falls silent, everyone can't help but turn their heads, staring at the frail Liu Beibei.

Mu Jianling remains silent too.

The naturally shy girl, now being watched by hundreds of eyes, has an unnaturally pale face. She keeps her head low without speaking up.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

Seeing that she isn't showing signs of dropping out immediately, Mu Jianling clears his throat, ready to declare the end of the class—

Suddenly, Liu Beibei raises her head: "Teacher... I..."

Mu Jianling lowers his gaze, his cold expression softens slightly as he speaks softly, "Hmm?"

Liu Beibei looks at Teacher Mu Jianling, bites her lower lip, and suddenly says: "Teacher... can you give me some more time?"

Mu Jianling: "Hmm?"

A flush of red appears on Liu Beibei's pale face, her body trembling slightly with nervousness, but she summons her courage and says, "Teacher, I want to try harder for a while longer."

Mu Jianling looks at her with slight surprise.

The other students are also very surprised.

Liu Beibei's skinny body continues to tremble, trembling and then suddenly becoming straighter. She straightens her back, her somewhat timid eyes now directly meeting Teacher Mu Jianling's, saying, "I want to try, please give me another chance."

Her voice is still soft and weak, sounding somewhat feeble...

But!!!

Each word is clear and distinct.

Mu Jianling doesn't answer immediately but instead poses a question: "Do you know how much time you will waste if you still fail with your current choice?" This semester, the final exams are only in 2 days.

After the exams, a holiday of 1 month...

When school reopens, the school won't immediately force students to change departments, but if Liu Beibei scores zero in this semester's final exams, and if she still scores zero in her synergy with Mecha in her second semester of the first year, the school will suggest she change her department.

If Liu Beibei is stubborn and persists for another semester, then, adding up, she would have wasted an entire year.

...

Of course, Liu Beibei understands all this.

Under Teacher Mu Jianling's cold gaze, Liu Beibei bites her lip corner lightly, lowers her head slightly, and says in a low voice, "I know."

Muttering softly...

She suddenly raises her head again, looking at Teacher Mu Jianling, and says, "I know, but please give me one more chance."

Mu Jianling says: "Your choice, I've noted it."

Liu Beibei is a bit nervous...

Mu Jianling takes a look at her, under the attention of countless pairs of eyes from Liu Beibei and the students, she nods slightly and says, "Alright."

Liu Beibei bows deeply to Mu Jianling, saying: "Thank you, teacher."

Mu Jianling's gaze moves around Liu Beibei, then looking at the others in the training room, he loudly says, "Your destiny is in your own hands. Everyone here is an adult. Parents and teachers can't always make decisions for you. Whatever you choose to do, when you make a decision, you must be prepared to handle any consequences it brings, whether good or bad..."

After speaking.

Mu Jianling waves his hand, saying: "Class dismissed."

The students leave the training room in an orderly manner.

One.

Two.

Three.

...

Before long, all the students had left the training room quickly, with Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan, and a few others stepping out of the door. Ji You was the last one, trailing behind them.

After stepping out of the door, Ji You said to her buddies, "No need for you guys to treat me to a meal today, I'm going to the hotpot restaurant to see Mengmeng."

Upon hearing this, Chu Jiaojiao's eyes lit up—

Ji You immediately stopped her from speaking, saying, "No accompanying!"

Chu Jiaojiao: "..."

With a sullen face, Chu Jiaojiao said, "Ji You, even though your behavior is pretty lousy, you are still the most attractive person in the universe."

She profoundly illustrated what it means to have no limits when it comes to appearances...

After parting with her buddies, Ji You didn't delay and planned to find a self-service Floating Car to rush to the hotpot restaurant.

The final exams were in two days, and since she was confirmed to be going out of town, she definitely wouldn't be on Lanyue Star by then, and she didn't know how many days the assessments would take. Therefore, Ji You was a bit worried that Mengmeng might be upset with her, so she had to talk to Mengmeng beforehand.

Otherwise, when alpacas get angry, they ignore people.

Cough cough...

Having walked a few steps, Ji You spotted an unoccupied Floating Car at a garden corner, surrounded by quiet and dense shrubs, very secluded...

Ji You walked towards it, then suddenly—

She faintly heard a sobbing sound.

Hmm?

A girl's voice.

Ji You normally didn't like to meddle in others' affairs and was about to board the Floating Car and leave, but she faintly felt that the voice sounded somewhat familiar.

Is it...

Liu Beibei?

Ji You put down the foot she had lifted.

She took a few gentle steps towards the source of the crying sound, and then saw, next to the shrubbery, Liu Beibei's figure shrinking beside a cluster of blooming white Gardenias.

Her hands cupping her face, her shoulders slightly trembling, the low sobbing, suppressed, heavy...

This was—

Accidentally prying into someone else's privacy.

Ji You immediately turned around, preparing to leave.

But!!!

Liu Beibei shivered, already aware of the newcomer, like a frightened little rabbit about to run away, yet knowing it would be very impolite to do so. Enduring the shame, Liu Beibei forcefully wiped away her tears and whispered very softly, "Ji... Ji You..."

Ji You pursed her lips: "Sorry..."

Liu Beibei still hung her head, whispering, "It's... it's okay."

Ji You stood still.

Looking at her, Ji You felt like she was looking at herself.

Preferring to secretly find a corner to cry in, but never lightly giving up...

This girl...

Actually, might be even more stubborn than herself; at least, she (Ji You) could see a bit of hope to keep going, but she (Liu Beibei)... Ji You just didn't know what motivated her determination to become a Mechanical Warrior...

Liu Beibei's shoulders still gently trembled, she really wanted to suggest leaving, but felt embarrassed about being found crying secretly.

Suddenly—

Ji You asked, "Liu Beibei, I have a piece of quite good insider news for you."

Liu Beibei: "Ah?"

Ji You's eyes slightly narrowed, her lips curling up in a smile: "It's about a Soul Artifact Master, his shop is going to release a new batch of soul artifacts soon, and there will also be an unprecedented lottery event. The winner can get a low-level soul artifact for free. Although the chances may be low, I think we could still participate, maybe, just maybe, we'll win?"

Liu Beibei lifted her head, revealing her swollen red eyes: "A... a lottery?"

Ji You smiled and nodded: "Yeah. It's exclusive, top secret information."

Ji You's smile, warm and sweet, easily endears others...

Liu Beibei also suddenly let go of all the unease and shame in her heart.

Chapter 689: Cherry Freedom

Bidding Liu Beibei farewell, Ji You hopped onto the Floating Car, with a stern face, and fiercely knocked on her head:

Really got carried away for a moment.

Right now, Ji You was fully focused on syncing with Chasing Sun, she had hardly any thought or energy to create a Soul Device. Her original plan was to work on the Soul Device during the holiday after the final exam, but—

But at that time, seeing Liu Beibei crying, coupled with her stubborn, diligent, and strong fight for a hopeless goal, Ji You felt a deep empathy and blurted out her words unintentionally.

Words spoken are like spilled water, how can they be taken back?

Cough cough...

Thinking about the agreed time for the draw with Liu Beibei, Ji You kept a straight face, deciding to start work tonight.

Very soon.

Ji You arrived at the hotpot restaurant.

As if connected by telepathy, the moment Ji You stepped off the Floating Car, a sheep alpaca rushed towards her, almost knocking Ji You to the ground. Mengmeng circled around Ji You, constantly bleating, "Baa baa baa~"

Non-stop.

Ji You raised her hand, rubbing Mengmeng's head, and said with a smile, "I know, I missed you too."

Mengmeng: "Baa!"

You liar!

Don't believe it!

Ji You narrowed her eyes and smiled, her mouth sweet as honey, "I'm not lying to you! I think about you every moment, listen..."

While speaking, she gestured for Mengmeng to listen to her heartbeat.

Mengmeng joyfully leaned closer, resting its head on Ji You's chest, the sheep alpaca squinting its eyes, earnestly listening:

Thump—

Thump—

Thump—

Mengmeng squinted its eyes, and exclaimed: "Baa~"

Believe it now!

Believe it now!

Believe it now!

[Silly Mengmeng, human heartbeats are naturally thumping. Thus, you can never guard against human tricks, haha...] Thinking this, Ji You was unable to contain her laughter and raised her hand to fiercely rub Mengmeng's head.

Mengmeng was very happy, snuggling into the palm of Ji You's hand.

The owner of the hotpot restaurant had already come out to greet her with a smile, saying, "Mengmeng suddenly became very active, I knew Ji You must be coming."

Ji You asked with a smile, "Could Mengmeng really sense my arrival?"

The restaurant owner laughed, "Not exactly that, rather Mengmeng might sense certain special magnetic fields; it started being active about 3 minutes before you arrived..."

"Yo~" Ji You's eyes brightened, unable to resist patting Mengmeng, "That means it really did sense me."

Mengmeng lifted its face: "Aow~"

Of course!

I always remember my sister's scent.

Ji You narrowed her eyes: "Mengmeng, you are really impressive."

At this time, the hotpot restaurant was packed, many students watched as Ji You and the alpaca Mengmeng walked in together, touching Mengmeng enviously, but everyone was accustomed to this scene after seeing it several days, and although envious, no one especially came over to disturb.

Ji You followed Mengmeng and the restaurant owner into the backyard, where the owner immediately instructed the robot to serve the food prepared for Ji You. Seeing all these pure natural foods, the corners of Ji You's mouth almost twisted with a smile.

The restaurant owner said with a laugh, "Ji You, you came just in time today, the store just got a shipment of fresh fruits, shipped over from the Eighth Star System, our Sixth Star System can't grow them."

Ji You looked and exclaimed, "Oh! They are cherries!"

Each one, bright red, looks appetizing!

But!

These things are ridiculously expensive, Ji You vaguely remembered, weren't they sold by count, at least 500 credit points each?

The hotpot restaurant owner looked at Ji You, who hadn't started eating immediately, and couldn't help but laugh, "Eat up, they aren't expensive."

Ji You couldn't help but reach out and popped one into her mouth.

As soon as it entered her mouth, a fresh and sweet taste spread throughout, refreshing her instantly. Her mood lifted significantly, and in her Spiritual World, all six strands wagged their tails, clamoring for another one.

The owner smiled and said, "These are this year's new fruits, highly nutritious and very effective in enhancing spiritual power."

Ji You couldn't help but ask, "How much for one?"

The owner smiled and replied, "The price is pretty good this year, only 800 credit points each. In past years, fruit of this quality would have been at least 1000 credit points each."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's reaching hand withdrew.

Seeing Ji You's reaction, the owner immediately knew he had misspoken and hurriedly explained with a smile, "Don't feel embarrassed, Student Ji You. Feel free to eat as much as you like. These cherries didn't cost the store any money; they are a special product from our young master's estate in the Eighth Star System. The estate manager specially shipped a batch over for the young master, but unfortunately..."

"Unfortunately, Teacher Mu has a rule that doesn't allow our young master to eat them."

Ji You: "Cough cough..."

She coughed violently while patting her chest:

Damn it!

Estate special product!

Ji You had never thought about despising the wealthy, but now, she did!

But good.

Liu Fufeng can only look, not eat.

How miserable.

For a moment, Ji You even felt a little sympathy for Liu Fufeng, the real tycoon.

The owner grinned, "Go ahead, don't be shy. We still have a lot in stock."

Hearing this, Ji You didn't hold back anymore and dug right in!

One.

Two.

Three.

...

While eating, thinking about the exorbitant prices, Ji You almost shed tears of poverty: How many cherries have I eaten just now? At least seventy or eighty, so—that's how many credit points?

Just the thought made Ji You's scalp tingle!

As a poor girl, this was her first taste of luxury, and her first fleeting experience of what cherry freedom feels like...

Yingyingying~

Mengmeng nudged Ji You's cheek, bleating softly.

Ji You handed a cherry to Mengmeng, who obediently opened her mouth, "Bleat~"

Ji You beamed, "Tastes good, doesn't it?"

Mengmeng: "Bleat!"

Delicious!

After finishing a plate of cherries on the table, the hotpot restaurant owner wanted to add more for Ji You, but she quickly stopped him, saying, "No need, boss, I really can't eat anymore."

The owner beamed, "Don't mention it, don't mention it..."

Saying this, he brought over a few more plates.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's face turned red, she really felt a bit embarrassed.

Seeing Ji You's expression, the owner chuckled and candidly said, "Student Ji You, please don't misunderstand, I have no other intentions, just a little ulterior motive. Firstly, I'm thankful for your special care towards Mengmeng. Secondly, our young master Fufeng is quite peculiar and almost has no friends. Since you're in the same class, I thought it would be wonderful if the young master could make friends with you."

Ji You scratched her head and smiled, "Boss, if Student Fufeng is willing to be friends with me, I'd definitely like that as well."

Chapter 690: Iron Fools

After telling Mengmeng about the final exams and that she won't be able to visit for a while, Ji You left under Mengmeng's reluctantly longing gaze.

The firepot restaurant owner watched Ji You's departing figure and thought of his young master. He couldn't help but shake his head and sigh, "Ah! The young master transferred schools a month ago, but he still doesn't fit in."

It's said that the young master has no friends in the Combat Department and always keeps to himself...

Thinking of this, the firepot restaurant owner felt incredibly sad: the young master used to be such a cheerful child, always smiling, sweet-talking, mischievous yet measured... Not at all like now, as if he has become a completely different person.

He just hoped... that Ji You's cheerfulness could somewhat influence the young master.

...

The firepot restaurant owner thought so.

Ji You returned to her dorm, having had a feast of cherries which are great for nourishing spiritual power, even comparable to regular Butterfly Honey. Hence, her entire Spiritual World was very lively.

The Six Strands bickered:[More! More! More!]

Ji You glared at them: "Shut up, keep it up, and you won't get to eat ever again."

The Six Strands:[...]

After some quiet, Old Five, the honest strand, encouraged by Fourth, was the first to speak up:[Master, Master, why didn't you take the 10 pounds of cherries the boss offered?]

Before leaving, the firepot restaurant owner wanted to give Ji You 10 pounds, but she refused.

This nearly caused an uproar in the Spiritual World among the six foodie strands.

Old Five scratched his head, genuinely puzzled.

Ji You glanced at Fourth shrinking above Old Five's head and said irritably, "Be content, we've already eaten so much. Asking for a packing too? You might not have shame, but I do."

Sixth whispered:[But... didn't Master say, 'the world is great and eating is the greatest, who needs face'?]

Ji You gave it a stare: "When did I say that?"

Sixth looked at Old Five, who turned to Third, Third glanced at Second, Second looked at Boss, who swished his tail and pulled Fourth down from the top of Old Five's head. Fourth twirled its tail mid-air and landed smoothly—

Upon landing, Fourth straightened up, looking serious:[It must be Sixth who remembered wrong! Master never said that. Sixth is the most careless of us all, always forgetting things...]

Ji You gave the strands a side glance, feeling a major headache:

Just six strands, and each one so cunning?

She wondered how people managing millions of Spiritual Silks handle it.

Cough cough...

Of course, Ji You knew her Spiritual Silks were a bit special; others' Spiritual Silks lacked independence, akin to inanimate objects, entirely controlled by their masters...

Thinking this way, although it's a headache, having a few active strands for company isn't so bad.

For a moment, Ji You wasn't bothered by them anymore. She opened her eyes, curled her lips and said, "Now, I'm going to pick a Sisi to work, but who will it be?"

At those words—

Instantly, the six strands all ran far away.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You frowned, "The reward is enjoying a Candy Bean all by itself."

In a blink, all six strands rushed back.

Ji You looked at these opportunist strands, raised her hand to her forehead and said, "I'm not choosing anymore, let's go with Old Five."

Old Five wagged his tail: [Master, I'll definitely work hard!]

Boss, Second, Third, Fourth, Sixth:[Unfair, why is it always Old Five who gets the good stuff?]

Ji You hummed, "Why don't you ever wonder why the bad things are also Old Five's?"

Other five strands: [Also right—]

Ji You: "Mmhmm~"

Then, Ji You waved her hand grandly and said, "Old Five, get to work!"

This time, Ji You only intended to make a few low-level soul artifacts; she didn't dare to take on more challenging tasks, fearing her Spiritual World might collapse again, which would have been troublesome. Moreover, Ji You didn't plan to make too many at once tonight, just about 1-3, which Old Five's single strand should be able to handle.

After the previous incident, Ji You really didn't dare to be reckless anymore.

There are 2 days left until the final exam. She would continue the work tomorrow and the day after tomorrow.

Of course, everything depends on her physical condition. If she feels good, Ji You decides to make a few more.

On the workbench, there lay a few worthless ores and some tools.

Ji You concentrated and began crafting.

Old Five, having gotten used to this kind of work, coordinated perfectly. Ji You completed it in one go, successfully creating a low-level soul artifact. She used the leftover scraps from her Material Department homework for this batch of materials.

It was a butterfly with spread wings, lifelike, almost as if it was about to flutter its wings and fly away...

It was a hairpin.

Very exquisite, beautiful, and cute, and even though Ji You held back, the quality of this soul artifact hairpin still reached the Low-level Peak, about to break through to Intermediate...

Ji You held it in her hand, examined it closely, and smiled: "It feels like it really suits classmate Liu Beibei."

Then.

Ji You carefully put the hairpin away in a box.

Following that.

She felt her spiritual power for a moment, the consumption didn't seem too significant. Ji You asked, "Old Five, can you make another one?"

Old Five perked up: [Master! Can do!]

Beside them, Fourth quietly tugged its tail, whispering, [Stupid! You should say you can't do it without Candy Beans for recovery...]

Old Five quivered all over, immediately wagged its tail frantically: [Master, Sisi said I need a Candy Bean to recover, can you give me one?]

Fourth: [...]

Dummy!

Really, with such Iron Fools, out of sight is the best policy!

Fourth was half dead with anger, instantly went stiff and lay on the floor, playing dead...

Ji You: "..."

As the Master, how could she be deceived about everything that happened in the Spiritual World? Fourth, this guy, not beaten for a day and he's ready to tear the roof off, instigated Old Five, and dared to play dead?

Humming inwardly, Ji You then promptly took out a Candy Bean, smiling warmly: "Old Five, good job. Have another Candy Bean as a reward."

Fourth: [!!!]

Fourth leaped up in a puff of smoke, back and legs no longer ached, no longer feigning death, and it circled Ji You: [Master! Master! Master! Old Five worked hard, how about putting Sisi in charge instead? Sisi is actually more capable than Old Five!]

Ji You glanced at Fourth with a smile and warmly said, "How could I trouble you?"

Fourth: [No trouble, no trouble...]

Aside from Fourth, Boss, Second, Third, and Sixth also wagged their tails, circling around Ji You, eagerly volunteering.

Ji You's lips curled up into a smile, "Don't disturb others for what one person can handle. This laborious task is best left to Old Five."

Fourth, Boss, and the others: [Yingyingying...]

Though Old Five is simpleminded, it's not incredibly foolish. The moment the Master handed over the Candy Bean, it instantly opened its mouth and swallowed it, urging: [Master! Let's start working! Let's start!]