

Scavengers 691

Chapter 691: My Little Sweetheart

With Old Five's active cooperation, Ji You successfully crafted three low-level soul artifacts that night before she felt mentally exhausted. Knowing when to stop, Ji You no longer dared to be greedy, so she put down her tools and looked at her handiwork.

A butterfly ready to spread its wings and fly.

A dragonfly perched on a branch.

An eagle soaring through the sky.

The quality of these three soul artifacts, apart from the butterfly which reached Low-level Peak, the others were all of low-level medium grade. During the crafting process, Ji You prepared material for six artifacts and succeeded with three, which was a 50% success rate—it was higher than what Ji You expected, but it also left her with slight regrets. Because—this time's crafting helped Ji You understand once again that soul artifacts really couldn't be replicated or mass-produced.

Among the six, during the crafting process by Ji You, each one had the same Array Diagram carved into it. However, even though the same Array Diagram was used, the state of mind, the train of thought during each soul artifact's crafting process, and the profound resonance that occurred between the artifacts and Ji You during their formation were all completely unique and impossible to replicate...

In other words, even with the same Array Diagrams, soul artifacts still could not be replicated or mass-produced.

Ji You neatly packed up the three finished products, putting to rest any thoughts of mass production.

Afterward.

Ji You went to bed on schedule.

The next day, the Mecha training continued as usual.

Ji You could now pilot Chasing Sun, but had to forgo most of its functions, selecting only a few to use. This issue wasn't new to her; during her time piloting 'Blade' on the Star Network, she was already accustomed to it and had found a solution, so there was no need to rush. Walking, running, jumping, leaping... After mastering these basics, Ji You began to focus on training her shooting skills.

In a dangerous encounter, Combat Power was the guarantee of survival.

Ji You practiced her shooting over and over again.

...

In the evening.

After using Body Refining Medicine, Ji You continued with the Soul Artifact Manufacturing.

That night, Ji You still prepared material for six artifacts. Before starting, thinking of the previous night's butterfly, dragonfly, and eagle, Ji You decided to shape all of this batch's soul artifacts based on animal inspiration. She then settled down to start crafting, and in an instant, her thoughts roamed free, her carving knife as if it had gained a life of its own, from point to line...

Time ticked away...

When the Companion Stone in her hand, white with hints of pink, transformed into a vividly lifelike carp, Ji You couldn't help but reveal a smile: "Success!"

Looking left, right...

Ji You held the carving knife and gently wrote down five characters: [Carp Jumping Over the Dragon Gate].

This was a good wish for the customer who would purchase this soul artifact.

Then.

Ji You reached out for the second piece of material.

With this material, Ji You wanted to create a cat pendant, but failed.

The third piece.

The stubborn Ji You tried to make a kitten again, but still failed.

The fourth piece.

Ji You gritted her teeth and changed the kitten into a tiger. During the process, her mindset shifted from that of a pet cat to embracing the presence of the King of the Forest; the tiger that she carved exuded a domineering and majestic aura, with the character for 'king' on its forehead. Ji You, with a bold stroke of her knife, wrote several words:

[Dragon Soaring and Tiger Leaping]

Hoping that the future owner of the soul artifact would have a career as soaring as Dragon Soaring and Tiger Leaping, reaching the heavens.

The carp and tiger shaped soul artifacts, both reached Low-level Peak quality, yet, were still a bit shy of breaking through to Mid-level.

Where was the deficiency?

Ji You was at a loss.

In terms of Soul Artifact Manufacturing, Ji You was completely self-taught without any master's guidance or peers to discuss with; she could only grope her way forward like trying to cross a river by feeling the stones. At times like this when encountering problems, she didn't have anyone to discuss them with.

Soul Artifact Manufacturing was a very mysterious and profound field, full of unknown mysteries for the current interstellar society, and there were very few useful resources on the market to look up for reference.

Ji You patiently set aside thoughts of breaking through to Mid-level Soul Devices.

Then.

She continued with the fifth piece of material.

Failure.

The sixth one.

Failed again.

Ji You lifted his hand and gently massaged his forehead, sighing, "Creating Soul Devices really puts a huge strain on spiritual power. I must be patient, progress step by step, and not be greedy for more."

The last time he was greedy, his Spiritual World almost collapsed. Ji You took it as a lifelong lesson, warning himself never to be complacent again.

Tonight's output amounted to only two devices. Added to yesterday's, Ji You now had five Soul Devices in hand. After putting them away carefully, Ji You pondered a moment and decided to give a call to his mentor, Cheng Yu.

No sooner had he dialed than Cheng Yu picked up in less than a second.

Cheng Yu's chubby face was brimming with a smile, "Master... You finally remembered Ah Da. I... I really... really missed you so much!!!"

Since it was a holographic video call, Cheng Yu seemed to leap toward the screen, his big eyes blinking rapidly as he gazed at Ji You. Moisture glistening at the edge of his eyes, his excitement was palpable—he was just a step away from throwing himself at Ji You's feet, clinging to his legs, and wailing...

Listening to that wailing, Ji You's heart trembled.

Thump~

Thump~

Thump~

...

It was like being a thief, thrillingly exhilarating!

If—

If one day, Cheng Yu knew that the person standing in front of him was actually one of his students...

That scenario...

Ji You didn't dare to continue the thought.

His disguised identity must not be exposed!

At all costs!

So, wearing his disguised identity and holding an appearance completely different from the real one, Ji You, with a lowered voice, sternly tried to act indifferent, "Cough... Ah Da, I'm planning to hold a free lottery event soon. There will be three winners, each receiving a Low-level Soul Device as their prize."

Cheng Yu: "Huh???"

Cheng Yu was now too stunned to wail. He rubbed his eyes and exclaimed, "Master... Isn't that prize... too... too generous?"

A Soul Device!

Using Soul Devices as prizes!

This—

Such generosity, not even the well-known Soul Artifact Masters within the Alliance would do such a thing.

Because Soul Devices, such rare treasures practically beyond price, never worried about sales.

Cheng Yu wanted to object, but seeing the Master's serious expression, he knew that the Master was never one to act recklessly and must have his reasons. With that in mind, how could Cheng Yu possibly object?

He was determined to be Green Glaze Master's diehard fan for life.

Of course, he would support the Master unconditionally!

Ahem...

And so, Cheng Yu said, "Master, rest assured, leave this matter to me!"

Ji You responded with a smile, "You don't need to be too busy with it. On the day of the lottery, you and another sales clerk just need to keep order at the event."

Cheng Yu thought of the other sales clerk, his face showing a hint of grievance, "Master... Why do you need to find another sales clerk? Am I... am I no longer your most beloved darling?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's eyelid twitched:

[Holy shit! Since when were you my darling?]

Chapter 692: Under-the-Table Dealings

Ji You was completely stunned by the situation, but she still maintained the demeanor of a Master—calm in the face of change.

Ji You kept a stern face and didn't engage in the conversation, instead, she quickly changed the subject and said, "Besides the three soul devices for the raffle, I will also have two soul devices for sale on-site. I will send you the details of those later, you can estimate the price and set it." Currently, Ji You had only five soul devices, three for the raffle and only two for sale. She couldn't guarantee that she would be able to craft more by tomorrow night, so she only mentioned two for sale to Cheng Yu.

As soon as she finished speaking, Cheng Yu's eyes lit up:

Estimate the price?

Such trust from the Master...

For a moment, Cheng Yu was so moved that he was almost in tears, and the slight resentment he had for being replaced as a salesperson evaporated in an instant.

Cheng Yu said loudly, "Master, rest assured, the soul devices I appraise are never undervalued."

Ji You: "Hmm."

Cheng Yu whispered, "Um... Master... as a salesperson, can I participate in the purchase?"

Ji You was somewhat speechless. He was already her salesperson and yet he was still eyeing low-level soul artifacts. In the future, when she could craft Middle and High-level Soul Devices, wouldn't he have a share too? Besides, she had already promised to customize a soul device for him. Although her skills were not yet sufficient, it was only a matter of time... Looking at Cheng Yu's honest, round face, Ji You shook her head and said, "No."

Upon hearing this, Cheng Yu was slightly disappointed:

No chance for a sneak purchase.

Cough cough...

No!

It meant no chance to participate in the purchase.

Cheng Yu thought for a bit and, with the principle of maximizing benefits, proposed, "Master, how about we use this opportunity to hold an auction during the raffle event? The two soul devices for sale go to the highest bidder?"

"Hmm?" Ji You raised her hand to her chin.

Hosting an auction, considering the current popularity and traffic of the shop, would certainly fetch a higher price than a flat rate.

But—

What if many of the people camping out in her shop were like her, poor students? They couldn't afford much money and could only hope to rely on their pure speed to purchase a soul device at a normal price...

For an ordinary household, the price of a soul device was already sky-high, requiring years, or even over a decade, of scrimping and saving just to afford one.

They saved for so long simply because soul devices have a good chance of breaking through spiritual level barriers, advancing to the next level...

That's one part.

Ji You is not blindly kind-hearted or saintly, because the soul devices she crafts are useless to her and not particularly difficult to make. If these devices could genuinely end up in the hands of those who truly need and cherish them... it would also bring happiness to the maker.

Moreover.

Ji You could currently only craft low-level soul artifacts and hadn't even begun with Middle or High-level ones. Even if a low-level device was auctioned, how would it be? Ordinary people couldn't afford them, and in the end, they would just end up in the hands of wealthy people who weren't lacking low-level soul devices either.

This was not what Ji You wanted.

Therefore, Ji You decided to save the auction opportunities until she could make Middle and High-level Soul Devices.

Thus.

Ji You shook her head and said, "No auction for now, let's talk about it later."

Upon hearing this, Cheng Yu hurriedly said, "I'll listen to the Master. Then... Master... when do you plan to start the raffle event?"

Ji You thought for a moment. She had an end-of-term exam to attend the day after tomorrow, and she wouldn't have much time to manage things herself afterwards—so—

Ji You said, "Let's start at eight o'clock tomorrow night."

Cheng Yu responded, "Master, don't worry, Ah Da will definitely maintain order in the shop."

Thinking there was nothing else, Ji You said, "Send me a message if there's an issue."

Cheng Yu smiled beamingly: "Okay."

As a sales clerk who is also a Master, the best part is being close to the water and able to get close to the Master.

...

After ending the communication.

Ji You immediately dialed Xie Lingzhi's contact number.

Xie Lingzhi, with her messy hair casually draped, looked somewhat spiritless, as if she hadn't slept for days. Seeing Ji You, she rolled her eyes: "What is it?"

Ji You chuckled: "Sister Lingzhi, if I didn't know you were in the lab, I would have thought you crawled out of a trash heap."

Xie Lingzhi: "..."

Xie Lingzhi impatiently said, "I was preparing for my final assignment!" Despite her words showing disdain and impatience, Xie Lingzhi still asked, "Did you run into some problem? Speak quickly, I'm still busy!"

Ji You hurriedly told Xie Lingzhi about the upcoming lottery event at Green Glaze Master's soul device shop.

Upon hearing this, Xie Lingzhi's eyes lit up, then immediately dimmed as she said irritably, "With odds of one in tens of millions or one in billions, do you think I can win?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You said helplessly: "An odds of one in tens of millions is still better than nothing! Why not give it a try? It only takes a few minutes of your time."

Xie Lingzhi asked, "When is it?"

Ji You replied, "The event is tomorrow night at eight."

"Got it," Xie Lingzhi waved her hand and then asked, "Anything else? By the way, when are your finals?"

"Nothing else," Ji You smiled and said, "Our finals are the day after tomorrow. It's not on Lanyue Star; the teacher hasn't announced the specific location yet."

"Not in school?" Xie Lingzhi, who had been indifferent, suddenly widened her eyes. She frowned and said, "What's this about? There's never been an off-campus final exam for the first year."

Ji You didn't know either.

Xie Lingzhi said, "Wait, I'll send you 5000 credit points. Pack some nutrient solutions and stuff. I'm afraid you might end up somewhere deserted without even food."

"Not... that's unlikely, right?" Ji You was somewhat disbelieving. Also, Sister Lingzhi, being such a miser, was willing to give her 5000 credit points. It must have been her savings from living frugally—Ji You felt a bit awkward about it.

Ji You hurriedly said, "No... no need, I still have some money."

Xie Lingzhi glanced at her and said, "It's a loan, you have to pay it back. You think it's free!"

Ji You: "Cough cough..."

But Ji You still shook her head, saying, "I earned a lot of points from competitions this year. When the time comes, I'll just buy some nutrient solutions from the school store with points."

"Oh—"

"I almost forgot." Xie Lingzhi remembered this point, then stopped insisting on giving Ji You money and said, "Alright, handle it yourself. Let me know before you leave."

Ji You smiled beamingly: "Okay."

Xie Lingzhi was about to hang up the phone—

Considering Sister Lingzhi might forget about the lottery, and it wasn't appropriate for Ji You to blatantly suggest rigging it in her favor, Ji You, feeling uneasy, quickly reminded her: "Sister Lingzhi, let's participate in the lottery together tomorrow, don't forget."

Xie Lingzhi: "Alright."

After saying this.

Communication was cut off.

Chapter 693: Fawning for Favor

After setting up the lottery event, Ji You thought for a moment and sent the news to Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang... As Ji You expected, the moment she sent her message, her contact number was bombarded by several people.

Ji You kept a straight face, replying indifferently and uniformly: "The lottery event is open and transparent, fair and impartial, completely dependent on luck, with no possibility of cheating. Also: I do not accept any bribes, thank you!"

Message sent.

Ji You immediately set her status to temporarily refuse any incoming messages and hurriedly rolled into bed to sleep.

The next day.

Ji You, dressed in a tank top, was getting ready to go for a morning jog when she opened her dorm room door only to have several heads pop up in front of her, scrambling to get close to Ji You... Ji You's finger twitched, almost slamming the door shut again.

Each of the faces looked at Ji You sycophantically, with Sheng Qingyan speaking first as their representative, "Classmate Ji You, oh... you're awake? Tired or not? Want me to give you a shoulder rub, a little back massage, huh?"

Ji You glanced at them sidelong: "Unwarranted kindness is either treachery or theft!"

Sheng Qingyan stamped her feet: "I'm not like that..."

Ji You raised her hand to push Sheng Qingyan aside, and Yue Qiguang jumped forward, blocking Ji You. Normally his handsome face would be arrogant and proud, but now there was a hint of an unnatural smile as he said: "Silly... cough... Classmate Ji You, are you hungry? Dad..."

"Cough cough..."

"I've prepared a rich breakfast for you."

"Here!"

It took several interrupted attempts to finally get the words out. Yue Qiguang, fearful Ji You wouldn't accept it, quickly thrust the breakfast box into her arms and immediately hopped away a few steps.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You looked at the breakfast box in her hands; inside was a long-legged chicken egg, a sesame pancake, a spring roll, a cup of soy milk...

And...

It was quite a feast.

But!!!

Yue Qiguang, the miser, was willing to buy breakfast for her voluntarily?

Moreover, Yue Qiguang was already taking care of Ji You's meals for the month, and this fool might seem stupid on the surface, but he's quite the schemer in his mind, the click-clacks of his calculating clearly audible.

Hmph!

As Yue Qiguang stepped away, Ji You, quick as a flash, grabbed his clothes and stuffed the breakfast box back to him at once.

Yue Qiguang frantically ruffled his hair and said irritably, "What are you doing? Eat!"

Ji You glanced at his face, "Seeing your unlucky mug first thing in the morning instantly kills all my appetite."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Muttering under his breath, Yue Qiguang walked away.

Yue Qiyuan filled in, tilting at Ji You with his elbows crossed over his chest, brazenly saying, "Number 4444, let's be frank, I came here early in the morning just to buy a Soul Device. Do you think it's possible to get a few of the new Soul Devices from Green Glaze Master?"

Ji You rolled her eyes, "Let's be frank. Impossible, don't even think about it."

Yue Qiyuan immediately responded with disdain, "What's the use of you!"

Ji You: "..."

Unable to hold back, Ji You lifted her foot intending to kick him in the butt.

Yue Qiyuan dropped the statement and swiftly dodged away. Ji You missed her kick and felt a hint of regret when Chu Jiaojiao stepped up with a shy smile, "Classmate Ji You, you're a hundred times more beautiful today than you were yesterday."

Ji You dismissively said to her, "I'm really tired of that line."

Chu Jiaojiao: "..."

Chu Jiaojiao wracked her brains, trying to think of other compliments she could offer, but Ji You raised her hand and pushed her aside. At that moment, Shen Changqing proactively approached her, first fixing his handsome, prime-aged face on Ji You for a few seconds, revealing a look as if he had something to say but hesitated.

Ji You took a deep breath and said, "Classmate Shen Changqing, I don't think you can say anything flattering anyway, so—you may step back."

Shen Changqing pursed his lips and nodded: "Okay."

He was quite straightforward, making way for Ji You readily.

Ji You stepped forward, and Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, Yue Qiyuan, and others all took a step back, raising their hands in unison, "Respected salesperson, please go ahead!"

Ji You: "..."

Listening to these bootlickers, Ji You's step faltered, and her little heart also trembled.

She...

She had never imagined that casually adopting the alias of a salesperson would have such a powerful effect. If she had known—

If she had known, she would have assumed the role sooner.

Cough cough...

Ji You glanced sidelong at the group and spouted some serious nonsense, "Put away your little schemes. I am just a humble salesperson, not the master himself. How could I possibly influence the master's thoughts? If you want a Soul Device, tonight you'll have to rely on the speed of your hands and the luck of your face."

Therefore, under the gaze of her plastic classmates, Ji You, dressed in a little tank top, walked confidently with a stride that did not recognize family...

...

Training continued as usual that day. Ji You was quite satisfied with her training results. She felt that when piloting Chasing Sun, against a level 1 Star Beast, she could kill it with one blow. Against a level 2 Star Beast, she could kill it swiftly with full effort. Against a level 3 Star Beast, she had the power to fight. As for a level 4 Star Beast, she couldn't engage in battle, but she could run away...

Of course, this was how Ji You felt about herself. To know the actual situation, it would require real combat.

One day of training ended.

Mu Jianling looked at the students and said, "Training ends tomorrow, we'll set out at six o'clock the day after tomorrow. In these two days, collect yourselves, train properly, and communicate with me timely if there are any issues."

The students responded loudly: "Understood."

Mu Jianling said: "Class dismissed."

After saying that, she left.

After dinner with a few friends, Ji You conscientiously completed the punishment tasks of cleaning the horse stable and the rabbit shed, then hurried back to the dormitory. Everyone logged onto Star Network immediately, racing to Green Glaze Master's shop.

At this point, 12 hours had passed since Qingyou Shop's promotional announcement was made. The news spread from one person to ten, ten to a hundred... the entrance of Qingyou Shop was nearly trampled down by the throngs of people...

The event had not yet started, and inside the shop, there was only an assistant robot given by the system. This robot was mass-produced and not very smart. Unable to get more useful information from the robot, the crowd that surrounded the shop gave up on that endeavor and waited patiently for Qingyou Shop to officially open.

After logging in, Ji You immediately received a message from Cheng Yu.

Cheng Yu said: "Master, the publicity I did was not bad, right?"

Ji You nodded: "Not bad."

Cheng Yu giggled, then immediately, his face wrinkled with concern, saying, "Master... I've told you about my half-brother from the same father before. He now knows my online identity and hasn't given up on probing your real-life identity. He's also been trying to contact you on Star Network. Have you... Have you been in contact with him?"

As he said this, Cheng Yu's tone was very cautious. He understood the trouble he had brought to the master and also feared that the master might suddenly cancel his salesman qualification and not want him anymore...

Hearing this, Ji You indifferently said, "Who is he? Just an irrelevant person, none of my concern."

Chapter 694: Three Lucky Geese

During this period, Cheng Yu's half-brother from the same father, Cheng Kun, indeed sought Ji You many times, even promising her many benefits... But Ji You, busy with competitions and training or studying, where would she have the time to bother with him?

Moreover, this person named Cheng Kun had once sent the Red-haired gang to cause trouble, almost cutting off Ji You's financial path. How could Ji You possibly give him a good face?

Cheng Kun himself had sent Ji You several messages and even got several people from the Soul Artifact Manufacturing industry to cozy up to her and probe for all sorts of information about Ji You... Did Ji You have holes in her brain to care about such a person?

Thus, even without the relationship of teacher Cheng Yu, Ji You would not associate with someone as scheming as Cheng Kun.

Therefore, Qingyou's alias, Ji You simply set it to reject all messages from strangers. Instantly, the world became quiet, and she was no longer bothered by anyone.

...

Upon hearing this, Cheng Yu felt moved again...

Indeed!

Master had her own considerations.

Cheng Yu raised his head, a chubby face filled with smiles, and said: "Master, this trouble originally arose because of me. Rest assured, I won't let people like Cheng Kun disturb you." Although he had left his family, Cheng Yu originally came from Main Star and, having live-streamed on Star Network for so many years, he was a renowned influencer. How could he lack his own network and connections?

Therefore, despite Cheng Kun's painstaking efforts, he could not find out any information about the Green Glaze Master. On the contrary, because he had really annoyed Cheng Yu, Cheng Kun recently stirred up some big and small troubles, and had no time to focus on finding the Green Glaze Master.

Ji You indifferently said: "Hmm."

Next.

Ji You said: "Hand over the event to you and the new salesperson, tell me if there are any problems."

Having given her instructions, Ji You exited the shop management mode, and then she donned the salesperson's disguise and entered the shop.

Inside the shop.

It was packed with people, but with rules set by Cheng Yu in advance, there was no chaos. Only when two salespeople appeared did the scene burst into cheers: "Is it finally starting?"

The task of selling and promoting was left to Cheng Yu. This time, Ji You was mainly responsible for maintaining order inside the shop. Thus, in front of everyone, she pulled out a huge cleaver, and with a bang, placed it at her feet.

Cheng Yu: "..."

Customer: "..."

Cheng Yu's eyelids twitched, he whispered: "Dear, mind your image. Those who know understand we're running a business, those who don't think we're setting up a ring for a fight."

Ji You squeezed out a smile at Cheng Yu, thought about Teacher Cheng Yu's age... then changed her tone, her face full of smiles, saying: "Brother Ah Da... you do your thing. If anyone dares to cause trouble in the store, my cleaver—"

As she spoke, Ji You touched the handle of the cleaver and her eyes suddenly hardened, her voice full of authority: "—will make them regret it!"

Cheng Yu: "..."

Unable to help himself, Cheng Yu raised his hand to his forehead: My goodness, where did this silly billy come from? How did the Master dare to hire her as a salesperson?

Nevermind.

Cheng Yu said: "Alright, leave the sales to me, you just sit... cough... maintain order."

Ji You: "Cough cough..."

She didn't want to be idly standing by the whole time; she had never organized such events and didn't much like to be in the limelight. Besides, this activity didn't really require a lot of manpower, Ji You felt perfectly justified in just standing by.

Thanks to Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, Sheng Qingyan, Zhang Ye, Xuzhou... All these classmates successfully found a spot on the shop's floor to stand.

Seeing Ji You standing by idly through it all left a few speechless, but their minds weren't on this anymore because — the lottery event was about to start.

Cheng Yu stood on the temporarily constructed stage in the shop, first delivering words of thanks, and then briefly explained the procedure of the event, before loudly announcing: "At this moment, in the spotlight, in this thrilling minute, let us all gently close our eyes, eagerly anticipating the arriving surprises—"

Next.

The lights dimmed at the venue, enveloping the atmosphere in darkness.

"10, 9, 8, 7..." As Cheng Yu's slightly magnetic voice counted down to '1', he swiftly changed his tune, saying, "Please open your eyes, and from the myriad of galaxies, seize the star that belongs to you."

Among the millions of twinkling stars, only 3 represented a winning prize.

Everyone held their breath and slowly, slowly stretched out their hands...

When everyone had finished grabbing.

The lights at the venue suddenly turned back on—

At that moment, all the stars in everyone's hands spontaneously opened up, and upon seeing the results within, the place erupted in a wave of wailing...

Cheng Yu, with a smile, consoled the audience who didn't win, saying, "Don't cry, don't howl. If you didn't win this time, it's simply saving up luck for the next time. Please, the three winners, come on stage to receive your prizes."

As Cheng Yu awarded the prizes to the three, Ji You kept one hand on the hilt of his knife, wary of any trouble that might arise.

The first to appear was Xie Lingzhi, draped in a Star Network vest, still completely dazed and hardly believing that she had actually won.

Thus, in a daze, she collected her prize on stage and walked down just as bewildered.

Ji You, with a stern face, watching Sister Lingzhi rarely showing such a silly expression, felt a slight sense of triumph: [Sister Lingzhi, bet you didn't see this coming, this is the cheat I activated for you haha...]

The second was the petite Liu Beibei, wearing a hat with its wide brim nearly covering her whole face.

Liu Beibei hung her head, her face flushed, and after receiving the prize, she quietly said, "Thank you."

After collecting it, beneath the envious, jealous, and resentful gazes of everyone, Liu Beibei, like a frightened bunny, immediately logged off.

Cheng Yu, observing the two girls who came to receive their prizes, teased with a smile, "Our two lucky geese, both quite shy, aren't they? Now, let's invite our third lucky goose to come forward."

The scene grew quiet...

Cheng Yu: "The third one?"

The third luck winner was purely based on luck, without Ji You's manipulation, and for a moment, even Ji You was curious about who this person was—

Then—

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

The third lucky goose had yet to appear.

Cheng Yu frowned and said, "Is this lucky viewer planning to give up the prize? I'll count to ten; if you don't come on stage, it will be considered a forfeiture, and our system will re-select another lucky viewer."

Just then—

A sharp scream tore through the sky, resounding in everyone's hearts: "Ah—no—I—I'm coming—"

As the words came out.

A short, thin boy with a hunched back, wearing a hat, jumped out, one hand clutching the brim of the hat, only revealing a pair of small eyes, excitedly said: "It's me! I'm that lucky moth—"

Ji You paused:

That voice—

Sounded somewhat familiar.

Chapter 695: You're Dead!

This voice—

Why does it sound more and more familiar the more I listen...

So familiar that Ji You cannot forget, even if she wanted to.

Ji You lifted her head and followed the sound towards this third lucky customer who suddenly appeared.

At this glance, Ji You's pupils shrank:

[Isn't it?]

A stooped, short man seemed to sense Ji You's scrutiny, his body trembling slightly, but this tremble was just a moment and almost too fast to notice.

Under many envious, jealous, and hateful gazes at the scene, the short man took out his winning Star, handed it to Cheng Yu to verify, and said with a forced smile: "Hello... This is my Star."

His voice was low and deep, with a rough grittiness, just like him, giving people an extremely uncomfortable feeling.

Cheng Yu took the Star, carefully inspected it, indeed, it wasn't fake. Then, still uneasy, he handed it over to the Star Network lottery system for verification...

Time ticked, ticked...

The short man kept his head down, with a wide brim hiding most of his face, only exposing part of his chin.

[Ding——

System verification: Confirmed as winning number.]

"Phew——"

Hearing the system prompt, the short man couldn't help but stealthily exhale a breath, then, he stepped forward a bit eagerly and asked, "So... can I redeem my prize now?"

The verification system of Star Network was absolutely accurate, and the three Stars won by prize draw were designed by Cheng Yu and Green Glaze Master together 30 minutes before drawing. The pattern construction on the Stars and the anti-fake marks were all set temporarily. Cheng Yu did not suspect this short man of forging.

Forge?

Impossible.

Unless it's insider theft by Green Glaze Master and himself, otherwise outsiders wouldn't know how to rig the drawing, where would the fake come from?

Although also coveting these three Soul Devices, Cheng Yu couldn't possibly do something that harms the Master's shop's interests.

As for Green Glaze Master?

Would she engage in insider theft? Such a ludicrous conjecture would split one's sides with laughter.

...

Although Cheng Yu didn't suspect the short man of forgery, he still wondered why this guy acted as if he were stealing when claiming a prize, being so cautious and timid, always giving off a suspicious vibe.

While thinking this, Cheng Yu reached out, taking out the third Soul Device, just as he was about to hand over the prize—

Suddenly—

"Hold on!"

Ji You, who had been standing by the side touching the handle of her sword and half-squinting her eyes, suddenly stopped Cheng Yu.

Cheng Yu was perplexed: "???"

Surroundings: "???"

The short man trembled noticeably at this moment, and, taking a deep breath with a rough and unpleasant voice, he asked: "Others can claim their prizes, why can't I? Are you judging by appearance when you distribute prizes in your shop?"

Ji You stood up, carrying her sword, slowly approaching—

"Of course, our shop does not judge by appearances, but out of respect for Green Glaze Master, why do you come to claim the prize anonymously, if I may ask?"

Indeed.

This short man came to claim the prize anonymously.

Suddenly, the onlooking crowd began discussing:

"Yeah!"

"Why be anonymous?"

"Isn't it better to claim openly?"

...

Hearing the surrounding voices, the short man's mouth twitched, and before him, this sword-wielding female killing god looked intimidating...

He, under the pressure, enduring the goosebumps on his scalp, said hoarsely: "But your shop didn't specify that we can't claim prizes anonymously?"

At this, Ji You immediately opened the backend, and in front of everyone, changed the prize claiming requirements.

Then, very straightforwardly, Ji You said: "Now it's required."

Short man: "..."

Damn!

Some people can be shameless to this extent.

Ji You spread her hands, smilingly said: "Please."

The short man clenched his teeth and burst out with his Star Network name: "weak chicken."

Ji You gritted her teeth: "It's really you!"

weak chicken was startled and leapt behind Cheng Yu to hide: "Ah Da, save me! Your shop assistant is going to murder someone on the street!"

Cheng Yu: "..."

weak chicken clutched Cheng Yu's shirt tightly, shivering nonstop, and screeching repeatedly: "This is outrageous..."

"Somebody wants to chop the Middle Winner, Lucky Goose, to steal his prize."

"Police!"

"System!"

"Help!"

"I don't want to die!"

...

In the blink of an eye, this hunched man called 'weak chicken' was jumping up and down, issuing shriek after shriek. His coarse and harsh voice filled everyone's ears—

Persistently like a bunch of incessant crows!

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's veins bulged on her forehead, and she suddenly pulled out her sword—

The shrieks of weak chicken became even sharper, his heart jumping to his throat...

"Bang!"

A loud noise!

Big Chopper smashed down hard on the floor, stirring up dust clouds—

Ji You: "Shut up!"

Everyone around: "!!!"

"Damn!"

"So violent!"

"Terrifying!"

...

weak chicken instantly shut his mouth!

"Cough cough..." Cheng Yu couldn't help but clear his throat, breaking the tense atmosphere and forcibly explained: "Ladies and gentlemen in the audience? Did you enjoy this splendid sword performance from our store? Are you satisfied? If you are, please double-tap 666!!!"

Saying so, Cheng Yu threw a meaningful glance at Ji You—You better not mess up the Master's event!

Ji You came to her senses, immediately clasped her hands and shouted to the surrounding audience: "Iron guys, double-tap 666!"

"Iron folks, don't just stand there, go ahead and like it!"

Audience: "..."

During the audience's speechless moment, Cheng Yu timely jumped out, laughed, and said: "Iron fellows, just now our salesperson was joking with you all. After awarding the third prize, we'll immediately proceed to our next purchasing event!"

"Are you excited?"

"Happy?"

"Looking forward to it?"

Cheng Yu asked three questions in a row, immediately met with a chorus of boos from the audience:

"Ah Da, cut the nonsense and start selling!"

"Ah Da, don't waste time; everyone is eager to buy!"

"We don't have time to watch your monkey show! We're waiting to buy Soul Devices!"

...

The atmosphere at the venue livens up with the audience's jokes and urging.

Cheng Yu promptly awarded the third prize to the man called "weak chicken".

Then, he promptly arranged the purchasing event.

weak chicken took the prize and was just about to leave when suddenly, a hand reached out and grabbed him.

weak chicken's face immediately turned sour, he hung his head and cried out: "Queen... please spare my life!"

Ji You looked at him coldly, expressionless: "Alive as the queen's person? Dead as the queen's ghost?"

weak chicken murmured.

Ji You: "The grace of re-creation, never to be forgotten?"

weak chicken trembled.

Ji You: "Whenever needed, ready to serve?"

weak chicken recoiled.

Ji You: "You're dead!"

weak chicken: "..."

Chapter 696: Petty

Weak Chicken opened his mouth, about to howl—

Ji You raised her hand and sharply chopped at his neck with the edge of her hand, silencing Weak Chicken's shriek in his throat. Ji You thought she'd frightened him into submission. She slightly relaxed her grip, intending to haul him over and keep a close watch, lest the guy sneak away when she wasn't paying attention—

But then—

The moment she loosened her grip, Weak Chicken, slippery as an eel, twisted his body, about to slip from Ji You's control. Ji You clenched her hand and lifted him up: "Dare to run?"

Weak Chicken's eyes widened and suddenly: "Yingyingying~"

"Ahhh!!!"

"Murder!!!"

With his howl, the lively atmosphere Cheng Yu had cleverly stirred up at the scene froze once again.

Ji You: "..."

Cheng Yu hurriedly diverted the topic, continuing with his witty remarks, shifting the onlookers' attention away.

Here, Ji You stared at Weak Chicken with eyes that could no longer be described as merely dangerous, but—

Rather, it was a death glare!

Weak Chicken shivered all over and gave Ji You a sly smile, begging for mercy: "Queen, please let me go first!"

Ji You didn't budge.

Weak Chicken, squeezing out a smile: "I won't run, nor will I escape."

Ji You remained silent.

Weak Chicken's face fell, and he grimaced, wailing: "Queen... I really won't run or escape... I... I'm still waiting to compete for the Soul Device with my quick hands, why would I run?"

Ji You: "..."

"Well—" Ji You raised an eyebrow and sized him up: "With your luck—still dreaming of snatching a Soul Device?"

Weak Chicken nodded frantically: "Yes! Yes! Yes..."

Ji You bared her teeth: "I'm telling you—dream on!"

Weak Chicken mumbled: "My... my hand speed is quite fast though!"

Ha—

The guy is quite confident.

But!!!

Your purchasing rights are banned by me; let's see if you're still confident!

Ji You thought slyly to herself.

Weak Chicken felt a bad premonition rising and immediately wore a mournful expression: "Queen... please be generous, spare me..."

Ji You: "Hmph!"

Weak Chicken was almost smearing his face with tears and snot: "Mighty Queen... I was thinking, I, Weak Chicken, didn't do anything to wrong you."

At the arena, the idea was to counter-kill her, but it wasn't even carried out, right?

Weak Chicken felt unjustly treated.

Ji You lightly hummed: "If you haven't done anything to wrong me, why are you slipping away?"

Weak Chicken felt even more aggrieved, trembling, he howled: "This—this is because I was scared... scared stiff by your valiant bravery."

Ji You's eyes were cold: "Those with a clear conscience do not fear midnight knocking."

Weak Chicken muttered: "I was thinking you're not a ghost..."

You're scarier than a ghost!

Cough cough...

These words, Weak Chicken didn't dare to say. He gauged Ji You's mood and pleaded softly: "Queen—the rush to purchase is about to start, please be kind, let me down."

The countdown to the sale was nearly over, and Weak Chicken was genuinely anxious, struggling fiercely.

Ji You's face darkened: "Stay put!"

Having said that, she tossed him down!

The moment Weak Chicken hit the ground, he reflexively tried to run, but after his eyes quickly darted around, and he met Ji You's gaze, he immediately begged for mercy: "I really won't run."

Ji You clenched her fist: "Right under my eyelids, if I really let you run, where would I put my face?"

Weak Chicken, shamelessly, chuckled with a grin: "Queen, I won't chat anymore, getting the Soul Device is more important!"

Ji You shot him a sidelong glance.

At this moment—

System: [Time's up!]

Suddenly, countless pink stars cascaded from the sky, each twinkling brightly, but only the two largest, brightest crimson stars represented the Soul Devices.

As the two big red stars fell alongside the ordinary ones, they too slowly descended—countless people leaped up, reaching out to grab them.

Weak chicken also jumped out at the first opportunity, extending his hands, frantically trying to grasp them.

On the scene, millions of people watched as the two large red stars kept falling, appearing right above the heads of all the customers. At this moment, it was all about who had the fastest hands—

Weak chicken's hand already shot out, his heart leaping to his throat, and then—

The big red star he aimed for was already in his hands, but it suddenly slipped away and vanished in the blink of an eye!

Weak chicken: "Fuck!"

"How is that possible!!!"

That's when!

A wave of wails erupted from the crowd, along with two unrestrained, hearty laughs:

"Ha ha ha!!!"

"I, I, I!!!"

"Daddy, I got it!"

Weak chicken followed the laughter with his eyes, and saw that damn Red-haired moron who snatched the Soul Device from his hands, laughing wildly with his hands on his hips, making weak chicken furious inside!

Damn it!

But!!!

Weak chicken sprinted, running like an arrow!

Only, after a few steps, someone picked him up by the collar of his jacket—

Ji You sinisterly said: "I've said it before, if you run away under my watch, where would I put my face?"

Weak chicken forced a stiff smile and turned back: "Queen... I wasn't running, just stretching my muscles."

The two Soul Devices were already snatched up, with Yue Qiguang being successful, and another by a stranger, who truly got it through his swift hands.

Yue Qiguang, that bloke, has somewhat weaker spiritual power and is a bit of a bumbler, so when operating the real Po Jun, he's always not quite on top of things. If there's an outdoor assessment, a little mishap could lead to serious trouble. If his spiritual power could improve by just a bit, coupled with his natural combat ability, the problems would probably not be so great.

Of course, Ji You opened a back door for this guy too, but! Just because he's a penny-pincher doesn't mean he's broke, he still has to pay what the Soul Device is worth on the market, Yue Qiguang the idiot has to cough up the full amount!

Not a penny less!

No!

Not even half a credit point less for Ji You.

All of these, Ji You simply ignored. She glared at weak chicken, coldly saying: "Take me off the blacklist!"

Damn it!

He actually dared to blacklist her!

She is the future ruler standing at the World's Peak. If this gets out, wouldn't she lose face?

Weak chicken's lips wriggled, but under Ji You's threat, he honestly lifted the ban on Rag Queen.

Ji You was satisfied and then ordered: "Send me a friend request."

Weak chicken's fingers trembled, but he still dutifully sent a friend request to Ji You.

Then—

System: [The other party has rejected your friend request and thrown a bag of trash at you!]

Weak chicken: "..."

Ji You said: "Try again!"

Weak chicken, pulling a long face, sent another one.

System: [The other party has rejected your friend request and thrown a rotten egg at you!]

Weak chicken: "..."

Ji You said: "Send it again!"

Weak chicken reluctantly applied once more with a helpless face.

Damn it!

What a petty boss!

Such pettiness, probably smaller than the tip of a needle!

System: [The other party has rejected your friend request and has blacklisted you!]

Weak chicken: "..."

Weak chicken, looking mournful, said: "Quee... Queen...this isn't fun at all... Just tell me straight up what you want."

Ji You: "I want your life!"

Weak chicken: "..."

Chapter 697: Awkward...

Facing the pettiness of the Rag Queen, weak chicken didn't dare to express anger, only hanging his head down, waiting for her to vent enough.

Of course, he also wanted to just log off and slip away. I mean, the world is so big, could she possibly pluck him out from the vast ocean of people?

Impossible.

If worse comes to worst, weak chicken could just abandon this smurf account.

But——

Thinking of the female tyrant's current identity—as one of the only two vendors at the Green Glaze Master Shop.

weak chicken's eyeballs rolled around as he weighed the pros and cons, deciding to suffer in silence. Who knows, maybe he could cozy up to this one and get some insider info, right?

If he could get close enough to buy a Soul Device from the arena, that would be even better.

So, when Dang Jiyou released weak chicken from the blacklist and once again glared at him, demanding that he continue to send her friend requests——

weak chicken, despite appearing helpless, still obediently complied as told.

After weak chicken had sent the request, he peered at Ji You's expression and said softly, "Queen, can we stop throwing rotten eggs, please? How could such a handsome guy like me be pelted with rotten eggs?"

Ji You, with a slanted look at his stooped figure and twinkling little eyes, cursed: "Go look in the mirror, don't sully the reputation of rotten eggs! They are far prettier than you."

weak chicken: "..."

Ji You didn't have the time to joke around with him. This time, she directly accepted weak chicken's friend request and threatened, "Dare to block me again, and you know what will happen."

weak chicken: "..."

weak chicken murmured quietly, "I don't know, wah."

Ji You: "Hmm?"

The Big Chopper in her hand gleamed with a chilling light.

weak chicken shrank his neck and said weakly, "I know..."

Ji You: "Hmph!"

At this point, all the activities in the shop had ended, and the gathered crowd was gradually leaving, with only a small group of people still hopeful, wanting to see if there were any Easter eggs.

However, Cheng Yu and Ji You, the two vendors, quickly clarified that there were no more Soul Devices.

Master?

It was impossible for the Master to appear.

...

The lingering crowd finally left the Qingyou Shop with disappointment and regret.

Ji You held onto weak chicken without letting go, and just as she was about to interrogate him after finishing all the store's business, suddenly, she received a letter from Cheng Yu.

This letter was a complaint letter.

It was specially addressed to the Green Glaze Master by Cheng Yu to complain about Ji You.

Cough cough...

During today's store event, both vendors worked together nicely, one in charge of sales and the other maintaining order. It was all very harmonious, but!!!

The moment the third prize winner came to receive their reward, Ji You, because of her personal grudge with the individual, made the shop's atmosphere quite awkward. Cheng Yu had to forcibly save face to resolve the awkwardness.

...

All in all, Cheng Yu felt that his colleague wasn't very reliable. If these kinds of issues kept happening, what then?

Cheng Yu himself had no objection to the new colleague, but!!! This was about the reputation of the shop, the reputation of Green Glaze Master... He would not allow any other mistakes to occur.

Therefore, it was necessary to write a sincere letter to remind the Master.

After Cheng Yu had sent it to the Master, he made a slight modification to the content of the letter and then forwarded it to Ji You before turning to his somewhat unreliable colleague, saying, "Rag buddy, regarding your issue, I have reported to the Master very straightforwardly, without any exaggeration. I hope you take it as a warning and in the future, consider the shop's and Master's reputation in everything you do and say."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You frowned, not because of Cheng Yu's 'Rag buddy' spicy nickname, but because she actually received her own complaint letter.

Someone complained to her about herself!

Cough cough...

Is she living in a fantasy novel?

Ji You, with her hair all disheveled by the wind, looked oddly bewildered...

For a moment, Cheng Yu was a bit puzzled.

The weak chicken beside him instantly shrank his neck, trying hard to minimize his presence to avoid any misdirected anger.

...

What to do?

Ji You, with a stern face and furrowed brows, thought it over and over, considering that Cheng Yu was the talent she had specifically hired, knowledgeable, quick-witted, full of marketing skills, and wholeheartedly protecting her and the shop. Most importantly, cheap!

Where else could she find such affordable talent?

So, Ji You, with a frowned brow, personally wrote a punishment notice for herself.

The content was roughly that the Green Glaze Master deducted Ji You's sales wages for this time: 1000 credit points.

Ji You handed the punishment notice to Cheng Yu, who cleared his throat and said, "Cough cough... Rag Student, I hope you don't take this to heart, I will give you half of my wages for this time."

Upon hearing this, Ji You felt embarrassed and quickly said, "No, no, no... This is the hard-earned money of big brother Ah Da, how can I take it? Besides, I did indeed pay too little attention to the impact this time."

No matter what, Ji You just wouldn't accept the money.

Joking aside, she had hired teacher Cheng Yu because he was cheap. What if one day he fell from grace and suddenly remembered this...

Not only had she conned him into working for her at a bargain price, but she would also have dipped into his hard-earned money...

Cough cough...

She couldn't afford to lose this cover.

Ji You once again firmed up her resolution.

On one side, finally having persuaded Cheng Yu, who then logged off, Ji You immediately grabbed the weak chicken, trying to slip away.

Weak chicken: "..."

The weak chicken complained bitterly, "Queen, I beg your magnanimity, please let me go."

Ji You hummed, "Did you see that I just had my wages deducted by the Master?"

The weak chicken's pupils shrank, and his head shook like a bobblehead: "No! No! I didn't hear anything! I didn't see anything!"

Ji You: "You saw it."

The weak chicken denied: "No! No, definitely not!"

Ji You: "You saw it!"

The weak chicken understood that he was being forced to admit it. He held his face sadly and was heartbroken: "Yingying~ I did see it, but now I'm blind."

Ji You said with a smile: "I am the future ruler who will stand atop the World's Peak, but now you know a big secret about me."

Pfft!

Having wages deducted, what big secret is that?

She was just being unreasonable!

But! The weak chicken dared not express his anger, only able to say pitifully, "Queen, I'm truly blind, rest assured, I won't talk too much."

Ji You narrowed her eyes: "The living can't keep secrets."

Weak chicken: "..."

Ji You raised her hand, patted the weak chicken's shoulder, and said, "Choose, death? Or life?"

Weak chicken: "..."

Damn it!

So annoying!

How can there be such shameless people in this world?

Catching a glimpse of the weak chicken on the verge of exploding from the corner of her eye, Ji You decided to cash in, and went straight to the point: "I'll ask you one question, and if you answer me honestly, I'll let you go."

The weak chicken blinked: "Please ask."

Ji You inquired: "What is your Spiritual Level? When we were in the arena, how did you manage to use your spiritual power to silently interfere with others?"

Upon hearing this, the weak chicken pursed his lips: "That... that's clearly two questions."

Ji You, clenching her Big Chopper: "Hmm?"

The weak chicken, scared, his shoulders shrank, "Haha... I must have heard wrong, it's one question."

Chapter 698: Preparations

Ji You implied a threat: "Give me an honest answer."

The abilities of a weak chicken intrigued Ji You terribly; she couldn't help but feel envious and wondered if there were specific training methods for it.

Thinking about it, especially during sneak attacks, to fully converge one's spiritual fluctuations without letting any leak out, one could stealthily infiltrate the enemy and launch a counterattack...

Would this ability also work on Star Beasts?

Merely the thought of it made Ji You itch with anticipation, eager to start practicing immediately!

With this question raised, the weak chicken thought it figured it out!

Besides this issue, she's probably grabbed me for no other reason.

The weak chicken hung its head, a flash of coldness across the ugly cheek under the hat brim.

But as it raised its head, its entire face became as sleazy as it could get: "Yingyingying~ Queen~ I... I am really just a weak chicken! My spiritual power is only at A level."

A level?

Ji You frowned, somewhat skeptical.

The weak chicken, wishing it could swear to the heavens, pleaded with a mournful face: "Really, I'm not lying, Yingyingying~ As for how I can silently interfere with spiritual power, that... I... I don't know either."

Ji You puzzled: "You don't know?"

The weak chicken nodded vigorously: "Really! Not even as true as a pearl!"

Ji You asked: "Didn't you seek a professional to check?"

Once the question popped up, remembering something unpleasant, the weak chicken's expression slightly darkened, and an air of cold indifference lingered unseen beneath its eyes.

Lowering its head, it said: "I did, they said it was a natural ability."

The voice of the response was somewhat low...

Hmm?

Natural?

Ji You suddenly realized! She thought about her own Mutated Spiritual Power; the teachers mentioned it was a one in a billion chance, and told Ji You not to divulge it —

So, could it be that the weak chicken was also a naturally born mutant of spiritual power?

Inadvertently, Ji You had peered into the weak chicken's secret.

For a moment, Ji You felt somewhat apologetic; was she being too intrusive?

She...

At the time, she hadn't thought much about it, assuming it was a transmittable Spiritual Power Cultivation Method, which is why she had grabbed the weak chicken for questioning.

Ji You discovered the weak chicken's peculiarity in the arena; although he was cautious when using it to avoid detection, how sharp was Ji You's Spiritual Silk?

"Cough cough..."

Ji You coughed lightly, straightened her face and said: "I'm very sorry, I didn't mean to invade your privacy!"

"Cough cough..."

"Just now, I made you answer a question; your spiritual power is at A level, which I now know."

"You may leave!"

The weak chicken suddenly looked up, shocked: "Queen???"

Ji You, with a stern face, said: "Who you are, where you come from, or what your exact identity is, I don't care to know, and you don't have to tell me in the future."

Even though, even if she pressed for it, it's not possible that she would truly tell her. But the weak chicken was genuinely shocked, it hesitated, mouth agape: "Queen, aren't you curious?"

Ji You glanced at him sideways and spoke earnestly: "Of course I'm curious, but more than curiosity, I'd rather have your ability. But since it's natural, I can't have it, so why should I care?"

She was very straightforward and honest about it.

The weak chicken opened its mouth, wanting to say something.

Ji You waved her hand dismissively as if shooing away a fly, full of disdain: "Okay, okay, I have no interest in you anymore. Just go away now."

The weak chicken hesitated, lifting its foot—

Ji You bared her teeth: "Not leaving? Want to die?"

"Yingyingying~ Goodbye, Queen!" The weak chicken took a leap, shooting out a few meters away—

Ji You raised her hand to her forehead:

Ah!

I don't know if that weak chicken, with his shifty eyes, was just fooling me?

I always feel like in his every ten statements, even the punctuation marks could be deceptive.

Forget it.

Later, I'll ask Teacher Mu and Dr. Luo if there's any similar type of spiritual power cultivation method.

Next.

Ji You opened the backend of the store and checked the traffic and revenue. This event brought in a very impressive number of visitors, and the promotion was very effective; overall, the Qingyou Shop has become quite famous on the Star Network.

Income?

Two soul devices, both low-level peak, didn't break through to intermediate, priced at 4 million credit points.

That makes it a total income of 8 million credit points this time.

Still far from the 500 million target. Mountains and seas apart...

Cough!

Although Teacher Mu and others are not pressing for the debt, Ji You still wants to clear it sooner. Being in debt is quite unpleasant.

million plus! When can I be debt-free and regain my freedom?

...

Ji You shook off these cluttered thoughts and immediately purchased some items on the Star Network.

First, a set of protective clothing, an energy weapon, a set of cold weapons, 10 energy boxes of levels 1-3...no matter where the assessment location is, these basic self-defense weapons and armor should be prepared.

Next, 10 lbs of compressed biscuits made from natural food, another 100 bottles of low-level nutrition, and some drinking water...

Cough cough! Although Ji You utterly despises low-level nutrition, but!!! Who can argue with cheap? Cheap is king!

Cheapness can cover up any flaw.

Stocking up so much is just in case, of course, it's best if they are not needed.

Also, cooking utensils like ladles, bowls, and seasonings like oil, salt, sauce, and vinegar are also prepared, just in case it's about survival in the wild; wouldn't it be perfect to have human-edible items? Anyway, it's better to be safe than sorry.

Furthermore—

Anyway, Ji You utilized every bit of the limited space in his Space Button, leaving no spot empty.

After that.

Ji You finally lay down on the bed with peace of mind and went to sleep.

The next day.

Ji You got up on time and, along with Chu Jiaojiao and others, arrived early at the gathering point.

Mu Jianling had arrived early and was squatting beside a huge black starship, frantically watching a drama.

At this moment, "Ugly Girl's Spring" was airing, and the male and female leads were suffering from misunderstandings due to the malicious intervention of the evil supporting female character—

In short, the plot was really frustrating and annoying!

Watching the infuriating plot, Mu Jianling fiercely slapped her thigh and cursed: "Are they stupid? Can't even see through such a simple trap! Idiots! All idiots!"

Students: "..."

Facing a Teacher Mu who was too engrossed in the drama, the students didn't dare to make a sound.

When the gathering time arrived, Mu Jianling switched off the drama, her face looking irritable as she scanned around: "Have all the idiots arrived?"

Students: "..."

Who's the idiot?

Teacher, you can't just take out your anger from some nonsensical melodrama on innocent students.

The students all had speechless expressions, and no one spoke since no one wanted to admit they were idiots.

"No idiots?" Mu Jianling raised an eyebrow, suddenly said: "4444, Ji You, present? Roll call!"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You, steeling himself, loudly responded: "Present!"

Mu Jianling smiled: "There, you're here."

Ji You: "..."

Chapter 699: Captain Ji

Surrounded by a faint ripple of laughter...

Ji You, with her scalp tingling, shouted, "Teacher! I suspect you have something against me! Why pick on me first when there are so many people?"

Without missing a beat and staring deeply at Ji You, Mu Jianling casually said, "Because you have the largest forehead."

Ji You: "..."

Ignoring Ji You's constipated expression, Mu Jianling twisted the knife further, "Your forehead is so big that it's reflecting light from afar, blinding!"

Ji You: "..."

Subconsciously, Ji You raised her hand to touch her forehead: No... it's not big!

It's a pretty standard forehead.

This is—

A personal attack!

A barefaced personal attack!

Around her, a bunch of students shrugged their shoulders, clearly all trying hard to suppress their laughter, especially the likes of Yue Qiguang and others...

Ji You, with a face full of black lines, loudly accused, "Teacher, if you keep attacking me personally, I really will complain to the school about you!"

Upon hearing this, Mu Jianling glanced at her sideways indifferently and said, "Feel free."

Ji You: "..."

Immediately after, Mu Jianling looked up, sweeping her gaze over the others and ordered, "Idiots, now report in order based on your student numbers!"

The students: "..."

Reluctant as they were, the highly disciplined students still reported in one by one, loudly and in the order of their student numbers.

After everyone had reported, Mu Jianling announced, "For this term's final exams, activities will be carried out in groups of 10. Now, I will announce the group leaders."

Groups of 10 people?

Ji You was slightly surprised; she thought the exam was going to be individual, not that they would have to group up and take it together.

The other students, clearly surprised by Teacher Mu Jianling's words, also showed expressions of astonishment.

Then, each student received information about their group members.

Mu Jianling continued, "Group one, Vice Leader—Penny. Leader—Yu Yi."

The strength of the first group of students was above average, with neither standouts nor weaklings among its members.

Is this?

Gathering students of similar strength together to compete for rankings?

Or what?

Either way, the students couldn't guess Mu Teacher's intentions, so they stopped guessing and waited for further announcements.

Ji You glanced at her own group members: Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan, Chu Jiaojiao, Louise Carter, Lance Yuri, Xuzhou, Zhang Ye, plus Ji You, making exactly 10 people.

This—

Well, how to put it? The composition of her group was somewhat unusual. Ji You aside, the abilities of Xuzhou and Zhang Ye weren't top-notch, but they were definitely not weak either, arguably among the upper echelons of the 131st Combat Department students.

The others? Either they had S-level spiritual power or an S-level physique.

So, had this group concentrated the strongest combat powers of this cohort?

While Ji You was puzzled, suddenly, Teacher Mu Jianling's voice sounded overhead:

"Group 44, Vice Leader—Shen Changqing."

Hmm?

Shen Changqing?

About this appointment, there wasn't much reaction from everyone—except that—shouldn't he be the leader?

It's well known that Shen Changqing is the captain of the online team competition, and it's usually Shen Changqing, with his comparably stable character, who manages to organize such uninhibited teammates like Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang, and Sheng Qingyan.

Now he was the vice-captain, but who would be the captain?

Below, the students quietly murmured:

"Could it be Chu Jiaojiao? In terms of combat power, she's the strongest."

"It could also be Yue Qiyuan."

"Louise! I bet it's Louise! His organizational skills are decent!"

"Why can't it be Yue Qiguang?"

"..."

The team members started whispering among themselves, especially Chu Jiaojiao. Upon hearing Yue Qiguang being mentioned, she immediately clenched her fists and said, "It better not be that idiot Yue Qiguang, my heart can't take it."

Yue Qiguang's forehead bulged with veins: "Chu Jiaojiao! You wanna die? I'll make it happen!"

Chu Jiaojiao opened her mouth: "Come on! I'll take you down first, to spare the team from suffering!"

Seeing Chu Jiaojiao and her dimwit brother ready to start brawling, Yue Qiyuan sighed deeply, "Can't you guys be quiet for once?"

The two ignored him, but Sheng Qingyan was getting agitated, stamping her feet forcefully, "It better not be this Little Cutie here, I don't want to be some darn captain, what's wrong with just skating by in life..."

Sheng Qingyan's remark, like a bucket of cold water poured over their heads, startled Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang, and others to lower their fists. Close by, Xuzhou, Zhang Ye, Lou, Lance, and a few others felt a chill wash over them:

[Oh no, it's the feeling of an uncertain future!]

At this moment, Ji You confidently stated, "You foolish mortals, stop worrying needlessly! The captain will definitely be me, Ji You!"

The others: "..."

[Oh no! It's the feeling of being utterly chilled to the core!]

Amidst the discussions of his friends, and upon hearing Teacher Mu's announcement, Shen Changqing was the only one who remained calm, with a serene expression and dark eyes just waiting for Teacher Mu's next appointment.

Mu Jianling didn't care about the chatter below, and continued, she loudly declared: "Group 44, Captain—"

Who could it be?

Everyone's hearts were in their throats—

"Ji You!"

Boom—

Could it be number 4444?

Among a team of exceptionally talented students with outstanding abilities, the one leading the team as captain turned out to be number 4444—Ji You, a talentless loser?

Keep in mind, when she first enrolled, she was a Double E!

Double E!

This is fantastical.

For a moment, the students all opened their mouths in surprise, this result was truly unexpected.

However—

I ask, who else could manage the rocket-like promotion from Double E to Double B in just a single term?

Moreover, this guy's greatest strength isn't power, it's her nimble Reflexes, and what's even stronger is!!!—her thick skin!

That's right!

She has invincibly thick skin!

Sure enough—

Upon hearing the appointment, Ji You burst into laughter with hands on her hips, "Hahaha..."

"Mere mortals, pick up your jaws!"

"I told you! Who else if not me?"

The others: "..."

Question: really want to beat her up, what to do?

Ji You stepped forward with a smug look on her face, taking the appointment for captain, and even said to Teacher Mu Jianling with a cheeky grin, "Teacher, you truly have a discerning eye!"

Rest assured, I will lead our group well and strive for first place!"

Mu Jianling looked at Ji You, her face devoid of expression but slowly said, "The captain is responsible for all team affairs, and if any problems arise, the captain bears full responsibility."

Ji You: "..."

Despite feeling a bit gloomy, Ji You still couldn't help but smirk and said, "Of course! As the captain, I should shoulder the responsibility! It's mandatory."

Mu Jianling nodded indifferently: "Alright. Go back and stand in your place."

Ji You immediately went back to her team; now standing in front of the team, she faced Yue Qiguang, Sheng Qingyan, and others' complicated expressions. Ji You chuckled, boasting, "Don't worry! From now on, Captain Ji's got your backs!"

Chapter 700: Scumbag! Pay Me Back!

This group of the strongest students from this session is led by Captain Ji You, and Vice-Captain Shen Changqing.

Regarding this, the students were a bit surprised at first but, upon a bit of thought, didn't find it too unexpected.

Number 4444, Ji You, having the strength to make it into the top three of the Alliance's online competition, is proof enough of her capabilities.

No one dared to really underestimate her.

Even the members of Ji You's group, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiyuan, Xuzhou... even Shen Changqing, weren't surprised by this appointment and accepted it quickly.

Next.

Mu Jianling continued arranging the appointments of team captains and vice-captains, seemingly in no rush to depart.

Roughly half an hour later, after all appointments had been distributed, Mu Jianling finally said, "Now, board the Starship in the order of your groups!"

This time, the mode of transport for taking the students to their assessment was not a spaceship; it was a Starship!

Without a doubt, this was an extremely generous gesture.

This also made the students very excited, albeit a bit nervous:

Could it be—

Are we really going off to war?

The students boarded the Starship in a strict and orderly manner.

This was the second time Ji You boarded a Starship; the first time was at Taoyuan Space Station. Though it was no longer a novelty, Ji You still felt her heart quiver with excitement as she looked at the huge craft before her!

The entire outer shell of the Starship was pitch-black, its body shaped like a fish's tail with sleek lines, and the boarding hatch was situated where the fish's lips would be...

Of course, compared to the one at Taoyuan Space Station, the school's Starship didn't measure up. Not to mention other factors, just in terms of size, Ji You estimated it to be about six times smaller than the one at Taoyuan Space Station, and its other features were likely far inferior as well.

But!!! This Starship still inspired awe.

After Ji You boarded, she found the spot for her group, and the team members took their seats in turn.

The Starship's interior was spacious, divided into several large areas, with the students currently allowed to move around in the Living Area and the Training Area.

Within the Living Area, there were also rest zones, a dining hall, and more.

After all students from the 131st session had boarded, the Starship didn't immediately take off.

After a short wait, the next batch of students began to board in an organized fashion led by a teacher. Seeing these students, the entire 131st session was taken aback:

Eh?

The senior students from the 130th session's Combat Department?

Second Years?

They're participating in the assessment with our session? To the same destination?

Everyone had questions in their minds, however, the senior students from the 130th session, one by one, wore serious expressions and showed no inclination to chat with their juniors, leaving the group itching with curiosity, wishing they could immediately grab someone to ask.

Ji You was also extremely curious, stretching her neck as far as she could to look over at the seniors—

The Starship had a vast space, and the students from the 130th session were not in the same Living Area as those from the 131st. After they boarded, they went directly to the second Living Area.

Unable to find anyone to ask, Ji You and her group of students could only hold back their curiosity and persevere.

Suddenly—

A slender hand popped up, reaching out and mussing Ji You's hair.

Ji You: "???"

Ji You almost jumped up, turning her head with her eyes wide, only to meet Senior He Bi's scumbag face.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's face was the picture of annoyance, while He Bi's lips curled into a smirk, his hand not letting go and even rubbing with more force, thoroughly messing up Ji You's hair!

Annoyed, Ji You asked: "Senior He Bi, are you having fun?"

He Bi: "Very fun!"

With that, he ruffled her hair again, leaving Ji You's hair in complete disarray.

Ji You: "..."

He Bi: "Didn't expect this head of yours to be quite hard." Saying this, he raised his hand and knocked on her head, seriously analyzing: "Hmm—feels almost like a big watermelon, knock on it, and it goes thud thud."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You gritted her teeth, ominously drawing out her words: "Senior He Bi, do you want to try how it feels to have a brain that snaps and crackles?"

She clenched her fists, eyes fierce and cold—

He Bi laughed heartily and withdrew his hand, "Don't want to, don't want to."

"Let's go."

"Let's go."

Thought you could tease me and then just run away?

In your dreams!

Ji You leaped up and shouted, "Scumbag! Where do you think you're running off to!"

He Bi: "..."

Her shout was surprisingly loud, attracting countless gazes in an instant.

He Bi's mouth twitched as he took Ji You's punch head-on, effortlessly deflecting all of her attacks with a gentle push, and with a helpless expression explained to the curious onlookers, "Hey—stop staring! I'm really not a scumbag."

Really? The students didn't believe him—

He Bi with a face full of helplessness: "Really."

At that moment, Ji You who had been pushed a few meters away charged back, bellowing: "Scumbag! Pay back the money!"

The students suddenly realized: So that's it! Not a heartbreaker, but a cheater of money!

He Bi: "..."

He Bi was downcast, somewhat regretting why he messed with this little shorty.

This little shorty, she's a little crazy, always so good at turning the tables on someone.

He Bi raised his hand and again deflected Ji You's onslaught.

Ji You felt slightly frustrated.

During this time, Ji You had been furiously building her body, originally thinking she had become very strong, but facing Senior He Bi, she was so easily overpowered, even though there's only a one-year difference between them.

Why is the gap so large?

He Bi watched as the little shorty Ji You attacked again and after stopping her, hurriedly said: "Let's stop this, no more playing."

Ji You pouted and asked: "Senior He Bi, are you also participating in the final exams?"

There are estimated to be about 300 students in this 130th batch. As far as Ji You knew, there were about 1,000 people in the second-year Combat Department alone; couldn't it be that only 300 came? Isn't that a bit few?

Upon hearing this, He Bi shook his head with a smile, saying, "Can't tell, can't tell."

Ji You: "..."

Just as Ji You was about to speak—

He Bi raised his hand and shushed her: "Don't ask, don't ask."

Ji You waved her hand: "Get lost! Hurry up and scram!"

He Bi walked towards another door with a smile.

Ji You muttered, "He really left. What's this about? Sneaky and mysterious."

Beside her.

Shen Changqing said softly, "If I'm not mistaken, their batch of students is going straight to the front lines."

Huh?

A group of people opened their mouths in surprise, Yue Qiguang staring wide-eyed: "Are we not going to the front lines?"

Without speaking, Ji You directly rolled her eyes at Yue Qiguang: "You, a weak chicken who took 10 tries just to pass the Basic Mecha Driver's License, want to go to the front lines? Dream on, you're just fodder!"

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Damn it!

Curse it!

Brought up that shameful past again, Yue Qiguang, who had used up all his points and even went into the negative after taking 10 attempts to pass, had this dark spot that he couldn't erase.

And—he could never have imagined, not in a million years, that he, a genius with an S-class physique, would one day be mocked by the once Double E, No. 4444!

The shame!

Ignoring No. 4444, Yue Qiguang sat stewing in silent indignation, pacing himself to listen to Shen Changqing's explanation.

Shen Changqing said, "Student Ji You is right, the location for our final exams this time is definitely not going to be in the front line combat zone."