

## Scavengers 761

Chapter 761: Who Spent the Money?

Ji You touched her shriveled stomach and realized that although there seemed to be a pile of free stuff, it wasn't filling at all. After eating, it just felt like she was giving her stomach a base layer, and her stomach could definitely fit a lot more!

More!

More!

...

Both her stomach and mouth were clamoring wildly, demanding food! Food! Food...

Ji You, with a stern face, clenched her fists tightly:

Damn it!

These unscrupulous and black-hearted merchants really have endless tricks up their sleeves, impossible to guard against!

Beside her, Chu Jiaojiao, seeing the unpredictable expressions on Ji You's face, hesitated but still spoke on behalf of everyone, "Classmate Ji You, there's 2 hours and 3 minutes left before the spaceship's resupply is completed. To go or not to go to Haolai restaurant?"

"Go!" Ji You gritted her teeth, snarling, "It's just about tricking my money, right?" At this point, Ji You suddenly paused, and at the same time, a sinister smile spread across her face. Just when everyone thought she was going to utter some bold statement, she abruptly slapped the table, "I'll let them trick me!"

Chu Jiaojiao: "..."

Others: "..."

Silence.

A bizarre silence fell over the scene, then Sheng Qingyan suddenly stood up, covering the corner of his mouth, breaking the silence with, "What is life if not eating, drinking, and having fun, right?"

Saying this, he urged, "Let's go... let's go... off to enjoy delicious food."

He then took the lead towards Haolai, not far away.

The others didn't move at first; while they were all stingy, it was just regular stinginess. But Ji You, Compartment 4444, was a real miser, the cream of the crop among misers!

Was she really willing to spend money on a big meal?

How odd.

No one else moved, but Ji You couldn't wait anymore. She immediately followed Sheng Qingyan's lead, looking back and urging the others, "What are you standing around for? Let's go!"

Hearing this, Chu Jiaojiao and the others felt a leap of joy in their hearts, a trace of happiness showing on their faces as they quickly followed Ji You and Sheng Qingyan.

Stepping out of the resting room, they faced the commercial street. Kite Space Station wasn't big, but the commercial street was full of dazzling shops, with countless varieties, and all quite bustling.

Despite this, Haolai was still the most eye-catching restaurant on the street, mainly due to its flamboyant and gigantic sign. Moreover, right by the entrance, there was a huge holographic portrait of its celebrity endorser.

This celebrity endorser was—

[Alliance Flower Ye Lu!]

Yes, it was the actress who played the mistress in "Ex-wife's Temptation" and starred in "Ugly Girl's Spring", Ye Lu.

Ye Lu's large holographic portrait stood at the entrance, greeting each customer with a smile, saying, "Welcome to 'Haolai', come back again if you enjoy it."

After just two views, this wickedly catchy advertising slogan had already stuck in Ji You's mind.

So, this wave of advertising was undoubtedly very successful.

As the group was about to step into the restaurant, Xuzhou, Lou, and Lance couldn't help but stop and cast a few glances at the sweetly smiling 'Ye Lu' beside them.

Lance remarked, "Ye Lu is really beautiful."

Lou said, "Yeah! Beautiful from every angle."

Although Xuzhou also found girls who looked like Ye Lu attractive, he kept quiet, as he was rather reserved and generally did not like to express his preferences publicly.

Then, after staring at 'Ye Lu' once more, Xuzhou looked up and accidentally caught Ji You's eyes—

Xuzhou: "..."

Xuzhou unexpectedly flushed.

After Ji You moved her gaze away from a line of strangers, she immediately noticed Xuzhou's oddity, and couldn't help teasing him: "Little Zhouzhou, so you like this type of girl, huh?"

Xuzhou: "..."

Xuzhou's face turned even redder.

After a moment of silence, Xuzhou, keeping a straight face, said seriously: "This is what a normal girl should be like."

To his surprise, this statement actually drew agreement from Yue Qiyuan, Yue Qiguang, Lou, Lance, Zhang Ye, and the rest, especially Yue Qiguang, who straightforwardly blurted out: "Exactly! This is what a normal girl should be like! Those in our school, they're not even like girls, they're not even like boys!"

After speaking, Yue Qiguang deliberately glanced at Ji You and Chu Jiaojiao.

Both Ji You and Chu Jiaojiao showed their teeth angrily, with Chu Jiaojiao saying, "My fists have been itching lately..."

Ji You: "Wanna beat up a dummy?"

Chu Jiaojiao: "Sure!"

Yue Qiguang: "..."

While they were talking, Ji You and the others were finally led by the welcoming robot to an empty dining table.

Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang, and others sat down, and without waiting for the robot to introduce the menu, Ji You looked at Chu Jiaojiao and the others and said, "Let me clarify first, we must control our spending! My standard is that I'm only willing to spend 500 credit points."

Everyone: "..."

credit points—the strawberry filled rolls they just had were priced at 560 credit points each, meaning the money she mentioned couldn't even afford the complimentary desserts.

Yue Qiyuan commented in a low voice: "Talk big about letting the shop swindle money! Thought you were so rich!"

Ji You kept a straight face, replying, "Isn't 500 credit points money? Isn't it still being swindled if it's just 500 credit points?"

"Cough cough..." Ji You said to the robot, "Excuse me, I'll have a 500ml milk tea, please! Thank you."

She had looked at the menu earlier—milk tea was on sale, and after the discount, 500ml exactly cost 500 credit points.

That's right, Ji You planned to fill her stomach with milk tea so she wouldn't spend too many credit points.

Just then, a line of people walked into the shop and passed by Ji You's table. Ji You looked up casually, glanced at them, and then redirected her gaze. The six people in this group, five of whom were very burly, had just one particularly slender person. Coincidentally, these six were also the strangers Ji You had seen unintentionally before entering the shop.

What aroused Ji You's curiosity and observation was not the discordant sight of the five strong men with a single weakling among them. It was—

The strong murderous aura emanating from these people!

Murderous aura is a vague concept, and Ji You wasn't sure if describing it as such was accurate, but!!!

Upon encountering them, these six people made Ji You feel uncomfortable, and the six Spiritual Silks in her Spirit Space involuntarily stood up straight, tensing their metaphorical scalps.

Hmm?

What's happening?

Ji You couldn't understand the reason, so she pretended to look nonchalantly at the group before suppressing her curiosity, and also firmly restraining her own Spiritual Silks from probing into the strangers' business.

Then.

The six individuals were led by the welcoming robot into a private room, after which they were completely out of sight from everyone else.

Ji You drank her milk tea with a normal expression on her face.

And then.

And then she unconsciously forgot about the strict rule she set for herself to only spend 500 credit points.

When it came time to settle the bill, Ji You stared incredulously at the 50,239 credit points shown on her personal invoice and asked Chu Jiaojiao and the others, "Who? Which one of you spent money on my behalf?"

Chapter 762: Mutual Aid

"Who? Which one of you spent my money?" Ji You asked with wide eyes.

"No." Chu Jiaojiao and the others shook their heads in unison, denying it.

Ji You didn't believe it, and she firmly said, "Impossible! It must be one of you who secretly spent my money!" How could she spend so much just to satisfy her cravings?

Absolutely impossible.

Seeing Ji You about to pin the blame, Yue Qiguang warned, "4444 Don't talk nonsense!"

Yue Qiyuan said, "Don't wrongly accuse people!"

Chu Jiaojiao smiled sheepishly, "Ji You, although you're good-looking, I don't have any money."

Shen Changqing didn't say a word, showing his usual composure. Moreover, he was still slowly eating desserts with his chopsticks: milk pudding, crispy fried milk, donuts, snow skin cakes, osmanthus cakes...

Perhaps it's better to say that Shen Changqing, rather than being very composed and calm, was simply immersed in the delicious food, and had no time to care about what Ji You was saying.

In stark contrast to Shen Changqing's love for sweets was Sheng Qingyan!

Little Cutie, he doesn't like sweets much, he loves spicy food!

Spicy chicken, boiled pork slices, Mao blood tofu, chopped pepper fish head, spicy shrimp, spicy crab...

Sheng Qingyan ate until his mouth was oily, his face was red, and his beautifully curved, appropriately thick lips were even more seductively red...

Sheng Qingyan simply ignored Ji You's complaints; he didn't even raise his head, just kept eating...

There was also the low-key Xuzhou; Xuzhou preferred beef, ordered dozens of beef dishes, and even packed several kilograms of beef jerky. While Ji You spoke, Xuzhou chewed on beef jerky and looked up at Ji You, but his eyes were soulless—his soul had gone into the beef jerky.

Zhang Ye was happily gnawing on a chicken!

Lance and Lou liked to drink, both holding beer mugs, taking turns gulping.

...

Watching these plastic teammates feasting, Ji You couldn't help but swallow her saliva:

Damn!

Why am I broke?

Why am I still living so frugally, and yet life is still so tight?

Ji You glared and said, "I don't care! It was you who spent millions for me."

Yue Qiyuan rolled his eyes, gestured towards a nearby service robot, and said, "Waiter, could you please replay the silly way she was eating food just now, right in front of her."

Ji You: "..."

Service Robot: "Sir, are you sure?"

Yue Qiyuan nodded and said, "Play it, so she won't deny the bill."

Hearing about denying the bill, the service robot's electronic eyes suddenly flashed, and it immediately locked onto Ji You.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You cursed: "Denying a ghost!"

"Let's settle the bill!" Ji You gritted her teeth and said, "And—pack 100 kilograms of beef jerky for me!"

Everyone: "..."

Is this still the stingy ghost Ji You?

kilograms!!!

credit points per kilogram!

kilograms is 500000 credit points!

After hearing it all, the service robot tilted its head: "Guest, are you sure you want to buy so much?"

"Sure!"

After Ji You finished, she suddenly cleared her throat, "Cough cough... uh, are there any discounts or free gifts available?"

The service robot smiled and said, "Beef jerky is not included in our discount offer, but since you are buying so much at once, we can give you 10 free desserts. You can choose any 10 desserts."

"Cough cough..." Ji You blinked and said, "Could you exchange those 10 desserts for an equivalent amount of Natural Rice?"

The robot: "???"

Ji You put on a serious face and explained, "My companions and I are on a long journey, and we're running a bit low on food, so I'm planning to stock up here."

After hearing this, the server immediately said, "Okay, guest, I will prepare it for you right away."

When the others heard Ji You's words, they immediately understood her intention!

Lou bluntly said, "Ji You, are you trying to do shady business again?"

"Cough!" Ji You straightened her face and said seriously, "Mutual benefit and support, how can that be called business?"

Lou asked innocently, "Then what is it called?"

Ji You stated solemnly, "It's called helping!"

Lou: "..."

Everyone else: "..."

Yue Qiguang smirked and said, "Only fools would listen to her nonsense."

Ignoring Yue Qiguang, Ji You calmly, very calmly stretched out her arm, pinched a piece of rose cake, and put it in her mouth.

Shen Changqing: "..."

Shen Changqing quietly stretched out his elbow to protect his own dessert.

Then—

Ji You naturally took out a wine glass, poured herself a beer, and glugged it down.

After finishing, she burped contentedly and remarked, "This taste is nice! Lance, you have good taste."

Lance, upon hearing this, not only wasn't annoyed but was very happy and said, "Do you think so too, Ji You? I told you this flavor is good! Lou kept saying that his choice was better."

Hearing this, Lou, eager to argue, listened as Ji You chuckled, "Oh—I haven't tried Lou's, so I can't comment, but yours is truly good."

Lou immediately poured Ji You a full glass of beer and said, "Try this! This one is authentic wheat-brewed beer! The flavor is definitely better than what that guy Lance has!"

Ji You took the glass with restraint, took a sip, and under Lou's expectant eyes, Ji You said, "It's a tie! Um—maybe your drink is a bit stronger, tastes richer. Lance's is a bit too sweet, like fruit wine, really incomparable since it's a matter of personal preference."

Lou clapped his hands, "See! I knew my taste couldn't be poor!"

Lance said, "Mine isn't poor either."

Continuing.

Ji You picked up her chopsticks and tried to fish out a big shrimp from Sheng Qingyan's bowl, but before she could stretch them out, Sheng Qingyan snapped her chopsticks back:

"Stop right there! Poor dead, I don't need your taste testing." Sheng Qingyan's face showed disgust as she tackled the person who was mooching food and drinks with such audacity, not knowing whose face she borrowed.

Ji You cleared her throat, put down her chopsticks, and said, "There are only 30 minutes left, not much time for you guys to feast. May I ask if anyone needs help finishing their food?"

Everyone in unison said, "No need!"

Ji You: "Cough cough... You people, I'm really just being kind-hearted!"

"We really don't need it!" Everyone guarded their food even more tightly.

Next, Ji You stared longingly at others eating and drinking, then, her purchased 100 pounds of beef jerky and the gifted 20 pounds of Natural Rice were delivered by the service robot, and Ji You, with a pained expression, paid for them.

Once the credit points were confirmed to have been transferred accurately, the robot displayed a reassuring human-like smile and said, "Enjoy your meal."

Time ticked away.

After Shen Changqing and others finally had their fill, Ji You was about to announce it was time to depart when she saw Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, Lou, Lance, Xuzhou...

Every one of them twitched their face as they paid the bill.

Yue Qiguang said, "4444, did you secretly spend our money?"

Ji You: "..."

Chapter 763: Lay Low!

Ji You's mouth twitched: "Nonsense!"

Yue Qiyuan asked, "So where did our money go?"

Ji You cursed, "Waiter, someone's trying to dine and dash here!"

Yue Qiyuan: "..."

Yue Qiyuan loudly said, "Check, please!"

The waiter hurried over.

Yue Qiyuan grudgingly settled his own tab, and to show his innocence, as well as to flaunt his generosity, he also transferred an additional 100 credit points to the service robot, saying, "Here's your tip!"

The robot responded, "Thank you."

Just then, a group of people emerged from a private room on the second floor; the heavy steps resonated thunderously on the all-wood staircase.

Many guests couldn't help but lift their heads, curiously looking over.

Ji You and the others followed suit, lifting their heads to peer over—

Ji You pursed her lips:

—It was the same group of six people as before.

The group was clearly full and satisfied, and as they descended the stairs, it was apparent that many of them had rounded bellies.

As before, the thinnest person was surrounded and protected in the middle by five burly individuals.

By the looks of it, it seemed as if the frail person was the center of attention.

Ji You tilted her head: [Could it be that the frail one is their leader?]

That was unexpected.

Not just Ji You, other patrons in the establishment seemed to think the same.

Ji You couldn't resist paying close attention to the thin man, when suddenly, the man to the left of the slender man looked over at Ji You, with an ambiguous smile in his gaze.

Ji You's heart skipped a beat, and she immediately hunched her shoulders, showing a timid expression.

Good...

Such sharp spiritual power!

These people must be very strong!

Keep in mind that Ji You's own spiritual power was mutated, and each of her six Spiritual Silk threads had their own consciousness. Usually, they were lazy and shirked their duties, but when they pretended to be scared, it made her seem especially weak.

Just now, she instructed Fourth to investigate the frail man in the middle, but Fourth's slight motion was immediately noticed!

Fourth was the most cunning among all of Ji You's Spiritual Silk, masterful in disguise!

Yet...

With these thoughts, Ji You's expression grew even more frightened. She was short and frail, with a fair face and clear eyes; she didn't need any acting skill to appear scared.

While feeling this way, she still lifted her foot and kicked Sheng Qingyan, who was beside her under the table.

Sheng Qingyan covered her mouth, also showing a timely scared expression, saying, "It's... it's suddenly a bit cold, isn't it?"

Seeing the frightened expressions of Ji You and Sheng Qingyan, the tall and brawny man withdrew his gaze, and the group quickly left the 'Haolai' restaurant.

Only after this group had disappeared did the lively atmosphere in the restaurant's hall return.

Yue Qiguang asked nonchalantly, "Who were those guys just now?"

Lou opened his mouth, about to speak.

Ji You immediately raised her hand and said, "Let's not talk about it, hurry up and finish the rest of the food. We leave in 3 minutes."

Upon hearing her, the others stopped discussing, as they were all quite familiar with each other and understood Ji You's unspoken directive.

And then.

Ji You did not move an inch but instead cocked her ear, listening intently to the discussions of others. Just like Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao and the rest also calmed their minds, eavesdropping on the surrounding noises:

"What was the deal with those people just now?"

"Seems like they're Free Mercenaries!"

"That's right! Given their murderous aura, each of them must have killed plenty of Star Beasts!"

Hearing that they were Free Mercenaries and all quite strong, the others couldn't help but show interest. Someone asked, "Does anyone here know them?"

Most who come to Kite Space Station are just passing through, but many travel this route regularly, making frequent stops at the Space Station.

Immediately, a middle-aged man wearing a duckbill cap—though it did not conceal his shiny balding head—spoke up, "I've seen these few several times; they're indeed Free Mercenaries. Not sure about the specifics, but this group is always very proud and never mingles with others. However..."

The balding man was somewhat puzzled and said, "However, there used to be only five of them. That skinny man in the middle, this is the first time I've seen him! Looks like the one in the middle is the leader of these Free Mercenaries."

Once one person voiced out, others quickly agreed, saying, "I've seen them twice as well, and never observed the person in the middle."

"Judging by how carefully those five people treat the one in the middle, it does seem like he is their leader indeed."

Immediately, someone exclaimed, "That person in the middle is so frail and feeble, with not the slightest hint of presence, is he really the boss of these Free Mercenaries?"

"Don't judge a book by its cover, don't you know?"

"A real master of spiritual power is fully capable of controlling their own spiritual fluctuations; his lack of presence precisely illustrates his strength."

...

Is that really the case? Ji You tilted her head, pondering with slight doubt...

In fact, seeing the group huddled around the weak-looking man, as if protecting something precious, Ji You felt more inclined to believe that the man was a 'hostage'.

But!!!

The man's subsequent actions did not quite fit the bill, as when he noticed Ji You deliberately prying, a burly man next to the skinny man seemed ready to pick a quarrel with Ji You. However, after the weak man saw how ashamed and scared Ji You appeared, he said something that caused the burly man to abandon his plan.

If he could persuade the burly man to back off, that certainly didn't seem like a 'hostage'.

Strange!

Way too strange!

Ji You frowned, absolutely baffled by the current situation. She couldn't help but sigh inwardly: indeed, she still had too little experience! Always nesting in school really wasn't enough.

In the future, she should seek opportunities to go out more.

Thinking thus, the 3 minutes passed quickly, Ji You stood up and said decisively, "Let's go!"

In the team, Yue Qiguang, Lou, and Lance were still engrossed in the juicy gossip and a bit reluctant to leave, but they still stood up and followed Ji You.

The spaceship was resupplied.

Everyone stepped onto the spaceship, took their respective seats, and promptly started the spacecraft.

Just as Ji You and their small spaceship began to slowly break through Kite Space Station's artificial atmosphere, suddenly, a dark, beetle-shaped spaceship darted out from the side, hurtling straight towards Ji You and their ship!

Sheng Qingyan and Xuzhou, who were in charge of piloting, changed their expressions and immediately took evasive action.

second.

If not for Sheng Qingyan and Xuzhou's quick reaction and timely handling, the Beetle spaceship would have almost collided with theirs!

Then—

This troubling Beetle caused the fiasco and, without a single word of apology, took off.

Yue Qiguang clenched his fist: "Damn! So arrogant! Daddy can't take it; if those idiots didn't run, Daddy would have definitely given them a good thrashing!"

The rest had indignation flickering across their faces, as they knew this was their first mission, and the spaceship was laden with a massive amount of food intended for delivery to the front lines to supply the warriors!

If something had happened...

Thinking of this, everyone showed an eagerness to fight, but Ji You cursed, "What are you doing? Just drop it! These people—"

"They're the Free Mercenaries from before!"

Lack sufficient strength, yet refuse to be cautious; are they seeking death?

Chapter 764: En Route

Hearing Ji You's words, Yue Qiguang felt a bit uncomfortable, his mouth twitching as he tried to cover up his embarrassment and said, "Dad certainly knows that he can't beat others right now, but Dad's style has always been to not just survive, but to face the difficulties head-on!"

"Oh~" Ji You rolled his eyes, "You want to become the interstellar version of a buzz-cut man, huh?"

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Ji You: "Currently, within the Eight Star Systems of human society, there are only 88 buzz-cut men, a highly endangered species. So, are you planning to make yourself a protected animal?"

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Yue Qiguang, with a darkened face, said: "Dad's not an animal."

"Got it." Ji You nodded, "You're a beast of burden."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Beside him, Yue Qiguang softly admonished his foolish older brother: "That's enough! Stop humiliating yourself."

Yue Qiguang was quite frustrated and muttered: "Dad didn't plan on fighting with that group of Free Mercenaries right now! I just want to remember their faces, so the next time we bump into each other, I'll take them down one punch at a time!"

After saying this, Yue Qiguang thought he would provoke Ji You's mockery again, but unexpectedly—

Ji You suddenly clenched his fist and said: "That's the spirit! I've memorized their faces. Next time, let's take them down together!"

Yue Qiguang: "..."

For a moment, he wasn't quite adapted to the style of No. 4444.

Beside them.

Shen Changqing looked at the search results on the Light Computer, paused, and said: "Unfortunately, I couldn't find any information on this group of Free Mercenaries."

"Hmm?" Ji You asked: "Not a single piece of information?"

Shen Changqing nodded: "Yes."

Chu Jiaojiao stroked her chin and said, "There are only 2 possibilities for this situation. One, they are not registered Free Mercenaries within the Alliance. Two, their information was intentionally hidden."

Hearing this, everyone fell a bit silent.

After a while, Ji You said: "Then let's give up the investigation. I asked you guys to look for them just because they seemed a bit odd, and I felt a tinge of uneasiness inside."

Upon hearing this, Shen Changqing said in a quiet voice: "I also have a similar feeling."

Yue Qiyuan spoke in a grave tone: "Me too."

Ji You, Yue Qiyuan, and Shen Changqing turned towards the others; Chu Jiaojiao immediately shook her head.

Yue Qiguang, Lou, Xuzhou, Lance, Zhang Ye, all shook their heads in turn.

Ji You frowned and asked the only one who hadn't moved, Sheng Qingyan: "Spicy Eye, what about you?"

Sheng Qingyan furrowed his brow, his tone unusually serious, and said: "I think the skinny man in the middle is a bit weird."

"As to the specifics of what's weird, I can't quite put my finger on it." As he spoke, Sheng Qingyan suddenly covered his mouth, yawned, and his tone started to become frivolous again: "Why bother thinking so much, eh? We might not even run into these folks again in the future."

Hmm?

So, those who can sense something off about these people are those with high Spiritual Levels? Those who are more perceptive? Like himself, Yue Qiyuan, Shen Changqing, and Sheng Qingyan.

Ji You shelved his thoughts, nodded in agreement with Sheng Qingyan, and said: "You have a point. Let's put this group of people aside for now."

Shen Changqing said, "Mm. I also advise against looking too deeply into this group's affairs right now."

Everyone else felt the same way.

Then, Ji You turned to Xuzhou and asked, "Little Zhouzhou, how much farther is it to Jump Point No. 38?"

After Xuzhou gave the accurate distance, he thought for a moment and continued: "Our current course will take us through the Nebula Grand Canyon in 30 minutes—"

The Nebula Grand Canyon isn't a real canyon; it's simply that the topographic map of star space in that area resembles a canyon, hence the name.

This area contains several planets, but all are resource-poor or outright unsuitable for human habitation.

Xuzhou specifically pointed this out mainly because he was worried about the possibility of interstellar pirates lying in ambush to attack as they all passed through the Nebula Grand Canyon.

Ji You said: "Accelerate and blast through in one go."

Xuzhou was thinking the same thing.

Shen Changqing reminded: "Have everyone pay more attention to the surroundings." Currently, they had traversed a large portion of the route, with only about a day left to reach their destination. Nobody wanted any accidents at this stage.

Ji You promptly made the arrangements.

Half an hour later.

After reaching the Nebula Grand Canyon, Xuzhou and Sheng Qingyan sat in the cockpit, accelerating forward.

The spaceship sped up to its maximum, and along the way, Ji You could clearly see through the monitor that stars kept passing by.

This sight—

No matter how many times one sees it, it always remains utterly astonishing:

Human technology is truly magnificent.

Human intelligence, too, is truly boundless.

On the journey forward, the entire team 44 kept their nerves taut, not daring to relax.

As time ticked by—

Finally, the spaceship smoothly exited the canyon area without any incidents.

"Stay sharp!" Now that it was safe, Ji You was even more cautious, loudly reminding everyone.

minute.

minutes.

minutes.

...

It wasn't until the nebula grand canyon was no longer visible on the navigation map that Ji You said, "Switch shifts!"

Immediately, everyone changed positions according to the previously assigned roles.

This time, those who got to rest were Sheng Qingyan, Xuzhou, and Yue Qiguang.

As Xuzhou was heading towards the resting area, he saw Ji You still fixated on the navigation map in the monitor, her eyebrows knitted in full concentration, occasionally raising her hand to rub her brow.

Xuzhou paused his step:

Among everyone, Ji You was the only one who hadn't rested.

Why didn't she let others go to rest and rest herself?

Xuzhou hesitated for a moment, pursed his lips, and said, "Captain, I think you can take a break."

Hearing this, Ji You snapped out of her thoughts and immediately laughed: "Wow! Little Zhouzhou is worrying about Barbie now, huh!"

Xuzhou: "..."

Xuzhou turned around and left!

To hell with caring!

Zhang Ye happened to walk out of the resting room and ran into Xuzhou's gloomy face. Zhang Ye asked, "What's wrong? Little Zhouzhou?"

Xuzhou pursed his lips: "It's my mistake to be nosy."

If it weren't for being nosy back then, it wouldn't have come to this, so—

From now on, better to speak less and do more!

Having said that, Xuzhou continued with a dark face and stepped into the resting area to seclude himself.

Zhang Ye walked up to Ji You and asked, "Did you bully Little Zhouzhou again?"

Ji You, focusing on the route, replied without turning her head, "No."

Zhang Ye said, "Don't always bully him; he's an honest person."

"Cough cough..." Ji You chuckled, "I love dealing with honest people the most."

Honest people = easy to bully!

Zhang Ye was somewhat speechless.

The spaceship traveled steadily, and soon, they reached the 38th jump point!

Ji You looked at the stellar navigation map on the monitor and said, "Prepare for the jump!"

The spaceship accelerated, rushing into the jump point.

Then, the spaceship smoothly emerged from the jump point, already in a different part of space.

Ji You had just slightly relaxed her tight nerves when she immediately saw an object floating ahead of the spaceship on the monitor.

Her expression became serious:

It was—

A Star Beast corpse!

Chapter 765: Salvage

The sudden appearance of a Star Beast corpse made everyone tense, as breathing around became gradually heavier.

Could it be, there's a Star Beast nearby?

Ji You tried to stay calm, saying "Jiaojiao, try to salvage that Star Beast corpse."

Chu Jiaojiao responded, "Right away, classmate Ji You!"

After speaking, Chu Jiaojiao controlled the spaceship, extending a mechanical arm to grasp the Star Beast corpse.

A few minutes later.

After inspecting the corpse for a while, Shen Changqing said: "Based on the bone age test results, this is a level 5 peak Carrion Vulture, dead for about 15 days now. Looking at the wound, the fatal injury is on the neck, the wound is 50 centimeters wide. Preliminary judgment suggests it was hit by an N30 Mini Particle Cannon."

"And—this model of Particle Cannon is usually supplied to the Military Department." As Shen Changqing continued, he further examined the dead Carrion Vulture's corpse, and added: "Considering that we're not too far from the front line, I guess this Carrion Vulture was hit and managed to escape, but died

around 3-5 days later due to serious injuries. The corpse drifted in space for 15 days, before arriving at Jump Point 38."

Listening to this, Chu Jiaojiao stroking her chin, asked: "So, no battles have occurred nearby?"

Shen Changqing shook his head: "Shouldn't have."

He used 'shouldn't,' because all of the above are only his speculations and can't be completely accurate.

"If the speculation is correct, it means that a battle occurred at the front lines 20 days ago." Ji You said: "Considering we're not too far from the front lines, to verify Shen Changqing's assumptions, we only need to move forward and see if we can find more Star Beast corpses."

While talking, Zhang Ye, who was responsible for monitoring the surroundings, suddenly reported: "There's a new floating object detected ahead!"

Ji You instructed: "Investigate clearly, after confirming no danger, then salvage it."

A while later, another Star Beast corpse was salvaged. It was also a Carrion Vulture, but this one was level 6.

Everyone's expression became grave, Yue Qiguang frowned: "Why are there so many high-level Star Beasts appearing?"

Levels 1-3 belong to low-level Star Beasts. These kind cannot survive in a space environment, and as long as there aren't massive swarms of them, a trained Mechanical Warrior can generally handle them.

Star Beasts of level 4 and above can survive in space by their physical strength alone, and are very dangerous. They are all classified as high-level Star Beasts.

Carrion Vultures are herd Star Beasts, usually not acting alone. Finding a second corpse was not surprising to Ji You and his team. This also means that a major battle against the Scavenging Vulture Group erupted at the front lines around 20 days ago.

Ji You said, "Let's see if there are more Carrion Vulture corpses."

The appearance of so many high-level Carrion Vulture corpses also indicated the intensity and peril of the battles at the front.

Even though they knew the battle happened 20 days ago and might have already ended, Ji You and his team still felt concerned for the warriors at the front.

About 10 minutes later, sure enough, another one was found, this time a level 4 peak.

However, this third one was fresher than the first two; it was estimated to have died around 10 days ago.

Everyone's faces grew grim.

This indicated that the battle with the Carrion Vultures lasted at least 5-10 days.

This was not a good sign. The longer the duration, the more intense the battle, the greater the pressure humans faced.

Next, Ji You and his team salvaged 6 more Carrion Vulture corpses, all above level 5, one of which was a level 6 at the peak, on the verge of breaking through to level 7.

And, the freshness of the corpses became increasingly recent, bringing heavier expressions to everyone's faces.

In the cockpit.

Ji You suddenly pointed at a planet on the navigation screen and asked: "What is this planet called?"

Yue Qiyuan looked and replied, "Bella Star!"

Ji You: "Hmm?"

This name, it's somewhat familiar.

She thought for a moment, and finally remembered where she had heard it.

—Senior He Bi had mentioned it.

Yue Qiyuan looked at the Bella Star on the star chart with a somewhat somber expression, and said gravely, "Bella Star was once a resource-rich planet, but more than a decade ago, a minor Beast Tide erupted on Bella Star, which led to its downfall. The Alliance urgently evacuated all the residents from the planet, and now—it has become a battlefield shrouded in gunpowder every day."

It was only a brief remark, but the downfall of a planet was by no means a light matter, was it?

And—

Senior He Bi, Senior Shi Ya, they were all natives from Bella Star, and it was because of that Star Beast uprising on Bella Star that Senior Shi Ya's family migrated to the Garbage Planet No. 101.

This was Senior Shi Ya's hometown!

Looking at the now war-scarred Bella Star on the star chart, then considering its former beauty.

Ji You sighed and said, "Perhaps the location of the outbreak of the Carrion Vultures is also on Bella Star, or somewhere nearby."

Yue Qiyuan nodded: "It's possible."

As they were talking, suddenly—

Zhang Ye shouted in alarm, his tone unusually heavy, "Floating debris detected ahead, it looks like—"

Ji You looked up and her heart sank abruptly: "Retrieve it!"

Upon hearing these words, Zhang Ye immediately took action.

But this time, his fingers trembled nonstop, and he almost missed several times.

Zhang Ye turned to Chu Jiaojiao and said, "Chu Jiaojiao, it's your turn."

Chu Jiaojiao took over, but—

The rough and tough Chu Jiaojiao, upon seeing the battered corpse of the Mechanical Warrior on the monitor, couldn't help but tremble a few times too...

Watching Zhang Ye and Chu Jiaojiao's operations, the Mechanical Warrior's body drifted further and further away, and a minor Cosmic Storm emerged close by, which could potentially sweep it beyond reach—

Ji You said sternly, "Let me do it!"

Zhang Ye and Chu Jiaojiao immediately stepped aside.

Ji You took over, her face very pale, but her fingers were steady, with no errors in her operation. Finally, she successfully brought the Mechanical Warrior aboard the spaceship.

He was a very handsome man, with a protective suit in tatters and scars on his face which did not mar his handsome features at all; he was tall with sharp eyebrows, but with his eyes tightly closed, pale lips, and the splotches on his face indicating death...

Around them, there arose a low sobbing, and the spaceship, previously on a steady flight, also began to waver slightly due to the pilot's distracted mind...

Ji You, with a stern face and calm voice, said: "Zhang Ye, Chu Jiaojiao, pay attention to your duties—keep the spaceship safe."

Upon hearing this, the two gathered their scattered thoughts, and the spaceship stabilized once more.

Ji You turned to Yue Qiyuan, Shen Changqing, Lou, and Lance, and without exception, they all turned their backs, raising their hands quickly to wipe their eyes.

Ji You sighed and said, "If you can't calm your mind, the best thing to do is—some simple physical work."

After speaking, Ji You pointed to the pile of Carrion Vulture corpses they had retrieved and said, "Extract the materials that can be sold for money. Remember, these are all valuable, so don't waste a single bit."

Having said that, Ji You alone kept a vigilant eye on the spaceship's navigation chart, not daring to relax for even a moment.

With her back turned, Ji You stood straight with a composed demeanor, but only her heart, quivering nonstop, knew her true emotions at the moment.

She was afraid she would miss the remains of some warrior, but at the same time, she feared truly seeing it again!

Chapter 766: Growth

During the waiting process, time feels like a sharp-bladed knife; the longer it drags, the more torturous it becomes.

After passing through a small storm and traveling for a while, no more Star Beast corpses or warriors' remains were found floating in space.

Ji You pursed her lips, her dark eyes fixed tightly on the monitor, still not daring to relax.

Behind her, someone gently patted Ji You's shoulder. Without turning her head, Ji You said, "Jiaojiao, speak."

Chu Jiaojiao laughed: "Ji You, without turning around, how did you know it was me?"

Ji You, staring straight ahead, casually replied: "You tend to lean forward when you walk, and you always lift your left leg first. Also, your arms are strong as an ox, but your palms are the size of a normal girl's..."

"Eh?" Chu Jiaojiao's eyes lit up, her smile showing teeth but not eyes: "Ji You, you know me so well? Don't tell me you like..." Before she could finish, Ji You doused her enthusiasm.

Ji You scoffed, "Don't flatter yourself, that's just my basic observation of someone I need to severely beat up later."

"In other words—" Ji You turned her head, glancing sidelong at Chu Jiaojiao: "you're asking for it."

Chu Jiaojiao: "..."

Chu Jiaojiao's burning heart was suddenly doused with cold water.

Ji You refocused on the monitor, asking, "What is it?"

Chu Jiaojiao, looking at Ji You's small but erect figure, softened her tone:

"Ji You, let me take over watching. I think you should rest."

Ji You waved her hand, casually saying: "No need."

Chu Jiaojiao, becoming anxious, her tone turned commanding: "You must! You have to go!"

"I order you to go!" Chu Jiaojiao, rarely serious, stared at Ji You: "I don't want to see even a slight decrease in your beauty."

Ji You: "..."

Truly a die-hard fan of beauty, expressing concern in such an annoying way.

Ji You raised her hand to massage her temples, asking, "Is your hand still trembling?"

Chu Jiaojiao: "..."

Chu Jiaojiao shook her head, her tone firm: "It's not trembling anymore. I won't let it happen again."

I thought my experienced self in the military was tough enough, but—

When faced with real situations, I'm still not as composed as Ji You.

While dismantling Star Beast materials, Chu Jiaojiao deeply reflected on herself.

Ji You did not mock Chu Jiaojiao, nor did she wish to mock anyone else. If she had been the first to retrieve the remains of the frontline warriors, she too would have trembled and cried...

But one day, after many experiences, they will handle things maturely.

Growth is like this.

Ji You's thoughts drifted, she turned back to face Chu Jiaojiao, suddenly saying, "Jiaojiao, if one day, you personally retrieve my corpse, I hope your hands are steady."

Chu Jiaojiao's shoulders trembled, she lifted her head, staring hard at Ji You, with flames flickering in her pupils.

Ji You's eyes were fixed on Chu Jiaojiao, yet they seemed to traverse time and space, looking toward a faraway place, saying, "Likewise, if one day I have to personally retrieve your corpse, I will definitely do it steadily and bring you home."

Chu Jiaojiao opened her mouth: "Ji You..."

Ji You's lips curved into a smile, her tone gentle yet forceful, saying: "I think, we must grow to that point."

Chu Jiaojiao, hearing this, fell silent for a while, then said: "Ji... Ji You, I hope that day never comes, but if it really does, my performance won't be inferior to yours..."

"That's a matter for the future, we don't need to compete now." Ji You beamed, gave Chu Jiaojiao a smile, then solemnly said, "Jiaojiao, the cockpit is yours again."

Chu Jiaojiao nodded firmly: "Okay."

That's when Zhang Ye also returned. Seeing Ji You, a shade of guilt flashed across his face, then he quickly lowered his head. Just now, everyone had been immersed in sorrow, neglecting their duties, which left Ji You, considered the 'weakest', alone to manage the functioning of the entire spaceship.

Indeed... he really felt ashamed.

Zhang Ye's head hung lower and lower.

Ji You hooked a lip into a smile, saying: "Traitor brother, make sure you keep an eye on the monitor. Remember: not even one less Star Beast corpse! That's all money! It's all money!"

"..." Zhang Ye sneered and muttered, "Obsessed with money." Then, he immediately shouted, "Don't worry! I am a master at salvaging, I won't slip up again."

"Mhm." Ji You laughed, then after her laughter, she returned to a serious demeanor and exited the cockpit.

Inside the spaceship's hall.

One.

Two.

Three.

...

The processed Star Beast corpses piled up in the hall, with Yue Qiyuan, Shen Changqing, Lance, and Lou tirelessly disassembling them...

When Ji You entered, the four men looked up; the other three didn't speak, Lou, staring with his deep blue eyes, fixedly looked at Ji You and asked, "Ji You, have you... found anything new?"

Ji You shook her head.

Lou sighed in relief, stood up, and said, "I've calmed down. I'm going to keep watch."

Lance also said, "I'm ready as well."

Ji You nodded, "Go ahead."

The two left the hall.

Yue Qiyuan and Shen Changqing stopped their hands. Shen Changqing silenced for a moment then said, "We didn't dare to touch him, but I'd like to tidy up his appearance myself."

He—

Was referring to the warrior who had sacrificed.

Ji You said, "Okay."

Shen Changqing stood up; he didn't start immediately but went to the washroom to clean himself up.

Ji You turned to Yue Qiyuan and asked, "Aren't you going?"

Yue Qiyuan said sternly, "I'm ready."

Soon.

Shen Changqing came out, and together with Yue Qiyuan, personally tidied up the unidentified frontline warrior's remains, his eyes, his eyebrows, his lips, the stains on his body...

Throughout the process, Shen Changqing took the lead. When he cleaned the warrior's epaulettes and saw a row of numbers, his fingers paused and he said softly, "Because the Light Computer is lost, his

name and origin are unknown... only his service number, he was a veteran from the Sixth Legion Vanguard Camp."

Ji You and Yue Qiyuan, upon hearing this, remained silent.

Time quietly slipped by.

...

After finishing the arrangements, Ji You, Shen Changqing, and Yue Qiyuan saluted him: "Senior, we're taking you home."

...

A night passed, and after crossing the No.37 Jump Point, Ji You and her team finally arrived at their destination.

— Harbor Star.

Harbor Star is one of the Sixth Legion's rear bases, where spaceships and starships travel daily between Harbor Star and the frontline, transporting a vast amount of materials.

Ji You and her team piloted the spaceship, had already reported to the Military Supply Department before they even entered the docking port, but entering Harbor Star's airspace still required layers of approval and inspection...

Once everything was cleared, they were allowed to pass.

Regarding this, none of the 10 members of Ji You's team raised any objections, all followed the regulations obediently.

## Chapter 767: News from the Frontline

The officer in charge of handing over to Ji You and the others was a soldier in his early 30s from the Military Supply Department, young-looking and very forthright. As soon as he saw Ji You's group of 10, he immediately smiled and said, "My fellow students, you've finally arrived. If you hadn't come, your Teacher Mu would have broken my communicator with all her calls."

Upon hearing this, Ji You was a bit skeptical and said, "Senior, are you joking? Our Teacher Mu can't possibly be the person you're talking about!"

That's none other than Mu Bapi!

Devil Mu!

Mu Lengxue!

...

She didn't at all resemble the caring Teacher Mu Jianling described by the senior, concerned about her students.

Since Ji You and the others were only Military Academy Students and reservists, not formally enlisted, all they needed was to address this Military Supply Department soldier as their senior.

The soldier's surname was Li, and as an officer in the Military Supply Department, everyone called him Military Supply Officer Li.

Military Supply Officer Li heard this and chuckled, "Of course, it's your Teacher Mu. She called me 58 times today, which kept my communicator on busy. My wife couldn't get through and thought I was out fooling around, and it took me quite a while to coax her and make things right."

Ji You and the others: "..."

Confirmed!

Seemingly complaining, but actually flaunting affection.

Military Supply Officer Li laughed heartily and said, "I've been single for a hundred years, and it wasn't easy to finally get married. Do you think it was easy for me? If my wife leaves me over this, where do I go to cry?"

Ji You and the others: "..."

Following which, everyone said one after another, "Cough, cough... It's not easy, truly not easy."

One must know, the single rate among the Alliance's Mechanical Warriors is the highest in society, exceeding 60%.

The reason for this is not because Mechanical Warriors aren't outstanding; quite the opposite, they are the pick of the litter.

And—

The high single rate among Mechanical Warriors is mainly due to two reasons:

First is that once they join the Legion and become Mechanical Warriors, especially those on the front lines, they face high mortality rates. Being the other half of a Mechanical Warrior requires exceptional mental resilience, as well as the constant readiness for long-term separation from their loved one, only to be possibly reunited in permanent farewell...

Thus, the marriage market isn't too favorable towards Mechanical Warriors.

Second, most of those aspiring to become Mechanical Warriors are already prepared for the possibility of sacrifice before even joining the Legion. Given that, why leave a loved one behind to live a life in pain?

So, for as long as one is a Mechanical Warrior, they remain single for a day, never actively seeking a partner, unless the day comes when they retire.

But—

As long as they can pilot Mechas, carry weapons, and vanquish foes, which warrior would willingly step away from the battlefield?

...

Ji You and the other single dogs, although they could not understand why someone like Military Supply Officer Li, who had a lover, would eventually end up being an annoying show-off of affection, but! Everyone knows the difficulty of finding a partner, so they all empathized and sympathized with him.

Then—

Military Supply Officer Li said with a beaming smile, "It's really not easy. My wife, worried about me, came over and kissed me a hundred times to clear up the misunderstanding. Truly... not easy..."

Ji You and the others: "..."

Oh come on!

Public displays of affection should have a limit.

Then, a valiant female warrior walked in, kicked Military Supply Officer Li's foot, looked towards Ji You and the others, and smiled saying: "Don't listen to his nonsense, it's not true. By the way, Ji You, the supplies you transported over have been tallied just now, and everything matches up perfectly without any issues. You all did very well."

Military Supply Officer Li looked a bit embarrassed; he was caught bragging by his wife. He cleared his throat, raised his hand, and introduced her: "Students, this is my wife, Comrade Jiang Tiantian."

Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang... ten people together, loudly said: "Senior Jiang, hello."

Senior Jiang Tiantian smiled and nodded her head, then, her expression became serious, saying: "The senior you've escorted back, we have informed his family, and everything has been properly arranged."

The atmosphere turned from light-hearted to somber.

Jiang Tiantian said: "You all did very well, I will suggest to Teacher Mu that you be rewarded with extra credit."

Ji You and the group looked at each other, understanding what everyone meant. As a representative, Ji You stood out, shook his head, and said: "Senior Jiang, we don't need extra credit. As members of the Alliance who were protected by them, it's our duty."

"No—This is what you deserve." Jiang Tiantian pressed her lips together, her tone melancholic, saying: "20 days ago, Bella Star suddenly erupted with Carrion Vulture disturbances without warning. The leader was a Level 9 Peak Carrion Vulture, leading a flock of nearly 5000 vultures, among which there were 1036 of Level 4 and above, and 2 of Level 8 Peak! In this battle, our Legion fought bitterly and won tragically..."

"500 warriors were injured, 108 warriors will stay forever on Bella Star, 73 warriors are still missing, and to this day we have only found 32, with 41 warriors unaccounted for. If we do not find them, they might forever drift in the vastness of space, be devoured by black holes, or be torn apart by storms..."

Jiang Tiantian's tone was very calm as she said these words, but the calmer it was, the more one could feel the sorrow in her heart.

Ji You and the group remained silent.

This was the first time they heard front-line news from a senior from the regular army, but—

It was so tragic.

It made it unbearable to listen any further.

After Jiang Tiantian finished speaking, she changed the subject: "You have completed the mission, and the Military Supply Department is not stingy. Students, go to the canteen, where a feast has been prepared for you."

Normally, hearing about food would make Ji You and the other foodies jump for joy, but now, their mood was low, and they couldn't bring themselves to feel excited.

Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiyuan, Yue Qiguang... they all stood still, until Military Supply Officer Li urged them: "Go on! What are you spacing out for?"

Ji You said: "Let's go!"

Military Supply Officer Li laughed: "That's more like it! You greenhorns, still too tender! Once on the battlefield, you must be prepared to face life and death at any time, so under any circumstance, you need to eat well and sleep well to maintain the best condition."

Although Military Supply Officer Li seemed to be laughing and carefree, some sadness and sorrow do not need to be shown on the surface; his words came from a place of calm acceptance after seeing countless lives and deaths...

Ji You said: "Thank you, seniors. My classmates and I are off to eat now."

After that, Ji You took the lead to leave, followed by Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan, Yue Qiguang... they all followed.

Canteen.

Since it wasn't mealtime, apart from the staff, there were no other people dining here.

Moreover, although this was part of the Sixth Legion's base, because it was just the logistics section, there were not many Mechanical Warriors. Mostly it was logistics personnel who stayed behind. Therefore, the canteen was not very large.

Inside the hall, it was empty.

A table full of delicacies, Ji You and his ten companions dined quietly.

Chapter 768: The Troubles of Taking a Wife

In the cafeteria.

After quietly finishing lunch, Ji You stood up and said, "I'm going to see Military Supply Officer Li, anyone else coming?"

Yue Qiguang frowned and asked, "For what?"

"Cough cough..." Ji You said, "To discuss some business."

Everyone: "???"

Sheng Qingyan rolled his eyes disapprovingly and said, "Poor dead, what kind of business can you possibly have?"

What a weirdo.

Sheng Qingyan occasionally thought he himself was weird, but after being with 4444 for so long, he realized that he was merely a bit quirky, whereas Ji You was the real oddball.

Ji You patted his Space Button and said, "I have a big batch of Star Beast materials! Did you guys forget?"

The materials, including those obtained from slaying Star Beasts on NY50 planet and scavenging corpses during the voyage, had to be dealt at some point.

Ji You had originally planned to sell the materials after returning to Lanyue Star, but now that they had reached the Military Supply Department, and there was a high demand for materials here, he decided to leave the materials with the department even if the price was lower.

With this reminder, everyone suddenly realized.

Sheng Qingyan immediately stood up and said, "I'm going too."

Yue Qiguang: "Daddy needs to sell materials too."

Yue Qiyuan: "Let's go together."

Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Zhang Ye, Xuzhou, Lou, and Lance all expressed their desire to go.

Thus, the group promptly headed towards the office of Military Supply Officer Li.

It wasn't far, and as they arrived, Ji You was just about to knock on the door when she noticed it was slightly ajar, after a brief hesitation, she raised her hand and knocked:

Suddenly—

"Oh ancestors!"

"Tian~"

"Tiantian listen to me, don't go!"

"As long as you don't go, I'll do whatever you ask."

The voice of Military Supply Officer Li, filled with urgency and panic, it was hard to imagine such a plea from a robust man about two meters tall...

"I'm not going, so it's your turn?" Jiang Tiantian's voice was calm, yet stubborn, "One of us has to go!"

Military Supply Officer Li yelled urgently, "I'll go!"

Jiang Tiantian glanced back at him, "You weakling, can't even handle two punches from me, going there means death."

Military Supply Officer Li: "Then I can't let you go!"

His dark eyes were already tinged with red as he spoke, causing Jiang Tiantian's normally steely heart to soften, "You, you're just so stubborn..."

Military Supply Officer Li choked up, "I'm just that stubborn."

Jiang Tiantian rolled her eyes, "No abilities yet so stubborn."

Military Supply Officer Li forced a smile, "Exactly. If I weren't stubborn, how could I have married such a beautiful wife?"

Jiang Tiantian: "..."

Jiang Tiantian said, "Alright, I'm a Mechanical Warrior. Obedience is my duty. Since I've accepted the mission, I must carry it out immediately."

Military Supply Officer Li grabbed her hand tightly, "The mission was assigned to both of us, but you accepted it without my consent, which is against the rules."

"This is invalid!" Military Supply Officer Li stubbornly clenched Jiang Tiantian's hand.

Jiang Tiantian sighed, "Old Li... let go of my hand."

Military Supply Officer Li stayed silent, not letting go,

Then—

Jiang Tiantian reached forward with one hand, lifted him up, and executed a classic shoulder throw.

"Bang!"

"Bang!"

"Bang!"

...

Ji You and others quickly avoided any suspicion. When they found that Military Supply Officer Li and Jiang Tiantian were having a private conversation, they immediately moved back a hundred meters. However, even at that distance, the clang from inside the alloy door could still be heard, causing everyone to shiver involuntarily.

Zhang Ye gasped: "I can't imagine how painful that was..."

Lou gritted his teeth: "Preliminary judgment, at least four bones are fractured."

Lance added: "The buttocks must be cracked too."

Everyone: "Hiss—"

Ji You opened her mouth: "...what a ruthless heart."

Yue Qiguang's eyelids twitched: "So that's someone else's wife, huh? Cough... luckily I don't have a wife."

As soon as this statement was made, it drew glances from Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiyuan, Shen Changqing... all at Yue Qiguang.

Ji You shook her head and said, "Forever alone folks should be conscious of their status. Don't worry, by my judgment, you won't have such troubles."

Yue Qiguang retorted angrily: "You fool, don't talk nonsense! How could a genius like dad have trouble finding a partner?"

Ji You: "Because you're too silly."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Yue Qiguang clenched his fist: "Number 4444, come meet your doom!"

Before he could throw the punch, with a creak, the office door was pushed open from inside. Jiang Tiantian, dressed in a Mechanical Warrior Suit, stepped out. Seeing the students lined up, she was slightly taken aback. Then, she smiled, "Do you need something, students?"

Ji You silently glanced at her hand, secretly marvelling that her hand didn't look that strong; how could she possess such explosive power? Besides, she's as sweet as her name suggests, looking gentle as honey, yet her Combat Power is terrifying...

Not just Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiyuan, Shen Changqing... especially Yue Qiguang stared at Jiang Tiantian's palm, his expression a mix of respect and fear, extremely complicated and hard to describe.

The students' subtle glances could not escape the perception of an old warrior like Jiang Tiantian who had served for decades.

Jiang Tiantian smiled and said, "Are you looking for Military Supply Officer Li? He's inside."

"Ah?"

"Yes, yes, yes..."

Ji You hastily said, "We are here to discuss...something with Military Supply Officer Li."

Jiang Tiantian said: "Go ahead."

With that, she turned around, ready to leave.

"Bang!"

The door was fiercely pushed again. Military Supply Officer Li ran out and yelled, "Jiang Tiantian, I order you to come back!"

Jiang Tiantian's body trembled, but she did not turn around.

Military Supply Officer Li said: "You must come back within three days! Did you hear me?"

Jiang Tiantian stood still for a while before pretending to be slightly impatient, "Heard it."

Saying this, Jiang Tiantian walked forward quickly.

Military Supply Officer Li kept staring at her retreating figure until he could no longer see her shadow, then he retracted his gaze, rubbed his sore eyes, and turned to the students: "Cough cough... don't give me those strange looks."

"Hitting is caring, scolding is love, you singles wouldn't understand."

"Cough cough cough..."

"Cough cough cough..."

Ji You and the others came back to their senses, saying, "Senior is right."

Military Supply Officer Li straightened his face, seriously said: "Don't make a big fuss, I'm fine."

Ji You and the others: "Right, you're fine."

Military Supply Officer Li: "I'm really fine!"

Ji You and the others: "Yes, yes, yes..."

Military Supply Officer Li suddenly sighed, feeling a bit emotional, "Although my wife and I work in the same office, we actually don't see each other for days or weeks. Now she's gone out, who knows when I'll see her again."

\*Sigh\*

Yue Qiguang whispered softly: "So marrying a wife is so troublesome, maybe dad better not marry in the future."

## Chapter 769: Return Voyage

Ji You glared at Yue Qiguang: "I don't believe you can find a wife, so stop talking nonsense."

Truly——

The intelligence of the entire Group 44 is being dragged down by him.

Sigh!

Ji You suddenly understood how Yue Qiyuan felt.

Yue Qiguang, this guy, always thinks with his feet and walks with his hands, it's... really a bit worrisome.

However——

That's not important.

Ji You raised his head, looking at Military Supply Officer Li who, despite trying hard to contain his worries, still exuded anxiousness from within. He was very tall, about two meters twenty or so, not only was he tall and burly, but also had a handsome and rugged appearance, thick eyebrows, dark sparkling eyes, and a square face...

In short, he was anything but 'fragile'.

And, without getting closer, Ji You could feel a strong aura emanating from Military Supply Officer Li!

Is this what Senior Jiang Tiantian referred to as a 'weak loser'?

Can a weak loser be this strong?

Ji You instantly felt embarrassed.

In silence.

Military Supply Officer Li said: "Young students, what brings you here?" Technically, after lunch and a short rest, these students should have embarked on their journey back.

But, why aren't the students taking the time to rest?

Ji You quickly stood up and said: "Senior Li, we wanted to talk to you about something. You see, we've gathered some Star Beast materials, and we heard that they might be useful to the Military Supply Department. Can they be purchased here?"

Upon hearing this, Military Supply Officer Li immediately said: "Of course. However, the price here at the Supply Department is slightly lower than the market price."

Ji You waved his hand and said: "That's no problem, we've discussed it and decided collectively to direct our materials to the Military Supply Department."

Military Supply Officer Li smiled and said: "Good."

He suddenly stood up, but got up too fast and stumbled——

Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan... everyone instinctively looked towards his buttocks.

Military Supply Officer Li: "..."

Military Supply Officer Li coughed lightly and said sternly: "Keep your eyes to yourselves, I'm perfectly fine!"

Ji You and others: "Cough cough..."

Military Supply Officer Li straightened up, cleared his throat, and said: "You little rascals, I'm telling you, when you are on my turf, you follow my rules. Anyone who dares to stare around aimlessly——"

With that, he showed a sinister smile.

Ji You couldn't help but inwardly exclaim: [This Military Supply Officer Li, not only is he talkative, but he's also quite vain! Even though his butt is practically split into four, he still stubbornly won't admit it.]

Cough cough...

Thin-skinned, it's deadly.

After heartily threatening the little rascals, Military Supply Officer Li immediately stood up and led Ji You and the others to the material appraisal area.

The storage area for materials was very large, and fully automated. Each type of material has a dedicated storage room, equipped with suitable conditions such as temperature, humidity...

As soon as Ji You and others' materials were released from the Space Button, robots came to appraise them, and then sorted them.

Once processed, without any manual operation, the value of each person's materials in credit points was automatically calculated by the system and credited into Ji You and their individual accounts.

Ji You checked the newly credited credit points; NY50's killed and collected Star Beast materials, since the levels were relatively low, the prices weren't high, just 7854 credit points.

The Star Beast corpses retrieved during the journey were all at least level 4, hence more valuable. However, since this was the result of everyone's collective effort, it was naturally divided equally among all.

After the distribution, each person received 50,000 credit points.

With this round, Ji You's total income came to 57,854 credit points.

This amount of money, if it were on Garbage Planet number 101, who knows how long it would take to save.

Ji You was deeply emotional, thinking back to half a year ago, when living on Garbage Planet 101, scavenging through trash for a living, she could never have imagined earning this much!

Tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, even millions of credit points flowed into her account like water. This was something she wouldn't have dared to dream of in the past.

So, hard work certainly pays off, sometimes with unforeseen rewards.

Cough cough...

Of course, let's just temporarily ignore the matter of getting billions into debt.

...

After selling the materials, Ji You and her group had cleaned out the Space Button, now only weapons and food were stored inside.

Yue Qiguang patted the Space Button on his wrist and said, "Now that we have some extra space, dad can store more materials."

Ji You pouted and said, "I told you to store them earlier, but weren't you the one who refused, saying they were junk?"

Yue Qiguang: "Cough cough..."

It proves: No one can escape the 'real fragrance' principle!

Yue Qiguang stubbornly said, "I'm just making some pocket money on the side."

...

Despite a little remaining time, Ji You and her nine teammates attended the memorial service organized by the Military Supply Department for the fallen warriors.

The atmosphere was heavy.

Only at this time did Ji You and the group learn the name and age of the senior they had brought back...

Yin Shen.

years old.

Only two years into his service, an outstanding member of the Sixth Legion Vanguard Camp Seventh Team, graduated from the Mechanical Combat Department of Alliance First Military Academy...

Just a few sentences summed up a life.

Ji You turned away, unable to watch any longer.

Time ticked away...

After paying respects to the warrior's soul, it was time for the spaceship to take off; Ji You and her group didn't delay and immediately rushed to the spaceship's docking bay.

At the docking bay, Military Supply Officer Li was unexpectedly waiting for them. Seeing the students arrive, Military Supply Officer Li said, "Your Teacher Mu is really troublesome. I've already said that you kids should be allowed to fly on your own, but it seems she would rather keep you all tucked away in her pocket."

Everyone: "..."

Ji You couldn't help but say, "Senior, you must be mistaken. The Teacher Mu you described is definitely not our Teacher Mu."

"I can't be mistaken. It's Mu Jianling himself!" Military Supply Officer Li rambled on, "Here—this is for you guys. It includes some precautions. Be careful on your way back, I've given all the necessary warnings. Please don't let your Teacher Mu call my contact number again, hearing her voice gives me the creeps."

Everyone: "..."

As the team captain, Ji You took the small note from Military Supply Officer Li's hand, then suddenly flashed a bright smile at him: "Senior Li, about the other things our teacher asked you for, you haven't given them to us yet, have you?"

Military Supply Officer Li: "???"

Ji You, unembarrassed, explained: "Food. Food for the trip back. For the ten of us, we need about 30 kg of rice and 50 kg of meat per day. The return trip will take three days, which means 100 kg of rice and 150 kg of meat. I've heard that a balanced diet of meat and vegetables is the most nutritious. If you could give us some extra fruit and vegetables, that would be even better."

Military Supply Officer Li: "..."

How bold to ask for so much.

Ji You raised her hand, scratching her head, with a naive smile, said, "Cough cough... We are all growing, so, well, we eat a lot."

#### Chapter 770: Splitting the Spoils

Military Supply Officer Li was speechless for a moment, then took another look at Ji You's petite stature, and seemed to finally be persuaded, saying, "You do need to eat more, to supplement nutrition, it's good for growing taller."

Ji You: "..."

Just trying to score some food, and out of the blue, I'm hit by another arrow.

Forget it.

Forget it.

Forget it.

Compared to eating, what's being hit by an arrow? Even getting hit by 10 arrows is no problem!

So, Ji You stared eagerly at Military Supply Officer Li.

Afterward, Military Supply Officer Li swung his big hand and said heartily, "Alright! I've prepared these foods for you, and I'll give you an extra 50 kilos of apples, 100 kilos of lettuce."

What a good person!

Such a great person!

Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing... everyone's eyes lit up all at once, wishing they could step forward and hug Military Supply Officer Li's thick legs, saying with a nose full of tears, "Good person, please give us a little more."

However, nobody said that. We've got to save face!

Ahem...

Of course, there is one exception.

Ji You was already smiling from ear to ear as she stepped forward, smiling at Military Supply Officer Li with her eyes curled into crescents: "Senior Li, you are really a great person. Throughout the journey here, my classmates and I were scared out of our wits, both our spirits and bodies tortured. But the moment I first saw you, especially when I saw your kind smile and heard your warm words, I knew we didn't have to be afraid anymore."

"No longer needing to live in terror, no need to worry about hunger and cold, no need to..."

"With you and the other seniors protecting us, we can finally get a good night's sleep and have a full meal."

"Even though we are leaving soon, we will never forget the kindness of the seniors!"

...

Ji You's words came pouring out nonstop, like water gushing from a tap.

Military Supply Officer Li was left dumbfounded.

Then—

Ji You suddenly changed the subject, saying: "Military Supply Officer Li, could you write me a note to certify that these foods were graciously provided to us by you, and to make sure that no one else, especially Teacher Mu Jianling, confiscates them for any reason?"

Military Supply Officer Li: "..."

Ji You, with a pitiful look: "Please help us."

Military Supply Officer Li hesitated, looking unsure. Ji You simply steeled her heart, pointing to her short stature and began playing the sympathy card, saying, "Senior, my being short is indeed due to hunger. I... I often can't get enough to eat, Teacher Mu provides food on schedule and quantity, it's really not enough..."

Military Supply Officer Li wasn't just talkative, he was soft-hearted too. So, with a wave of his hand, he wrote a letter specifically to Mu Jianling, emphasizing how difficult it is for the kids to grow tall, and suggesting Mu Jianling not to confiscate their food anymore.

After reading it, Ji You was calm on the surface, but inside she was laughing crookedly, hastening to express her thanks: "Thank you so much, you are really a great person. Senior Jiang fell for you completely because she was captivated by your charm and character!"

Military Supply Officer Li had been quite serious, but now, hearing Ji You spontaneously mention his wife, he immediately became happy and said, "Of course, I am famously known as the Jade-faced Young Man! My looks can rank close to the top ten in the entire military district."

Ji You: "..."

With your square and rugged face, how could it possibly fit the title of Jade-faced Young Man.

Although Military Supply Officer Li is talkative and boastful, his efficiency in getting things done is truly high. He immediately set about arranging food, and at the end, he even told the person in charge of dispatching food, "Send it quickly, don't delay the children's growth."

Ji You and the others: "..."

For some reason, it's both touching and awkward...

Following that.

The food approved by Military Supply Officer Li was immediately transported over by robotic carriers.

Seeing the shiny rice and meat, fruits, and vegetables, everyone from Team 44 was smiling so widely they couldn't close their mouths.

Ji You stared at this batch of food, looked and looked again, until she confirmed it really was natural food and not fakes or synthetic, she couldn't quite believe it was real, could it really be so easy to dec... ahem, to get it in hand?

Then...

Ji You felt a bit dizzy, and she wasn't the only one; the other students also felt a bit off as they said goodbye to Military Supply Officer Li.

Military Supply Officer Li watched the group of students who had grabbed the food and ran off quickly, and he couldn't help but chuckle: "You little rascals, such a simple trick, you really thought you could fool me, huh. If I weren't so soft-hearted..."

"Ah!"

Looking at Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, and the other 10 young, lively kids, he couldn't help thinking back to his own youthful days with his wife and sighed, "Youth is really great."

On this side.

After saying goodbye to Military Supply Officer Li, Ji You and the other three immediately boarded the spaceship.

The spaceship burst out of Harbor Star and entered the preset orbit, then, staring at the large batch of food placed on the spaceship, everyone looked at each other. Just as someone else wanted to speak up, Ji You immediately said: "Everyone, I took the initiative to acquire this batch of food, so the ownership belongs to me. There are no doubts about that, right?"

Everyone: "..."

After a moment of silence, Yue Qiguang said angrily: "Can you even eat all that?"

Beside them, Shen Changqing whispered: "She could sell it to us."

Everyone: "Cough cough..."

Ji You: "Cough cough..."

Her plan being seen through at a glance, Ji You glared at Shen Changqing and scolded: "Classmate Shen Changqing, do you still remember your honest persona? You're breaking character, you know that?"

Shen Changqing: "..."

Ji You said: "Keep an eye on yourself, some things you should say, and some things you shouldn't. Even if it's a matter of urgency, you can't say them."

Shen Changqing: "..."

Everyone looked at Ji You somewhat speechlessly, then Yue Qiyuan stood up and began packing one-tenth of the food into his Space Button, saying: "Even though you were the first to speak up for this food, you did it under the guise of teamwork. Without everyone's cooperation, you wouldn't have been able to secure it. Fairly, it should be divided among all."

As Yue Qiyuan made his move, Sheng Qingyan also stood up and began packing one-tenth into his Space Button, and even glared at Ji You disdainfully, saying: "You poor dead, you know you'd go straight to jail if you try to be a thief without sharing the loot, right?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You turned black with anger: "I'm not a thief! I got it fair and square, through my own ability."

The others didn't have time to pay attention to Ji You; they gathered around the food and began packing it into their Space Buttons. Seeing this, Ji You panicked and blurted out: "Yue Qiguang, stop right there! Don't think I didn't see you trying to grab an extra apple! Be honest and take it out immediately!"

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Yue Qiguang rolled his eyes and muttered: "What, your eyes have searchlights installed or what? Damn!"

He had secretly stashed away an apple, and it got noticed right away.

Beside them.

Ji You: "Little Zhouzhou, pull your hand back. Even with ten times the courage, you couldn't sneak off with that piece of beef."

Xuzhou: "..."

Ji You: "Shen Changqing, stop playing your little games. 2 pounds of rice surely won't trade for 3 pounds of sweets!"

Shen Changqing's face turned red.

Ji You: "Chu Jiaojiao! Shut your mouth; do you think it doesn't count if you've eaten it? Later I'll make you throw it up so I can weigh it, with depreciation included!"

Chu Jiaojiao: "..."

Chu Jiaojiao admitted defeat: "Ji You, can you not say such disgusting things?"

Ji You scolded: "I can be even more disgusting. You definitely don't want to try it."

Chu Jiaojiao: "..."

Scared.

Scared.

...