

Scavengers 861

Chapter 861: Buying Candy Beans

Mu Jianling showed no mercy and directly scolded, "Get lost, your contract is worthless."

Ji You pulled a bitter face, forcing out a slight smile: "Teacher... Discouraging a student's will to survive is not a good thing. You should give students more care; they need encouragement to grow."

Mu Jianling lifted her foot and kicked Ji You on the butt: "Encouragement."

In her heart, Ji You had become extremely vigilant, her guard was very tight, yet Teacher Mu Jianling easily kicked her, sending a hard boot on her backside. Rubbing her sore butt, she helplessly thought:

The beautiful wish to thrash Old Lady Mu thoroughly, who knows when it'll come true?

Just thick-skinnedly tried, didn't work, Ji You immediately stored the pen and paper into her Space Button. Then, putting away her cheeky smile, she seriously said: "Teacher, I need 30 Candy Beans, please help me find a way. The issue of money, not a problem."

Mu Jianling: "Hmm?"

Ji You said: "No credit."

Mu Jianling didn't care at all about the money for 30 Candy Beans. This stuff, a small part was her own, and a large part was gotten from Principal Hong. She used it specially to enhance students' abilities. Principal Hong's Candy Beans were partly purchased by the school and partly requisitioned from the Alliance Treasury.

As for how he got them?

Mu Jianling didn't care.

Anyway, just selling face, selling...

What to do when the Candy Beans run out? This problem was also not in her scope of concern.

Ahem ahem...

At worst, let Old Hong sell a few more times.

Anyway, his face isn't worth anything.

...

Secretly, Mu Jianling thought to herself. She didn't answer Ji You but instead looked at the other students, loudly saying, "Anyone else needs Candy Beans, come report to me."

Wow~

As soon as she spoke, the students straightened their spines, shouting: "Me!"

"Me!"

"Me!"

Inside the Floating Car, voices reporting one after another, Mu Jianling calmly said: "According to student ID, come up one by one, 50,000 credit points each, with a purchase limit of 30 per person."

This much?

The students' eyes instantly widened, momentarily unable to believe their ears.

There could be such a good thing?

Suddenly—

Mu Jianling continued: "But, buy as needed, no one is allowed to hoard intentionally."

Students: "Yes!"

Ji You sitting next to Mu Jianling was the first to say: "Teacher, please give me 30 pieces!" Her Spiritual World, the Six Strands were already howling for a long time, but unfortunately, Ji You ran out of Candy Beans, and she couldn't fulfill their conditions right away.

And—

Maybe because her spiritual power had been overused for a while, every unexpected situation nearly drained it completely. Right now, the Six Strands in her Spiritual World were all wilting and flabby, lying pathetically, even the stoutest Boss was deflated like an empty balloon, shapeless...

The Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth weren't in good shape either.

At this moment, the Six Strands curled up together, huddling with drooping heads, occasionally listlessly flicking their tails. The Boss, the Second, the Third didn't make a sound, but the Fourth, like a copier, kept repeating:

[The 1st second without Candy Beans, miss it, miss it, miss it.]

[The 2nd second without Candy Beans, miss it, miss it, miss it.]

[The 3rd second without Candy Beans, miss it, miss it, miss it.]

...

Master, Candy Beans? Between the two, the Fifth couldn't decide. It tilted its head, pondered a bit, then followed the Fourth's lead: [The first day Master didn't bring Candy Beans, miss her, miss it, miss her...]

The Sixth, the shadow, followed the two in front, repeatedly echoing.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You really wanted to pretend not to hear it, but this was her own Spiritual World. She wanted to block out this noise, but unfortunately, she couldn't do it for now. Moreover, with all the spiritual silk not in good condition, Ji You was uneasy. She needed to know the state of the spiritual silk at all times; otherwise, if something bad happened to any of them without her knowing, she couldn't even dare to imagine...

The Six Strands were not only part of Ji You's body but also akin to family in her heart. Though she always complained about the Six Strands, no one cared more for them than Ji You did. Not one of them was dispensable.

As soon as they heard that everyone could buy 30 Candy Beans, the Six Strands immediately perked up, staring hopefully at their stingy master.

Then—

They heard Ji You say, "30 pieces."

The Six Strands wagged their tails in unison, cheering hard: [Master! Master! Master!]

The Boss was frantically wagging its tail.

The Second and Third swept away their previous dejection, spinning around the Spiritual World, spinning... expressing joy.

The Fourth wagged its tail, its head spinning nimbly, spewing flattery like there was no cost, popping out: [Sisi loves Master the most, Master is the best, most beautiful, strongest, cutest, most generous... in the world, unparalleled...]

The Fourth's sentence was too long, too wordy for the Fifth, it couldn't recite it, so it caught the main point, shaking its tail: [The Fifth also likes Master!]

The Sixth also felt the sentence was a bit long, trimmed it down, and even more simply, nodding and shaking its head: [Like! Like!]...

...

Watching the spiritual silk regain a bit of vitality, Ji You kept a stern face, looking serious, but inside she was delighted. She casually said to the spiritual silk: "Later, 5 pieces for each, no one is allowed to fight over them."

The Six Strands: [Listen to Master.]

On the matter of food, Ji You wasn't worried any silk would miss out because, when it comes to eating, these gluttonous strands are each wiser than the other. None of them has truly suffered any loss. Even the honest Fifth, never had its rations stolen.

...

Hearing Ji You purchase so many right away, Mu Jianling raised her gaze, and Ji You immediately straightened her spine, loudly said: "Teacher, you can rest assured, I have just enough credit points, not a single word short."

These Candy Beans made from High-level Butterfly Honey, though specifically subsidized by the school for students, were offered unconditionally only when students performed exceptionally or faced emergencies needing Candy Beans as support. Usually, students wanting to use them would buy at a discounted price.

50,000 credit points per piece was already extremely low, an extremely low price. On the Star Network, the price would be at least ten times higher.

After Ji You finished speaking, the next second, she transferred the payment over.

Mu Jianling saw, indeed not a cent short.

It seemed—

This rascal, picking up scraps, doing various small businesses, she had really amassed quite a bit of money.

Chapter 862: Purchase

Ji You opened her mouth asking for 30 Candy Beans and even gave credit points on the spot. Of course, Mu Jianling didn't object; she immediately handed Ji You the Candy Beans she needed and said, "Work hard and redeem your contract back as soon as possible."

"Cough cough..." Ji You blushed and said, "Just... just leave it temporarily with you, teacher."

Mu Jianling: "I can't use that many as table leg shims."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath, thick-skinned, and said, "Then... teacher, you could use them to wipe your mouth or hands, that would work too."

Mu Jianling raised her hand and knocked on Ji You's head, saying, "Next one."

The next one was Shen Changqing.

Shen Changqing looked at Teacher Mu Jianling, with a hint of hesitation and a slight blush on his face, and said, "Teacher, I don't need Candy Beans, please give me 5 grams of Cloud Mist Tea, is that okay?"

Mu Jianling thought for a moment and said, "Okay."

As the only grandson, the only relative, and the sole heir of General Shen Chi, Shen Changqing naturally didn't lack resources. While Candy Beans were precious, they weren't rare. What was rare was Cloud Mist Tea.

Cloud Mist Tea has a very low yield and is essentially priceless. Even General Shen Chi would have to queue up to get some. Over the years, Old Hong and I have stored some. Except for the portion needed by that little rascal Ji You, we aren't running short for now, so I agreed.

Hearing Teacher Mu's reply, Shen Changqing's eyes brightened. He immediately said, "Thank you, teacher."

Mu Jianling suddenly said, "Your spiritual power shows signs of breakthrough, but don't rush it. Remember to proceed gradually, okay?"

Shen Changqing: "Yes!"

Next was Yue Qiyuan, who, like Shen Changqing, was an S-level Spiritual Power User. However, he chose to purchase 30 Candy Beans. Since he wasn't close to a breakthrough, Yue Qiyuan wasn't in a rush.

Mu Jianling promptly gave them to him.

Next was Yue Qiguang. As someone who had spent all his pocket money, he could only afford 5 Candy Beans.

Mu Jianling said, "Focus on your spiritual power training during the holidays. When school starts, I don't want to see the original fool upgraded to fool 2.0 version."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Yue Qiguang felt very dissatisfied but still held his tongue, took the Candy Beans, and left quietly.

After that.

Chu Jiaojiao came up and loudly said, "Teacher, please give me 30 Candy Beans."

Mu Jianling glanced at her. Chu Jiaojiao straightened her back and boldly met Mu Jianling's gaze. Mu Jianling said, "Okay."

Chu Jiaojiao quickly got them. As she turned away, Mu Jianling suddenly said, "Chu Jiaojiao, during the holidays, you can continue training with Admiral Chu Ba."

Upon hearing this, Chu Jiaojiao shook her head and said, "Teacher, I've changed my mind. I plan to take on tasks at school and won't be going home for the holidays." After all, there's no one at home.

Second Aunt Chu considers the Legion her home, and Chu Jiaojiao doesn't even remember what her home's front door looks like: black, white, or alloy.

Grandma Chu?

Grandma Chu keeps herself busy every now and then and doesn't have the awareness of a retired old lady. Forget about going home, Chu Jiaojiao can't even find where she's wandered off to.

...

Hearing this answer, Mu Jianling didn't say much, nodded, and moved on to the next person.

Xuzhou.

Mu Jianling looked at Xuzhou and proactively said, "You only need 5."

Xuzhou: "Yes."

After Xuzhou, it was Zhang Ye, Lance, and Lou.

Then it was the other students. Everyone was highly self-aware, so Mu Jianling didn't waste much time handing out the Candy Beans. Only one person remained lazily nestled in his seat.

Mu Jianling glanced down and said, "Sheng Qingyan."

Sheng Qingyan blinked and looked at Teacher Mu Jianling in confusion: "Oh teacher, what do you need me for?"

Mu Jianling gestured towards the other students, and Sheng Qingyan immediately understood, saying, "I don't lack Candy Beans, so I don't need any."

Mu Jianling glanced at him and said, "I mean, you can purchase 10 grams of Cloud Mist Tea from me."

Sheng Qingyan: "!!!"

Others: "!!!"

The teacher actually took the initiative to let Sheng Qingyan purchase Cloud Mist Tea, does this mean he is at the juncture of breaking through the Double A-level talent barrier? But – it is extremely difficult, extremely difficult for Double A to break through to the next level...

After being shocked for a few seconds, Sheng Qingyan suddenly drooped his face and wailed, "It's useless, useless... I've already consumed a lot of Cloud Mist Tea, but it hasn't had any effect at all."

As the most renowned starship manufacturer in the Alliance, Sheng Qingyan wasn't short on money, resources, connections, or channels. Over the years, the Sheng family had also stored some of the precious and rare resource that is Cloud Mist Tea.

In fact, to date, Sheng Qingyan had consumed over 10 pounds of Cloud Mist Tea, yet –

It had no effect.

Not a bit.

Sheng Qingyan was still stuck at the peak level of his Double A physical strength and spiritual power, without any signs of breaking through the barrier in his Spiritual World...

Beyond these Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures, Grandpa Sheng had also gathered many soul artifacts for Sheng Qingyan, from low-level to intermediate to high-level. Grandpa Sheng even specially invited the most renowned Soul Artifact Master in the Alliance, Mr. Kong Zhe, to custom-make a High-level Soul Device for Sheng Qingyan. Unfortunately –

This High-level Soul Device had very low compatibility with Sheng Qingyan and did not significantly aid his spiritual power breakthrough.

Aside from Master Kong Zhe, General Shen Chi had also sought several other Soul Artifact Masters, all to no avail.

...

Having experienced disappointment too many times, Sheng Qingyan was already used to it.

Until –

The appearance of the Green Glaze Master. The low-level soul artifacts personally crafted by the Green Glaze Master didn't seem particularly usable, yet their compatibility with Sheng Qingyan reached over 95%.

This is simply unbelievable.

Two.

To date, Sheng Qingyan bought a total of two soul artifacts from the Green Glaze Master's shop. Both were low-level, but without exception, these two soul artifacts had an exceptionally high compatibility with Sheng Qingyan. This means that if the Green Glaze Master personally tailor-made one for Sheng Qingyan, there would be a great probability that Sheng Qingyan, with Double A talent, could break through the barrier and enter the ranks of S-level talents.

This is the reason why Sheng Qingyan has been unable to forget about the Green Glaze Master.

It can be said that Sheng Qingyan, who sees no hope for a breakthrough, has pinned all his hopes on the Green Glaze Master.

After hearing what Sheng Qingyan said, Mu Jianling retracted the Cloud Mist Tea and said, "Since you know your situation, then there's no need for the Cloud Mist Tea. I hope you will use this as guidance, strive to break free from your constraints, and maybe, these issues will soon be resolved."

Sheng Qingyan nodded vigorously: "Yes."

Chapter 863: Arrival

Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiyuan, Yue Qiguang... 10 people, in front of all the students, bought the required Candy Beans from Teacher Mu Jianling, who remained very amicable throughout, even somewhat kindly, without causing any trouble. For a moment, the students were all motivated, and after Ji You and the others, other students also stepped forward.

To this, Mu Jianling's face was very calm. A few students were more timid and dared not buy much, so Mu Jianling specifically pointed out how many were needed according to their current situation, prompting this student to buy a few more.

Mu Jianling handed over the Candy Beans and advised, "Take it, come to me if you need more. If there's a problem, find me anytime."

The student was very moved. You should know that a single word from Teacher Mu's mouth that's not harsh is already astonishing enough, and now she was actually so kind and approachable...

When all the students had bought the Candy Beans they needed from Teacher Mu Jianling, the Floating Car had already arrived at the gates of the Lanyue Star Military Academy. It's a gate made of alloy combined with a virtual screen, with the words 'Lanyue Star Military Academy' written on top. The handwriting was ancient and majestic, and upon seeing this familiar gate, whether it was Ji You or others, couldn't help but feel emotional:

[Finally back.]

Ji You couldn't help but raise a hand to rub his face: Phew! Almost didn't make it back.

Whether it was the chase with the Sea Iron Bull or the fight of wits with the Viper Worm, every minute and second was extremely dangerous. A slight mistake could lead to doom... There was a moment when Ji You truly doubted whether he could survive...

So, being alive, it's really good.

After rubbing his face, Ji You couldn't help but press against his hot chest; here, he could feel a strange tremor coming from Xiao You.

Ji You pursed his lips and smiled: [Xiao You, we're back at school.]

[Mm! Sister, we're back!] The girl's voice was still soft, sweet, carrying a gentle squishy feeling.

Ji You laughed: [Happy? We're finally back, completely safe now.]

Xiao You softly said: [Mm.]

After the word 'Mm', in the dark, enclosed space, the girl slightly raised her head, looking at the only light source in this space, with a bright smile on her fair face:

[—Being with Sister every minute and second is really happy.]

Ji You: "!!!"

It felt like a feather was lightly teasing his heart, ticklish, with a hint of sweetness. Ji You covered his heart, lowering his voice: [Xiao You, let's not talk with such mushy words anymore.]

Seriously.

His heart was about to be softened.

Doomed.

Xiao You was startled, raised her eyes, and earnestly asked: [Sister, every word I say is what I really want to say, can't... can't I say them?]

The girl's tone carried a slight undertone of disappointment, which Ji You certainly couldn't allow, and immediately said: [You can!]

[Anytime!]

[With Sister, you can say and do anything you want!]

[If anyone dares to say otherwise, I'll punch them!]

...

Upon hearing this, Xiao You's smile became even brighter, [Mm!]

Hearing Xiao You's cheerful and lively voice, Ji You also squinted with a smile.

Then.

Xiao You: [Sister, I like you.]

Ji You: "..."

Doomed!

If this were a love scam... he would definitely be completely deceived.

Ji You took a deep breath: [Xiao You, stop talking, my bank card password is *** take it! Take it! All of it!]

Xiao You: [I know. I know everything about Sister.]

Ji You: [Cough... We've arrived.]

Xiao You: [Mm.]

...

After verifying identities with the students, Mu Jianling let the Floating Car pass through the school gate unhindered, smoothly driving to the Combat Department's 131st batch teaching building, and then slowly stopping.

Mu Jianling stepped off the Floating Car first, and the other students followed in an orderly fashion.

Subsequently, when all the students sat neatly in the classroom, Mu Jianling looked at them, her tone as usual calm, saying, "This semester ends, and soon it will be holiday time. Your assessment results have been sent to your Light Computers, and for any shortcomings, I hope you actively improve."

Students: "Yes!"

Mu Jianling raised her hand: "Dismissed!"

Two words, not a single unnecessary one.

Students: "???"

Many students felt a bit unused to it. You should know that before entering college, teachers would seize every opportunity to extend lessons, hardly ever dismissing class on time, especially in important occasions, giving speeches, teachers, or leaders, would endlessly drone on, as if wishing to talk until the end of time.

Could Teacher Mu really be this brief?

After saying dismissed, no student moved, prompting Mu Jianling to frown, "You can go."

Students: "..."

There was a look of bewilderment on students' faces, clearly feeling unfulfilled, making Mu Jianling frown and add: "See you next academic year."

Students: "Yes!"

Still, no student budged, though a brave student had already raised a hand to ask: "Teacher, are we really just dismissed like this? Do you have nothing else to brief us on?"

Mu Jianling's face darkened, scolding: "What's there to brief you on, you're all adults, not mentally challenged children. Do I still need to tell you to submit assignments on time? Pay attention to safety on the road, don't do dangerous things? Now get out of here!"

As soon as her words landed, the students instantly normalized:

"That's more like it."

"A Teacher Mu who doesn't scold people, is truly unsettling."

"Yes, yes..."

"Let's go, let's go, let's go."

...

In an instant, the students departed one by one, Ji You also wanted to leave. He had just lifted his foot, walked a few steps, when suddenly, Teacher Mu Jianling's voice came from behind: "Number 4444."

Ji You turned back: "Teacher?"

Mu Jianling coldly said, "Go to Dr. Luo immediately for a check-up."

Hearing the name of another creditor, Ji You instantly felt a chill down his neck. Although Dr. Luo was very beautiful, personality gentle, and spoke softly, who wants to see a creditor you owe?

Ji You loudly said: "Yes!"

Just thinking about it, Ji You decided not to procrastinate and headed directly to the medical room, just as he sat on the Floating Car, paid the fare when Mu Jianling suddenly stepped aboard, Ji You: "???"

Mu Jianling didn't even raise an eyelid, said: "On the way."

Ji You: "..."

A wealthy person who throws money at trashy soap operas without even blinking, also hitching a ride?

credit points, is it worth it?

Ji You stared, mumbling: "Teacher, why didn't you say earlier? If I'd known you were on the way, I wouldn't have called a car."

Mu Jianling closed her eyes: "Too noisy."

Chapter 864: Fourth Master!

"Chatter."

Mu Jianling dropped the conversation and simply closed his eyes, having no interest in communicating with Ji You. Ji You wanted to discuss the issue of splitting the car fare with Teacher Mu, but was worried about getting beaten, so she simply shut her mouth.

Silent all the way, ten minutes later, the Floating Car stopped at the entrance of the school medical room.

Mu Jianling and Ji You got off the car and pushed the door open to enter.

Due to a small accident during the assessment, the assessment time was extended. As a result, when Mu Jianling returned to school with the students, the students from other departments had already

finished their assessments, and most of them had left the campus. Only a few remained, making the medical room quieter.

The two entered the medical room, where Dr. Luo was researching a new surgical plan with her assistant robot. Dr. Luo was focused, and the voices of Ji You and Mu Jianling did not disturb her. She just twitched her ear slightly and continued.

The entire space was very quiet.

"Surgical Knife No. 12."

"No. 3."

"No. 7."

...

Dr. Luo's instructions to the robot assistant were always calm and steady, without a hint of fluctuation. When the indicator lights flashed a few times and turned green, everything stopped. Dr. Luo turned to Mu Jianling and Ji You: "You're here."

Mu Jianling nodded, pointed at Ji You, and said, "This fool is in your hands, see if there's any problem." Dropping the words, Mu Jianling picked a sofa and sat down directly, right in front of Ji You and Dr. Luo, and opened the Light Computer to watch a TV series. Upon hearing the opening music, it turns out it's not 'Ugly Girl's Spring'?

Changed to a different show?

Ji You was a bit curious. She didn't originally plan to watch, but with a slight glance from the corner of her eye, she suddenly saw the face of Alliance Flower Ye Lu. Ji You: "Eh? Is it another show starring Ye Lu?"

Mu Jianling lightly hummed without answering.

Ji You curiously moved closer: "What show is it?"

Mu Jianling covered the light screen with his hand, then the next second, he pushed Ji You's big head away and cursed: "Go get checked, don't bother me."

Ji You grunted: "Why cover it up, I already saw it, it's called 'I'm the Queen'!"

Mu Jianling: "..."

Mu Jianling: "Itchy mouth?"

Ji You quickly shook her head and ran to the examination room: "No, no, no..."

At the same time, Ji You couldn't help but mutter inside: This actress called Ye Lu has quite a range in her roles, from a mistress in family ethics dramas to a sweet naive flower, and now she actually started taking on strong female lead roles.

Just at Ji You's unintended glance, she saw the main female character played by Ye Lu supporting a weak little male lead and saying, "He—I'm covering him."

So bold!

So arrogant!

So confident!

...

No wonder she's the Queen.

But... after hearing these lines, Ji You finally understood a bit why Teacher Mu has recently been saying things like 'I'm the strongest, no exception.' It turns out it's influenced by those melodramatic TV dramas.

Ahem...

Suddenly—

"Don't secretly criticize your teacher in your heart, being discovered can be quite terrifying." Gentle, kind, lenient... the voice oddly made one's scalp tingle, Ji You jumped in shock and quickly lifted her face, forcing a smile, "Dr. Luo, I wasn't thinking or saying anything."

Dr. Luo smiled: "Don't be afraid, I won't tell Teacher Mu."

Ji You: "..."

I trust ghost in you.

Dr. Luo pointed to the nearby diagnostic device and said, "Lie down."

Ji You took a look; it was the same instrument she had used to check Spiritual Silk before, and was said to be quite precious, brought over by Principal Hong from the Alliance Research Institute at great personal expense.

Ji You obediently lay down inside.

Dr. Luo said: "Relax, no need to worry about anything, I'll be right here to guide you."

Ji You: "Mm."

After lying down, the machine started scanning every inch of Ji You's body, and she didn't feel any discomfort, her whole body relaxing completely, relaxing...

Then.

Everything went black, and before her eyes appeared a pitch-black space.

Is this—

The simulation of the Spiritual World?

Silence.

Complete silence.

Ji You usually communicates with the Spiritual Silk through spiritual consciousness to view the Spiritual World; she herself cannot enter inside, only able to see through the eyes of her spiritual consciousness and feel, so Ji You knows that inside is an empty and void space, with nothing but Six Strands.

And, this detection equipment seems slightly different from last time. After connecting to spiritual power, it actually allows spiritual consciousness to enter her own Spiritual World and walk inside.

Ji You was slightly surprised: "Dr. Luo?"

Soon, Dr. Luo's gentle voice was heard: "I'm here."

Ji You asked: "Dr. Luo, is the examination equipment different from last time? My spiritual consciousness seems to be able to enter the Spiritual World?"

Dr. Luo smiled: "Mm, the machine hasn't changed, last time your spiritual power was too weak to endure such a test, so I didn't arrange it. Now, your spiritual power has improved, and the spiritual power threshold is sufficient to withstand the pressure of this examination, so I readjusted the examination plan. Doing this examination allows you to directly see your Spiritual World, and more directly and quickly find the problems within."

In the real world of the strong, the measure of a person's strength isn't simply their level. The degree of Spiritual Silk Cleaning matters too. Generally, one's Spiritual World is made up of a chaotic bunch of silk threads resembling a tangled yarn ball. The higher the spiritual power level, the more threads and the messier it gets... In order to use spiritual power, this tangled mess must be sorted out. The more sorted, the stronger.

Therefore, through this equipment, using spiritual consciousness to enter the Spiritual World allows the person to more easily, quickly, and effectively discover problems, like finding out which threads are entwined and can't be undone, and then resolving these problems bit by bit.

Ji You understood and said: "Teacher, I understand."

Dr. Luo said: "Don't forcefully touch your own Spiritual World, relax, relax, and relax completely."

With Dr. Luo's voice, Ji You's originally tense mind gradually relaxed, then, as a Conscious Body, she observed the surroundings for a while, then began to walk forward, viewing as she walked. Within her field of vision, there was still darkness, seemingly seeing nothing, nothing at all.

Eh?

The fool threads, where are they?

Each and every one, all gone.

Ji You felt a bit strange, she lifted her foot and continued forward. Then, thud! Something seemed to bump up under her foot, very uncomfortable...

Ji You looked down, taking a look.

Nothing there.

Suddenly—

Fourth: [Who's there! Who dares to step on your Fourth Master?]

Chapter 865: Vying for Favor, Little Threads

Ji You paused: Fourth?

Before he could feel surprised, Ji You just lifted his foot and suddenly felt a vibration underfoot, something was trying hard to push up, and then, Fourth's voice became clearer, more penetrating, and... more arrogant.

[Who? Who? Who? Who dares to step on your Fourth Master's face?]

Wow~

Fourth straightened its spine, its entire body swelled several circles in the blink of an eye, it exerted force and swung its tail over fiercely, just about to hit Ji You, when suddenly—

Ji You's just raised foot stepped back down.

Crunch~

Fourth: [Ow! Ow! Ow!]

Clatter~ Fourth's newly swollen body suddenly lost control and rapidly shrank, shrank...

Fourth: [Who! Who! Who?]

Its vulnerable spot was stepped on accurately, Fourth shouted anxiously: [Which shameless thief dares to ambush? Come on, challenge your Fourth Master one-on-one!]

Ji You: "Hmm?"

Fourth: [!!!]

Grinding its teeth, wishing to confront heaven and earth, Fourth instantly transformed into the weak little Sisi: [Master... Fourth really likes Master, Master, why did you come in without telling Fourth? Fourth thought Boss was ambushing Fourth again.]

Ji You frowned, expressionless: "I wouldn't dare talk to Fourth Master, after all, Fourth Master is so impressive, how could I, a shameless thief, dare to be impudent in front of Fourth Master?"

Fourth: [...]

Fourth shuddered, immediately flashing a fawning smile: [Fourth is Master, but Master is Master Master Master... Master!]

Ji You: "I wouldn't dare."

Is the Master angry?

Fourth tilted its head, wagged its tail, suddenly wrapped its tail around itself, curled into a ball, wailed: [Ow~ so... hurt hurt hurt...]

Ji You was surprised and quickly released the foot stepping on Fourth's vulnerable spot, seeing it successfully escape, Fourth originally intended to run away immediately but suddenly remembered something, flipped over, rolled to the side, continued curling up, trembling—

[Hurts~]

[Ow~]

[Hurts~]

...

The sound was truly miserable, even though Ji You suspected a trick, seeing Fourth crying in pain, breathless, trembling continuously, Ji You couldn't resist going over, quickly asked: "What's wrong? Where does it hurt?"

[Heart hurts~] Fourth kept rolling, its entire body rapidly shrinking, gradually, becoming less than a palm-sized small ball: [Ow~]

Ji You frowned, could it be that he exerted too much force earlier? The Spiritual Silk couldn't bear this damage? Or did the inspection equipment have an adverse impact on the Spiritual Silk?

Ji You hurriedly crouched down, lifted the ball-shaped Fourth.

Seeing the Master personally picking it up, Fourth immediately climbed the pole, its tail shaking happily, in a blink, it wrapped its entire silk around Ji You's finger.

Settle down.

Move in.

Instantly in place, Fourth happily wagged the tip of its tail, its head affectionately rubbed against Ji You's fingertip: [With Master here, Fourth doesn't hurt anymore~]

Ji You: "..."

Look at this agile posture, listen to this joyful tone, Ji You's expression was very serious: This doesn't look like it's in pain at all.

Fourth eyed Ji You, seeing the wrong expression, it immediately put more effort into rubbing its head, rubbing and rubbing, Fourth acted spoiled: [Fourth likes Master the most~]

Ji You kept a straight face.

Silent.

Serious.

...

It broke instantly, indeed couldn't withstand it, Ji You lifted his hand, rubbed Fourth's head, lips curving into a smile: "Hmm. Very good."

Fourth: [!!!]

Fourth's tail nearly reached the sky.

Then—

Ji You asked: "Where are the other strands?"

As soon as he said this, Ji You heard a rumbling sound.

Clatter~

Clatter~

Clatter~

This pitch-black space began to shake, like a landslide, rumbling...

Suddenly, a light appeared.

A second light.

A third light.

...

In an instant, the darkness shrouding the space vanished, Ji You felt as if the black cloth that had been covering his view was suddenly lifted, light appearing suddenly.

Ji You then saw a terrifying shadow large enough to cover the entire sky, rapidly shrinking, 1 meter, 2 meters, 3 meters... very quickly, it shrank into a filiform object about 10 inches in diameter.

Ji You looked closely: "Boss?"

Boss rushed over anxiously, knocked away Fourth entwined on Ji You's finger, then its entire silk wound down along Ji You's fingers, before Ji You could react, it occupied Ji You's arm.

Boss: [Ow—Master!!!]

Ji You: "..."

Boss, indeed, was extremely domineering.

Knocked flying, Fourth spun dizzily, it didn't have time to get angry, quickly flew to Ji You's other elbow, tried to preemptively occupy this territory, but suddenly, two more figures rushed over!

Second, Third.

Second, Third, acting completely unreasonably, extended their tails and swept at Fourth, Fourth seeing this: [Whoa! Treacherous! They joined forces...]

Unable to win a fight, Fourth immediately abandoned the idea, its tail deftly reached up, hurriedly hooked onto one of Master's hairs, and, in a swoosh, leaped to Ji You's head.

Old Five, Sixth were slower, but quickly rushed over too, only, Master's arms were occupied, and Fourth occupied the head too, Old Five and Sixth didn't hesitate, quickly moved to Ji You's legs, left and right, wrapped around his legs.

Ji You: "..."

All this happened rather quickly, Ji You was a bit stunned: [Silly silks, are you competing for favor?]

Six strands, each took hold of a rare opportunity, affectionately wrapping around Ji You's hands and feet, crying out, tails wagging excitedly, then there was no time for sentiment, Ji You felt something strange on top of his head, as if one strand sitting there was secretly doing something, occasionally jumping... bouncing...

Stealthily stepping on him?

Recalling Fourth often secretly perched on top of Old Five, wasn't this exactly the same?

Ji You's face darkened: "Fourth."

Fourth shuddered, immediately stopped all movements, dumbly responding: [Master! Fourth is here, please feel free to command.]

Ji You: "Get down from Master Ji You's head."

Fourth: [...]

[Okay! Fourth is the most obedient silk in the whole universe.] Fourth was a bit reluctant but complied, it moved slowly, reluctantly shifting down, moved and stopped beside Ji You's ear without moving further.

Fourth immediately curled up, wrapped around the ear.

—Fourth Master must occupy the highest position!

Chapter 866: Clingy Strands

Only by occupying the highest point can one be noticed by the master at the first moment. Only by being noticed can one gain the master's favor. And only with the master's favor—candy beans, milk tea, Butterfly Honey, Soul Device...

Cough, cough...

The Fourth collected his thoughts, raised his head, and began plotting how to become the master's most beloved little Sisi...

Of course, the Fourth's little schemes were unknown to Ji You, who held a straight face and asked, "Were you all just here?"

Boss, Second, Third... Six Strands nodded in unison: "Yes!"

Ji You was taken aback and asked, "You didn't see me coming in?"

Upon hearing this, the six strands showed a hint of confusion and bewilderment, Boss: "Didn't know, we only knew when we heard the master's voice."

Second: "Didn't know~"

Third: "Only knew when the Fourth mentioned it."

The Fourth twisted his head, brewing some words to please the master, while Ji You darkened her face: "No excuses, quickly and honestly confess."

The Fourth raised his head, putting away his scheming thoughts, honestly replying: "Only knew when the master stepped on it."

Speaking of which.

The Fourth suddenly covered his face: "Ouch~"

"It hurts~"

Whether it hurt or not, it didn't matter so much as—

Embarrassed.

The Fourth shrank his head.

Ji You remained expressionless and said, "I trust you are hiding something. Put your tail away and then speak of pain."

The Fourth: "..."

Oops!

The joyful little tail, forgot to put it away~

The Fourth quickly tucked it back, and sensing the master's serious demeanor, had to simply say a few words: "Sisi likes the master~"

"Ahem..." Ji You lowered her head, looking at the Fifth and Sixth at her ankle. The two strands wagged their tails upon meeting Ji You's gaze, eager to get close and plant a bold kiss on the master.

Then.

Fifth: "Just noticed."

Sixth: "Knew it from following them~"

Ji You raised her hand, touched her chin: It seems her sudden entrance using consciousness into the Spiritual World left the Six Spiritual Threads unaware. Moreover, from the scene just now, Ji You realized the spiritual world wasn't pitch black originally; the reason she couldn't see light or anything was because the entire space had been squeezed by her six strands' massive, plump bodies.

Except for the spot where Ji You had landed, no gap was left anywhere else, hence why the entire space appeared so dark.

Hmm?

So massive?

Larger than the last time Ji You checked her spiritual silk through this detecting device, it seemed to have grown several sizes.

Ji You touched her chin, lowered her head, and began evaluating her several strands.

First, the most domineering Boss, covered in jet black as ink, sleek and agile in shape, and single-handedly occupying nearly half of the spiritual space, full of momentum, even if now shrunken into a water pipe form, as if it was oozing domineering aura everywhere.

And Boss doesn't like reasoning, in its dictionary, the principle was simple: fight if you can, run if you can't.

In terms of brute force, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth, combined, were no match for Boss. Thus, in the spiritual space, Boss was always an unruly existence.

Next.

Come Second and Third.

Both strands were pretty huge.

Among six strands, both Second and Third's personalities were not very distinct, usually following Boss's lead wherever directed, although they had many of their own little thoughts. Whenever profits were distributed among everyone, Second and Third wouldn't hesitate to toss aside Boss's words.

Fourth?

Ji You frowned, this sly strand had too many faults to list one by one. But undoubtedly, Fourth was the slowest to develop among all strands, also the weakest, still unknown where all the precious things it consumed had gone to.

Fifth?

Ji You lowered her head, specially checking her most honest strand, then noticed Fifth was lying next to her foot, secretly wagging its tail, and rubbing its head on Ji You's foot's back.

Ji You gently covered her heart: too adorable, too cute, absolutely defenseless.

Fifth immediately sensed Ji You's gaze, wagging its tail more vigorously: "Master! Fifth also likes the master~"

Ji You bent down, as she was about to reach out—

Fifth: "Master, where are my candy beans?" Worrying Ji You might forget the count, Fifth felt unsure, reminding: "Every Sisi must have 30 beans, not missing a single one~"

Ji You: "..."

Cute?

Adorable?

Just a debt collector, where's the cuteness, where's the adorability?

Ji You kept her face sharp, cleared her throat, and said, "At once 30 beans, you can't finish them, for now each gets 5 beans, I'll keep the rest safe for you."

Fifth thought for a while, nodded: "Okay~"

Ji You then felt slightly relieved, indeed, the sincerity of honest kids might not be endearing occasionally but mostly always is.

Sixth, seeing this, hurriedly followed suit: "Master, master, master, my candy beans mustn't be missing either."

Ji You replied: "None will be missing for you."

Then she glanced at the six strands, loudly said, "Every one of you strands won't be missing any."

Upon hearing this, although not all could be received immediately, but—despite the master being a bit stingy, the promises made to the Sisi were all fulfilled, never a penny owed.

Thinking that, all Sisi agreed.

...

Through observation, one thing was certain: all of her six strands were becoming sturdier, thicker.

Thereon, Ji You continued circling around the spirit space.

One step.

Two steps.

Three steps.

...

The spirit space appeared bright daylight, apart from the six strands, everything else was void, only a barrier like thin mist separated Ji You's spirit space into a seemingly enclosed space.

Outside the thin mist barrier, what was it?

Was it a desolate nothing?

Was it a flourishing oasis?

Was it an intense battlefield?

Or perhaps...

Ji You was very curious about this.

This barrier, Ji You had long known, every time using consciousness for observation or communication with the spiritual threads, she could see it, like a wall isolating her spirit space from the outer world, and although having tried various methods to change this, none succeeded that truly entered her spiritual world...

Now? Things were different.

Her spiritual world inexplicably allowing consciousness to genuinely enter through the detection device. And once entering it, never mind anything else, merely being able to physically touch, as real touch, her six threads sufficed to make Ji You happy enough.

Ji You kept a straight face, feeling the six spiritual threads competing for attention, each like a clingy spirit, one after the other acting spoiled, so much so that it melted people's hearts and got someone to feel overwhelmingly fond.

Chapter 867: Inspection

A strand hung on her ear, a thick strand wrapped around her right hand like a cane, two strands wrapped around her left hand, two strands on each leg. Ji You maintained a composed face with a calm expression.

Then.

She took a step.

As she moved forward, the full view of her Spirit Space gradually revealed itself to Ji You. Here, it looked empty and vast, without any barriers.

Walking.

Walking.

Ji You suddenly stopped because she arrived at a very small Light Ball.

This Light Ball had a shape similar to a sphere, its body was pitch black, yet inside, strands of light constantly emitted.

Is this?

Ji You's expression was serious as she asked, "Is this my Spirit Core?"

Actually, no need to ask; she already knew the answer.

This is the Spirit Core, the most important place in the Spirit Space. Once shattered, the entire Spirit Space crumbles.

Boss: [This is where I sleep.]

Second, Third: [Sleeping.]

Fourth: [Tired, just lying here for a bit feels great!]

Old Five: [Yup, this is where we sleep.]

Sixth: [Sleep! Sleep!]

Ji You already understood. She then continued walking forward. This road was long, very long, not knowing how long she walked. When Dang Jiyou reached a thin fog, she found she couldn't walk further. The road ahead seemed blocked, although the world behind the fog was near, she couldn't step over it no matter what.

Ji You knew this was the barrier of the Spirit Space, so she stopped and looked up to observe.

Behind the thin fog was also a void space. Close up, it seemed no different from the space Ji You was in; further away was veiled by a thin mist that grew thicker...

The further back, completely shrouded by mist, with no way to glimpse anything.

Ji You frowned and started to contemplate:

The world behind the fog is actually also her Spiritual World. However, restricted by her low Spiritual Level, the world behind the fog is temporarily out of reach...

But—

What use is there to a vast Spiritual World?

After drinking some Cloud Mist Tea several times, Ji You's spiritual power has not improved, only expanded the Spirit Space slightly, perhaps this slight expansion is too weak. Ji You felt no significant change during battle or material crafting.

...

Ji You kept a calm face and said nothing. On Ji You, the surface of the Six Strands appeared harmonious, but behind the scenes, there had already been countless confrontations for the master's favor and attention.

For instance, Boss straightened its head, almost reaching Ji You's eyelashes, aiming for the master's immediate sight.

Second and Third were not satisfied with falling behind, but as soon as they moved, Boss would swipe them away with its tail. Helpless, the two strands, always loyal to Boss, immediately started a rebellion, teaming up to overthrow Boss...

During Boss, Second, and Third's struggle, Old Five and Sixth were not idle. Both strands silently climbed up with the goal of occupying the master's shoulders, only to be joinedly swatted away by Boss, Second, and Third!

Swatted away Old Five and Sixth grabbed opportunities to climb again the next second.

Boss, Second, and Third swatted them away again.

...

Cycle repeats.

Fourth shrank into a fingernail-sized ring, hiding inside the master's ear canal, resting its head on the master's auricle, exuding a taste of peace and tranquility.

At that moment—

Fourth: [Fourth Master isn't playing with a bunch of fools below!]

Suddenly, Ji You opened her mouth, causing her ear to move slightly, Fourth noticed and immediately perked up, obediently: [Master, if you have any orders, don't hesitate to command Fourth!]

Ji You: "I'm broke."

Fourth: [Money doesn't matter, just give some Candy Beans.]

Ji You: "I don't have Candy Beans."

Fourth listened, feeling a bit conflicted: [Then, can you owe it first?]

Ji You frowned: "You also want to be your master's creditor?"

The master's creditors are already numerous. A strand wants to join in the fun?

Fourth turned its head, seemingly considering how to respond, Ji You raised her hand and held the small object from her ear: "Fourth, tell me how to break the barrier in front?"

Fourth: [Sisi doesn't know~]

Ji You frowned: "Be honest, or else the remaining 25 Candy Beans will be gone."

Fourth: [...]

Other Strands: [...]

Fourth shook its tail, trembling and trembling, rewrapped itself around Ji You's fingertip, its head kept spinning: [Master, you shouldn't do things like silencing or killing the strands. Sisis are so cute; how can you treat us this way?]

Ji You dragged out the tone: "Sisis are so cute, let's kill a few more times."

Fourth: [...]

Before Fourth could speak, Old Five on the foot spoke honestly: [Master, it's not the right time to break it yet.]

Ji You: "Not the time? Then when is the time?"

Old Five emphatically nodded, Sixth rushed to answer: [Master, the barrier is not thin enough yet, so it can't be broken, even if we jointly use the power of Six Strands to forcefully break it; it can't be broken.]

This statement carries a sense of certainty.

Ji You asked: "So, if I want to break this barrier, even all future barriers, would you need to do it for me?"

Sixth had a slightly confused and unsure expression: [Probably, all previous barriers were broken by us together.]

Boss was not in the mood to secretly fight with Second and Third to consolidate its position; it flicked its tail and added: [It's true, it's up to us to break it, Master gives us lots of Candy Beans and lots of Soul Devices; we'll have the strength.]

Ji You raised her hand, stroked Boss's head, then pulled away the head that was about to stick to her cheek: "I see, it's as I expected."

Then.

Ji You didn't have time to catch her breath, and Six Strands all looked at her: [Master, when will you give us lots and lots of Candy Beans?]

Ji You: "..."

Ji You: "This question is a bit complex, next one."

Six Strands: [Master, when will you give us lots and lots of Soul Devices?]

Ji You: "..."

Ji You couldn't gather a cover-up, and straightforwardly said: "Can't hear you, next."

Six Strands: [...]

Looking at the dense mist behind the barrier, Ji You suddenly asked: "Where's Iron?"

...

Chapter 868: Iron Plate

As soon as Ji You finished speaking, the Six Strands simultaneously extended their ends, pointing toward the misty barrier: [It's there.]

Ji You frowned: "It's inside the barrier?"

Six Spiritual Threads: [Yes, indeed.]

Ji You raised her hand, touched her chin, and started to ponder: The Iron Plate is inside the barrier, which means Xiao You is certainly inside too. Initially, she thought that if she could enter the Spiritual World, she would be able to see Xiao You there.

No way.

Thinking of this, Ji You felt a bit disappointed. She lifted her head, staring at the thick mist, and asked: "Does it not appear usually?"

Boss: [It only appears to snatch food.]

Second: [Can't beat it.]

Third: [Master, can you help us snatch next time?]

Fourth: [One day, Fourth Master will beat everyone who snatched food from me.]

Wow~

Quite ambitious, huh.

Ji You didn't retort, then it was Old Five's turn. Old Five wagged its tail: [Iron snatches things, annoying.]

Sixth: [Annoying.]

Ji You asked: "Can't you stop it from snatching?"

The Six Strands collectively shook their heads: "Can't do it."

In one's own Spiritual World, one's Spiritual Silk is supposed to be the local tyrant, and now, it's being usurped by some mysterious Iron Plate, and even the Spiritual Threads can tolerate this?

Seemingly sensing the master's thoughts, the Six Strands collectively lowered their heads: [Can't beat it.]

Ji You: "..."

"Ahem, ahem..." Also being someone who couldn't do anything to the Iron Plate, Ji You kept a straight face and changed the subject: "But, recently it appears very rarely, do you know the reason?"

Recently, regardless of whether Ji You fed it Candy Beans, milk tea, or various natural foods, the Iron Plate seemed unresponsive and no longer appeared on its own.

Ji You had long wanted to ask for the reason, but as Xiao You, who was inside the Iron Plate, was completely oblivious to the matter, she turned to the Six Strands for answers, scrutinizing them seriously.

Boss: [Don't know.]

Second looked bewildered.

Third simply shook its head.

Fourth nudged its face closer, suggesting Ji You give it a kiss, to which Ji You furrowed her brows: "If you have nothing to say, then forget it."

Fourth wagged its tail: [Fourth won't say.]

Ji You: "..."

Ji You turned to Old Five, who cluelessly raised its head, earnestly staring at Ji You, as if waiting for Ji You to provide an answer.

Ji You raised her hand, rubbed her forehead, and looked at Sixth, speaking in an exceedingly gentle tone, "Sixth, do you know why?"

Sixth shook its little head strongly: [Don't know.]

Ji You: "..."

Fourth flicked its tail, waiting for the master to speak first, but the master surprisingly remained silent, as if completely uninterested, making Fourth slightly anxious.

But!!!

In this stalemate, the final victor will surely be the one who remains the most composed.

Fourth proudly raised its head: [Fourth Master never compromises! The ultimate victor will be Fourth!]

Confident Fourth originally believed the master wouldn't hold out and would come to ask eventually, yet—

minute passed.

minutes passed.

minutes passed.

...

After Ji You completed a circle, preparing to leave, she turned her spiritual consciousness to the Six Spiritual Threads, checking each one thoroughly and finding nothing amiss. Ji You said: "I'm leaving."

The Six Strands: "Master, don't leave."

Nonetheless, Ji You proceeded on her way, her steps becoming increasingly hurried, when suddenly, Fourth shouted loudly: "Master, I'll speak!"

Ji You then turned back, asking: "What's the reason?"

Fourth, unwilling to give up, pointed at its face with the tip of its tail. Ji You twitched at her mouth's corners but still reached out, giving it a rub: "Good, quickly tell me."

Fourth looking at Ji You's hand: [Foul! Foul! Fourth wanted a kiss on the cheek—]

Ji You's face darkened: "I think you want a slap!"

Fourth immediately spoke: [Because Iron is full, still digesting!]

Ji You: "..."

Ji You rubbed her hand against her forehead, asking: "Just that?"

Fourth nodded forcefully: [Yes, indeed.]

Ji You couldn't quite believe it: "Is it really that simple?"

Thinking of this matter made Fourth a tad upset: [The Silks only ate a little, but Iron ate so much, still hasn't finished digesting.]

Ji You asked: "If Iron finishes digesting, what will happen?"

The Six Strands shook their heads in unison, reassured Ji You that they weren't lying. Finding out that the Iron Plate could be busy digesting after eating too much left Ji You utterly stunned, indicating that her recent feedings just might be fulfilling for the Iron Plate.

...

If it can be filled this time, it will surely work next time too.

As long as she persists, maybe Xiao You can come out.

Thinking of this made Ji You feel very happy.

Suddenly——

"Knock, knock!"

Ji You lifted her head, looking toward the source of the sound, coming from somewhere far, far away. Her eyes lit up, thinking it might be the Iron Plate reacting to her, but in the next second, she heard Dr. Luo's voice: "Ji You, are you okay?"

Only then did Ji You remember she was experiencing the Spiritual World, and quickly responded: "Teacher, I'm here."

Dr. Luo didn't seem to hear Ji You's reply and repeated the question.

Ji You raised her voice to reply: "Here, almost done."

This time, Dr. Luo's voice came through more clearly: "Come out soon, the examination has ended."

Ji You: "Okay."

Before leaving, Ji You glanced back at the direction deep in the mist, where the Iron Plate was invisible, and there was no sign of Xiao You either. With a tinge of disappointment, Ji You quickly left.

Beep——

The examination equipment emitted a series of beeping sounds. Ji You slowly, very slowly, crawled out. As soon as she was out, she met Dr. Luo's concerned gaze. Dr. Luo asked: "How do you feel?"

Ji You earnestly replied: "Very good."

Dr. Luo continued to ask: "No discomfort at all?"

Ji You: "There is!"

Dr. Luo raised his eyes, pursuing: "Where does it feel uncomfortable?"

Ji You pointed at her hand, smiling: "Everything's fine, just one thing——I'm too poor." Seeing the Six Strands being so obedient and cute, yet being unable to provide them with the precious food they needed, even the smallest expense had to be calculated with precision...

Ji You felt extremely frustrated.

Imagining how disappointed the Six Spiritual Threads must be with a master like her.

Then.

Dr. Luo personally conducted another thorough check on Ji You, confirming that there were indeed no serious health issues. Only then did Dr. Luo say: "Everything seems quite normal, but it doesn't rule out any later adverse effects. It's important to keep monitoring and be vigilant."

Pausing briefly, Dr. Luo continued: "If you experience any discomfort or adverse reactions, feel free to call me at any time."

Ji You nodded vigorously: "Yes."

Chapter 869: Running Into

After the check-up, and confirming that her body was fine, Ji You felt relieved. Then she went to Dr. Luo to get a few prescriptions for body refining medicine. As Dr. Luo handed her the medicine, he suddenly asked, "Ji You student, the holiday lasts for two months. How do you plan to arrange your vacation?"

Regarding this question, Ji You hadn't made any specific plans yet. Ji You said, "I should go home for a bit and then find a holiday job."

In fact, there's still more than three years until the once-in-a-century Beast Tide, but currently, many Star Beast groups have been showing unusual activity in the peripheral areas of each Star System, especially in the Sixth Star System, where the occurrences are frequent, which is quite unsettling.

At this time, it's not suitable to travel between Star Systems, so Ji You plans to first ask Sister Lingzhi, Sister Li Ya, and Brother Qiong when they plan to return to Garbage Star No. 101.

If they go back, Ji You will follow them, and then stay at home with peace of mind to train and make Soul Devices.

...

After listening, Dr. Luo's expression suddenly became very serious, "The holiday is quite long— using it only for a holiday job is too wasteful. You can go to the school's task office to take on some assignments."

Ji You was taken aback, "Take on assignments?"

Dr. Luo nodded and said, "Although first-year assignments are mostly simple ones like finding lost kittens and puppies, they can still increase your points. There might even be rewards of academic points and credit points. Just speaking of points, points can buy a lot of courses, especially courses from other excellent schools. Your thinking shouldn't be confined to your own school; you should look at the entire Alliance, even the whole world."

Ji You was suddenly enlightened: Yes indeed.

A person's vision shouldn't only see what's in front of them. Besides courses from Lanyue Star, the First Military Academy, the Second Military Academy... there are plenty of courses worth learning!

Not only within the Alliance, but other countries and even social practices can offer many learning opportunities.

In combat skills, there are no shortcuts— just hard work, and more hard work.

In material processing, there are no shortcuts— just constant research, research, and more research.

...

Ji You nodded vigorously, and said loudly, "Teacher, I understand. I will go to the task office to see if there are any suitable tasks for me."

Dr. Luo smiled, "Alright."

With all checks completed, Ji You turned her head to look at Mu Jianling, who had been watching trashy dramas on the sofa since she walked in, and said, "Teacher, do you have any other instructions for me? If not, I will take my leave?"

Mu Jianling lifted her gaze from "I'm the Queen," looked at Ji You, and then waved her hand, "Get lost."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You muttered, "Can't you speak nicely?"

Mu Jianling: "Hmm?"

Ji You put away her playful smile, and said very seriously and sincerely, "Teacher, I wish you a happy holiday."

Then, she turned to Dr. Luo and smiled, "Dr. Luo, I wish you a happy holiday."

Dr. Luo said, "Go back. If you are returning to your hometown, be sure to travel safely."

Ji You nodded vigorously.

After Ji You left, Mu Jianling put away the Light Computer and turned to Dr. Luo, asking, "Luo Wei, is her body really fine?"

"There's been significant progress. According to her training in this period, these are normal growth values." Dr. Luo shook his head, then handed Ji You's complete medical check-up report to Mu Jianling, and suddenly smiled, "Obviously, you're so concerned about the students, why not say it yourself?"

Mu Jianling stretched out her hand to receive it and casually replied to Dr. Luo's question, "Say what? Talking too much to this little brat is vexing."

Dr. Luo laughed, "I don't feel that way. I quite like talking to this child."

Mu Jianling lowered her head, carefully reading the check-up report, just gave a slight nasal "hmm."

After reading it, Mu Jianling directly threw the report into the trash shredder.

Dr. Luo said, "After you've looked, I'll just delete the electronic data as well."

Mu Jianling: "Hmm."

Dr. Luo quickly cleared all data in the testing equipment thoroughly and completely.

After cleaning up, Dr. Luo sighed, "This child's six spiritual threads have grown faster than any current data."

Mu Jianling said coldly, "Grown faster with all the good stuff she's eaten."

Dr. Luo chuckled, "For most people, even if they eat lots of good stuff, even using Soul Devices in daily training wouldn't match Ji You's growth rate."

Mu Jianling coldly said, "100% purification level. If she didn't have an advantage, she might as well go back to the garbage planet to pick up scraps."

Dr. Luo: "..."

"Ahem...", Dr. Luo said, "To break through the next level of spiritual power, just eating natural treasures like Candy Beans isn't enough in the short term; Soul Devices are also needed. These Soul Devices aren't easy to manage, if—"

Dr. Luo suddenly stopped herself mid-sentence. She tilted her head slightly and sneaked a glance at Mu Jianling, finding that her expression didn't change a bit, as if she hadn't heard the latter part of her sentence. Dr. Luo sighed slightly in her heart and then said, "Should we think of a way to get her one?"

Upon hearing this, Mu Jianling's face darkened, "No need, let her figure it out herself. We can help once, but not every time; we can't keep supporting her forever, can we? Even without Soul Devices, she can break through, though it might take a bit more time. It's not a bad thing for her."

Dr. Luo's expression became serious, "That's reasonable."

"By the way—" Just as she started to say something, Dr. Luo saw Mu Jianling directly turn off the Light Computer, clapped her hands, and said, "I'm off."

She left the words behind and walked out decisively.

Dr. Luo: "..."

This personality, really, not willing to say an extra word.

**

Meanwhile, after Ji You walked out of Dr. Luo's medical room, the sunset glow had covered the land, and Ji You checked the time. It was the opening time of the school cafeteria. Ji You lifted her foot and headed towards the cafeteria.

The medical room is about 30 minutes away from the cafeteria. Instead of taking a Floating Car, Ji You decided to run. Before she went to NY50 for the assessment, Ji You participated relentlessly in the morning jog every day, and running had become a habit. Her physical fitness had improved significantly during this time.

Ji You ran while humming a song.

Then.

Seeing a silhouette sitting on a bench by the flower bed, Ji You suddenly paused and asked somewhat surprised, "Student Liu Fufeng?"

Liu Fufeng looked up and glanced at Ji You.

Chapter 870: Twisting the Bottle Cap

Under the sunset in a thriving public park, a wooden bench, leaning against the backrest, Liu Fufeng looked up and met Ji You's bewildered eyes. He looked at Ji You gently.

Then.

Liu Fufeng lowered his head again, the afterglow of the sunset casting on him, highlighting Liu Fufeng's fair, delicate features which appeared even more fair. His translucent complexion seemed to be tinged with a thin layer of golden radiance...

"Ji You." Liu Fufeng's slightly lowered eyelashes were dense like fan-shaped feathers.

A very light, very subtle voice, if Ji You hadn't been paying attention to him all the time, he almost wouldn't have heard it. Ji You asked, "Why are you here?"

This park was built on a relatively primitive mountain forest preserved by the school, with some appropriate modifications following. The park is nestled against the mountains and rivers, offering a very beautiful scenery, suitable for school students and teachers to pass time leisurely, or to find solace when feeling emotionally distressed.

Liu Fufeng bowed his head, silent.

Silence.

Around, except for the sound of wind and the creek, almost no other sounds were heard.

When Ji You thought he wouldn't hear an answer, Liu Fufeng suddenly exclaimed, "Irritated."

Just one word, but it was enough to explain the other's mood. Ji You blinked and then took a step back, saying, "Oh—then continue being irritated, I'll be on my way."

Liu Fufeng: "..."

Ji You walked away without uttering any unnecessary nonsense.

Da~

Da~

Da~

...

Listening to Ji You's decisive departing footsteps, Liu Fufeng raised his head, looking at Ji You's retreating figure. His mouth opened slightly, with an expression on his face that was hard to describe simply with words:

[Normal behavior, shouldn't she have asked why I was irritated? Or, at least simply said a few words like don't be irritated, think broadly, everything will get better when you broaden your mind, that kind of conventional talk. Wouldn't she stay? Or—leave just as she said? Moreover—I wasn't going to borrow money from her, did she need to run so fast?]

Watching Ji You's figure about to disappear, Liu Fufeng opened his mouth, gently coughed, "Cough, cough... Ji..."

Ji You had reached a bend, heard the cough, and immediately turned around, asking, "Student Fufeng, do you need any help?"

Liu Fufeng looked at Ji You, who stopped but didn't come back, instead stood still quietly watching him. He opened his mouth, wanting to say something, after a while, he suddenly said, "Ji You, could you help me buy a bottle of water, please?"

Ji You: "..."

After saying this, Liu Fufeng was surprised by himself, with slender fair fingertips trembling slightly at his back, his face showing an extremely sincere expression, "Please help me buy a bottle of water, thank you."

Ji You pointed to a vending machine 10 meters to Liu Fufeng's right, saying, "Over there."

Liu Fufeng: "..."

Ji You asked, "Do you need any other help?"

As Liu Fufeng stared at Ji You with clear eyes, his face suddenly flushed a bit as if after long mental preparation, he said, "I... I don't have any points." Even by the end of this semester, Liu Fufeng still lacked the privilege to use credit points for purchases within the campus.

Ji You: "..."

Just knew it, stopped herself surely to borrow money!

Indeed—

Her intuition had never failed. Ji You, while complaining, said, "Alright, I'll buy you a bottle."

Upon hearing this, Liu Fufeng's face showed obvious joy, he happily said, "Ji You, thank you."

Ji You walked over, tossed a bottle of drinking water directly into Liu Fufeng's chest, waved her hand saying, "You're welcome, we're classmates, helping each other is expected."

Finishing the sentence, in the next moment, Ji You said, "5 credit points for service fee, please settle on site."

Liu Fufeng: "..."

Liu Fufeng's face showed a hint of distress, softly said, "Sorry, I can't give you."

Ji You opened her mouth in shock, saying, "5 credit points service fee, and you won't even give it? How stingy can you be?" At least, he was once the Crown Prince of the Empire.

Liu Fufeng said softly, "Teacher Mu does not allow this kind of thing to happen. Could... could I owe you first? I... I'll pay you back after graduation."

Ji You: "..."

Graduation, at least 3 years away. Drag it for a while, might turn into a bad debt.

Seeing Liu Fufeng's genuine expression of embarrassment, shyness, helplessness, and dilemma... Ji You wasn't sincerely trying to charge any service fee, she was just casually saying, so she waved her hand, "Forget it, consider this water as my treat."

Liu Fufeng raised his head in surprise, showing a look of disbelief, "Ji You? You..."

Ji You said, "Drink it."

Liu Fufeng softly said, "Thank you."

The clean bottled water lay in Liu Fufeng's embrace, but he hadn't immediately accepted it nor did he immediately open the cap to drink. Ji You was slightly puzzled, casually asked, "Need me to help you open the bottle cap?"

Upon asking this, Ji You herself found it amusing, then Liu Fufeng lifted his head, his excessively beautiful eyes seriously stared at Ji You, softly asked, "Could... could you?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You exclaimed, "You can't even open the bottle cap?"

Liu Fufeng lowered his eyes, "Yes."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You restrained her twitching mouth corner, said, "You wouldn't ask me to feed you to drink, would you?"

Upon hearing this, Liu Fufeng shook his head, seriously said, "No, I use a straw."

Ji You felt slightly speechless, but still reached out, took the bottled water, gently twisted, saw the bottle cap turned opened, then handed the water to Liu Fufeng, saying, "Here."

Liu Fufeng said, "Thank you."

After saying these two words, he continuously kept both hands at his back, then extended one to add a straw quickly, after which Liu Fufeng swiftly retracted his hand to his back.

Though Liu Fufeng's movements were swift, in those brief seconds, Ji You had already seen Liu Fufeng's hand hidden at his back in full view. The originally defined and slender beautiful hands, now had chilling and terrifying wounds from fingertips to palm, wrist... These wounds appeared very thin, as if pierced by needle-like or dagger-like objects, judging from the healing marks, the wounds seemed to have been around for 4 or 5 days. Ji You frowned but didn't immediately question the source of the wounds, instead asked, "Being hurt this badly, why not get treatment?"

These minor external injuries, put in a treatment instrument, would heal in just a few minutes.

Why not?

At the mildly puzzled look from Ji You, Liu Fufeng had already perceived, he looked at Ji You, saying, "Can't heal."

Ji You: "???"

Liu Fufeng raised his hand, lowered his head, gently drank water, he didn't open up further to the subsequent questions from Ji You.