

Scavengers 881

Chapter 881: Yue Qiguang's Request

Classmate Ji You?

Hearing these four words, Ji You was truly shocked. This—

Was it really coming from Yue Qiguang's mouth?

This guy, usually opening his mouth to call someone a fool or dad... always acting like he's the biggest deal in the universe. And now, he's speaking to me so politely?

Ji You truly didn't know how to respond.

Yue Qiguang looked at Ji You's expression, frowned, and couldn't help but say, "Fool, daddy's talking to you."

That's more like it.

Ji You instantly felt relieved and said, "Spit it out if you have something to say, fart it out if you need to."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Yue Qiguang opened his mouth, intending to say something polite to ease the atmosphere a bit, but... 4444 isn't really the right partner for that. So after hesitating for a moment, Yue Qiguang raised his neck and said loudly, "Daddy wants to ask for your help."

Ji You: "Just say it!"

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Yue Qiguang said gruffly, "Say whether you'll agree first."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You, feeling a bit speechless, said, "You haven't even told me what it is. How can I promise you anything? Are you going to ask me to fetch a star for you? I could do that too?"

Upon hearing this, Yue Qiguang said a bit awkwardly, "I want to ask you to speak to Green Glaze Master and see if she'd sell me a Soul Device—price is negotiable."

Ji You listened and realized it was such a trivial matter, thinking that this idiot Yue Qiguang was making it sound as if he wanted me to join him in committing crimes. Ji You pondered and said, "I don't know if Green Glaze Master will agree, but I can try to mention it."

Yue Qiguang heard this, raised his hand, and scratched his head, saying, "If you get the chance to speak to the Master, just casually bring it up. Daddy won't make it difficult for you. If Green Glaze Master doesn't agree, don't mention it again to avoid annoying her." Saying this, Yue Qiguang cleared his throat and continued, "The job as a clerk isn't bad. If you can do it, keep working hard."

Oh~

Is the simple-minded Yue Qiguang actually being considerate?

Ji You felt a bit comforted and said, "Alright. I'll mention it to Master, but her schedule is uncertain. As Master's clerk, Ah Da and I can't often disturb her; we usually wait for her to contact us."

Ji · Master · You, maintaining her cover, earnestly rambled: "The Master is so skilled. We must not bother her casually. What if she's at a crucial step in crafting a Soul Device and is disrupted by me, leading to a failure?"

Yue Qiguang, with a serious face, said, "I understand that."

After these words, Yue Qiguang's face inexplicably flushed slightly. A bit awkwardly, he still opened his mouth, genuinely saying, "Thank you, Classmate Ji You."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You said, "Thank your grandfather!"

Yue Qiguang: "Get lost! Trying to get yourself killed? Come—Daddy will send you off!"

With that said.

Yue Qiguang lifted his foot, turned around, and headed back into the elevator.

Ji You couldn't help but ask, "Why do you want Green Glaze Master's Soul Device?"

Yue Qiguang stopped moving, didn't turn back, and stared at the elevator's floor display screen, saying, "Want to grow stronger."

It's because—

Daddy isn't strong enough yet!

Not only not strong, but so weak that he needs a fool like you to protect him...

Yue Qiguang didn't say that sentence.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

During the brief silence, Yue Qiguang expected 4444, the fool, to mock him, but it didn't happen, making him a bit puzzled. He suddenly turned around, staring at Ji You: "???"

Ji You gently asked, "Do Green Glaze Master's Soul Devices have any benefit for you?" Given Yue Qiguang's situation, it shouldn't be overly difficult for him to purchase a Soul Device, yet he still opened up to me about buying one...

Not only Yue Qiguang, but also Sheng Qingyan, Teacher Cheng Yu, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing...

This—

What's the reason?

Yue Qiguang, hearing Ji You's question, straightened his face and said seriously, "It's useful. My physical strength is strong, but the spiritual power has always been extremely weak. This weakness hasn't been improved over recent years, despite using many Soul Devices, and even Master Kong Zhe custom-made some for me without significant improvements. Both Chu Jiaojiao and I have S-level physical strength, and the effort I put into training is no less than hers... But, due to my extremely weak spiritual power, that's the reason I can never beat Chu Jiaojiao."

Speaking about Chu Jiaojiao, there was a noticeable hint of gritting teeth in Yue Qiguang's voice.

Ji You listened and laughed, saying, "Alright then, because you're so pitiful, I'll say a few good words to Master."

Yue Qiguang, slightly agitated, said, "Where is Daddy pitiful?"

Ji You said, "Always getting beaten up by Jiaojiao."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Yue Qiguang turned his back: "Goodbye."

Finished speaking, he walked into the elevator without looking back.

Watching the floating elevator go airborne, Ji You didn't delay any further. She turned around and started heading back to her dorm. But right when she turned, she noticed an automatic Floating Car pulled up beside her, with Sheng Qingyan's head peeking out, disdainfully saying, "Poor dead, what are you dawdling for? Hurry up and get in the car..."

Ji You: "Weren't you leaving?"

Sheng Qingyan replied irritably, "Who told you to have your hand around someone's neck? People dare not leave."

Ji You: "???"

Her hands, feet, were properly positioned at all times.

Sheng Qingyan rolled his eyes and said, "Since you are a clerk for the Master, you've got someone by the throat all day long, they really hate it..."

Ji You realized, and winked, "Alright, that's quite savvy."

Suddenly, Ji You's tone shifted, and she half-jokingly said, "This clerk wants braised rabbit; kindly get me one."

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Sheng Qingyan cursed and grumbled, "There's none, take it or leave it."

Saying this, Sheng Qingyan started the Floating Car, getting ready to leave. Ji You quickly hopped in, laughing, "Just kidding, don't mind it."

Whoosh—

The Floating Car shot forward, and in a blink, it parked in front of the dormitory for the self-funded class. The two got out of the car, Sheng Qingyan looked at Ji You with a bit of disdain, saying, "Don't forget to say some nice words to the Master as well."

Earlier, while waiting nearby, Sheng Qingyan heard the conversation between Yue Qiguang and Ji You.

Ji You said, "I'll give it a try."

...

They both went back to their respective dorms. Ji You, upon entering her dorm, didn't rest, but immediately went into her workshop, finding some miscellaneous materials stored earlier and put them all on the workbench.

There were ores, liquids, plants, teeth, claws, feathers, fur from the Star Beasts...

What type of Soul Device could be made from these?

What can improve the spiritual power of Yue Qiguang, Sheng Qingyan, Teacher Cheng Yu... more effectively?

How can I upgrade my Soul Device crafting to Intermediate?

...

So many questions, Ji You furrowed her brows, deep in thought.

Chapter 883: Master, Pick Me—I'm Super Sweet!

The night is deep and quiet.

The workbench is filled with a variety of materials, including discarded companion stones, various metal items, and various raw ore materials...

These include leftovers from Ji You's material handling class, various scraps picked up during recent trips, and materials purchased by Ji You from the Star Network...

These materials come in many varieties, but each is somewhat scarce in quantity. Only one piece of alloy steel is relatively large, and if cut, it can yield about 10 small pieces.

What should be used to make a Soul Device?

Ji You raised her hand and stroked her chin.

After much consideration, Ji You finally decided to use very ordinary metal to make it. This ordinary metal product is the piece of alloy steel, because the manufacturing cost is very low, so the price Ji You paid for this steel was also very cheap.

[Cough, cough...]

This is definitely not because of being stingy, but because of poverty!

That's right.

Poor people don't have the right to choose the good from the bad.]

After clearing her throat, Ji You solemnly explained her choice, and then she began her experiment.

Up to now, Ji You had only used grass seed, scrap companion stone to make Soul Devices, all successfully, but she had never tried metal products, so she felt a bit uncertain before trying.

Spirit World.

Ji You said, "Sisi, stop sleeping; get up and start working."

The Spirit World was silent.

"Cough, cough..." Ji You felt slightly awkward and said, "Get up and start working."

The empty Spirit World remained motionless, as if it were a void with nothing existing.

Ji You: "..."

The machine used in the medical room to check her body could allow Ji You's spiritual consciousness to enter her own Spirit World, enabling her to directly contact her Six Spiritual Threads.

But!

Now, because she was directly using her consciousness to communicate with the spiritual threads, she could see them but couldn't touch or grab them, so when the threads were unruly, Ji You could only shout and curse.

Of course, this doesn't mean Ji You couldn't control the spiritual threads at all, because although she couldn't physically touch them, these threads depend on Ji You. If Ji You lives, the threads exist; if Ji You dies, the threads are extinguished. Ji You certainly had ways to truly harm these threads.

These six dumb spiritual threads, having accompanied Ji You for so long, were like family to her, and she wouldn't want to truly hurt them.

...

After Ji You spoke, the haze-covered Spirit World remained peacefully quiet, but Ji You's keen eyes still noticed a corner where something suddenly popped out. Its move was quick; if Ji You hadn't been attentive, it almost would've gone unnoticed.

Hmm?

Looking at the pattern on the tail, the thread that moved should be...

Old Five?

Ji You took a closer look, and sure enough, there was a head buried underneath trying to pretend it didn't exist – who could it be but Old Five, this honest thread?

Ji You stayed put, looked along Old Five's head, and as expected, saw a small bald tip on his noggin. Whether seen from afar or up close, it seemed like a horn growing on top of Old Five's head.

This horn, it's not the sneaky Old Fourth, who else could it be?

Old Fourth seemed to sense Ji You's gaze; it was like a wooden stake nailed on top of Old Five's head, motionless, like a statue.

Old Fourth: [You can't see me, you can't see me, blah blah blah, magic energy ball...]

Upon discovering traces of Old Fourth and Old Five, where were Boss, Second, and Third...?

The surroundings were misty, hidden quite well.

Ji You raised her eyebrows, and then casually said, "It's mealtime; come out and eat Candy Beans."

Whoosh~

In an instant, the once silent and traceless four threads ran faster than anyone, especially Boss, who was as fast as a gust of wind, lightning-speed, appearing in front of Ji You in a flash: [Master~ Master~ Finally, it's mealtime; Boss is starving!]

Ji You raised her eyebrow, saying, "Fooled you; no Candy Beans."

Boss: [...]

Other Threads: [...]

Old Five wagged his tail: [Master, don't lie; didn't you just buy lots of Candy Beans from Teacher Mu?]

Old Sixth: [Yeah, yeah, you bought them not long ago.]

With Old Five's lead, Old Sixth followed suit, and Boss, Second, Third, and Fourth all felt it was safe to speak out now and joined in: [That's right, that's right...]

Ji You's face darkened; this is where the annoying honesty of honest people shows, always revealing the truth.

Oh!

Ji You sighed heavily, saying, "Even the landlord has no spare grain facing a bunch of threads unwilling to work."

As expected, upon hearing this, Old Five immediately wagged his tail joyfully:

[Master, Master, what's the work? Can Old Five do it?]

Oh!

This proves the adorableness of honest threads.

Inside, Ji You was delighted, but outwardly, she remained reticent, saying, "How could I trouble you? There's no need, there's no need; after all, it's just as trivial as four or five Candy Beans; if I can't do it myself, I'll quietly drop it."

Old Five: [!!!]

Old Five loudly: [Master! Don't drop it; I'll do it!]

Old Sixth was afraid of falling behind, hurriedly came over, shaking his head vigorously: [Master, Master, and me! Me too!]

Boss, Second, and Third thought about it for a while but quickly stood out: [We are willing too!]

Old Fourth tilted his head, thought for a second, then leapt onto Boss's head. Boss protested with a flick of his tail, and with the gust from the tail, Old Fourth smoothly landed on Second's head, then on Third, Sixth, and finally free-falling, gliding down to Ji You's feet: [Master, pick me; I'm the sweetest!]

Ji You: "..."

Threads: [...]

The scene grew stagnant for a bit, and then Boss flicked his tail, immediately flinging Old Fourth to the far edge of the Spirit Space...

After flicking, Boss held his head high, arrogantly: [Boss didn't nod, who dares to act up?]

Silence.

Then——

"Hmm." Ji You raised her brows: "Master hasn't nodded yet, you sure are showing off quite a bit."

Boss heard this, immediately tucked his head, chuckling: [Master, Master, I'm just helping you discipline Fourth, that troublemaker.]

Ji You, unmoved: "Uh-huh."

Boss circled around, his whole bulky body shrinking smaller and smaller, until almost latching onto Ji You's body suddenly spoke: [Master, pick me; I'm super sweet!]

Ji You: "..."

Great.

The hired hands are really eager to work.

Happy ^_^.

Chapter 883: Qing Zhu

Ji You had a blooming smile in her heart, but maintained an air of complete calm on her face, even with a hint of indifference, and said, "This is just a small task worth 4 or 5 candy beans, hmm~ I think just 1 or 2 strands should be enough to handle it."

The Six Strands all wagged their tails together, desperately trying to make their presence known.

Ji You furrowed her brows, adopting a look of serious thought, and said, "Let me see who's the most suitable?"

As she spoke, she looked at Boss, then at Second, then at Fourth, her gaze sweeping over Third, Sixth, and Old Five one by one...

"Hmm~"

"To be fair, I thought it over carefully..."

"Whomever I give this task to, the candy beans earned will be theirs."

After saying this, Ji You hesitated for a moment, seeming to finally make a decision, and she opened her mouth and quickly spoke: "... let..."

Crash~

Fourth jumped up, leaping over Boss, squeezing to the front, facing Ji You, urgently: [Master! Master! Master! We Six Strands are one whole, always of one heart, since there's work to do, of course, we do it together. More strands, more strength, we will certainly complete it better and more efficiently... Master, please consider?]

Old Five, Sixth: [Yeah, yeah.]

Boss: [Sharing the load for Master is part of Boss's responsibility.]

Second, Third: [Responsibility! Responsibility! We want to take on some responsibility!]

Hearing this, Ji You looked troubled.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

Under the anticipation of all the strands, Ji You finally nodded reluctantly and said, "Since you're all so willing, then let's do it together."

The Six Strands cheered together upon hearing this, then joyfully wagged their tails.

Ji You smiled, saying, "Since everyone is putting in effort together, of course, the benefits will be shared together. You all have no objections to this, right?"

The Six Strands nodded in unison: [No objections!]

Seeing this, Ji You was very satisfied, and continued, "However, all of you must listen to my commands, act according to my arrangements, and if anyone dares to disobey orders and mess things up, all the candy beans of all strands will be deducted together."

The Six Strands: [...]

In the silence, Fourth stood upright, maintaining a posture of serious listening, while internally murmuring:

[Ugh~

How ruthless the master is.

If one makes a mistake, everyone is punished.

This—

It's forcing us to supervise each other.]

Faced with the silence, Ji You raised her eyebrows and said, "Is there a problem?"

Although the master's demands are a bit strict, but... who would mind having more candy beans? The Six Strands thought seriously for a moment and all decided to take on this small task, then shook their heads collectively: [No problem!]

Ji You raised her hand and snapped her fingers: "Then, let's work together."

The Six Strands immediately straightened up, looking like they were giving it their all.

In the real world.

In Ji You's dorm room, under the warm yellow light projection, Ji You sat by the workbench and started to cut this piece of alloy steel, which was slightly different from what Ji You had encountered in her previous life, as its weight was very light, but the material was exceptionally strong, waterproof, rust-proof, poison-proof, and explosion-proof... It's one of the materials commonly used on various mechanical product shells.

The small cutting machine Ji You was using needed to be manually operated, so it was quite a test of someone's operational skill.

With both hands placed on the small cutting machine, Ji You lowered her head, just glanced at the alloy steel, and already had a draft in mind, then she reached out and placed the alloy steel into the cutting machine...

The cutting machine started, and Ji You squinted, controlling the cutting machine little by little, cutting it evenly into 10 pieces, then, using the edge grinder, smoothed out the slightly uneven areas.

She obtained 10 circular pieces, each about the size of a fingernail of alloy steel.

Next.

Ji You picked up a carving knife and began to engrave a pattern on this fingernail-sized piece of alloy steel. After pondering for a moment, she took the carving knife and slowly sketched out the shape of a bamboo leaf, stroke by stroke.

Bamboo, upright and unyielding, tough and indomitable, fearless of severe cold, evergreen through the ages...

And her little companions are just like the green bamboo growing robustly towards the sun!

Carving to this point, Ji You pursed her lips into a smile, thinking that her companions would all improve by using the Soul Device, Ji You felt very delighted. This feeling of being able to provide tangible help to the near and dear, based on one's own ability, was really... much more delightful than simply earning money.

However, these little friends would criticize her while simultaneously having a crazy admiration for the Green Glaze Master... Imagining, if her disguise got exposed, this... would truly be an exhilarating moment.

The disguise must be tightly protected.

Ji You thought earnestly, then continued to pick up the knife and started creating the Array Diagram.

The key to whether a Soul Device takes shape lies in the Array Diagram, Ji You slightly closed her eyes and began sketching the blueprint of the Array Diagram she was about to carve, in her mind. It should be very stable, and it should match everyone's spiritual power as closely as possible...

While Ji You sketched in her mind, in the spiritual world, the elusive Iron Plate suddenly emerged, glowing with a gentle light, complex lines appearing...

Ji You only saw a small corner of the Iron Plate, and when she wanted to see more, felt a headache, and in the blink of an eye, the Iron Plate disappeared without a trace.

Ji You knitted her brows, looked around, and felt for a moment, finding no trace of the Iron Plate, as if this thing had never appeared in the spiritual world at all.

Ji You's face darkened, asking, "Did you see Iron?"

The Six Strands nodded together: [Yes, we saw it.]

Ji You frowned, "What on earth is this thing? It appears and disappears erratically, completely uncontrollable, if not for Xiao You still being in here, Ji You might have to perform a cranial surgery on herself to research it."

Ji You asked, "Do you know why Iron appeared?"

The Six Strands all shook their heads, truly clueless about the reason. Fourth wagged its tail, voicing its guess: [Iron should have been summoned by the master...]

Ji You: "???"

Regarding this question, actually even Fourth was a bit confused as well. Although the strands could communicate with each other and often bragged or shoved off blame when they did something bad, the Six Strands couldn't freely communicate with the Iron Plate or other people's Spiritual Silk at all. Therefore, they genuinely didn't know.

Fourth: [Sisi guesses, the master must reach some condition to summon Iron.]

Ji You pondered, I summoned the Iron Plate earlier? When was that? Just now... that means while sketching the Array Diagram, at that time, Ji You was fully immersed and didn't pay attention to the surroundings.

Chapter 884: Crafting

Ji You lowered her head, deep in thought.

The iron plate, which had hit Ji You and caused her to cross worlds, remained deeply rooted in her mind, unknown and unseen. When Ji You discovered that the handmade items she casually crafted turned out to be Soul Devices, while others found it incredibly difficult to make one successfully, Ji You suspected that this ability was granted by the iron plate.

This conjecture has a certain possibility, although there is currently not enough evidence to prove it. When Ji You makes soul devices, the iron plate doesn't frequently appear; it occasionally flashes.

Therefore, Ji You has another theory. She speculates that her success in making soul devices could be inspired by the patterns on the iron plate. And the patterns on it, Ji You is certain, are array diagrams! Moreover, the iron plate has various intricate patterns, each being an array diagram!

The third hypothesis. The iron plate might itself be a Soul Device! But far beyond the sophistication of any Soul Device currently in interstellar society! In the interstellar society, whether it's the Alliance, Galaxy Empire, Blue Light United States, or other countries, every naturally occurring Soul Device is equipped with a singular array diagram. All soul artifact makers can craft soul devices with only one type of array diagram. Two types? Three types? Why are they not possible? Has no one tried?

Yes!

Whether it's Master Kong Zhe or Master Jiang Hua, even the most renowned Master Deng Mingguang of the Galaxy Empire, and Master Bert Beich of the Blue Light United States... they have all tried, without exception, they all failed.

For over a hundred years, these revered Soul Artifact Masters have faced defeat after defeat, yet regrettably, no good news has been received thus far.

If the iron plate is a soul device, more specifically one engraved with countless array diagrams, and if this is true and known to the outside world, how mind-blowing would that be?

But is the iron plate a Soul Device? Ji You isn't sure.

...

Ji You can create Soul Devices, partly because of the iron plate and partly because of her unique spiritual power. With 100% clarity and six spiritual threads that possess independent consciousness... these contribute to her high success rate in creating Soul Devices.

...

Putting aside these complicated thoughts, Ji You focused on crafting. She carved a piece of Qing bamboo, then decided to engrave an array diagram on it, and said to Boss, "Boss, it's your turn this time, be careful to control the force."

Boss raised its head and shouted: [Don't worry, Master, leave it to me.]

Having spoken.

Boss wagged its tail and roamed through the array diagram that Ji You had carved...

Restrained.

Restrained.

Restrained again.

...

As Ji You finished carving, Boss also roamed around the array diagram, and in the moment Ji You stopped and Boss left, the previously dim array diagram patterns suddenly burst into bright light!

Ji You's heart skipped a beat.

Boss was also nervous, the spiritual threads were all watching, and they saw the light grow brighter and brighter, the entire array diagram seemed to come alive, and the carved Qing bamboo became lifelike...

Both Ji You and Boss, along with Second, Third... were full of confidence. With an eagerness to monopolize the master's attention and affection, Fourth, who was repeatedly knocked away by Boss and pushed away by other threads, had shrunk to the size of a grain of rice and curled up on Top the head of Fifth. However, Fourth had little faith in the soul device the master was crafting, muttering: [But—it's too bright, it's about to burn out.]

Suddenly—

Crackling...

The pristine-looking soul device, centered around the array diagram, emitted a series of cracking sounds, and then, boom—

It blew up.

Ji You: "..."

Boss: [Impossible!!!]

Boss simply couldn't believe its eyes, having been so restrained, ensuring each stroke matched precisely, how could it fail at the last moment?

Boss couldn't accept it, it dashed out vigorously waving its tail: [Master! Give me another chance! This time, I'll definitely succeed! Definitely!]

Alloy steel is cheap, so spending more is no pain, the key is letting Boss experiment several times to quickly identify the reason for failure. Ji You pondered for a moment, then nodded: "Okay."

Then.

Ji You placed the wasted material into a reusable trash bag, pulled out another alloy steel slice, and continued carving.

This time, Ji You carved Qing bamboo again.

From sketching to completing the full pattern of Qing bamboo, Ji You's movement was as fluid as water, done in one go. Once the creation was complete, the step of engraving the array diagram was up, Boss followed closely behind Ji You.

Bit by bit...

Once Ji You completed it, Boss was panting continuously.

With the array diagram carved this time, a lustrous sheen emerged from it, quickly enveloping the entire array diagram and the alloy steel slice with its glow...

Still.

Ji You, with the six strands, held their breaths in concentration, all eyes on the array diagram.

minute.

minutes.

minutes.

...

With time passing, Ji You felt assured this time, ready to collect it in hand, when suddenly, as she reached for the new soul device, it cracked apart.

Crack~

A very faint sound accompanied by the sound of cracking, the glow atop the soul device faded and faded until it disappeared, leaving the already shaped soul device a dull piece of waste.

Boss: [...]

Boss, in disbelief: [I can't believe it!]

Ji You raised her hand to her forehead: "Where exactly is the issue?" So far, among the soul devices she successfully crafted, most were from contributions by Fourth and Fifth, besides the two, the other strands seemed somewhat inept in this area.

Boss was frantic: [I was so coordinated with Master, if Master moved, I'd move, I dared not act recklessly. For balanced strength, I dared not randomly release my energy either.]

Ji You suddenly said, "Could it be that the control was too precise?"

Boss think so too, preparing to wag its tail for another try, when Fourth gloomily interjected: [Too rigid, Boss is just a puppet, without any self-reflection...]

Ji You: "Hmm???"

Boss, hearing this, immediately slapped its head: [Why didn't I think of that?] Success must come through spiritual threads having independent thought and consciousness, not only following Master, but should have thoughts of their own.

Fourth wagged its tail ecstatic, [When doing this work, don't overthink, just follow your own ideas!]

Chapter 885: Low-level Peak

Upon hearing what Fourth said, Ji You glanced at Fourth, who immediately wagged his tail enthusiastically at Ji You: [Master, Master, Sisi really likes you!]

Ji You rolled her eyes: [I think you might like Candy Beans more, right?]

Fourth: [...]

Fourth strongly denied: [No, that's not true.]

Ji You suddenly asked: [If I'm drowning with Candy Beans in the water, who would you save?]

Fourth: [...]

Fourth didn't hesitate at all and replied straightaway: [Of course, I'd save Candy Beans!]

Ji You: "..."

Ji You glared at him: "You're really open about your feelings, huh."

Fourth suddenly displayed a serious face, looking incredibly solemn: [Because I know Master can definitely protect herself, so Sisi chose Candy Beans.]

No one really cared whether this explanation was true or false; both Ji You and the other silks weren't very concerned. Regardless, Fourth's previous slick words could be trusted but not believed. Ji You and Boss were more curious about what Fourth had said earlier. Ji You asked: "You just said making a Soul Device is just a random task?"

Fourth: [That's right.]

Ji You turned to Old Five and asked: "Old Five, is that the same for you?"

Old Five looked a bit puzzled, thought for a moment, and replied: [I suppose so? Old Five doesn't remember. Every time Old Five treats the array diagram as a playground, just plays around and comes right out.]

Ji You: "..."

Taking the serious task of creating soul devices as a game, just playing for a while and then coming out, this...

If the other masters of soul device creation knew about this, they'd definitely beat up Old Five fiercely! Everyone else spends a tremendous effort just to try their luck to make one or two soul devices, while Old Five is here just playing around?

Ji You's face slightly twitched as she said: "You two are really something different. Why don't Boss, Second, Third, or Sixth succeed?"

Boss was confused: [I started just randomly too.]

Fourth: [Your strength is too great.]

Boss: [But I've already controlled it?]

Fourth: [Simply controlling isn't enough, even if you control, you'd still be a gigantic fireball, ready to ignite!]

Boss: [???

Ji You furrowed her brow and said: "Fourth, are you saying Boss's individual strength is too strong to perform such delicate work?"

Upon questioning this, Boss also became interested, raising his head constantly and staring at Fourth and her Master...

Fourth: [That's right. This soul device is just low-level, Boss's strength is too strong; no matter how you control, it won't work unless it's a high-level soul device.]

Boss: [...]

Boss wasn't pleased and insisted on trying again: [I can definitely do it; I can exert the greatest strength, and also the smallest strength!] Boss is a silk with great ambition for becoming strong and pursuing strength.

Ji You's eyes brightened: "Fourth, are you saying Boss should try creating a high-level soul device?"

Upon hearing this, Fourth nodded vigorously: [That's right, that's right...but, high-level soul devices are really difficult. Success requires the Master to sincerely nurture and love us, train us, and always feed us Candy Beans, milk tea, and high-level food...only then might it work.]

Ji You: "..."

Ji You wanted to ignore this.

Fourth, trying to be smart, as if afraid the Master didn't hear, wagged his tail: [If the Master doesn't feed us, we'll never be able to create high-level soul devices.]

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's face darkened; it didn't matter whether Fourth was being clever or not, Ji You knew this must be true. Without the advancement of spiritual silk, high-level soul devices would remain a dream forever.

Upon Fourth's declaration, the other silks also nodded in agreement: [Master, you have to love and train us~]

Fourth earnestly wagged his tail: [Sisi is easy to care for; Sisi isn't greedy; just a, no, 5 Candy Beans a day will be enough.]

Ji You raised an eyebrow: "Really?"

Fourth suddenly felt a bit regretful, thinking it should've been at least 10 a day, so he nodded vigorously: [That's right, that's right, Sisi just remembered incorrectly before; it should be 10 Candy Beans a day.]

Ji You was slightly speechless, directly gesturing with her hand: "I can't afford to raise such pampered little ones, that's enough."

Fourth: "..."

Fourth was just regretting when Ji You turned to Boss and said: "Try again, if it's still not working, we'll let the other silks try."

Boss nodded.

Everything was ready; Ji You discarded the ones that were ruined and continued using the new alloy steel block, Boss also cooperated with Ji You, this time letting go completely, not controlling his strength at all, and then, they heard a loud bang; the soul device prototype turned into ashes.

Boss drooped his head, feeling very downcast: [Master, it still didn't work, let Second try.]

Ji You looked at the dejected Boss and said: "Don't be upset, we excel in fighting, let Old Five and Fourth handle these tasks."

Boss: [Mm!]

But in his heart, he silently vowed: Not acceptable! As the strongest, I must excel in all aspects.

Next, it was Second's turn, and Second's performance was similar to Boss's, just slightly weaker in strength, smaller sparks, louder explosion sounds... well, all ended in failure.

Third.

Sixth.

All ended in failure.

Ji You stared at a pile of waste and fell into contemplation: Failure rate so high? What's the reason?

After pondering for a while, Ji You said: "Fourth, you'll handle it next."

Fourth: [Sure~]

After two words, Fourth tilted his head and stared fixedly at Ji You: "Oh dear, oh dear, I'm hungry now; can't move, need Candy Beans to do it~"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's face darkened as she cursed: "Just tell me, are you doing it or not? Let me make it clear: it's volunteer work; I won't give you any compensation."

Fourth showed a silly grin: [I'll do it!]

Phew~

Master is becoming stingier.

No choice, since I still want to pamper her.

Fourth thought silently.

When Fourth started, somehow, Ji You felt her actions had become smoother, without any feeling of impediment. Moreover, she was able to focus completely on the creation process, not needing to consider anything else, only concentrating on the task at hand.

A seamless flow.

Upon completion, Ji You held her breath, waiting for the result.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

The array diagram on the soul device completely stabilized.

Ji You waited a bit longer and, finding no cracks or explosions, finally relaxed and reached out to grab the freshly crafted soul device to scrutinize it closely, finding not a single problem.

The circular alloy steel was like a small button, engraved with a vividly lifelike Qing Zhu; Qing Zhu was facing the sun, radiating with brilliance...

After inspecting, Ji You promptly fetched the detector for preliminary examination, quickly deriving the values of this soul device.

Low-level Peak.

A low-level peak soul device.

Fourth: [I told you, just casually doing it will suffice.]

Chapter 886: Soul Artifact Master

When Fourth finished speaking, the surroundings momentarily froze, hearing Fourth's smug tone, Boss, Second, Third, and Sixth suddenly felt uncomfortable, especially when they saw Master staring at Fourth with that loving gaze...

Faced with the envy, jealousy, and resentment from the other strands, Fourth wagged its tail, its upright head suddenly lowered, appearing humble: [Oh, Sisi is just casually good at making Soul Devices, everything else isn't great...]

Casually...

Can this word be used like that?

As Ji You, the master, even she was left speechless by Fourth's subtle show-off tone.

So, this is how you can show off?

...

Ji You shook off these thoughts from her mind one by one, picked up the low-level soul artifact and glanced at it, then after checking various data, Ji You raised her head and praised without reservation: "Sisi good child, so smart and capable, truly my little darling, my little cutie..."

Little darling?

Little cutie?

At that moment, Fourth, who originally wanted to keep a low profile, wagged its entire tail excitedly, jumped in front of Ji You, and didn't care about being reserved anymore, spinning around Ji You frantically...

[Love Master~]

[Happy happy~]

[Sisi is Master's little darling, little treasure~]

...

Boss, Second, Third, Old Five, and Sixth became jealous, wagging their tails one by one: [We are also Master's little darling~ little cuties~ little treasures~]

Surrounded by a group of spiritual silks craving for favor, Ji You was delighted inside, but on the surface, she pretended to be calm, saying: "Everyone is my little darling, little cutie, also my little treasure~"

So, all six strands happily wagged their tails, spinning around...

Watching this scene, Ji You rubbed her chin, secretly saying: [It seems, verbal praise is indeed necessary, as the saying goes, 'flattery always works', it's truly quite reasonable. This is true whether used on humans or spiritual silks.]

Then~

Ji You cleared her throat, said: "Then, let's have Sisi little treasure casually make another Soul Device."

Fourth's wagging tail suddenly stopped, then it came closer, giggling: [Master, Master, give a candy bean first?]

Ji You: "..."

She knew, Fourth was really stubborn about candy beans, all that love for the master was just flattery!

Humph humph~

But at this moment, Ji You couldn't let down the silk who made a contribution, also to motivate other silks, so she took out a candy bean, saying: "Sisi, you've worked hard, keep up the good work today."

Boss and the others: [!!!]

Shocked!!!

Master, this stingy one, actually gave one?

Fourth cunningly, afraid of other silks having bad intentions, as soon as Master took it out, immediately grabbed the candy bean and ate it instantly, watching this scene, Ji You's lips curled with a hint of a smile, pampering it: "Eat slowly, don't choke, no silk dares to snatch it from you..."

Fourth already finished eating, patted its belly, grinning broadly: [So delicious, want more~]

Ji You automatically filtered this sentence, she raised her head, looked at the other spiritual silks, smiling: "See? Your Master isn't stingy at all, as long as they work for me, work seriously, I will definitely not treat them poorly."

Six strands tilted their heads, staring at Ji You...

Boss twisted its body slightly, lowered its head: [Master, but I can't make Soul Devices.]

Ji You smiled: "No problem, if you can't make Soul Devices, you can do other things, in short, every strand who works seriously is my little darling."

Hearing this sentence, the other spiritual silks who weren't good at making Soul Devices finally relaxed, happily wagging their tails: [Future candy bean rewards are secured~]

Moving on.

Having eaten candy beans alone, Fourth didn't falter this time, continuing with Ji You to make Soul Devices, then successfully made 2 more, adding to the previous one, a total of 3 already.

By this point, Fourth immediately protested, insisting it couldn't anymore.

Ji You also was exhausted, already feeling her whole mind buzzing, this is the rhythm of spiritual power depletion, having learned from previous mental world collapse, Ji You dared not be greedy, hastily stopped, ate a candy bean to slightly replenish, then announced to the spiritual silks that today's work was done.

Master's spiritual power was completely depleted, in the spiritual world, the spiritual silks one by one also became somewhat wilted, especially Fourth, as if drained, lying weakly on Old Five's head, listless and deflated, it really didn't want to move at all.

Ji You raised her hand, rubbed her temples forcefully, then tried to hold on, picked up the 3 Soul Devices in front for comparison, these Soul Devices made from alloy steel had very smooth surfaces, Ji You

pondered for a long time, finally deciding to make a round brooch, so she polished it smooth and glossy, then carved a Qing Zhu design, making the whole brooch look very elegant and tasteful.

On Qing Zhu, there's a faint luster of gloss, flashing around the array diagram, upon closer inspection, these glimmers are in the shape of hearts, making this brooch look very cute.

Of course, the above are all just the external advantages of these Soul Devices, the most important aspect of these 3 Soul Devices is their usage duration — 5 years!

That's right.

It's 5 years!

Such a long effective duration, if known by outsiders, would certainly cause shock. You should know, ordinary low-level Soul Devices are mostly single-use consumables, immediately becoming waste after one use. Only medium and high-level Soul Devices have extended usage durations, how long they extend depends on the soul artifact maker's expertise, skilled ones making devices used for 2 years, 3 years, 5 years, 10 years, even human history records the longest effective duration Soul Device by Deng Mingguang Master from the Galaxy Empire, he once made a device with a 50-year effective duration, reportedly this device was specifically customized by Deng Mingguang Master for the Emperor to propose to his beloved girl Xia Man, that is, the future Empress Xia Man, Deng Mingguang Master spent 10 years making it, during which countless financial and material resources were spent, ultimately this ring was successfully made, and its effective duration is — 50 years!

That's right.

It's as long as 50 years.

This ring, accompanying the beautiful love story between the Emperor and Empress Xia Man, has spread widely.

These aside.

Why some soul artifact makers can only be called soul artifact makers, while others are honored as Soul Artifact Masters? Because, the first condition for Soul Artifact Masters is the usage duration must be 1 year or more.

The second condition is the devices made need to have high compatibility with the majority of people.

Only meeting both points can one truly be honored as a Master.

Chapter 887: Five!

The validity period and compatibility are crucial indicators of a soul artifact maker's level, and what about Ji You?

The Companion Stone Earrings Ji You crafted last time were tested and found to have a validity period of about 3 years and 5 months, and her soul artifact's compatibility was confirmed to be exceptionally high by all the lucky buyers!

Therefore, although all the soul artifacts sold by Qingyou Shop so far were only low-level soul artifacts, the majority of netizens on the Star Network now genuinely admire the title "Green Glaze Master".

...

Of course, due to the scarcity of soul artifact makers and the difficult training conditions, many soul artifact makers who don't reach the "Master" level are also addressed politely as "Master", like Lin Feng, a disciple of Master Kong Zhe. He has been learning for many years and can currently only make low-level soul artifacts, producing 1-3 pieces a year. Yet, out of respect for soul artifact makers, people still call him Master Lin Feng.

...

Ji You squinted and inspected the three soul artifacts she crafted for a while, nodding in satisfaction. The longest usage duration reached 5 years, and the shortest reached 3 years. These three soul artifacts are not one-time consumables and are very successful. Roughly estimating, the worst one could sell for over 3 million, and the best at least starts at 5 million credit points...

So, how many Candy Beans can this trade for?

A Candy Bean made from High-level Butterfly Honey costs 500,000 on the market, but Teacher Mu offers it for a friendly price of 50,000 credit points... Cough, cough... Ji You knows that she's always getting a subsidized price from Teacher Mu, and it's Teacher Mu and the school that are at a loss. Moreover, not only Ji You but also students from the Combat Department and other departments in the school are buying Candy Beans at a subsidized price from the school, enjoying the subsidies from the Alliance and the school for students.

These, we will not elaborate on.

Ji You straightened her face and started calculating seriously:

If a soul artifact sells for 5 million each, that means 100 Candy Beans can be purchased.

With 3 soul artifacts, conservatively estimated, Ji You can earn around 10 to 13 million credit points.

And—

The cost? Just one Candy Bean made the Fourth earn so much for her!

It's simply a business with no capital!

Ji You blinked, her hands shaking. If it weren't for her low Spiritual Level and small Spiritual Threshold, making bulk production impossible, Ji You would want to do nothing but make soul artifacts from day to night, lying on a pile of money, smelling the stench of money for eternity...

Cough, cough...

Ji You put away the soul artifacts, packed them in a box, and then climbed into bed to sleep.

The next day.

At the crack of dawn, Ji You, returning from a jog, continued crafting soul artifacts.

This time, the Fourth was not in action. The Fourth, who boasted about making a soul artifact effortlessly, looked extremely pitiful in its shrunken state, as if it hadn't had a full meal in decades, its belly so shriveled it was almost a mere sheet. Ji You felt very sorry for it and immediately fed it a Candy Bean.

The Fourth opened its mouth to grab it, and just then, the Boss swooped in, snatching away the food right from the Fourth's mouth, leaving the Fourth startled and then very angry when it realized.

Rumble~

In an instant, the Fourth's body began to swell!

Swell!

Continue to swell!

...

Ji You gaped: "Oh crap!!!"

Under Ji You's wide-eyed gaze, in less than a second, the previously shrunken-to-paper-like Fourth swelled to a size even bigger than the Boss's body. It wagged its tail, roaring: [Duel! Come and duel!]

The Boss, carrying the Candy Bean, suddenly turned to Ji You: [Master, did you see that? The Fourth is tricking you, it just wants to cheat more Candy Beans to eat...]

Ji You: "..."

The Fourth: [...]

Oh no!

Exposed!

The Boss, as expected, is very bad.

Shrink.

Shrink more.

...

In the blink of an eye, the Fourth returned to a ring-sized circle, still dry and flat with a pitiful appearance.

Ji You, slightly dazed, had a million Divine Beasts roaring inside, yet maintained a calm demeanor. She took back the Candy Bean handed by the Boss and casually tossed it back to the Fourth.

The Fourth: [!!!]

The Fourth was shocked, and so was the Boss. The Boss: [My silly little Master, Sisi is a big liar, don't be fooled by it.]

Silly little?

Ji You's eyelid twitched, then she took out another Candy Bean, tossing it to the Boss, then again to the Second, Third, Fifth, and Sixth, and finally laughed: "This is breakfast, Sisi, everyone gets a share. A beautiful day has begun, so please continue to work hard."

After hearing this explanation, the Boss and the other Sisis finally relaxed and cheered up together!

Candy Beans early in the morning?

It's like throwing credit points from the sky, utterly unbelievable.

...

The task time agreed with Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, and others is one o'clock in the afternoon, so Ji You has more than half a day to continue making soul artifacts.

This time, Old Five took the field.

Old Five works very meticulously and with great enthusiasm. It was full of energy, almost not needing Ji You to instruct or remind; it knew how to cooperate with Ji You. However, Old Five's craftsmanship isn't as good as the Fourth. This morning, Ji You successfully created 2, but 3 of the materials were wasted. Among the 3 materials wasted, there were 2 that were close to succeeding but ended up wasted suddenly.

Old Five felt a bit down.

Ji You comforted, "Old Five is already amazing. You'll become even more amazing in the future. Keep it up, Little Cutie Old Five!"

At Ji You's words, Old Five immediately perked up, starting to run around excitedly, saying as it ran: [Master, I'll keep pushing forward next time.]

Ji You: "Good."

Then, Old Five hopped away.

Ji You took the soul artifact made by Old Five into her hand and compared it with the one made by the Fourth, finding that Old Five's soul artifact was usable for about half a year to a year, greatly differing from the Fourth's quantum!

But Ji You was already quite gratified.

Ji You put them away, gathered this batch of hand-carved soul artifact brooches with bamboo motifs, packed them all up.

These, she had to find a chance to deliver them to Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang, and others without sparking any suspicion, naturally.

Ji You stroked her chin, seriously thinking to herself: [Ah! Keeping up this flimsy friendship with everyone isn't easy at all.]

After packing up several soul artifacts, Ji You opened the interface to the Light Speed Express on the dorm's portal, directly depositing the five soul artifacts into her Star Network backstage. Once someone buys them, the Light Speed Express can deliver the soul devices very fast to the customer.

Chapter 888: Heartless Scoundrel!

Because she needed to rush to create the Soul Devices for Yue Qiguang and others before they embarked on their mission, Ji You was working overtime on their creation. By the time she stored the five Soul Devices in the backend of Light Speed Express, she was so exhausted that she didn't even have the strength to move a finger. Ji You sent a message to Chu Jiaojiao and others, then immediately fell asleep.

When she woke up, it was already the next morning. Her contact number was ringing like crazy, and Ji You thought it was Chu Jiaojiao and the others urging her to hurry up. However, when she answered, what appeared before her eyes was a fluffy little head with two naïve, innocent, pitiful, teary eyes.

Ji You's eyes lit up: "Mengmeng!"

Mengmeng let out a bleating sound towards Ji You: "Baa—"

[Heartless human!]

Ji You's face turned a little red, and she quickly soothed, "Mengmeng, I'm sorry, I should've come to see my Little Mengmeng as soon as I got back. Oh, I've missed you so much..."

Mengmeng stretched its neck and howled: "Baa—"

[Bad! I don't believe you! You never thought of Mengmeng...]

Mengmeng's howling was filled with endless grievance. Ji You chuckled, saying, "Really, believe me, I truly missed you. I think of you every day, wondering if Mengmeng was eating on time, sleeping on time, studying on time..."

Upon hearing that, Mengmeng tilted its head, carefully observing the expression on Ji You's face. Ji You raised her head and gazed at Mengmeng, her eyes full of sincerity...

For a moment, Mengmeng was puzzled: "Baa?"

[Really?]

Ji You: "Of course!"

Mengmeng: "Baa~"

[Liar! Don't deceive the pure and lovely Mengmeng!]

Ji You patted her chest vigorously and said loudly, "I swear to the heavens that Ji You has not told Mengmeng a single lie! If I have, let lightning strike me down!"

Upon hearing this, Mengmeng got anxious and dug into the dirt with its front hooves, yelling: "Baa!"

[Don't allow it!]

[I won't let you curse yourself like that!]

Seeing Mengmeng's worried appearance, Ji You grinned and quickly said, "Okay! I'll listen to Mengmeng, if Mengmeng doesn't allow it, I won't say it again!" Indeed, this classic scoundrel talk was enough to appease the pure Little Mengmeng.

Ahem...

Hearing this, Mengmeng finally put down its digging hooves, and its cry softened: "Baa~"

[Alright, I'll believe you one more time.]

Ji You put on a stern face and said somewhat domineeringly, "No! Mengmeng must always believe in me! Because I like Mengmeng the most!"

Mengmeng suddenly widened its eyes, stared at Ji You intently for a few seconds, seemingly discerning the truth of her words. Then... Mengmeng lowered its head, its two front hooves gently digging at the ground, the voice unusually soft and tender, "Baa~ Baa~ Baa~"

[Mengmeng likes Ji You the most too!]

"Ji You likes Mengmeng the most too!" Ji You wished she could run right over and hug Mengmeng and pet it...

Suddenly—

"Can you really understand what it's saying?"

Out of nowhere, a ghostly voice from the side interrupted the intimate exchange between Ji You and Mengmeng.

Ji You: "..."

Following the voice, Ji You looked over and met Liu Fufeng's curious gaze. Ji You maintained a straight face and said very seriously, "Of course!"—Just kidding.

Liu Fufeng's mouth gaped in surprise: "Really? But—"

Liu Fufeng was utterly baffled. Before Ji You could answer, he couldn't help but continue, "But I've had Mengmeng for so long, and I haven't understood anything it says."

"Ahem..." Ji You put on a straight face and seriously spouted nonsense: "Who am I? I am Ji You, Mengmeng's favorite, how could I not understand what it's saying? Even if I can't understand, I'd guess it right."

Liu Fufeng: "Oh—"

Got it.

Turns out it was a guess.

So—

That is to say, it's not really understood.

Seeing Liu Fufeng's expression that seemed to have realized something, Ji You maintained her straight face, acting as if she hadn't seen anything and seriously asked, "Student Liu Fufeng, is Mengmeng inside the hot pot restaurant?"

Liu Fufeng: "Yes."

Mengmeng stood by, unwilling to be lonely, and poked its head to the center of the screen: "Baa~"

Ji You quickly said, "Alright, alright... I'll come over to accompany you right away! Right away! Right away!"

Saying this, Ji You immediately turned the camera to focus on a self-driving Floating Car, then swiped, deducting 5 credit points, and only then did she turn the camera back, smiling at Mengmeng, "Mengmeng, did you see? 5 credit points for the car fare have already been deducted. For Mengmeng, what's 5 credit points? Even if it's 500, 50,000, I'd spend it willingly."

Mengmeng tilted its head, took a careful look, confirmed the Floating Car had started, and immediately began spinning in circles happily: "Baa~"

Liu Fufeng: "..."

Liu Fufeng seriously asked, "Are 5 credit points a lot?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You: "Ahem... don't talk nonsense about Mengmeng, or I'll have to give you a good beating."

Liu Fufeng softly said, "But it really doesn't understand."

Ji You raised her hand, scratched her head, and said chuckling, "You don't have to worry about this. Anyway, you're not allowed to say anything bad about me in front of Mengmeng, nor tell Mengmeng anything about my deeds."

Ahem...

Oh, pure Mengmeng, just 5 credit points, and it can be deceived so easily. If someone more eloquent and appealing to Mengmeng comes along, won't they just take Mengmeng away from me?

For a moment, Ji You felt a bit troubled.

The Floating Car sped towards the hot pot restaurant, and 3 minutes later, it stopped beside the hot pot restaurant on the commercial street. Ji You hadn't gotten out of the car yet, when she saw on the steps at the entrance of the hot pot restaurant, there truly was a person and an alpaca, their heads raised to a 45-degree angle looking at the sky. Upon hearing the Floating Car's sound, both the person and the alpaca turned their heads altogether, looking at Ji You who had just stepped one foot out of the car.

Mengmeng: "Baa!"

Immediately after, the excited Mengmeng shouted and zoomed to Ji You in the blink of an eye. Ji You hurriedly jumped off the car and immediately hugged Mengmeng: "Mengmeng!"

Mengmeng: "Baa!"

Ji You: "Mengmeng!"

...

A person and an alpaca, just like this, calling out to each other for a few minutes. This scene, seen by other students on the commercial street, instantly aroused public outrage:

"Who is that, daring to pet an alpaca in public, it's too much!"

"Can someone drag this person out, and conveniently slaughter them?"

"The Mengmeng who ignored me, how could you end up with such a person?"

"Mengmeng, you heartless creature!"

...

Mengmeng couldn't care less about what those humans outside were shouting about. It affectionately rubbed against Ji You, its eyes misty: "Baa~"

[Why did you come to see Mengmeng only now?]

Ji You quickly comforted, "Mengmeng, I'm sorry, I'll definitely come to see you first thing next time."

Mengmeng nuzzled against Ji You with its head, opening its mouth: "Baa baa~"

[Alright!]

Chapter 889: Petty-Minded

Rubbing Mengmeng's soft and fluffy head, feeling Mengmeng's wholehearted trust and reliance, Ji You felt her heart melting. For a moment, she regretted not coming to see Mengmeng first.

Thinking of this, Ji You raised her hand and tapped her head, a small gesture immediately noticed by Mengmeng. Mengmeng restlessly kicked a leg: "Aww—"

[I forbid you to hit yourself!]

Ji You quickly said, "No, no, no... I didn't hurt myself, Mengmeng rest assured, no one but Mengmeng can hurt me."

Mengmeng softly cried out: "Meh..."

[Mengmeng doesn't hurt you.]

Ji You's eyes and brows were full of warm smiles, saying, "I also only give Mengmeng the right to hurt me, but I know Mengmeng can't bear to hurt me, so, no one in this world can hurt me."

Mengmeng: "Meh..."

[Not even yourself.]

Ji You laughed and said, "Alright, alright... I won't harm myself either." Saying this, she quickly withdrew her hand from her head, showing Mengmeng, as a practical demonstration that she listened.

Mengmeng saw this, was very satisfied, and nodded seriously: "Meh~"

[Good~]

In the commercial street, every shop had students, and there were quite a few students on the street too. At this moment, they were all staring at Ji You and Mengmeng, chit-chatting, with some words Ji You did not like to hear at all.

For instance, these people actually said Mengmeng was blind for liking someone like her, a bad girl?

Blind?

Bad girl?

Ji You didn't like these words, so she kissed Mengmeng publicly in front of all the students, and then said loudly, "Mengmeng, I brought you a gift, look, do you like it?"

With that, Ji You pulled out a handful of fresh, green pasture from the Space Button.

"Aww!!!" Mengmeng jumped excitedly, opened her mouth, and took a bite of the grass, chewing it in a few quick bites.

The onlooking students: "..."

A handful of grass?

Can it really make Mengmeng this happy?

It's worth noting that many students once tried to win Mengmeng's favor with luxurious gifts, but Mengmeng paid no attention. Now, unbelievably, Mengmeng was so happy over a bunch of grass?

A boy couldn't help but jealously say, "A bunch of grass, she hands it out?"

Nearby, someone immediately chimed in: "Giving an alpaca grass is normal, right?"

The boy was unconvinced and angrily said, "But I also once gave Mengmeng a bundle of grass, freshly picked and delivered with free shipping on the same day."

Then, the person who spoke continued: "Same grass, but different people giving."

This comment made the boy upset: "You mean, I'm not someone that Mengmeng likes?"

Speaker: "Yes."

The boy suddenly turned, glaring at the other, and then exclaimed upon recognition: "The Crown Prince?"

Liu Fufeng lifted his head, looked at the boy, and said: "Yes, it's me."

The boy: "..."

This deposed crown prince was so pitiful, his story and the various rumors about him spread throughout human society, especially loved by some gossip media digging into the entanglements among the deposed crown prince, the Emperor, the current Queen, and the Crown Prince... Lanyue Star Military Academy often talks about it, but usually during casual gossip, mentioning the deposed crown prince was no big deal. But...

But shouting "deposed crown prince" directly to his face... Anyone would surely be upset. Thinking of this, the boy suddenly felt embarrassed, becoming a bit uneasy, "Cough cough... Student Fufeng, when did you stand behind me?"

Liu Fufeng, with a clear voice line, answered calmly and seriously: "59 seconds ago."

The boy: "..."

He was precise down to the second. Yet, despite such a big person so close to his back, he hadn't noticed a thing? Besides, he had just been muttering about the deposed crown prince with several fans, estimating that the deposed crown prince had heard everything clearly.

For a moment, the boy didn't know what to say to ease the awkward situation. Instead, Liu Fufeng, with a calm expression, seemed unaffected by the teasing and gossip...

Liu Fufeng: "You'll get used to it."

The boy: "???"

Liu Fufeng: "I'm used to it, you don't need to feel ashamed."

The boy was about to admire Student Fufeng's broad-mindedness, but the next second, Liu Fufeng said: "Your shame is of no use."

The boy: "..."

Cough cough!

This Student Liu Fufeng seems rather petty indeed.

Here—

After catching up with Mengmeng, Ji You rubbed Mengmeng's head publicly and loudly proclaimed: "The cutest alpaca in the world—Mr. Mengmeng, come on, let's go into the shop."

Mengmeng: "Aww!"

Then, Mengmeng hurriedly followed behind Ji You, entering the hot pot shop. The surrounding students saw this and felt quite uneasy. The boy's train of thought was interrupted by Ji You's sudden voice.

Then, the boy noticed that after Mengmeng and Ji You entered the hot pot shop, Liu Fufeng, with a very calm expression, stepped in too.

The boy raised his hand, patting his chest, "Wow, wasn't he just at the entrance of the hot pot shop? Why did he suddenly come behind me? How come I didn't notice at first? Also, this Liu Fufeng really seems weak."

This person truly matches their name, weak Liu Fufeng, as if a gust of wind could blow him away into the sky.

The boy raised his hand, ran his fingers through his hair, inadvertently looked down, then exclaimed in shock: "Who? Who drew a bunch of ghost talismans by my feet?"

From the center of the boy's two feet, a circle extended with a radius of about 250 centimeters. Inside the circle, words were written: [Draw a circle to curse you to eat instant noodles without seasoning packs.]

The boy: "..."

Liu Fufeng isn't just seemingly petty, he truly is petty!

...

After Ji You and Mengmeng entered the shop, Liu Fufeng quickly followed up. The hot pot shop owner, upon seeing Ji You, immediately smiled: "Student Ji You, congratulations on finishing your assessment."

Ji You quickly chuckled, saying: "The assessment wasn't difficult, I just followed the troop, it's not beyond my skills."

In the hot pot shop, there were students from the 131st class of the Combat Department, not just one or two... When Ji You appeared, they saw her, and hearing her casually bragging, many were speechless.

The hot pot shop owner smiled: "Mengmeng thinks of you every day, luckily it listens to you. During your absence from school, it ate grass on time every day, three meals a day, always eating joyfully. Mengmeng even gained two pounds during this time."

Ji You said: "No wonder Mengmeng seems bigger and stronger. Turns out it's eating regularly."

Mengmeng said: "Meh!"

Chapter 890: Bribery

Sure, here's the translated text:

Mengmeng got praised by Ji You, feeling proud and very happy, it kept circling around Ji You without wanting to leave, occasionally snuggling its head against Ji You.

Ji You casually patted Mengmeng's head and praised: "My Mengmeng is truly an adorable little cutie."

Mengmeng: "Oooh—"

[Of course!]

Ji You then took out a handful of pasture grass and fed Mengmeng, who extended its tongue and quickly rolled it into its mouth, smacking its lips a few times and swallowed it: "Mee mee~"

[It's delicious.]

Ji You chuckled and said: "This is what I snatched from the mouth of the Cow King at the ranch on planet NY50, Cow King didn't want it at that time and even fought me, but when I threw a punch, Cow King was knocked down. It couldn't defeat me, so it accepted me as the Boss. Mengmeng, what you're eating now is indeed respect grass sent over by Cow King's underlings!"

Listening to this, Mengmeng scraped the ground hard with its four hooves: "Ooh ooh—"

[Ji You is amazing!]

This statement truly didn't deceive the naive Mengmeng. This pasture was indeed snatched from the Cow King's mouth. At the time, a group of people were releasing the cattle at the cow farm. Ji You saw that the short Cow King had monopolized an area where the pasture grass was particularly lush, thinking Mengmeng would surely love it. So, she boldly ran over to snatch the grass... and ended up getting kicked violently by the Cow King.

...

Cough cough.

This little matter is not worth mentioning to Mengmeng.

So, Ji You continued to stuff pasture grasses into Mengmeng's mouth, saying: "Cow King is my underling, but Mengmeng is like my own brother, so Cow King is your underling too!" Saying this, Ji You patted the alpaca's head proudly and said: "Now, Mengmeng is an alpaca with underlings!"

Who would have thought, Mengmeng suddenly tilted its head, turned its back, showing its behind to Ji You, and stretched its neck with a displeased expression, opening its mouth: "Ooh—"

[No! Mengmeng is Ji You's big brother!]

Ji You: "..."

Ji You raised her hand to her forehead: "Fine, fine... you're my big brother, I'm your little brother."

Mengmeng continued to turn its back on Ji You.

Ji You felt a bit helpless and said: "Okay, okay... I'm Mengmeng's little sister."

Once those words were said, Mengmeng immediately turned around, barked at Ji You, and buried its head in Ji You's embrace: "Mee~"

[That's more like it.]

Ji You continued to feed Mengmeng, both of them, person and alpaca, opened their mouths, calling 'ooh ooh' and 'mee mee', one muttering endlessly. What they said left the hotpot restaurant owner and Liu Fufeng watching a bit confused, was this...

Was this truly seamless communication?

Regardless of what others thought, Ji You and Mengmeng had a great time chatting.

After a long while, Ji You and Mengmeng finally stopped, then Mengmeng, having had its fill of grass, was soothed by Ji You's sweet talk. Ji You prepared to leave when suddenly the hotpot restaurant owner entered, carrying a tray full of food, and said: "Ji You, these are fried chicken legs and fries I made by myself, please try them."

Ji You paused in her steps, immediately turned head: "Ah, boss, how could I possibly accept this?"

The hotpot restaurant owner laughed: "Compared to you looking after Mengmeng and your company, what's this little bit of food? We in the food business have plenty of food."

Ji You smiled politely: "I haven't really looked after Mengmeng, Mengmeng has been quite adorable."

The hotpot restaurant owner forcefully handed over the fries and chicken legs and wings to Ji You, saying: "Eat. I enjoy watching you youngsters have a good meal."

"Oh my... I can't, I've had so many meals at your place this semester already, it's break time now, how can I shamelessly eat your food again..." Saying this, Ji You reached out, took a chicken leg and bit into it: "Smells so good."

Liu Fufeng nearby: "..."

The hotpot restaurant owner said with a smile: "Satisfying isn't it?"

Ji You replied: "Very satisfying indeed."

Liu Fufeng watched as Ji You ate, sitting on a soft sofa on the side, with a straightened posture, hands resting on his legs, looking as if he was receiving an important envoy with a very serious demeanor.

While eating, Ji You felt the strange gaze from Liu Fufeng beside her, her fingers froze slightly, she quickly turned around and tentatively asked: "Student Liu Fufeng, do you want a chicken leg?"

Liu Fufeng shook his head.

Ji You was surprised: "Not eating?"

Liu Fufeng nodded: "Mm."

Ji You was shocked: "Why?"

Liu Fufeng looked at Ji You, his black beautiful eyes showing an expression that's hard to describe, he opened his mouth, wanted to say something but felt it impossible to articulate, suddenly closed his mouth again.

Ji You: "???"

Suddenly, Mengmeng opened its mouth: "Ooh—"

[Fu Feng has nothing to eat.]

That shout from Mengmeng, if listened carefully, even carried a hint of schadenfreude. Ji You tilted her head: "Mengmeng, you knew too?"

Liu Fufeng: "Cough cough..."

Upon hearing Liu Fufeng's cough, Mengmeng wanted to call out in excitement but thought to give its owner some face. So, Mengmeng closed its mouth, simply blinking while staring at Ji You.

[Go ahead and guess.]

[Guess correctly and Mengmeng blinks once, guess wrong and Mengmeng blinks twice.]

Ji You: "???"

A long pause, Ji You raised her hand to her forehead: "Sorry, Mengmeng, I can't catch your eye cues."

Mengmeng saw this, and anxiously spun in circles: "Mee~"

[Dumb!]

Taken by surprise, Ji You looked at the anxious Mengmeng spinning in circles, again at Liu Fufeng raising his head towards the sky at a 45-degree angle, she was truly at a loss for words: "Ah ah ah... can't guess."

After saying this, Ji You bit into a chicken leg: "Smells so good."

Liu Fufeng who was gazing up at the sky from a 45-degree angle, only exposing his beautifully curved side profile, suddenly rolled his throat, then quietly swallowed his drool.

For unknown reasons, Liu Fufeng couldn't eat, seeing that the plate of chicken legs, wings, and fries were all for one person, Ji You squeezed some ketchup onto the fries and stuffed it into her mouth leisurely: "Your cooking is excellent, boss."

The hotpot restaurant owner said with a smile: "Glad Ji You likes it, my fried chicken and fries are famous throughout the whole Alliance. But my skills are no secret, if Ji You wants to learn, I can teach you."

Ji You: "!!!"

Ji You asked excitedly: "Would you really teach me?"

Casually eating and drinking, along with learning secret skills?

The hotpot restaurant owner nodded with a smile: "Sure does."

Liu Fufeng's ear lightly twitched.

When both the hotpot restaurant owner and Liu Fufeng assumed Ji You would agree in an instant, unexpectedly, Ji You suddenly refused directly: "No way, these are boss's livelihood skills, I won't learn."

Liu Fufeng, hotpot restaurant owner: "???"