

Scavengers 981

Chapter 981: Completion

On top of the wall, the gazes of Ji You, Sheng Qingyan, and Chu Jiaojiao were fixed on Shen Changqing inside the passage. Besides keeping an eye on Shen Changqing, everyone was also watching their surroundings to guard against unexpected situations.

Everything was calm.

No wind, no waves.

The entire underground Black Gold Rat group, under such an absolute advantage, was soon wiped out by eighty or ninety percent...

When Shen Changqing raised his hand and the knife fell, unlike Chu Jiaojiao whose every strike was filled with immense power, Shen Changqing's movements seemed very graceful, as if he only gently swung a sword and the Black Gold Rat's head was separated.

His movements, amidst the unworldly grace, were clean and neat.

...

After killing 20, a thin layer of sweat appeared on Shen Changqing's forehead. He took out a wet wipe from his Space Button and wiped off the sweat beads, then held the sword in front of him, raised his hand, and gently cleaned the bloodstains of the Black Gold Rat...

In the pitch-black environment, without light, Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, and Sheng Qingyan wearing night vision goggles, could clearly see the cool color between Shen Changqing's elegant eyebrows.

He...

Seemed to be such a clear and gentle person, yet when staring at the Black Gold Rat, the coldness in his eyes was filled with a murderous aura, one sword, one sword...

Until he could no longer lift the sword, Shen Changqing finally stopped.

Then.

Shen Changqing looked up at Ji You, who had been waiting on the wall for a long time, and said softly, "Ji You, it's your turn."

Ji You gripped her Big Chopper, jumped down from the entrance, and as Shen Changqing was about to grab the climbing rope and leap upward, Ji You looked at his slightly trembling hand which failed to grab the rope several times, and couldn't help but frown slightly, and said in a soft voice, "Shen Changqing, in a formal battle with the Star Beast, do not exhaust all your physical strength. It's very dangerous—even if you achieve a great victory, you must leave yourself a breath of strength to escape."

Shen Changqing paused.

After a moment of silence, Shen Changqing nodded, "I understand."

Ji You said, "Go up and rest, leave the rest to me."

The remaining Black Gold Rats, only a dozen or so were left, and the biggest threat to Ji You was the peak level 3 female rat, but this female rat had been confined and couldn't escape from the constraint in a short time, so Ji You's safety was not a problem.

In the dark space.

Ji You slowly opened the barrier.

Whoosh~

A Black Gold Rat sprang out, without looking elsewhere, instinctively wanting to escape to a distance—

Ji You: "Squeak—"

[Where do you think you're going!]

The Black Gold Rat about to escape was suddenly stunned, "???"

Ji You: "Squeak—"

[Your life is mine!]

The Black Gold Rat paused its steps. Although it didn't understand what this human in front of it was saying, in its understanding, humans were not good, especially this human in front, seemed full of malicious intent...

Perhaps, this human was saying its meat was delicious and tasty...

Thinking of this, the Black Gold Rat immediately ran for its life...

But this moment's delay had already cost it its life.

Ji You's Big Chopper mercilessly chopped down towards it.

The Little Golden Dragon watching this all shuddered, instinctively touched its neck, "..."

The Little Golden Dragon remained silent.

Then.

Ji You had already approached the second Black Gold Rat.

Open.

"Squeak!"

Draw knife.

"Squeak!"

The second Black Gold Rat never even got a clear view of what this human, speaking nonsense, was saying during the entire process.

...

The entire process of killing the Black Gold Rats could be described as smooth and uneventful, even slightly boring, because the difference between enemies and us was really too great. After employing such tactics, the Black Gold Rats were simply no match for Ji You and the others; one comes, one gets killed, even the more seemingly dangerous peak level 3 female rat was killed as soon as it emerged from the hole by Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, and Shen Changqing, those four emotionless executioners.

...

The complete solution only took 1 hour.

Sheng Qingyan yawned and said, "Originally thought it would be very tiring, but didn't expect these Black Gold Rats to be so useless, none made us excited, boring, we're sleeping now!"

After speaking.

Sheng Qingyan continued laying on the wall, squinting.

Over here, Ji You, Shen Changqing, and Chu Jiaojiao weren't comparable to that man with 2 billion chew bars. They exchanged looks and then Ji You said, "First, collect the teeth of all level 2 and 3 Black Gold Rats. That's our task goal."

Everyone restrained their inner excitement and began to count how many teeth these Black Gold Rats had.

This counting made everyone even happier. Chu Jiaojiao lifted her hand, pinched her thigh, and said, "So it means we've already completed the group task of the Black Gold Rats?"

Ji You opened her mouth, "Yes... yes."

Shen Changqing opened his mouth softly, "Indeed completed."

Excitement flashed in Chu Jiaojiao's eyes, "Is it... really this easy?"

Ji You rolled her eyes and said, "You still want it to be harder? How about we take a really tough task next time?"

"No, no, no..." Chu Jiaojiao shook her head repeatedly, "I was just saying, don't you randomly take one."

Shen Changqing had already squatted quietly to the side, dealing with a pile of Black Gold Rat corpses. There were plenty of usable materials, claws, teeth, fur...

Ji You and Chu Jiaojiao also squatted down to pack things.

Taking about 30 minutes or so, the group of people processed all the Black Gold Rats completely. Ji You estimated and said, "Excluding the teeth needed for the mission submission, these materials still have what remains, can be sold together, and we estimate each of us can get approximately 50,000 credit points."

50,000.

Not much.

But the rewards and gains from performing group tasks cannot be measured just by little money, can they?

Battles, experience, honing...

Are the biggest gains.

Returning, ready to head back to the surface, although the Black Gold Rats underground had already been all wiped out by Ji You and the others. Yet the group dared not relax their vigilance in the slightest, with Sheng Qingyan and Shen Changqing at the front, Ji You and Chu Jiaojiao at the rear.

The underground world is filled with many complicated pipelines... can't damage these pipelines, hence for Ji You and the others to return to the surface, they could only inch by inch climb out.

Rustle, rustle~

Rustle, rustle~

Rustle, rustle~

Crawling all the way, Ji You felt the Little Golden Dragon in her bosom lost its spirit upon hearing the price and rarity of the Sparrow Yellow, and it remained so even now. Ji You couldn't help raising her hand to rub its head, "Hey! Mecha, are you still thinking about that Sparrow Yellow?"

The Little Golden Dragon defensively said, "I... I'm not! Don't talk nonsense."

Ji You listened to its tone, didn't believe it, but was a bit curious, couldn't help but ask, "What exactly does that Sparrow Yellow mean to you?"

At that moment, Ji You's foot slipped, and she uncontrollably fell down—

Chapter 982: Cigarette Butts

"Huh? Where's Ji You?"

"Right here."

"Where?"

"Underneath you."

With those words, down in the deep, cold underground, clad in protective clothing and night vision goggles, the three of them—Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, and Sheng Qingyan—jumped suddenly: "Where?"

"Below." A clear voice filled with helplessness emerged from beneath Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, and Sheng Qingyan's feet. Because it was separated by a metal layer, the volume was a bit low.

Chu Jiaojiao asked curiously, "Ji You, how did you end up under our feet?"

Shen Changqing thought for a moment and said, "That shouldn't be possible. I've thoroughly searched this underground area, and there shouldn't be any holes here. Even if it were a Black Gold Rat's burrow, it wouldn't be possible."

Sheng Qingyan covered her mouth, yawning endlessly: "How did that poor dead end up falling down there?"

"Look, stop talking nonsense and figure out a way to get a rope to pull me up," Ji You's voice echoed in the pitch-black cave, sounding more and more helpless.

"Ahem..." Shen Changqing, slightly embarrassed, thought for a moment and said, "Ji You, do you know the approximate height of this hole? I can lower a rope for you."

"Hmm..." Ji You guessed and said, "About...3 meters? 5 meters? Or...oh, it's written here as 3.33 meters."

Sheng Qingyan was shocked: "A 3.33-meter pit, and you can't jump out?"

Ji You: "..."

"I don't allow you to laugh at Ji You!" Chu Jiaojiao angrily said to Sheng Qingyan, "Ji You is short; it's normal he can't get out."

Ji You: "..."

Sheng Qingyan realized, "Oh... I almost forgot that poor dead is only 1.65 meters tall..."

"..." Ji You gritted his teeth: "Spicy Eye, you're only 41 centimeters taller than me? What's there to be proud of? True strength isn't determined by height but by capability! I, Ji You, am the king at the Peak of the Universe! What's wrong with being 1.65 meters? I'm still a king!"

Sheng Qingyan shrugged: "Oh—a king stuck in a pit."

Hearing this, Ji You ignored Sheng Qingyan and, gritting his teeth, turned to Chu Jiaojiao: "Jiaojiao, I really appreciate you defending me."

Chu Jiaojiao scratched her head with a smile, "Ji You, why so formal? I'm your die-hard fan. How about I come down and carry you up?"

Ji You snorted lightly, "Forget it, I'll climb up myself."

Just then, the climbing rope Shen Changqing lowered reached Ji You. Grabbing the rope, Ji You was about to jump up when Shen Changqing suddenly said, "Wait, why don't you take another look inside?"

Ji You said, "I've looked already. It's bare, nothing inside. Just an enclosed space. I guess it was a secret smoking room built by someone during the construction of Dock 6..."

Shen Changqing furrowed his brows: "???"

Ji You said, "There's a floor full of cigarette butts here. Judging by the traces, they were probably thrown here 7 or 8 years ago."

After saying this, Ji You was startled: "No, wait!"

Simultaneously, Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, and Sheng Qingyan turned their heads at once and said in unison, "Something's not right."

Ji You let go of the rope and, no longer in a hurry to jump out of the pit, turned her gaze back to the floor full of cigarette butts. Some were half-smoked and discarded, while others were fully consumed...

More astonishingly, all these cigarette butts were from the same manufacturer. The brand on the cigarette ends bore large letters saying—[Produced by Zhonghui]

The humans of Ancient Earth suffered various catastrophes. With technology advancing unprecedentedly, they entered the interstellar era and ventured into the stars. Like humans, the flora and fauna of Ancient Earth endured repeated devastations, leading to countless extinctions. Tobacco also became extinct in the course of time. But—

The number of smokers was originally enormous. To ensure the survival of tobacco, smokers spent considerable time and effort cultivating it, barely preserving its continuation...

Human effort, resources, survival rate... Various factors affected the yield of tobacco, which made natural tobacco extremely expensive. The tobacco produced by Zhonghui Company is the most renowned and expensive natural tobacco brand globally, sold by the piece at 50,000 credit points each.

50,000!

Moreover—

There are at least several hundred cigarette butts here.

How much money is that?

What kind of tycoon would do this?

...

Would such a tycoon come to a hazardous planet to work as a construction worker, building the underground pipes of a dock? Is it possible?

Impossible.

Unless, this tycoon wants to experience life.

Ji You shared her discovery with Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, and Shen Changqing. Upon hearing it, all three furrowed their brows. Shen Changqing said, "I'll go down and take a look."

Chu Jiaojiao said, "I'll go down, too."

Sheng Qingyan also wanted to go but was stopped by Shen Changqing: "Three of us can't be in the pit together. You stay outside just in case."

Sheng Qingyan thought for a moment, then reluctantly agreed, saying, "Quickly go... let me know immediately if there's any discovery."

Shen Changqing: "Hmm."

Done speaking.

Shen Changqing and Chu Jiaojiao jumped down into the pit beneath their feet. Their nimble movements were quiet and graceful, landing silently in front of Ji You.

Once there, standing in this pit, Shen Changqing and Chu Jiaojiao only needed to lift their heads to easily see the world outside the hole. With their skills, they could probably jump out with just a small leap.

Ji You glanced up, pulling at the corner of her mouth: "This height, it's not fair."

Chu Jiaojiao reached out and ruffled Ji You's hair, comforting, "Ji You, stop looking. I'll just carry you out later."

Ji You's face darkened as she said, "Take your hands off, or I'll show you the might of the king at the Peak of the Universe."

Chu Jiaojiao chuckled, moved her hand away, crouched down, and began to carefully examine the cigarette butts with Shen Changqing.

A while later, with a somber expression, Shen Changqing nodded, "They're definitely Zhonghui products. There are about 500 cigarette butts here."

Chu Jiaojiao furrowed her brow: "How could there be so many?"

None of them could figure it out. Ji You, Shen Changqing, and Chu Jiaojiao meticulously checked every inch of the less than 40-square-meter small cave, not missing a speck of dust, but remained completely baffled.

Ji You stroked her chin and said, "Could someone have been trapped here and smoked out of boredom?"

Shen Changqing, frowning, whispered, "That's possible, but the underground construction at Dock 6 wasn't particularly sealed off and could still connect to the Star Network. Even if trapped temporarily, they wouldn't be stuck here indefinitely."

Chapter 983: A Door

Shen Changqing finished speaking, Chu Jiaojiao rubbed her chin, pondering, "Could it be that the person's Light Computer broke at the time, making rescue contact impossible, which is why they got trapped here and smoked so much?"

Shen Changqing and Ji You shook their heads.

Ji You thought for a moment and said, "Why do you all assume it's one person? So many cigarette butts, isn't it a group of people smoking? And — if trapped in this underground cave for a long time, why are there only cigarette remains, no other consumables, like nutrient solution packaging, mineral water bottles... and such?"

Thousands of meters deep underground, and in such a closed small pit, there's no installation of a self-service garbage recycling system, so residues of these consumables should still be here.

Unless—

Unless this group only stayed for a brief moment, not eating, drinking, or anything here, which would explain the absence of these residue wastes.

As Ji You's words fell, a light flashed in Shen Changqing and Chu Jiaojiao's eyes. Shen Changqing squatted beside the cigarette butts without hesitation, starting to take fingerprints off them, while Chu

Jiaojiao placed both hands against the metal wall, knocking and then leaning her ear to listen. She wasn't sure, then took out a metal detection device, inspected it carefully, and finally realized.

A while later.

Shen Changqing and Chu Jiaojiao stopped working, exchanged glances, and Chu Jiaojiao said, "You go first."

Shen Changqing nodded and said, "After careful inspection, there are no fingerprints left on these cigarette butts, nor any personal traces. This must have been deliberately erased."

Chu Jiaojiao said, "I've checked the metal wall of this pit. It indeed blocks Star Network signals. Also, it was supposed to be soundproof; something went wrong, causing part of the pit to collapse and damaged its soundproof materials. That's why we could hear Ji You's voice after she fell."

After such a discussion, everyone unanimously agreed — this pit is very peculiar; it shouldn't be here.

Ji You pondered for a moment and said, "Let's all look for other exits in the cave."

The metal wall, smooth, shiny...

The three-person group meticulously searched, but ended up finding nothing.

Ji You, Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, all had rows of question marks above their heads. Ji You frowned, gritting her teeth, "I can't believe it, a cave appears without reason, as if some bored person randomly built it. How's that possible? Is there anyone this bored in the world?"

Above, Sheng Qingyan said mysteriously, "Maybe there is?"

Ji You rolled her eyes and said, "Only you could be this bored?"

Sheng Qingyan pouted and said, "I wouldn't be so bored, my life's goal is to muddle along until I die. How could I be bored? Only someone wanting mischief would do something seemingly pointless but actually rotten."

Ji You: "Hmm?"

Shen Changqing whispered, "Could the door be made of invisible material?"

Invisible material isn't a secret; some high-security buildings or things commonly use invisible material for confidentiality. If there's one here—

What's the key to opening the door?

Ji You said, "How about just shouting randomly?"

Chu Jiaojiao opened her mouth, "Open the door???"

All around was silent, not a sound.

"...Not open the door, then —" Shen Changqing said, "Close the door?"

Ji You glanced at Chu Jiaojiao and Shen Changqing, couldn't help mocking, "You two be confident, why use a question, just shout open the door, watch me —"

"Open the door!"

"Open the door!"

"Open the door for me!"

"I know there's a door here, don't hide away and not open it, if you have the guts to mess around, have the guts to open the door!"

...

Ji You's mouth was like a machine gun, Shen Changqing and Chu Jiaojiao silently retreated several steps, moving a bit away from her, both unconsciously raised hands, covering their ears.

The Little Golden Dragon in Ji You's arms listened to her, headache growing, Little Golden Dragon covered its ears, saying, "Woman... you... that's enough, huh. You're not asking the door to open, you're ready to beat the mistress up, huh?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You pointed at the metal wall, stomped angrily, "It won't open! Enough what? I not only want to beat up the mistress, but I also want to beat up this door! Open the door! Open the door! Open the door for me. If you have the guts to steal men, have the guts to open the door."

Little Golden Dragon: "..."

Chu Jiaojiao and Shen Changqing exchanged a glance, both saw a bit of helplessness in each other's eyes.

Seeing Ji You about to speak again, Little Golden Dragon covered its ears, shouted, "Open sesame."

Suddenly—

With a slight, crisp sound, the left wall of the closed pit slowly opened—

"It's open!" Ji You looked shocked: "How did it open?"

Chu Jiaojiao and Shen Changqing were equally surprised, both stared firmly at the Little Golden Dragon in Ji You's arms, its golden-yellow pupils clear and pure: "I... I don't know."

Seeing everyone seemed skeptical, Little Golden Dragon explained: "I really don't know, vaguely felt it should be like this, just tried, didn't expect it worked."

No time to delve into why Little Golden Dragon knew the passcode, everyone turned to stare at the slowly opening door, a dim yellow light illuminated this dark Underworld, after the door opened, a straight path kept extending inwards...

It was at least a thousand meters observed.

At the end of the path, a tightly locked door.

Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, the three exchanged glances, simultaneously said: "Go?"

Ji You decided: "Go!"

Chu Jiaojiao and Shen Changqing's eyes suddenly lit up, lifted their feet to step through the doorway. Ji You grabbed Chu Jiaojiao's sleeve and said, "Wait."

After speaking.

Ji You pulled out a stone from the Space Button and tossed it forward.

"Thud!"

The stone hit about 1 meter from the door at the path's end and stopped.

No movement.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

Not a single movement.

Chu Jiaojiao asked, "Go now?"

Ji You frowned and said, "The stone just now is lifeless, still don't know if it affects living things. Shall we send someone to test it first? I'll go!"

Chu Jiaojiao and Shen Changqing simultaneously: "I'll go."

Ji You waved her hand, "Don't argue, I'll go. You two stay alert, any wrong move, support me immediately."

Suddenly, Little Golden Dragon in Ji You's arms looked at the door and said, "Woman, you stay aside too, I'll go."

Chapter 984: Door Key

Little Golden Dragon volunteered to go inside to investigate the danger, Ji You straightened up and asked it: "Can you do it?"

Upon hearing these three words, Little Golden Dragon, who was initially a bit indifferent, suddenly tensed up, raised its eyebrows at Ji You with a dark face, and said with a rising tone: "Woman, are you doubting your mecha?"

Ji You's mouth twitched slightly.

This tone...

Listening to it, how increasingly does it sound like—Woman, are you doubting your man?

Cough cough...

Ji You put on a serious face and said: "No, I'm not doubting you, but I'm worried about you."

All the arrogance in Little Golden Dragon dissipated in an instant when it heard the last three words, it lifted its head and wagged its tail, slightly disdainfully saying: "Who needs your worry? Woman, do you know what the mecha standing in front of you really means?"

"..." Ji You didn't make a sound.

Little Golden Dragon akimbo said: "It means invincible! It means number one strength in the Universe!"

Ji You: "..."

Next to her, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, and Sheng Qingyan glanced at each other, seeing the same sentiment in each other's eyes. Shen Changqing and Sheng Qingyan said nothing, but Chu Jiaojiao couldn't help but sigh: "Ji You's mecha seems to resemble her personality too, boasting just comes out so naturally..."

"Cough cough..." Ji You squinted her eyes, slightly dissatisfied: "What nonsense are you talking about! When have I ever boasted? All of my words are based on facts."

Shen Changqing muttered: "But you claiming to be the king of the Peak of the Universe is not a fact."

Ji You's ears perked up, she snorted lightly: "But I will be the king of the Peak of the Universe sooner or later! I'm making this claim in advance based on the inevitable fact that I'll become it in the future."

Shen Changqing opened his mouth, then closed it again.

Upon hearing this, Chu Jiaojiao clutched her chest, eyes full of stars, saying: "Ji You is the most good-looking king in the Universe, but—" she changed her tone, her voice slightly lower, full of momentum: "The strongest in the Universe is me—Chu Jiaojiao."

From the communicator, Yue Qiguang's snort suddenly came through: "I say, that's enough guys, haven't you gotten tired of rambling on for so long? Are you going to enter the Taoist gate or not?"

"Have you decided who goes in first?" Sitting in the monitoring room, Yue Qiguang's spiritual power connected with the monitoring system there. This system's internal program is too complex, with a vast monitoring scope, and sitting there, for Yue Qiguang, merely connecting to it is already a considerable burden, and he still needs to sift through the deep sea of data to extract effective and useful information.

Difficult.

"And—" Yue Qiguang's forehead was beaded with sweat, almost gritting his teeth: "The strongest in the Universe is your dad, me!"

After saying this, the high-intensity spiritual load made Yue Qiguang's hands and feet begin to tremble slightly, even his lips were quivering, and the voice that came out was trembling: "It's your dad, Yue... Yue... Qiguang!!!"

"Alright." Yue Qiyuan's cool voice interrupted Yue Qiguang: "Never have I seen the strongest in the Universe speaking with teeth chattering. Go play on the side."

Yue Qiguang's mouth twitched slightly, but obediently disconnected from the spiritual connection with Dock 6's monitoring system. As soon as he disconnected, it was as if he had suddenly taken off a mountain range, falling into gentle, delicate seawater, and all the weight in his body seemed to be drawn away.

Yue Qiyuan's dark eyes fixed on the monitor, speaking into the Star Network group chat interface with a steady voice: "Even after a carpet search with the monitor, the pit and door you mentioned have not been found. It can be confirmed that this is a kind of material capable of completely blocking signal detection, meaning it can shield Star Network signals as well as other signal probes. Once the four of you go in to investigate, neither the idiot Yue Qiguang nor I can provide you assistance from the ground; take care of yourselves. If after four hours we still can't contact you, Yue Qiguang and I will immediately seek rescue."

Ji You made a decision: "Alright."

After she finished speaking, Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, and Sheng Qingyan looked at each other, Ji You beckoned to Little Golden Dragon, and it jumped onto her palm, squatting...

Ji You said: "Not sure of the danger level, let Little Golden Dragon go try first."

When she said this, it wasn't a question but a resolved decision.

Little Golden Dragon was slightly dissatisfied and said: "Woman, how many times have I told you not to give me random nicknames, my name is Heavenly Dog, please call me Lord Heavenly Dog."

Ji You casually petted Little Golden Dragon's head and said: "Okay, Little Golden Dragon."

Little Golden Dragon: "..."

Unreasonable, a woman who doesn't understand words!

Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan had no objection to Ji You's arrangement either.

Ji You patted Little Golden Dragon and said: "Go."

Little Golden Dragon lifted his head proudly, wagged his tail, leaving only a back view for Ji You.

Ji You's gaze fixed on Little Golden Dragon, never blinking, her back arched, feet slightly poised forward, ready to rush over at the first sign of anything abnormal—

Behind the door was a small path paved with alloy, the width of the path was less than 60 centimeters, for tall guys like Sheng Qingyan and Shen Changqing who were over 2 meters tall, they had to slightly hunch over to pass comfortably, but for Little Golden Dragon, who was shrunk down to the size of Ji You's palm, the narrow space did not affect it at all, it swaggered right through.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

Little Golden Dragon walked and stopped as it went, seemingly large-hearted and without ulterior motives, but with every step and pause, it intentionally or unintentionally observed the surroundings, moving neither fast nor slow until it reached the end of the path—before a closed door.

The door was a copper one, with two giant dragons engraved on the lock, both mouths open spitting out Dragon Balls.

Little Golden Dragon stopped.

From the other end of the corridor, Ji You's voice came: "Did you find anything?"

Little Golden Dragon disdainfully said: "Nothing significant, just that the dragons carved on this lock are too ugly, not even a tenth as handsome as me."

Ji You raised her hand to massage her forehead: "Stop being vain. Can the lock be opened?"

Little Golden Dragon said: "I'll give it a try."

Then, it reached out and picked up the Dragon Ball spat out by the dragon on the left side, this Dragon Ball was made, polished, and carved from Jade Stone, exquisite, translucent, and beautiful.

Seeing Little Golden Dragon's action, Ji You was startled: "Damn! Mecha, take it easy, don't just grab things recklessly without warning."

Little Golden Dragon snorted: "I'm not grabbing recklessly, it clearly says this is the key."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You, incredulous, took a deep breath: "You just believe it because it's written?"

Little Golden Dragon: "..."

Chapter 985: 985 What???

Ji You raised her hand and yanked a handful of hair: "Mecha, humans have all sorts of tricks, especially in secret chambers that obviously hide something. It says key, but it's actually telling you it's a bomb! If you believe it and touch it, you're dead for sure."

As soon as the words fell—

Little Golden Dragon had already reached over, placing the Dragon Ball on the left into the dragon's mouth on the right.

Then—

Then, there was a click—

The door opened.

Ji You: "..."

Chu Jiaojiao and others: "..."

Little Golden Dragon spread its hands and said, "See, I told you, it's just a key."

Ji You couldn't believe it, but the fact that the door opened couldn't be denied. Chu Jiaojiao looked on, scratching her head, itching to rush over and investigate: "What on earth is wrong with the designer of this chamber? If the door is so easy to open, why set a lock at all? Why not just leave it open?"

Shen Changqing lowered his head in thought, Sheng Qingyan held the energy gun, half-squinting.

Shen Changqing said, "No... it's not that simple, look—"

Before Shen Changqing's voice faded, they saw the originally slowly opened door, after opening, a new door appeared before Little Golden Dragon could step through.

Everyone: "..."

Ji You asked, "How many doors is this?"

Shen Changqing softly replied, "If you count the pit you fell into, this is the third door."

Ji You tilted her head, murmuring to herself: "Could this be some Nine-Nine Linked Ring Door?"

Shen Changqing thought for a while and said, "It's possible, maybe six doors, maybe eight, maybe nine, or ten."

Little Golden Dragon hesitated and asked Ji You: "Woman, should I keep opening the doors?"

Ji You asked, "Is there a hint on it?"

Little Golden Dragon said, "Yes."

Upon hearing that, Ji You perked up: "What does it say?"

Little Golden Dragon stared at the words above the door lock and recited word by word: "It says to hold the door handle, turn it three times to the left, then push forward, and the door will open."

Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, Shen Changqing: "..."

Little Golden Dragon asked, "So, what now?"

What should it do?

Ji You pondered for a moment, gritted her teeth, and said, "Do it!"

Upon hearing this, Little Golden Dragon didn't hesitate for a second, directly holding the door handle, turning it three times to the left, and pushing forward.

Bang!

The door opened.

Seeing this scene, for a moment, Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, and the others were speechless, Chu Jiaojiao said, "Damn, what kind of brain-dead design is this? It's too boring, isn't it?"

Hearing this, Ji You solemnly said, "No—based on my years of reading novels and seeing all sorts of scenarios, I'm sure there's some purpose here."

As she spoke, Ji You's tone was confident, her face full of assurance, without a hint of shame. Sheng Qingyan couldn't help but raise her eyelids, glancing at her: "Poor dead girl, I almost believed you... If your confidence wasn't from novels, it would definitely be more convincing."

Ji You straightened her back and said, "I can also get it from movies and TV series."

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

At this moment, Little Golden Dragon interrupted them, saying, "Woman, there's another door, uh... please be quiet for a moment, I want to be quiet."

Ji You furrowed her brow: "Another one?"

Chu Jiaojiao clicked her tongue: "Could it really be the Nine-Nine Linked Ring Door like Ji You said?"

Sheng Qingyan yawned: "So boring... If you keep pushing doors, the audience will get tired of watching."

Shen Changqing asked, "Little Golden Dragon, is there another hint on it?"

Little Golden Dragon remained silent, standing with its hands behind its back, clearly still being quiet...

A few seconds later.

Little Golden Dragon finished being quiet and said, "The door lock's hint, just shout 'open the door' three times."

Ji You and others: "..."

Chu Jiaojiao said, "Damn, it's trying to trick us, isn't it? There must be a catch to this!"

Shen Changqing also said, "I have a feeling there's something suspicious..."

Sheng Qingyan covered her mouth, saying: "So boring, why set such boring doors and locks..."

Little Golden Dragon also felt a bit indecisive, this—

Is the door lock serious?

Or is it joking?

Open?

Or not?

Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, and Sheng Qingyan all said together, "Don't open it for now, see if there are any other clues around."

Little Golden Dragon turned its face, only to look at Ji You, inquiring with its eyes.

Ji You thought for a moment, then decisively waved her hand: "Shout!"

In the next moment, Little Golden Dragon said, "Open the door for me!"

"Open the door for me!"

"Open the door for me!"

After three shouts, it seemed as if it was joking with Ji You and the others, the door slowly opened in response.

After the door opened, it revealed a small passageway, the width of the passage about 50 centimeters, and about 10 meters long.

Shen Changqing noticed this and softly said, "With each door opened, the passage gets narrower and shorter."

Little Golden Dragon hesitated for a moment, then stepped in.

As expected, at the end of the small passageway, there was another door. This door, a wooden door, was slightly ajar, with no lock at all, and a line of hints written on it:

[The door is open, just push it to open.]

Little Golden Dragon turned its head and asked Ji You: "Push or not?"

Ji You thought for a moment and said, "Push."

Little Golden Dragon hesitated no longer and pushed it open.

"Creak—"

The wooden door is slightly old, its patterns somewhat gray, presumably at least several decades old, opening it with a creaky sound, it opened.

Little Golden Dragon stood still.

Inside the door, glancing quickly, apart from the closed alloy walls around, there was only a path leading forward, different from before. It was paved with small stones and sand, Little Golden Dragon bent down, picked up a small handful of stones and sand to observe, then said: "Woman, these stones and sand are nothing special, they are the original ore and dirt from Bee Head Star."

Ji You said, "Is this the sixth door?"

Little Golden Dragon replied sternly, "Yes."

Ji You asked, "Any hints?"

Little Golden Dragon said, "Please knock on the door three times."

Ji You stood outside the first door, slowly pacing in a circle, feeling slightly irritated inside, but outwardly remaining calm, composed, showing no sign of tension or panic.

Although the path forward became increasingly smooth, Ji You felt the pressure mounting in her heart. It wasn't just Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, and Sheng Qingyan also felt no reduction in pressure on their minds.

The four of them exchanged glances and, in the end, all focused their gazes on Ji You. Shen Changqing gently said, "What to do depends on you, Ayan, Jiaojiao, and I will all listen to you."

Ji You raised her head, looking from one door to the next, finally falling on Little Golden Dragon, which had become a tiny dot due to the increasing distance. Little Golden Dragon also turned around, meeting Ji You's gaze silently: "Woman?"

Chapter 986: Breaking Through the Door

"Woman?" Because of the distance, coupled with the spatial influence, Little Golden Dragon's voice became weaker and weaker, as if it would vanish the next second.

Knock?

Not knock?

Ji You frowned tightly and said, "Wait a minute, let me think about it."

As she spoke, Ji You circled around the pit again. Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan, and Chu Jiaojiao didn't move, silently watching Ji You. After completing a lap, Ji You gritted her teeth and said, "Knock."

Little Golden Dragon raised his hand and knocked three times.

The door responded by opening.

Little Golden Dragon lifted his foot to step inside, but suddenly heard Ji You, a hundred meters away, ask, "How long is it behind the door?"

Little Golden Dragon looked over and said, "10 meters."

Ji You said, "Wait a minute."

After speaking, Ji You turned around and looked at Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, and Sheng Qingyan, saying, "I can't let my mecha act alone anymore, I'm planning to go in with it." It was already the sixth door, a little farther, and the naked eye could no longer see Little Golden Dragon's figure. Other auxiliary detection equipment, like telescopes, couldn't be used in this enclosed space.

The material surrounding the enclosed space seemed ordinary, but it actually could not only block Light Computer signal transmission but other electronic devices and signal transmission too, even things like telescopes were interfered with to the point of being unusable.

Here—

You can only rely on human eyes to watch and ears to listen...

What's inside the last door?

Continuing forward, what traps might be hidden?

...

Unknown.

Teacher Mu said that although Little Golden Dragon is just a mecha, it's the first biological mecha in human history, and currently the only one. It can feel pain, happiness, laugh, cry, experience all forms of joy, anger, sorrow, and pleasure...

It has all of human senses and emotions.

It fears loneliness.

It can feel fear, can be scared...

...

From the moment Little Golden Dragon stepped out to replace Ji You in exploring the path alone, Ji You didn't want to let it venture alone. To Ji You, the mecha is not just a tool but a comrade.

Exploring the secret chamber was a decision made by Ji You and her companions together, and the consequences shouldn't be shouldered by Little Golden Dragon alone.

As Ji You finished speaking, Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan, and Chu Jiaojiao also made their decisions. The three exchanged a glance, then raised their heads, staring at Ji You, and said in unison, "Together."

No fancy words, just a simple two words.

Two words are enough.

Ji You: "Okay."

After finishing, the four turned around and lifted their feet to step through the door. The passage was slightly narrow, unable to accommodate four people walking side by side. Sheng Qingyan lazily glanced at Ji You and Chu Jiaojiao and said, "You two shorties, don't block the path, just follow behind."

Chu Jiaojiao was shocked, pointing at herself: "You say I'm short?"

Sheng Qingyan glanced sideways: "20 centimeters short, isn't that considered short?"

The silent Shen Changqing quietly spoke: "Even 1 centimeter short is short."

Chu Jiaojiao took a deep breath, clenched her fist: "You two weak chickens, how many punches have you taken from Sister Jiaojiao since childhood? Forgotten? How about I help you remember now?"

After Chu Jiaojiao finished speaking, Shen Changqing and Sheng Qingyan both looked a bit uneasy. Ji You glanced over curiously, and Sheng Qingyan snorted lightly: "I was just too lazy to fight with you."

Shen Changqing echoed: "Yes."

Ji You curiously asked: "Among you three, who is telling the truth? And, Jiaojiao is the classmate who often made Spicy Eye cry, right?"

"Cough..." Sheng Qingyan rolled his eyes and said, "Lies, too lazy to tell. When did I often cry? Did you see it? Who told you? Did Aqing say it?"

"I... I don't lie." Shen Changqing lowered his head, softly: "I... I didn't say anything."

But—

As soon as he finished speaking, Shen Changqing's face turned as red as a monkey's butt, yet he dared to claim he doesn't lie?

Ji You was slightly speechless and said, "Admit it, being weaker than Jiaojiao isn't anything shameful—"

Chu Jiaojiao listened, her eyes lit up, rarely hearing praise from Ji You. Before she could feel happy, she heard Ji You's next sentence: "After all, she's livestock; people can't compare with livestock."

After saying this.

Ji You shook her head, lifted her foot, and very naturally stepped through the door.

Chu Jiaojiao: "???"

Shen Changqing: "???"

Sheng Qingyan: "???"

Chu Jiaojiao quickly chased after: "Hey, hey, hey... Ji You, wait for me, you agreed to go together, why are you walking so fast?"

In the daze of Sheng Qingyan and Shen Changqing, Ji You and Chu Jiaojiao took the lead and had already moved several meters away. Sheng Qingyan stomped in annoyance: "Poor dead, oh, she intentionally distracted us to be the first to go."

"So angry, oh."

"How can one person be so bad?"

Sheng Qingyan cursed...

Shen Changqing followed closely behind Sheng Qingyan, his expression slightly moved. He kept pace, closely following behind Sheng Qingyan, vigilantly watching his surroundings, and constantly keeping an eye on the movements behind.

Are these doors one-way, only entry not exit?

Or are they two-way, allowing both entry and exit?

...

Currently unknown, danger might be lurking, suddenly surfacing when everyone relaxes. Shen Changqing dared not relax, Chu Jiaojiao dared not relax, Ji You absolutely dared not relax, and even Sheng Qingyan, who always seemed indifferent, was secretly vigilant.

Ji You walked to the side of the seventh door.

Little Golden Dragon stood at the door, always waiting for Ji You and the others. Upon seeing Ji You's figure, Little Golden Dragon's tone was full of disdain, saying: "Woman, told you not to come, oh, why did you come?"

His tone showed considerable disdain, yet his tail was happily wagging non-stop...

Ji You extended her hand, and Little Golden Dragon leaped, landing on Ji You's hand. Then, his tail stretched, firmly wrapping around her elbow: "Shall we go in now?"

Ji You stared at the seventh door and began to ponder.

Inside and outside the door are two feelings; staying inside, Ji You could clearly sense her spiritual waves becoming more active, as if something behind the door was attracting Ji You.

Danger?

Ji You squinted her eyes and released her Spiritual Silk Network; the moment the six spiritual threads were released, the thing attracting Ji You grew even stronger.

It's—

What is it?

Fourth: [Whatever it is, Master, let's charge—]

Hearing Fourth's words, Ji You's tense lips curled: "Let's go!"

—Fourth's cunning suggests there's probably no substantial danger.

Chapter 987: Bento Box

So, under the gaze of Little Golden Dragon, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, and Sheng Qingyan, Ji You, who had been pondering for a moment, suddenly looked up and said calmly, "Knock."

After saying this,

she raised her hand and knocked on the door three times according to the instructions.

"Creak—"

The door was pushed open from the outside, and the first thing that came into view was a path, a path less than 30 centimeters in diameter. Ji You, with Little Golden Dragon, could pass through unobstructed, but Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, and Sheng Qingyan had to turn sideways to pass—

Soon.

The group arrived in front of the eighth door and stopped.

Ji You looked up at this door, it was an ordinary aluminum alloy door with two handles. In the keyhole in the middle, a metal key was inserted, and a notice hung on the door:

[Use the key to open the door.]

Instinctively, Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, and Sheng Qingyan looked at each other.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

Ji You carefully sensed, finding that the strange wave attracting her was still very strong, and she was sure that this thing was not far behind this door.

Hmm?

This wave, is it a mental attraction, or an aura, or?

Ji You couldn't figure it out. She looked at Chu Jiaojiao and the others and asked, "Do you feel a strange attraction? Or anything unusual with your body?"

Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, and Sheng Qingyan paused for a moment of silence, then shook their heads together, saying, "No."

Ji You: "???"

Shen Changqing said softly, "I don't feel anything, the only feeling is being a bit hungry."

They had been underground for over ten hours, and none of them had time to eat. It wasn't that there was no food, but they simply didn't have time to eat. It wasn't until Ji You asked if anything was unusual with their bodies that Shen Changqing and the others remembered they were hungry.

After Shen Changqing spoke, Chu Jiaojiao also covered her stomach, saying, "I... I'm a bit thirsty."

Sheng Qingyan pouted, looking somewhat aggrieved, "I'm both hungry and thirsty..."

"Ahem..." Ji You laughed dryly and said, "Aha... I forgot everyone was hungry, I'm also very hungry." Truly, mentioning it made her realize her stomach was growling...

Ji You rubbed her stomach and said, "While we're at it, shall we grab something to eat and fill our stomachs?"

Shen Changqing nodded, "Yes."

Sheng Qingyan said, "We should have eaten something earlier."

Chu Jiaojiao slapped her forehead, saying, "Oh no, I only brought nutrient solution. The other food and drinks are on the spaceship." Because the space in the Space Button was small, and Chu Jiaojiao allocated most of the space for weapons and equipment, she only kept 500 sticks of nutrient solution, three a day, which was over a hundred days' worth of food.

Ji You laughed at this and said, "No worries, I brought something tasty."

Chu Jiaojiao's eyes suddenly lit up.

Ji You showed a sly smile and said, "You just need to pay for it."

Chu Jiaojiao: "..."

Staring at Ji You's face, Chu Jiaojiao clutched her chest and moved closer, "Oh no, Ji You's sly look is also very attractive. It's just credit points, right? Just money, right?"

"I'll buy it!"

Shen Changqing and Sheng Qingyan, witnessing Chu Jiaojiao's bottomless devotion to beauty once more, were used to it. They didn't even lift an eyelid and didn't want to look over. Shen Changqing took out two lunch boxes, one black and one pink.

Shen Changqing handed the pink lunch box to Sheng Qingyan and then reached out to open the black lunch box. Inside was a meal containing two meats, two vegetables, rice, and a thick soup. The two meat dishes were fried pork chop and fried fresh shrimp, and the vegetable dishes were stir-fried spinach and romaine lettuce, with a cream mushroom soup as the soup...

After receiving his pink lunch box, Sheng Qingyan didn't hurry to open it.

That pink lunch box, not only was the lunch box pink, but it also came with pink chopsticks, a pink spoon, a pink cup... paired with Sheng Qingyan's beautiful, exquisite, unmatched face...

To be honest, there was no sense of discord with that pink lunch box.

Ji You remembered that she previously crafted some pink Companion Stone earrings, and Sheng Qingyan snatched one. He wore his pink earrings, flaunting them in front of her daily with particular pride...

This guy, whether wearing pink or any other color of clothing and accessories, is completely a walking advertisement board.

Whatever Ji You was murmuring in her heart, Sheng Qingyan paid it no mind, as he was genuinely hungry and thirsty. After opening his small pink lunch box, it contained two meals and two soups similar to Shen Changqing's, but while Shen Changqing only had mineral water, Sheng Qingyan's came with a cup of fruit juice, which he gulped down in one go.

Ji You opened her mouth: "...You two, are truly local tycoons."

This lunch box is a product of the Alliance's second-largest food company—Meiwei Jia. Meiwei Jia and Huatai used to be big companies producing nutrient solutions. However, after Huatai monopolized the low-end nutrient solution market, Meiwei Jia shifted to developing high-end food, medium and advanced nutrient solutions, Natural Nutrients... and, like the lunch boxes Sheng Qingyan and Shen Changqing have now, those are also Meiwei Jia's products.

This kind of food is entirely made from natural food, without a trace of artificial synthetic food, making the lunch box extremely expensive, only affordable for the wealthy. When Ji You was still on the garbage planet, she checked on Star Network and knew that Shen Changqing's meal with two meats, two vegetables, and one soup was priced at 10,000 credit points!

Sheng Qingyan's, with an additional cup of juice, was priced at 11,000 credit points!

In short—

One word: Expensive!

Countless times, day and night, every day when it was mealtime, Ji You would set the table, lay a tablecloth, insert a plastic rose, and then open the Light Computer while chewing on nutrient solution as she watched Meiwei Jia's lunch on the holographic screen.

At that time, Ji You's wish was to have the luxury just once to buy a lunchbox from Meiwei Jia and gobble it down completely!

Ahem...

Now, as someone who earns gold daily and can casually discard a Soul Device, Ji You couldn't help but gulp as she stared at Shen Changqing and Sheng Qingyan's lunchboxes.

Beside her, Chu Jiaojiao also swallowed her saliva and said, "Can't you two eat elsewhere instead of blocking us?"

The nutrient solution in her hand suddenly felt tasteless.

Sheng Qingyan pouted and said, "You can pretend you don't see us..."

After saying this, he continued to savor his ribs happily.

Shen Changqing looked at the nutrient solution in Chu Jiaojiao's hand and at Ji You standing with hands behind her back, seemingly still, but could possibly spring to grab food. Unknowingly, he sped up his eating...

Especially the fried pork chop and fried fresh shrimp. Shen Changqing first hurriedly consumed the two meat dishes without touching the vegetables and soup. After finishing, he felt slightly relieved and then slowly ate the vegetables...

At this moment—

...

Chapter 988: That's Too Much!

At the same time —

In a pitch-black, confined, narrow secret room, 5 rugged-looking men squatted beside a holographic screen. Through the holographic simulation, the colors, aromas, and flavors were all perfectly replicated, with not a hint diminished, transmitted through the data to the five burly men. They sniffed at the aroma drifting from the lunchbox, their faces turning dark with fury:

"This is too much!"

"This is too much!"

"These little brats are really going overboard."

The four burly men in black protective clothing were indignant, wishing they could crawl through the data cable and skin those little brats on the other side, snatching the lunchbox away.

The leading man, however, just focused on the screen where Ji You, Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan, and Chu Jiaojiao were, remaining silent. His thick black eyebrows didn't move, his gaze deep and inscrutable.

...

When Shen Changqing and Sheng Qingyan had devoured all the meat dishes and only vegetables were left, Ji You leisurely pulled out a shiny honey-glazed roasted chicken from the Space Button.

Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan: "!!!"

The golden crispy skin and the savory, sweet aroma wafted over —

Chu Jiaojiao, clutching her nutrient solution, was almost unable to hold it anymore. She took a deep breath and said, "Ji You, you're going too far."

Sheng Qingyan, chewing on some spinach, which tasted like wax, said, "You're overdoing it, you poor dead guy."

Shen Changqing swallowed hard, "Ji You, you..."

"You..."

After a long pause, Shen Changqing gritted his teeth and said, "You're really too much."

On the other end of the screen.

Upon seeing Ji You's fragrant honey-glazed roasted chicken, four of the five men couldn't help but angrily slap their hands:

"Damn it!"

"That's not just going too far! It's damn intolerable."

"Absolutely intolerable!"

"I can't stand it anymore! I'm going out to slaughter those little brats!" The man speaking suddenly stood up and drew out a Big Chopper!

"I'm going too!" The second man stood up, holding an Energy Sword.

"I love slaughtering little brats like this the most," said the third man, gripping a Big Iron Hammer, squinting with his triangular eyes, looking extremely fierce.

"Let's go!" The fourth man stood up. He said just one word, short and impactful, but the weapon in his hand was no simple thing; it was a High Particle Flow Gun, capable of burning a person to ashes with a single shot.

Corpse retrieval?

Not possible.

Just as the four men in the secret room stood up decisively, ready to take action, the leader remained motionless. He didn't raise an eyebrow and said, "Sit down."

With just two words, not spoken loudly and with a faint sense of gentleness, surprisingly the four furious men, about to charge out, abruptly stopped. The first person sat back down.

The second person squatted back down.

The third person put the Big Iron Hammer away.

The fourth person reholstered his gun and slowly sat back down.

...

The four of them simultaneously turned to the leader and one of them asked, "Boss, are we just supposed to sit here and wait for those little brats to come in?"

Another one said, "Just a few weak-looking brats; I could crush them with one hand. Boss, let me go, and I'll deal with them myself." The speaker was the burly man wielding the High Particle Flow Gun, his face full of hostility, exuding ferocity.

"Ying Sanqiang, your shooting skills aren't up to the mark, let me do it!" Another burly man stood up, brandishing his Big Iron Hammer and licking his lips, saying, "It's been a while since I've had such brats to deal with; my Big Iron Hammer is itching for action."

Ying Sanqiang, holding a High Energy Particle Flow Gun, squinted his eyes, shooting a sidelong glance at the guy with the Big Iron Hammer, mocking, "Ying Tiechui, I'm no good? Want to see if your hammer is faster than my gun?"

"Alright, Sanqiang, Tiechui, stop arguing, let's listen to the boss." The burly man holding the Big Chopper said as he turned to face their silent boss.

Ying Sanqiang, Ying Tiechui, Ying Dadao, and Ying Jian, all four burly men named after their weapon specialties, argued for a while before turning in unison to the silent boss, sitting with dark, solemn eyes.

The leader's weapon was a small Dagger, not a regular one, but one that could transform into a sword or a gun at any moment. His code name wasn't Ying Dagger but a rather normal one, Ying Tu.

Ying Tu, with his eyes fixed on Ji You and the others on the screen, suddenly scolded, "All of you, sit down. Those brats are not as simple as you think."

Ying Tiechui gripped his Iron Hammer, ready to stand, "Boss?"

Ying Tu: "Sit."

Ying Tiechui pursed his lips but complied, sitting back down.

Ying Tu continued, "Do you really think those brats who effortlessly wiped out that group of Black Gold Rats below are simple?"

Ying Dadao, rubbing his Big Chopper, said, "Boss, those brats aren't simple, they're obviously exceptional students polished and groomed by elite schools. Smart, with great talent... But! That's all they are. These kids from prestigious schools, no matter how tough, are nothing more than pretty faces—greenhouse flowers, beautiful but fragile."

His coarse fingers ran over the sharp blade of the Big Chopper, his thick calluses shielding him from the blade, leaving his fingers unharmed...

This was a dull blade.

It was Ying Dadao's favorite weapon in close combat, as he believed that cutting flesh with a dull blade was the most excruciating.

Ying Tu said nothing, just squinted his eyes and warned, "I'll only say this once: make a move if you dare, don't blame me—" His tone was soft, so soft, even with a hint of gentleness...

But upon hearing this, the other four burly men fell silent immediately.

...

On this side of the screen.

After Ji You took out the whole honey-glazed roasted chicken, she still wasn't done. Right in front of Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, and Shen Changqing, she pulled out a plate of braised pork trotter.

Chu Jiaojiao and the others: "!!!"

Their mouths watered involuntarily.

Ji You smiled slightly, saying nothing, and then she pulled out a roasted lamb leg from the Space Button.

Chu Jiaojiao and the others: "!!!"

Chu Jiaojiao swallowed hard and asked, "Ji You... do you... have any more?"

Ji You smiled and said, "Yes."

Chu Jiaojiao's eyes widened, "!!!"

Then—

Ji You pulled out a big bowl of braised ribs.

The three of them pursed their lips, Sheng Qingyan rolled his eyes and said, "You poor dead guy, that's enough already."

On this side of the screen.

Ying Tu and the other four burly men, except for Ying Tu, almost said in unison, "That brat, enough already."

Chapter 989: Crafty

Almost enough?

Ji Excessive Evil You, with her actions, told everyone she didn't think it was enough, far from enough.

Next.

Grilled fresh fish, pepper salt shrimp, steamed crab, teppanyaki squid... these large seafood dishes made Shen Changqing gulp, but his inner turmoil wasn't significant—until—

He saw the pile of milk puddings Ji You took out from the Space Button, and Shen Changqing couldn't help but drool uncontrollably.

Then.

Tiramisu.

Matcha cookies.

Honey cake.

...

Before Chu Jiaojiao and Sheng Qingyan could speak, Shen Changqing hurried to Ji You, pulling out a wad of paper currency credit points: "I'll buy it!"

Ji You smiled slightly and said, "Which one do you want?"

Shen Changqing glanced over this and that, finally gritting his teeth: "All of it!"

Ji You smiled and said, "Little Stupid, eating too many desserts can easily cause cavities. Eat a little less, just three items for you."

Shen Changqing: "..."

Little Stupid...

Those three words brought some sense back to Shen Changqing, but he still gritted his teeth and insisted: "No, I'm not afraid of cavities. I go for dental care every month. These, this one, that one, and a few more, I want them all."

If someone comes to your door with money, stuffing it into your pocket, will you take it?

Ji You hesitated for a second, then immediately laughed and said, "Okay, okay, sell them all to you."

Don't want it?

Are you stupid?

This isn't forceful buying or selling, nor is it some shady deal; it's honest business. Why not take the money that's being stuffed in?

Ji You smiled and said, "A total of 50,000 credit points."

Shen Changqing's hand trembled slightly: "How... how much?"

Ji You smiled and said, "50,000 credit points."

Shen Changqing fell silent for a moment, retracting his hand, stiffening his lips, and struggled to stay calm: "Sorry, I don't have enough money to pay."

After saying this, Shen Changqing reached into his pocket, rummaged around... rummaged for a long time, but still couldn't take out a single credit point...

Ji You wasn't worried at all, calmly waiting for Shen Changqing to make a final decision.

The sweet and delicious desserts, with hints of freshness and milkiness... constantly assaulted Shen Changqing's nose, testing his willpower. He swallowed and finally couldn't resist, gritting his teeth and saying: "40,000, I'll buy them all."

Ji You smiled and refused: "Sorry, this is a unique business, no bargaining allowed."

So many desserts, the cost price is 40,000. Selling it to Shen Changqing for 40,000 would be a huge loss, wouldn't it?

Just earning 10,000 credit points counts as hard-earned money.

If Ji You were more unscrupulous, she'd quote 100,000, and guess that Shen Changqing, this Little Stupid, wouldn't even be able to resist the temptation.

Then—

Shen Changqing's eyes stayed glued to the desserts in front of Ji You, unwilling to move an inch. Upon hearing Ji You's refusal, he seemed to finally give up on bargaining and said: "Alright, 50,000 it is."

Ji You smiled: "No credit, immediate settlement."

Shen Changqing gritted his teeth and handed over 50,000 credit points.

Ji You took them, checking carefully to confirm they weren't counterfeit, then she accepted them.

Nowadays, hardly anyone uses paper currency for transactions; it's not convenient for storage or management, and there's a risk of loss or damage, so throughout the Alliance and even human society, network digital currency is used.

But this doesn't mean paper and coins have been phased out. They still exist and can circulate in human society, though very few people use them.

When Shen Changqing actually pulled out 50,000 in paper currency, Ji You was quite surprised.

Seeing the surprise in Ji You's eyes, Shen Changqing was a little embarrassed and said: "You said immediate settlement, but I can't access the Star Network right now, so I had to use paper currency."

After buying all the desserts, Shen Changqing carefully stored them all in his Space Button, then cautiously took out a piece of honey cake, gently licking the honey on top.

Sweet.

Very sweet.

Instantly, the sweetness made a light shine in Shen Changqing's eyes.

After Shen Changqing's purchase, only Chu Jiaojiao and Sheng Qingyan remained, both staring eagerly at the piles of large seafood dishes in front of Ji You, almost drooling on the floor.

Ji You raised her eyebrows and asked: "Buying?"

Chu Jiaojiao gulped and said: "Buying! But... but I don't have any paper currency, can I owe it first?"

Ji You turned around: "Goodbye."

Chu Jiaojiao reached out: "Hey! Wait a minute..."

Sheng Qingyan, who hadn't spoken, suddenly turned to Shen Changqing and asked: "Aqing, lend me 50,000 paper currency."

Shen Changqing paused and coughed lightly: "I... I don't have any left."

Sheng Qingyan stared at Shen Changqing, looking for signs of deceit—

Shen Changqing's face flushed slightly, speaking softly: "Really... I don't have any left, I gave it all to Ji You." Saying this, he emptied his pockets in front of everyone.

Only then did Sheng Qingyan turn back to Ji You, openly saying: "Poor dead, give me a honey-roasted chicken, a pork knuckle, and a roasted lamb leg..."

Ji You shook her head: "Immediate settlement, no credit. I won't sell to a poor dead without cash."

Sheng Qingyan stiffened: "..."

Ji You smiled slightly and suddenly said: "However, if you're willing to let me see your grinding stick, I'll reluctantly credit you a roasted chicken."

"See?" Sheng Qingyan sneered: "You're calling it seeing? You clearly want to keep my Sparrow Yellow. You're dreaming."

Ji You gritted her teeth and said: "Fine, if you don't let me see it, I have 50,000 credit points in paper currency here. How much do you want to borrow? One percent interest, do you want to borrow?"

"!!!" Sheng Qingyan almost choked: "You're... you're too much!!!"

Letting me borrow money to buy your things? Charging interest on borrowed money, one percent! Even loan sharks aren't this ruthless!

Ji You raised her eyebrows and said: "Using a 1.5 billion grinding stick, you come here crying poor. 50,000 credit points, with just 500 in interest. Is 500 credit points a lot? You need to know that you're in a mountain valley right now, you can't go out for ten days or half a month, and you can't eat these feasts anytime you want. Spending an extra 500 credit points for a meal, I'm not saying anything more, you decide for yourself."

After she finished.

Ji You started packing up, deliberately waving the honey-roasted chicken in front of Sheng Qingyan, then slowly putting it into the Space Button—

"Stop!" Sheng Qingyan stomped hard: "Give me a honey-roasted chicken, keep a lamb leg for me, and also keep the roast fish, pork knuckle and others..."

Ji You smiled and said: "Okay."

The five burly men witnessing this: "..."

Chapter 990: Dawdling

Successfully got Sheng Qingyan to borrow money from me, and then obediently paid up, buying a bunch of stuff from me, Ji You happily stored the food away. Seeing this, Chu Jiaojiao panicked: "Ji You, I haven't bought anything yet."

Ji You continued what she was doing and asked, "What do you want to eat?"

Chu Jiaojiao blushed and laughed, "I want to eat grilled steak, braised ribs, and freshly squeezed juice..."

Ji You paused her fingers but still took out what Chu Jiaojiao asked for. Chu Jiaojiao smiled brightly, "Thank you, Ji You. I'll pay you back when we get to the surface."

Ji You said, "Don't forget the interest."

Chu Jiaojiao: "Alrighty."

Sheng Qingyan cursed, "Poor dead!"

Little Golden Dragon, nestled in Ji You's arms, suddenly moved: "Woman—"

Ji You's finger trembled: "What do you want to say?"

Little Golden Dragon said, "I also want honey-glazed roast chicken, fried shrimp, ribs, beef, lamb, pig's feet, big fish..."

Ji You clutched her chest and asked, "Stop, stop... I just want to know if there's anything you don't want to eat?"

Little Golden Dragon, with a straight face, said decisively, "None."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You threw out a big pig's foot and said, "Start chomping on this first, the rest, I'll give to you in installments."

Little Golden Dragon happily accepted the pig's foot, but after hearing the last sentence, his face darkened and he said, "Woman, your stinginess is extremely ugly and hateful, hmph!"

Ji You said, "It's good enough you have something to eat, and you're still being picky. Do you think I'm the landlord? Even the landlord's family doesn't have surplus grain."

...

A group of four people, with a Mecha, sat down on the ground, leaning against the ninth gate, digging into their food with their heads down. In the blink of an eye, like a whirlwind, all the food laid out was devoured completely.

On the other side of the screen.

The five members of Ying Tu watched Ji You and the others eating meat in large chunks, and even the ever calm and composed Ying Tu couldn't help but start salivating.

"Gulu gulu~"

"Gulu gulu~"

"Gulu gulu~"

"Damn!"

"Hungry!"

"This makes me crave so badly!"

Ying Sanqiang, Ying Dadao, Ying Tiechui, Ying Jian all nearly jumped up, almost ready to rush out with their sabers, but they secretly glanced at their boss Ying Tu's expression and restrained themselves, not daring to move.

Ying Tu's lips curved into a smile that didn't reach his eyes: "Interesting."

Upon hearing these three words, the other four couldn't help but shudder.

The boss saying these three words meant he was a bit interested. Who was the unlucky soul that the boss got interested in? All four burly men suddenly had a question mark pop up in their minds.

Next thing they knew.

The four of them saw their boss suddenly lift his hand, point at Ji You's cheek on the screen, and say, "Later, leave this one alive, kill the rest."

"Huh?"

The four men stopped cold, looking at Ji You—a poor little wretch.

Having been with Ying Tu for a long time, living a life of licking blood off knives, they had experienced and seen a lot. Still, even with such experience, the four couldn't help but whisper to themselves about boss Ying Tu's cruelty: This is a beast with no emotions, ruthless and venomous... Meeting him, the best way is to die quickly.

To die swiftly, is better than suffering alive.

...

At the door.

Ji You and the group, after eating and drinking their fill, tidied everything up. Ji You sat at the door, not in a hurry to open it.

This was the eighth door.

The key hung directly on the lock, indicating that all they had to do was use it to open the door smoothly. Having successfully passed through the previous eight doors, common reasoning would suggest that this eighth one would be problem-free as well.

Open?

Or not?

Having come this far, asking this question was obviously redundant. Of course, they would open the door, but when to open it was up to Ji You and her companions to decide.

Chu Jiaojiao looked at Ji You and asked, "Ji You, should we open it now?"

Ji You rubbed her belly and said, "Let's wait, ate too much; need to digest first."

Chu Jiaojiao, growing anxious at hearing this, said, "How do we digest while sitting? Why don't we continue breaking through and digest on the way?"

"No way!" Ji You hadn't spoken yet, but Sheng Qingyan, resting against the wall, petulantly shook her head and pouted, "I'm so tired; I don't want to walk. I'll move once I've rested."

Saying this, Sheng Qingyan plopped down onto the floor, with a 'what can you do?' attitude... Chu Jiaojiao lifted her hand, rubbed her brow, but couldn't help throwing a punch.

Half-squinting, Shen Changqing softly said, "Ayan and Ji You are both tired; let's lie down for a while longer." He thought for a second, then cautiously asked, "How about resting for 30 minutes? What do you think?"

Sheng Qingyan pouted, a bit discontentedly, "Not enough. I need at least an hour to sleep; otherwise, my skin will be terrible, and I don't want that..."

Hearing this, Ji You's eyelid twitched, but she restrained the urge to whack Sheng Qingyan; she directly took Little Golden Dragon and used him as a pillow, saying, "Let's just rest for 30 minutes, and then we'll continue after."

With that, she closed her eyes.

Little Golden Dragon angrily puffed, "Hey hey hey... Woman! What are you doing? Don't you know what you're doing? You actually use me as a pillow? I treat you like a brother, and you try to sleep on me?"

"Bang!" Ji You jumped, startled: "Oh crap! Mecha, mind your words, stop saying nonsense, don't you have anything better to watch all day?"

Seriously—

Words that frighten, you just blurt them out!

Being pressed between the back of Ji You's head and neck, Little Golden Dragon tried hard to flip over, but only half succeeded, which made him a bit angry. With a stern face, he said, "Woman! Let me go and apologize properly; only then will I pretend this never happened!"

"Hmm~" Ji You frowned, stretched out her hand, flipped Little Golden Dragon over properly under her head, and smiled, "That's more like it."

Little Golden Dragon: "..."

Squished and almost unable to breathe, Little Golden Dragon was close to rebellion out of rage.

Ji You closed her eyes, pretending to sleep, while in fact, her Spiritual World silently extended towards the world behind the door, extending further and further—

Meanwhile.

Ying Tu and his group of five wore serious expressions, frowning. Ying Sanqiang looked at his boss Ying Tu, gritting his teeth, "These little bastards, enough already, are they going in or not?"

He had already tightly gripped the trigger of the High Energy Particle Flow Gun—