

Scavengers 991

Chapter 991: Vigilance

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

The five strong men waited and waited, yet Ji You and the group of four all kept their eyes closed, seemingly genuinely asleep, one by one without making a sound. This made the five strong men, led by Ying Tu, almost think their presence had been discovered, but—

The five men kept a close watch on the faces of Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, and Shen Changqing, looking again and again...finding indeed no issues. The natural arrogance on their faces, coupled with their leisurely and procrastinating manner, seemed innate!

Seeing the four subordinates already a bit restless, Ying Tu said in a deep voice, "If you don't want to die, sit quietly."

Ying Dadao tightened his grip on the knife handle, his face extremely gloomy, and said, "Boss, it's not that serious, right? These little brats, they don't seem that capable. It took four of them just to handle a Level 3 peak Black Gold Rat. How can they compare to us?"

Ying Tu frowned and scolded, "Fool, don't forget there's another three on the ground."

Ying Dadao pursed his lips, whispering, "The three on the ground aren't necessarily that tough either. We've ambushed 2-star warriors before. Why should we fear these little brats?"

A bunch of kids who probably haven't even passed the Basic Mecha Driver's License exam, how powerful can they be? Deep down, Ying Dadao found it hard to believe that Alliance First Military Academy's top students had knelt when they encountered their gang.

This bunch?

Right.

"Which school are they from?" asked Ying Dadao.

"Not wearing uniforms, so don't know for now," said Ying Tiechui. He thought about it and added, "Judging by their style, they don't seem from any top-tier school, definitely a third-rate school."

"Impossible." Surprisingly, it was Boss Ying Tu who said this, and Ying Tiechui, Ying Dadao, Ying Jian, Ying Sanqiang all turned to Ying Tu curiously.

Ying Tu, with calm eyes, said lowly, "This is a group of Military Academy Students."

Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan...the group, although not wearing identity tags, the way they moved and their vigorous spirit clearly indicated they were from a military academy, especially Shen Changqing, Yue Qiyuan, and Yue Qiguang.

Ying Tu pointed at Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, and said deeply, "This shorty, this tomboy, and this sissy, though these three seem mysterious and confusing, these three—"

Ying Tu pointed to Yue Qiyuan, Shen Changqing, and Yue Qiguang, frowning, "These three, definitely came from top military academies, even the elite among them. Don't underestimate these sheltered flowers. While their strength may not be much, they have solid backing, and who knows, they might have something that could catch you off guard."

Four strong men under Ying Tu fell silent after listening to their leader's analysis.

"Also—" Ying Tu's eyes were on the screen displaying Ji You and others fooling around, he said, sneering a little: "We've met these little pups before."

Ying Sanqiang and others were startled: "???"

Ying Tiechui rubbed a large hammer at his side, suddenly realizing, "No wonder, I felt they looked familiar, turns out we've really met before?"

Ying Jian asked, "Where?"

Ying Dadao stared closely at the faces of Ji You and others for a while before slapping his thigh hard: "I remember now, we met these little brats at Kite Space Station."

When Ying Dadao said this, the others moved closer to the screen, scrutinized it, and immediately confirmed:

"No doubt."

"Met them at Kite Space Station."

"I remember this shorty, underdeveloped, similar to our batch of goods."

"This sissy too, it's rare to find such a striking-looking sissy in the whole Alliance, a great talent to be tortured." This sentence was said by Ying Sanqiang, his eyes full of maliciousness.

"Calm down, all of you." Ying Tu glanced at the four beneath him, his eyes dark as coal, saying: "We're being pursued and forced to hide in this bunker, we can't afford to create much commotion. If we attract those Alliance dogs, it won't be worth it."

"So—"

Ying Tu spoke in a deep tone: "Hold on, wait for those little brats to walk into the trap themselves."

Four strong men: "Yes."

With her eyes closed, Ji You extended her Spiritual Silk probing forward, taking one step, then advancing half a step...now that her Spiritual Level had risen to B-level, and she had entered mid-B-level, soon approaching B-level peak. Once she breaks through, she would step into A-level.

...

The improvement in Spiritual Level brought great benefits, greatly enhancing Ji You's Spiritual Strength. If before, high-intensity mecha piloting wore her out in 30 minutes, now, she could operate a mecha intensively for over 3 hours, and by perfecting her precision, she could go for 6 hours...

Originally Ji You's Spiritual Silk range was only 1000 meters, now it could extend to about 1500 meters. With more refined Spiritual Power usage, it could potentially be enhanced further.

...

When Little Golden Dragon pushed open the seventh door, Ji You suddenly felt a vague, strong attraction holding her Spiritual Power. In the Spiritual World, Boss, Second, Third, Fourth...

One by one, they wiggled eagerly wishing to replace Ji You, rushing inside the door to find that item.

Ji You carefully assessed, confirming no danger at the time.

Therefore, she led her teammates inside, passing through corridors, and crossing doors, while the attraction grew stronger, confirming Ji You's perception wasn't wrong.

But—

As they approached the eighth door, the odd attraction suddenly shifted direction, which was strange. Ji You's steps halted abruptly, and with her sudden stop, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan felt a bit puzzled, but seeing Ji You's calm face, understanding the tacit understanding from long training and cooperation, all calmly pretended nothing happened.

Ji You stepped forward naturally again.

Meanwhile, Ji You sensed that strange attraction changing direction once more, as if it was alive, constantly moving, or perhaps being carried by someone as they moved around.

Noticing the peculiarity, Ji You immediately decided to stop and eat where she was.

Chapter 992: Delusions

Underworld.

Ji You leaned against the wall behind her, sitting on the ground. She half-closed her eyes and kept stroking the head of the Little Golden Dragon with one hand, looking very content and at ease. Next to her, Chu Jiaojiao squatted and was using a small axe to constantly hack at the ground...

Sheng Qingyan sat opposite them, resting with his eyes closed.

Shen Changqing leaned against the eighth doorway, holding a blueprint, writing and drawing on it nonstop.

"Dong dong..."

"Dong dong..."

"Dong dong..."

The rhythmic chopping sound of the axe was too much for Sheng Qingyan, and he couldn't help it. He lifted his eyelids, glared at Chu Jiaojiao, and said, "Jiaojiao... could you stop for a moment? It's seriously annoying..."

Chu Jiaojiao raised her hand and pounded the ground, not only not stopping but hitting even harder. She said, "No way! I just can't believe it, I have to make a hole in this floor! What on earth is this material that can block so many types of information transmission... Maybe, just maybe, this thing is as valuable as Ji You said, and a small piece could be exchanged for a Soul Device!"

Sheng Qingyan was choked, pursed his lips, and said, "Don't listen to that poor dead guy's nonsense... look, you've been hammering for half a day and haven't knocked off a single fragment..."

Ji You heard this and was displeased, saying, "Spicy Eye, stop talking nonsense! This is a reasonable inference based on facts! Look at the floor beneath us, its hardness and thickness, and its ability to block information; maybe it's really a rare treasure, so what's wrong with my suspicion?"

Sheng Qingyan rolled his eyes and said, "Never seen rare treasures being used as flooring..."

"Heh—" Ji You snorted and deliberately mocked, "With your limited knowledge, of course, you've never seen floors made of rare treasures... Let me tell you, I've seen someone use Soul Devices as bedding, discard Soul Device Materials as trash, and even use Soul Devices for table and chair cushions."

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Shen Changqing and Chu Jiaojiao both looked up, somewhat speechless at Ji You, both opened their mouths but couldn't find words for a moment to say...

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

A strange silence spread in the enclosed space, filled with countless awkwardness...

Ji You had no sense of shame in boasting. Seeing everyone rendered speechless, she lifted her chin and said loudly, "Don't believe it? I've really seen this kind of person!"

Sheng Qingyan couldn't hold it in anymore, rolled his eyes hard, and cursed, "You poor dead guy... you exaggerate too much... be careful with your words, even if you boast, don't blow it up so big..."

"Heh!" Ji You suddenly stood up: "I'm boasting?"

Ji You raised a hand, pointed to herself, and said proudly: "That's right, I am boasting because— I am the Cow King myself!"

Everyone: "..."

Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, and Shen Changqing all turned away, unable to look at her directly.

On the other side of the confined, narrow space.

When Ji You proudly admitted she was boasting, Ying Tu and his five burly men were speechless, the tallest and most robust Ying Tiechui even punched the floor: "Damn! When are these little bastards finally going to open the door?"

Ying Sanqiang was also almost at the end of his patience: "Haven't they rested enough?"

Ying Dadao held his machete, his face dark, and said: "How long are they going to dawdle? With the locks of nine doors all given to them, still dawdling?"

Dawdling is one thing, but these little rascals are really troublesome, especially that shortest one, always coming up with ideas and blowing up stories that even the Cow King reincarnated would be ashamed of...

Listening to Ji You's continuous boasting, Ying Dadao, Ying Sanqiang, Ying Tiechui, and Ying Jian were all going crazy!

"Damn it!" Ying Jian suddenly stood up, took his sword, and said: "I'm going to kill these punks!"

"Sit down."

Ying Tu said calmly.

Ying Jian urgently said: "Boss... if this stalemate continues, it'll be bad for us. The Alliance's hounds will still find us sooner or later. This underground lair can't last, we should just go clean them up and settle these brats, changing location faster!"

The five men led by Ying Tu have a very proper identity outside - Free Mercenaries.

The Alliance allows Free Mercenaries to exist but they must be subject to certain control and constraints, thus Free Mercenaries must register with the Mercenary Association, pay a certain annual fee, and abide by the regulations. Noncompliance could result in downgraded Mercenary Group levels or expulsion from the Association, or even interstellar notoriety.

The Mercenary Association is under military and government control, overseen by the Marshal Mansion.

Each registered Mercenary Group starts at Level 1, and as tasks are completed with high completion rates, the level rises, granting more benefits and conveniences.

Moreover, every 5 years, the Alliance evaluates all Free Mercenary Groups; failing results in demotion and reduced benefits, passing maintains original level and benefits.

Aside from these formalities.

The Flying Eagle Mercenary Group, led by Ying Tu, has been registered for 30 years and is level 3. This level is not top-tier within the Mercenary Association, nor particularly outstanding, but competent, considered middle-level.

That is the open identity of the Flying Eagle Mercenary Group.

...

After having his men sit down, leader Ying Tu remained silent with a calm expression.

Ying Sanqiang and Ying Tiechui were still somewhat irked but eventually calmed down. Ying Sanqiang said, "Listen to the boss. That Alliance bunch may not find us. If we wait patiently for these ants who mistakenly entered the secret chamber to die off, we'll be safe."

While Ying Sanqiang was talking, on the other side of the holographic screen, Ji You continued her tireless boasting, growing more outlandish, claiming to be an invisible millionaire with billions in assets, with everyone flocking to her, preferring to work for her for free, and if she gave the command, hundreds of thousands of troops would eagerly flock to her, fighting to serve tea and water...

These nonsense talks annoyed Ying Sanqiang, Ying Tiechui, Ying Dadao, and Ying Jian so much they refused to listen, feeling it ear-piercing.

Then—

Ji You suddenly said: "Don't believe I'm a rich woman? Then do you know what I have in the backpack I forgot in the spaceship's lounge?"

"Oh?"

"What could it be?" Sheng Qingyan, Chu Jiaojiao, and Shen Changqing seemed disinterested.

Ji You lifted her chin, proud: "A whole backpack of Soul Devices."

Hmm?

Ying Tu, usually calm, felt a stir at heart, while Ying Sanqiang stroked his High Energy Particle Flow Gun, staring darkly at the screen where the little dwarf boasted with flair, muttering: "That little dwarf, could she be delusional?"

Chapter 993: High-level Soul Device?

Ji You was boasting without a shred of shame. Seeing the lack of interest from the others, she suddenly pulled out a beautifully translucent dagger from her Space Button to prove herself.

This dagger had no lethality; it was merely decorative. It was particularly small, only the size of Ji You's thumbnail, and the hilt was adorned with shimmering diamonds, extremely dazzling.

At first, Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, and Shen Changqing glanced at it with little interest, ready to look away, when suddenly Sheng Qingyan's eyes twitched and his gaze froze—

Chu Jiaojiao held her breath, not daring to blink.

Shen Changqing widened his eyes, slightly moved.

In the somewhat crowded passage, Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, and Sheng Qingyan sat on the floor with mouths agape, eyes fixed on the callused palm of Ji You's hand—

The brilliant diamonds were embedded in the green, translucent jade, exuding a sense of grandeur and luxury across the entire scene...

What is this?

A Soul Device?

Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, and Shen Changqing simultaneously had the same thought: did Ji You really have such a high-level Soul Device in her hand? Was she not bluffing?

...

"What is this?"

"A Soul Device?"

Holding the gun grip, Ying Sanqiang paused abruptly, raising an eyebrow, and asked, "What level of Soul Device is this?"

The others remained silent, while Ying Tu raised a hand to zoom the camera on the holographic screen, focusing on the jade dagger in Ji You's palm. At this moment, the full appearance of the dagger was revealed to everyone—

It was enveloped in a soft glow, with an Array Diagram surrounded by active spiritual power, and the Spiritual Silk seemed like real dragons playing endlessly in the special framework, even giving a vague sense of wanting to break free and soar into the sky!

This!

This is definitely a Soul Device.

Without a doubt!

Moreover, this powerful, abundant vitality... it must be a High-level Soul Device!

Ying Tu's pupils contracted!

His own Spirit Level had been stuck at S-level for a long, long time.

It was time to advance.

Thinking of this, Ying Tu's eyes flickered briefly but quickly calmed. He spoke quietly, "It should be a Soul Device, estimated to be at Low-level Peak or around Intermediate."

Ying Tu used a questioning tone. Whether something was a Soul Device had to be professionally appraised, but there were simpler methods to determine it.

For example, by checking its glossiness. The main difference between a Soul Device and a dead object is the glossiness. Dead objects lack vitality and appear dull, whereas Soul Devices, although not technically alive, seem more alive than dead. Due to the cycle of spiritual power infused by the artifact maker, a Soul Device's surface glows with a particularly full, glistening life-like sheen.

Also, by checking the Array Diagram. A Soul Device, whether a Natural Soul Artifact or artificial, must have an Array Diagram. The diagram of a Natural Soul Artifact is integrated seamlessly with its medium, hard to discern. Artificial Soul Devices are simpler, as most soul artifact makers, limited by skill, cannot engrave a diagram that integrates as one with the medium. Hence, artificial Soul Devices usually have a clear pattern—triangular, diamond-shaped, rectangular, etc.

On the screen, the Array Diagram on Ji You's dagger, though a simple triangle, captured one's gaze irresistibly!

The four burly men, Ying Sanqiang, Ying Tiechui, Ying Dadao, and Ying Jian, were unwilling to look away—

But!

Ji You quickly closed her hand after a brief show, fearing someone might snatch it away. She immediately tucked it back into her Space Button, waved to Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, and Sheng Qingyan, and cheerfully said, "Hey hey hey... snap out of it!"

"Heh!" Ji You mercilessly mocked them, "Look at you drooling, just a bunch of hicks who can't keep up appearances."

Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, and Sheng Qingyan, these three 'hicks', reluctantly wiped their mouths.

Meanwhile—

The 'hicks' Ying Sanqiang, Ying Tiechui, Ying Dadao, and Ying Jian, even Ying Tu discreetly, wiped their mouths too. Ying Sanqiang cleared his throat and scolded, "Little rascal, once we catch you, I'll hang you up and give you a good beating!"

Ying Tiechui said, "Boss, it must be a Soul Device! I saw a clear Array Diagram!"

Ying Dadao's eyes gleamed as he licked his lips and said, "I saw it too, absolutely clear and stable Array Diagram."

With excitement in his tone, Ying Jian said, "If it truly is, then—"

Ying Jian paused briefly, looking at the brooding Ying Tu, and smiled, "What luck, Boss needs a Soul Device, this is like winning the lottery. Boss, let's keep this rascal for a while, no need to rush."

Surprisingly, Ying Tu nodded, "Mm."

Over here.

"Whoa!!!"

"Dead poor guy!!!"

"You... you..."

"You're hiding a High-level Soul Device?" Sheng Qingyan was nearly speechless, staring intently at Ji You's now empty hands, saying, "Dead poor guy, show it again."

"I need to confirm if it's a High-level Soul Device..."

Ji You dismissively said, "No need to see it, you won't be able to afford it anyway. Why bother?"

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Heartbroken.

With a sycophantic smile, Chu Jiaojiao said, "Ji You, I won't buy it, can't afford it. Just show it to me again for a glimpse."

Shen Changqing looked at Ji You, wanting to speak but refrained, clearly sharing the same thought.

Ji You crossed her arms, warily guarding her Space Button, saying, "You dead poor hicks, don't think you can deceive my High-level Soul Device away."

So it is!

It indeed is a High-level Soul Device!

The owner had personally admitted it was a High-level Soul Device.

In the enclosed space, Ying Tu, Ying Dadao, Ying Sanqiang... five men had their eyes lit up.

Facing a group of hungry, wolf-like gazes, Ji You felt overwhelmed, a bit of sweat appearing on her forehead. Yet she bravely maintained composure, pretending not to be nervous, speaking proudly, "Hmph, I've said, I've a bag full of Soul Devices in my backpack. If you don't believe me, you can go back to the spaceship and check now! Honestly, I—Ji You, am the billionaire who sleeps on Soul Devices, uses Soul Devices as floor tiles, tossing countless Soul Device materials carelessly. Believe it now?"

Ying Tu, Ying Sanqiang, Ying Tiechui... everyone's breathing became slightly more measured.

Chapter 994: Play!

Ji You finished her boast and sat down calmly, leaning her back against the wall. She used her right elbow to cover most of her face, slightly lowering her eyes to hide a faint sheen of sweat on her forehead and the subtle trembling of her body...

The high-intensity consumption of spiritual power was still a bit too much.

Actually, that jade dagger wasn't any High-level Soul Device at all, it wasn't even a Soul Device. The dagger, encrusted with diamonds on the hilt, was crafted by Ji You herself, but it did not successfully become a Soul Device and was merely a piece of art.

The first Soul Device Ji You purchased was a low-level soul artifact made by Master Lin Feng, a disciple of Master Kong Zhe. The inspiration for her to replicate his array diagram came from the dagger she bought, but she failed many times in her attempt. This diamond dagger was one of those failures. Even though it failed, it didn't crumble into dust but kept its delicate appearance, especially the diamonds on it, which cost Ji You dozens of credit points. She couldn't bear to throw it away, so she stored it in the Space Button.

Indeed.

Dozens of credit points for a total of 88 diamonds, to be precise, 88 credit points in total. 1 credit point per diamond, 1-carat ones, so cheap it's almost tear-inducing...

When Ji You saw the price, she almost couldn't believe her eyes, but her clear eyes told her they were indeed that cheap. Unable to resist, she bought an entire box of them.

Then.

She realized that besides looking pretty, they indeed didn't serve any purpose. Due to severe survival issues, people in the interstellar era value practicality, and items of no utility to current technology and life are worthless.

When Ji You impulsively bought a box of diamond soul artifacts, she fantasized about how carrying them would make her rich—becoming a billionaire was just around the corner?

Ahem...

The dagger encrusted with diamonds wasn't a real Soul Device, and of course, it couldn't turn into a High-level Soul Device so quickly. The reason it gave the impression of a Soul Device was mainly that Ji You at that moment let her Six Spiritual Threads crawl out, creating a fake array diagram on the dagger. Time and ability were limited, so the diagram couldn't be too complex, thus only a simple triangle.

And—

The continuously flowing spiritual power inside the array diagram appeared vivid, but it was actually Fourth leading Fifth and Sixth pretending. Boss, Second, and Third formed a triangular array formation diagram, while Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth chased and ran within the circle...

This task, because it was outside the Spiritual World, on a physical object, left all Six Spiritual Threads strained, and within just a few dozen seconds, nearly exhausted all spiritual power.

She flaunted the 'High-level Soul Device' in front of Chu Jiaojiao and the others, emphasizing the array diagram's design, then quickly put it away, as another moment would have left her drained.

...

Ji You slowly slowed her breathing, continuously adjusting the frequency, trying to fully relax.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

Feeling warmth return to her cheeks, her forehead no longer cold, and her body slightly recovered, Ji You raised her head, proudly looking at Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, and Shen Changqing who were still in a dazed state.

Ji You smiled, "You still don't believe?"

Ji You's fair face blushed slightly, contrasting her previous pallor, now appearing healthy enough to eat a bull in one bite. At this moment, Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan, and Chu Jiaojiao all felt relieved, but they kept their demeanor as if nothing was discovered, Sheng Qingyan rolling her eyes mockingly, "Whether your High-level Soul Device is real or not, leaving that aside, saying you have a whole bag of Soul Devices in your backpack is quite hard to believe."

Shen Changqing raised her eyes, glanced at Ji You secretly, and whispered, "It's a bit exaggerated, I don't believe it either."

"I believe it!" Chu Jiaojiao suddenly stood up, loudly said two words, and in the next instant, "Ji You looks so good, she surely wouldn't lie to me."

Ji You seemed slightly displeased, saying, "How about we go back and check now?"

Sheng Qingyan was the first to object, humming, "Why go back now? We've already come here, haven't found the treasure yet, if you want us to go out now, you must want to hog all the goodies for yourself?"

Sheng Qingyan rolled her eyes at Ji You, "Dream on."

Shen Changqing whispered, "We've already ventured this far, it would be a shame not to explore further."

Chu Jiaojiao approached Ji You, giggling, "Ji You, let's check the Soul Devices after we get out. I'm really curious what's behind the door, can't wait any longer!"

Facing her companions' remarks, Ji You seemed moved by their words, her eyes flashing constantly, finally decided, "Alright! Let's continue the adventure!"

In front of the screen.

The five people, including Ying Tu and Ying Sanqiang, upon hearing the dialogue between Ji You and her companions, instantly eased their tense expressions. Ying Tiechui, holding the Big Iron Hammer, pointed at the students on the holographic screen and mocked, "They're just kids, oblivious, thinking they're the Chosen Son and every secret room holds enormous treasures awaiting them."

However, the greed and recklessness of these brats did make Ying Sanqiang, Ying Tiechui, Ying Dadao... and others breathe a sigh of relief. If these punks changed their minds to leave, they would have to come out in advance and kill them off.

Let them leave?

Impossible.

...

[Impossible.

No matter what, it would be impossible to leave safely and peacefully, pretending nothing ever happened. The enemies hidden deep within the secret chambers won't allow it and won't be merciful.]

Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan, and Ji You exchanged brief glances, all understanding the current situation.

Leaving was impossible, they had to brace themselves.

Facing unknown enemies, they might not hold an advantage. And—their current and only major advantage was that the enemy might temporarily have not realized that they already sensed the hidden danger.

So, they must naturally, seamlessly perform as a group of reckless kids barging into secret rooms.

So—

Facing eager eyes from her companions, seemingly ready to dash through the door at any moment, Ji You leaned against the wall, motionless. Carefully feeling the hidden spiritual fluctuations that showed no abnormalities, Ji You slightly relaxed.

Chu Jiaojiao: "Ji You?"

Sheng Qingyan: "Let's go."

Shen Changqing: "Can we go now?"

Ji You raised her hand, rubbed her foot, saying, "Ahem..."

"I—"

"I have a bit of a leg cramp, hold on a moment."

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

Inside the chamber.

Ying Sanqiang, Ying Tiechui, Ying Dadao, and Ying Jian slapped the table simultaneously, cursing, "Damn!"

Meanwhile, Sheng Qingyan rolled her eyes, "Damn..."

Facing the chorus of curses, Ji You felt no shame, nor any guilt, she raised her hand, rubbed her ankle, saying, "I can't help it, I just got a cramp from sitting too long, can't you wait a little longer?"

"Seriously!" Ji You grumbled, dawdling... but eventually, slowly and shakily stood up, and as she stood, she suddenly trembled, nearly falling back, but was caught by a timely helping hand from beside her.

Chapter 995: Mushroom

Ji You turned her face, smiled, and said, "Jiaojiao, thank you."

Chu Jiaojiao held Ji You by the waist, her eyes fixed on Ji You's face, smiling broadly: "You're welcome, it's my pleasure to serve classmate Ji You." She then muttered softly, "Good thing I held on tight, or what if Ji You's face got damaged from a fall?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's expression was somewhat speechless. She raised her hand to her forehead but her eyes were fixed on the lock of the eighth door. There was a metal key hanging quietly on the doorknob.

Ji You estimated the time; it had been two and a half hours since they entered this strange secret room. Of course, from the first door to the eighth door, they actually spent very little time, less than half an hour – the remaining two hours they spent dragging their feet while eating.

Two and a half hours, just hold on for another 30 minutes, and once it exceeds three hours, Yue Qiguang and Yue Qiyuan on the surface will certainly notice. By then, they will definitely go out to seek reinforcement. So, just hold on for another 30 minutes.

But—

We can't delay any longer.

If we delay the time to enter any longer, the hidden enemy will lose patience.

Delaying for too long could alert the enemy, and judging by the opponent's spiritual wave, Ji You deeply understood the gap between their side and the enemy. If they met directly, Ji You and her friends could only accept their fate. The only option was to catch the enemy off guard for a chance to survive.

Ji You quietly squeezed the hand on her waist placed by Chu Jiaojiao. Chu Jiaojiao's heart slightly moved, but she laughed foolishly on the surface: "Classmate Ji You, you look so good."

Ji You rolled her eyes and cursed: "Buddy, it's time to take your filthy hand off."

Chu Jiaojiao reflexively tightened her grip a bit, slightly unwilling to let go: "Ah... such a wonderful touch, such a beautiful moment, please let time freeze right here. If this is a dream, then let me be lost in the sweetness of classmate Ji You, never to wake."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You slapped her hand away, cursing: "Enough, hurry up and take it off. If you keep dawdling, I'll hit you."

"Hehe..." Chu Jiaojiao laughed as she took her hand away and retreated behind Ji You. Shen Changqing and Sheng Qingyan also backed up a few steps, moving behind Ji You.

Ji You stood in the center of the door, staring at the key. After a few seconds of staring, she did not hesitate anymore and reached out to grab it. It was a very ordinary copper key; nothing unusual could be seen from its appearance. Ji You glanced at it and then said to the others, "Are you sure that behind this door lies treasure and not a hulking guy with a laser gun?"

Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, and Shen Changqing: "..."

The next second, the three of them said in unison: "Tsk!"

"Tsk tsk!"

"Tsk tsk tsk!"

After tsking three times, the three finally felt a bit relieved. Sheng Qingyan sneered at Ji You and cursed: "Say something lucky, will you? What hulking guy, I'd rather have a few fair-skinned beauties oh..."

"In your dreams, and beauties too. It's already good if there aren't a few man-eating Star Beasts waiting for you." Ji You said as she inserted the key into the keyhole: "Be prepared for battle, everyone. If it's really Star Beasts, we must annihilate them immediately!"

Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, and Sheng Qingyan were already gripping their weapons. Sheng Qingyan urged: "Rest assured, open the door quickly, don't drag it out."

Meanwhile.

Ying Sanqiang watched this scene a bit surprised and said: "These little rascals are actually quite vigilant."

The always silent Ying Tu suddenly spoke: "After all, they are from a formal military academy, it's normal. If they weren't a bit cautious, I'd say they are fools. But clearly, they're not complete idiots."

Seeing Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, and the others becoming more vigilant and preparing for battle, Ying Tu's tightly knitted brow finally relaxed.

No vigilance is indeed abnormal.

Being vigilant means these little brats are not so difficult to handle.

...

"Creak—"

The copper lock turned, the door unlocked, and with a light push from the outside by Ji You, the door slowly opened. Unlike the previous doors, this room was quite spacious, roughly 500 square meters. Inside were rows of shelves, neatly categorizing various materials. Behind the shelves, there were a few tool tables. As Ji You and Shen Changqing stepped in, they were all taken aback:

"This—" Chu Jiaojiao said, "could this be the Material Department's laboratory?"

Shen Changqing said, "Seems like it."

Sheng Qingyan's voice was full of disappointment: "Why is it the Material Department's laboratory? So boring oh... I thought there was some rare treasure to be found oh..." He walked to a row of shelves and looked at them, realizing they held rows of bottles and jars, labeled with certain materials, certain codes... Anyway, Sheng Qingyan wasn't from the Material Department and wasn't interested at all.

Ji You walked a few steps forward and stopped beside a shelf. With her height of 1.65 meters, she could only reach the lower or mid-level materials. This level contained liquid materials, held in transparent glass. Ji You saw rows of red, white, green, pink...

In the 500 square meters of space, there were no signs of recent activity, as if it had been abandoned for a long time. Just then, Chu Jiaojiao shouted: "Holy shit, come and look!"

"Hm?" Ji You, Shen Changqing, and Sheng Qingyan quickly turned back. Ji You frowned and asked, "What is it?"

Asked as she rushed over, Chu Jiaojiao pointed at a stick, exclaiming: "This stick is actually growing mushrooms!!!"

These mushrooms were colorful and looked incredibly vibrant. The caps of the mushrooms were dripping with a layer of oil, so bright they couldn't be ignored. Ji You asserted: "These are Five-Colored Mushrooms, they're poisonous, don't touch them!"

Chu Jiaojiao's outstretched hand quickly retracted.

Ji You pulled down her protective shield, covering her nose, and said: "The emitted scent is also poisonous, try to hold your breath."

Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, and Sheng Qingyan hurriedly followed suit.

Then, Ji You used tweezers to carefully pluck the Five-Colored Mushroom by its root, putting it into a small bag. She turned to look at Chu Jiaojiao and the others, smiling: "Although it's poisonous, it's a relatively rare material. A patch like this is worth 100,000."

Chu Jiaojiao and the others: "!!!"

Chu Jiaojiao, somewhat in disbelief, said: "100,000?"

Shen Changqing said quietly: "So expensive!!!"

Sheng Qingyan raised an eyebrow: "Psh, only 100,000 oh."

Ji You carefully placed the mushroom in a small corner of the Space Button.

All of this was witnessed by a group of burly men led by Ying Tu.

Chapter 996: Spider

"It's really that valuable, huh?"

"You're not kidding me, right?"

"If you see it, you get a share. Let's split it evenly."

"Split what? These mushrooms I worked so hard to pick, why should I share with you? Dream on." Ji You put away the Five-Colored Mushroom and looked at the piece of rotting wood. The wood was covered with dense fungi spots, looking a bit terrifying. Beneath the decayed wood was a large patch of green moss, spreading wildly around...

Shen Changqing glanced briefly at the Space Button where Ji You had just stored the Five-Colored Mushroom. He said nothing, just followed behind Ji You, circling the rotten wood and the patch of green moss.

Afterward, Shen Changqing spoke, "This is a piece of Shanlan Wood. It's a type of hardwood that's not easily corroded, but now it's decayed. Judging by the state of the Shanlan Wood's rot and the growth of this green moss, it hasn't been disturbed for at least ten years."

When Shen Changqing finished, Ji You, Sheng Qingyan, and Chu Jiaojiao were slightly surprised. Chu Jiaojiao said, "Has it really been that long?"

Ji You said, "This place looks like a laboratory."

Shen Changqing said, "I also think it's a lab, likely dedicated to studying certain biological materials. Look at these materials..." He pointed at the bottles and jars on the shelf...

Sheng Qingyan seemed uninterested in these. He half-closed his eyes, leaning against the ninth door, and asked, "When are we going through this door? Going around and around is boring. We might as well grab the treasure and go back to the spaceship for a nap sooner..."

Chu Jiaojiao scolded, "Patience; you can't rush hot tofu. Don't rush it! We need to find out what exactly this place is. You want to rush in and grab the treasure without understanding what's inside—are you tired of living?"

Sheng Qingyan, after being scolded, moved his lips but didn't dare to speak further.

Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, and Shen Changqing continued to observe the laboratory.

The group, with their hands behind their backs, circled the entire space and found that besides the area with mushrooms and moss, there was also a place with a spider web. There was a workbench with some already decayed materials casually thrown on it, three surgical knives, and a few lines... The spider web had once covered the entire workbench, but now there was a large hole. The entire spider web looked somewhat worn, and it seemed the spider had left and never returned...

"Did the spider run away or die of starvation?" Chu Jiaojiao was puzzled and immediately voiced her thoughts.

In this laboratory, aside from a heap of materials, there were no other living creatures, not even mosquitoes or moths. The spider having no food and starving to death makes sense.

So as Chu Jiaojiao casually reached out to pull off the layer of the web—

"Don't move!"

"Stop!"

"Hands off!"

Ji You, Shen Changqing, and Sheng Qingyan's faces changed, and they shouted in unison. Chu Jiaojiao was startled, her hand freezing just before reaching the spider web. At that moment, from the very center of the spider web, a black shadow darted out rapidly, about to leap onto Chu Jiaojiao's fingertips in the blink of an eye—

"Bang!"

Sheng Qingyan swung a blow, slapping the spider to the ground.

Thud~

The spider dropped to the ground, not dying instantly. At that moment, Chu Jiaojiao and Ji You, like typical girls, were terrified, scurrying away, with Ji You jumping up and hiding to the side: "Oh crap~"

"So scared~"

"How come there's a spider?"

Chu Jiaojiao hopped around, exclaiming, "Gosh! It almost stung me just now. Thankfully, thankfully...that was scary..."

Then, the two girls huddled together, crying out to Shen Changqing and Sheng Qingyan: "Yingyingying... this is terrifying, hurry, hurry and kill it!"

Sheng Qingyan, Shen Changqing: "..."

Sheng Qingyan shivered from goosebumps, speaking disdainfully, "You two and your yinging could give somebody nightmares for several nights."

Shen Changqing just twitched the corner of his mouth, his expression still calm. He bent down, put on gloves, and used tweezers to pick up the curled-up spider, bringing it closer for inspection. The spider had eight black spots on its abdomen, really not cute at all. Shen Changqing said, "It's really an Eight-point Spider. It's highly toxic, but the silk it secretes has anti-inflammatory, pain-relieving, and tissue-regenerating properties."

"Oh?" Ji You's eyes lit up.

Shen Changqing glanced at her, understanding her thoughts, and said, "It's indeed quite valuable. Ten grams of spider silk is worth 10 million."

Ji You quickly reached out, intending to collect the spider web, only to hear Shen Changqing continue, "But the Eight-point Spider itself is even more valuable, 100 million if alive, 50 million if dead!"

"Holy crap!" Ji You and Chu Jiaojiao exclaimed, then yelled at Sheng Qingyan in the next second, "Watch your step!"

Sheng Qingyan, who had just extended his foot, quickly withdrew it in fright and turned, cursing, "Can you stop making a fuss, you're really going to scare someone to death."

Ji You, holding back her fear and not daring to look at the spider, said to Sheng Qingyan with lingering trepidation, "You almost stepped on 100 million! Do you know that?"

Clutching her chest, Chu Jiaojiao wanted to look at the spider but didn't dare to, so she half-turned her face, sneaked a glance, and quickly averted her eyes, saying, "One step from you and even 50 million would be gone, do you know that?"

"Oh—" Sheng Qingyan pouted, saying, "It's just 100 million, what's the big deal..."

...

Ying Tu looked sternly at the noticeably agitated Ying Sanqiang, Ying Tiechui, Ying Jian, and Ying Dadao, saying in a deep voice, "Those shorties and the tomboy are not to be feared. Take out the sissy first when the action starts."

The shorties and tomboy seemed impressive, Ying Tu originally thought they'd be different from other women, but they still share women's common failing, frightened by a little spider, screaming and running around. What ambitions could they possibly have?

This world ultimately belongs to men.

That sissy's agile skills were somewhat unexpected for Ying Tu; the sissy's reactions were quick and precise... A bit slower, and the tomboy might have been in danger. Subconscious reactions don't lie, and from the sissy's conduct earlier, Ying Tu could confirm he's a long-trained, skilled Hunter, very dangerous, the most dangerous of this bunch of brats.

Ying Tu rubbed his fingers, squinting, "After dealing with the sissy, we'll finish off that Shen kid promptly."

"Yes." Ying Sanqiang and the others immediately responded, yet the glint in their eyes was something Ying Tu could see clearly. Ying Tu's face turned somber immediately: "Take care of the people first, then worry about the spider."

"Yes!"

After Ying Sanqiang and others responded, Ying Tiechui was somewhat puzzled, unable to resist asking, "Boss, is this damn spider really that valuable? How come I've never heard of it before?"

Chapter 997: Honest Men Sweating

Ying Tiechui posed a question that stumped Ying Sanqiang, Ying Dadao, and Ying Jian, even causing Ying Tu's expression to freeze for a moment. But only for a moment, as Ying Tu concealed it well, maintaining a composed face as he explained, "The Eight-point Spider is a creature undisclosed by the Alliance."

The next second.

On the screen, Shen Changqing explained, "The Eight-point Spider is a creature undisclosed by the Alliance because it actually carries the X virus unique to the Star Beast but is not ruled by the virus's consciousness. It's not a Star Beast, but surpasses it. As long as you don't provoke it, it poses no threat to humans."

Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, and Sheng Qingyan were all stunned, eyes wide open, as Ji You exclaimed, "Is there really such a magical Star Beast?"

Chu Jiaojiao said, "What's this Eight-point Spider? I've never heard of it before. Is it really that magical?"

Sheng Qingyan also showed interest as he bent down slightly, staring at the small spider curled up on the ground, looking weak, pitiful, helpless, and harmless, saying, "I've never heard of it before either. This Eight-point Spider looks too ordinary, not conspicuous at all, and doesn't seem worth a billion, oh."

"Don't get close!" Shen Changqing's expression tightened as he warned, "Stay back. Its appearance is no different from a regular spider, except for a few dots on its abdomen, which distinguish it from ordinary ones. Also — it's very dangerous."

"Its danger doesn't lie in its attack power, but in the concentration of X toxin it carries. Even a single bite can lead to a 99% chance of death from the Star Beast virus!"

"That's right, only one in ten survives." Shen Changqing spoke with extreme seriousness, his whole body tense as if facing a major threat. First, he put on a helmet, then gloves, goggles, and a scarf. Once he was fully covered, he crouched down, extended his hand, and used tweezers to pick up the curled-up spider, placing it in a sealed bag, saying, "This way, it can't escape, and the danger is eliminated."

Sheng Qingyan patted his chest, still shaken, saying, "Whoa... that scared the hell out of me. How can there be such a terrifying spider in this world?"

Ji You and Chu Jiaojiao curiously stared at the spider sealed in the transparent bag. Ji You suggested, "Why don't we check if there are any more spiders in the web? What if there are a few more? Wouldn't that be several billion?"

The more Ji You thought about it, the more excited he became.

Shen Changqing shook his head and said, "No. Generally, there is only one spider per web. The Eight-point Spider is very special; it is hermaphroditic, capable of reproducing on its own. When the old spider senses its impending death, it will lay an egg and use silk threads to weave itself and the egg into a web, wrapping them completely without eating or drinking. Over time, its body will gradually turn into nourishment to support the egg's hatching."

At this point, Shen Changqing stared at the spider in the sealed bag, a fine sweat breaking out on his forehead. After wiping his brow, he continued, "This is a recently hatched baby spider, so it's not as dangerous as an adult Eight-point Spider. Otherwise, Jiaojiao would have been bitten."

"Eh?" Chu Jiaojiao was startled again, covering her chest and expressing her relief, "Luckily, my luck is good and life is great."

Then, Shen Changqing glanced at Ji You.

"Ahem..." Ji You cleared his throat, then put on a serious face, asking, "So, because of these special traits, it's worth so much money?"

Shen Changqing raised his hand to wipe his sweat again, took a deep breath, and said, "That's correct. The Eight-point Spider is a species discovered in recent years. Due to its extreme rarity, likely less than ten can be found across the entire Alliance-controlled area. Additionally, it carries the Star Beast X virus but is unaffected by the Beast Tide, making it an excellent research material with immense value. Unlocking its secrets could potentially solve the Star Beast enigma and resolve the Beast Tide crisis. It's a significant endeavor that could change and save humanity!"

—The Eight-point Spider is said to be worth 1 billion, but it is worth far more. If you find an Eight-point Spider and deliver it alive to the Alliance Research Institute, you might earn a reward of 100 billion credit points.

"Gasp~"

Ji You, Sheng Qingyan, and Chu Jiaojiao all gasped. Chu Jiaojiao clutched her chest, so excited that she became incoherent, "Oh no... I think the money is making me dizzy..."

—

"Gasp—"

"Gasp—"

"Gasp—" In the enclosed space, Ying Sanqiang, Ying Dadao, Ying Tiechui, and Ying Jian all inhaled deeply. Even Ying Tu couldn't help showing some emotion as Ying Sanqiang spoke with a tense, excited, and thrilled tone...

"Bo-Boss..."

"We must keep the Eight-point Spider later!"

Ying Dadao added, "Alive."

Ying Tiechui frowned, saying, "It's too dangerous. Be careful not to get bitten."

Ying Jian was also too excited to know what to say, but retained a shred of reason, asking, "Are we just supposed to trust this kid's word?"

Ying Sanqiang was the first to object, angrily saying, "The boss already said it's a creature the Alliance hasn't disclosed. Just think, if it were disclosed, would these spiders still exist? Those willing to risk their lives for treasure would have turned the entire Eight Star Systems upside down. The Eight-point Spider would be extinct by now."

Everyone listened, and it seemed quite reasonable. For instance, the Flying Eagle Mercenary Group constantly operates at the edge of danger to make money, taking any profitable job.

After a few seconds of silence, Ying Tu spoke, pointing at Shen Changqing's face, "He has no reason to lie. Do you know who he is?"

Ying Sanqiang and the others: "Who?"

Ying Tu lowered his gaze, "His surname is Shen."

Ying Sanqiang and the others quickly examined Shen Changqing's face. Upon closer look, they finally understood why this boy's face seemed so inexplicably familiar—this is—

Isn't this—

Ying Sanqiang and the others stared wide-eyed, mouth agape, "Shen Chi?"

Ying Tu responded, "That's right."

Ying Sanqiang breathed heavily, "We... are we going to kill Shen Chi's only grandson?"

The statement plunged the group into silence.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

Ying Tu slowly said, "There's no turning back from a drawn bow."

Ying Tiechui pounded his fist decisively, "That's right, with the arrow ready to be fired, we have no choice. Blame it on Shen Chi's unlucky grandson running into us."

Ying Jian's fingers tapped the sword hilt intermittently as he spoke gravely, "The best course of action now is to clean up all traces and ensure no one knows it was us."

Ying Tiechui stood up, declaring, "Today, I'm going through with this job. I don't care if he's Shen Chi's grandson or son; anyone who comes, I'll kill them all."

Chapter 998: Listen to Ji You

Inside the eighth door, Ji You nervously stared at the sealed bag in Shen Changqing's hand, worriedly saying, "Little Stupid, if you keep covering it like that, won't you suffocate it? This is a living 10 billion!"

Ji You emphasized, "10 billion!"

Shen Changqing shook his head and said, "It won't suffocate. This sealed bag can hold living things. It's made with Black Armor Particle technology. It looks completely sealed but is actually breathable, so the Eight-point Spider definitely won't die."

Ji You was still worried and said, "Why don't I keep it for you?"

Shen Changqing's fingers trembled, and then he shook his head, saying, "No need to worry, I can guarantee its safety."

After saying that, Shen Changqing seemed a bit uneasy about leaving the spider in front of Ji You. Then, pretending to be casual and natural, he quickly, almost in the blink of an eye, put the sealed bag into the Space Button.

Ji You: "..."

After a moment of speechlessness, Ji You sighed, "10 billion, huh. If it were me, I'd also hide it cautiously, worried someone might shamelessly steal it right in front of me."

Shen Changqing: "..."

Shen Changqing's mouth twitched, and he mumbled, "I'm not being stingy. Nor am I worried about you guys stealing it. I just think putting it away is better for the Eight-point Spider."

Ji You laughed, "...Oh, got it, got it. No need to explain."

Shen Changqing: "..."

You clearly don't understand anything!

Beside them, Chu Jiaojiao and Sheng Qingyan didn't forget to remind, "Aqing, the treasure we got from exploring together should be evenly split. The 10 billion is temporarily kept with you, and later we'll calculate and divide it together."

Shen Changqing: "..."

Then, the group continued to circle around the abandoned laboratory a few times. After confirming there was nothing to discover, Chu Jiaojiao asked, "Ji You, shall we enter the ninth door? Maybe there's a valuable treasure waiting for us!"

Ji You carefully sensed the few spiritual fluctuations and found that they started fluctuating constantly after Shen Changqing mentioned the 1 billion value. When he said 10 billion, the spiritual fluctuation value reached its peak, and now—

These spiritual fluctuations were gradually calming down, as if the other party had made some decision.

Ji You frowned. Although these spiritual fluctuations weren't particularly obvious, after silently communicating and interacting with several friends, they all said they didn't detect any immediate anomalies...

The reason they were willing to cooperate with Ji You's performance was simply their trust in Ji You's judgment.

Honestly, Ji You wasn't very confident in her initial detection of the anomaly either. However, as someone with a strong sense of crisis, she felt that wealth, safety, or the thrill of adventure couldn't compare to the importance of her and her friends' safety. So she preferred to be extra cautious, even at the cost of making a mistake, to increase her chances of survival.

All the high-level soul devices, a bunch of soul devices... they're all fake.

As the act continued, Ji You used her 100% clear Spiritual Silk to probe deeper... Eventually, she confirmed that there was indeed great danger ahead waiting for them.

The malice became more noticeable with the mention of high-level soul devices and the Eight-point Spider...

Ji You furrowed her brows. She felt an immense pressure internally but didn't dare show the slightest hint of fear. She had to appear calm, not just for her own confidence but also to instill confidence in her friends.

After circling around once more and ensuring there was nothing in the abandoned laboratory, Ji You nodded under the gazes of Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, and Sheng Qingyan, and said, "Prepare to attack the ninth door."

Meanwhile.

Ying Tu, with a stern face, said, "Everyone get ready. Prioritize taking out the sissy and Shen Chi's grandson first. Sanqiang, you and Tie Chui handle Shen Chi's grandson, and Big Saber, you partner with Ying Jian to take care of the sissy."

After confirming Shen Changqing as Shen Chi's grandson, Ying Tu decided to change the strategy. Originally, the plan was to focus fire on the sissy first, then handle the clean-cut, handsome boy, the tomboy, and the shorty based on appearance.

But!!!

After identifying the handsome boy's identity, Ying Tu immediately switched strategies. Who is Shen Chi?

The Commander of the Third Army of the Alliance's Third Star System!

The only SSS Spiritual Power User!

One of the Alliance's top ten mecha pilots, the pilot of Chasing Light, whose combat power triples when piloting it!

One of the Alliance's top ten Five-star Warriors, ranked third in the world!

...

Too much.

Too much to list out one by one. With such a figure as Shen Chi, could his grandson be a weakling?

Absolutely not.

In truth, upon confirming the identity as Shen Chi's grandson, Ying Tu had a moment of doubt, but as he said himself, 'once the bow is drawn, there's no turning back,' he couldn't stop now, and had to push forward.

Luckily, it's said that Shen Chi's grandson is just a first-year, just turned 18, newly licensed to drive a mecha. No matter how formidable or dangerous, he couldn't match the group used to a life of licking the blood off blades.

The only concern is to clean up the mess thoroughly and make sure Shen Chi can't trace them back.

...

"And I—" Ying Tu spoke while staring at the screen, a sly, cruel glint in the eyes above his hooked nose: "I alone will hold both the tomboy and the shorty, and assist Big Saber and Ying Jian in quickly taking down the sissy."

What's the sissy's name?

Not important.

What's the tomboy's name?

Also not important.

What's the shorty's name?

Even less important.

Even the name of Shen Chi's grandson?

Not important at all.

The important thing is—they will die at my hands today.

Ying Tu spoke with a sinister tone, "Once the door opens, act immediately."

Ying Sanqiang and others: "Yes!"

At the same time——

The ninth door was a very simple metal door. Behind the thick metal door, what lay beyond was unknown. But on the metal door, there was a sticky note with a string of numbers.

The string of numbers was: [666666]

Six 6s, and under the sticky note was an electronic lock. The screen on the electronic lock prompted to enter the password.

Ji You stared at the door, not uttering a word, when Chu Jiaojiao came over with a cheerful face and said, "Ji You, don't be afraid, don't let your hand shake. Jiaojiao is here, Jiaojiao will protect you."

Ji You rolled her eyes and raised her hand to push Chu Jiaojiao's face away slightly. Chu Jiaojiao quickly tried to cover her own face, but ended up touching Ji You's hand. Chu Jiaojiao was overjoyed and grabbed Ji You's small hand.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You forced a smile and said, "Let go, please."

Reluctantly, Chu Jiaojiao released her grip, "Alright, I'll listen to Ji You."

Chapter 999: Vicious Wolves!

Chu Jiaojiao reluctantly let go of Ji You's hand, but she didn't leave and stayed right behind Ji You. Ji You raised her eyes, glancing at the absent-minded Sheng Qingyan, and Shen Changqing, who despite having a stern face, seemed lost somewhere, his eyes vacant, and then suddenly his face flushed red. Ji You raised her hand, rubbing her brow, and shouted: "And you two!"

Sheng Qingyan and Shen Changqing turned their heads together, saying: "Got it/Got it~"

Ji You said: "Remember, once we enter, don't even think about finding the treasure or keeping it for yourselves, we are a team! We are one unit! Trying to take it for yourselves is not possible and absolutely not allowed! Once we find the treasure, everyone will hand it over to me for safekeeping!"

Shen Changqing and Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Ji You shouted: "Did you hear me?"

Shen Changqing and Sheng Qingyan were a bit disgruntled, but nodded: "Got it."

"So naggy~"

"Good that you heard me." Ji You said with a stern face: "In short, listen to my instructions later, no one should move around recklessly, understood?"

Sheng Qingyan raised his eyelids, glanced at Ji You, and said disdainfully: "You're so naggy, are we going or not~?"

Ji You waved her hand: "Let's go!"

Then.

Sheng Qingyan still appeared indifferent and bored, Shen Changqing still seemed a bit out of it, while Chu Jiaojiao followed closely behind Ji You, seemingly quite enjoying herself.

Ji You stretched out her hand, her fingers brushed over the electronic lock's buttons.

A 6.

"Beep——"

Correct prompt.

Ji You's finger trembled slightly, then pressed the second button.

[6]

"Beep——"

Correct prompt.

Ji You held her breath, her fingers inexplicably trembling, but she tried her best to remain calm, inputting five 6s in succession, all correct, leaving only the last digit.

Enter?

Or not enter?

Ji You hesitated for a moment and immediately made a decision: Enter!

Her finger had just reached out when Chu Jiaojiao stopped her, looking conflicted: "Ji You, should we wait a bit, or find a place to rest first, and then act once we're refreshed?"

As soon as she finished speaking, Ji You's expression changed—

In a hidden corner, several spiritual fluctuations suddenly flickered for a moment, like a street lamp that's suddenly malfunctioned, flickering incessantly, and the aura was very unstable, as if the patience here had run out due to the constant delays.

The next second.

Sheng Qingyan, slightly displeased, said: "What's there to wait for? If you're going to wait, you can wait, but I don't want to wait. I want to rush in now, regardless of whether there are big hulking men or fierce beasts behind that door; I just want to go in, go in, go in~..."

After saying such willful words, Sheng Qingyan pouted and glared at Ji You and Chu Jiaojiao, looking ready to throw a tantrum at any moment—

Ji You raised her hand, rubbing her brow: "Shut up already~!"

At the same time, Ji You felt those spiritual fluctuations calming down a bit.

Having said that, Ji You's actions became even smoother, she raised her hand and directly pressed the sixth 6!

"Beep beep beep!!!!"

"Door is about to open, please prepare yourself—unauthorized personnel, please evacuate quickly, please evacuate quickly!"

This door even has prompts, quite considerate.

Immediately after, the door slowly, slowly, opened from the inside—

Entering the view.

Ji You and others' faces changed simultaneously.

Ji You: "We're doomed, no treasure, just five hulking men with guns."

Clearly, Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan, and Chu Jiaojiao also had a look of despair on their faces—

All of this happened in an instant, Ji You's words weren't even finished when a gust of wind slammed into them, causing Ji You to hurriedly retreat. In panic, she shouted: "Wait, let's talk this out!"

No one answered.

All around was the sound of knives, swords, guns, and cannons crashing and clanging.

Ying Tu, like a whirlwind, quickly stopped Ji You and Chu Jiaojiao, quietly guiding them closer to Sheng Qingyan. The corner of Ji You's eye caught Sheng Qingyan entangled with the two of them, apparently getting overwhelmed. In a panic, she said directly: "I have money!"

Ying Tu raised his saber, striking downward—

"I'm buying life!"

"10 billion! Buying life! Give us a break." Ji You hurriedly said, Ying Tu's focus remained on the battle with Ying Dadao and Ying Jian, actually exerting less than ten percent of his strength against the short kid and tomboy. As for the short kid's yelling, he completely ignored it.

It was at this moment—

Ying Tu, having just gone for a lethal move, intending to wield his saber towards Sheng Qingyan, suddenly a diamond dagger flew in from the side, hitting right against his blade, wasn't this—

Ying Tu's movements suddenly halted!

Thud—

High-level Soul Device fell to the ground, instantly shattered into pieces.

Ying Tu's heart clenched suddenly—

Damn!

His High-level Soul Device!

The exchanges between experts happen in an instant, and at this time, Ji You and Chu Jiaojiao leapt up, with knives raised, and smashed down towards the slightly distracted Ying Tu—

"Boss!"

"Boss!"

"Boss!"

"Boss!"

Ying Tu heard his four underlings shouting in fear, bringing him back to his senses, feeling intensely puzzled, but suddenly sensed a fierce crisis approaching, as three blades descended on him! Three... three blades????

Bam!

Bam!

Bam!

Ying Tu's eyes widened suddenly, but!

His eyes would never close again, he would never figure out this issue.

In an instant—

His head separated from his body.

Before the head of the team, Ying Tu, even had a chance to engage, he was dead in the blink of an eye, completely unexpected by everyone. In that moment, Ying Sanqiang, Ying Tiechui, Ying Dadao, and Ying Jian were somewhat incredulous, slightly stunned, they retreated simultaneously, about to flee—

"Whoosh—"

An arrow!

"Whoosh—"

Two arrows—

"Whoosh—"

Three arrows!

...

Seemingly calculated precisely, taking advantage of the brief confusion among the enemies, the just-relieved Sheng Qingyan raised her hand, releasing arrow after arrow—

In that instant, countless arrows densely shot towards Ying Sanqiang and the others!

"Bang!"

"Bang!"

"Bang!"

Ying Sanqiang and the others scrambled to avoid the Flying Arrows, and just then, having just joined forces to kill Ying Tu, Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, and Shen Changqing turned around and pounced fiercely!

Ying Sanqiang and the others, already shocked and panicked, found themselves momentarily losing their sanity, taking a step back instinctively, and then facing a barrage of ferocious firepower.

Fast!

Accurate!

Relentless!

They had none of those academy-style fancy moves, each attack was deadly; these little punks didn't show any hesitation in their strikes, each move deadly, each move vicious, each move ruthless!

Damn!

These are not weak, meek little rabbits!

These are wolves!

Wolves fiercer than interstellar pirates!

Chapter 1000: An Honest Man Is Truly Deadly

Just like Ying Tu's plan, when Ji You suspected that every move of her group was being watched and spied upon with deeply malicious eyes, as if preyed on by fierce beasts, she could confirm that this group was very powerful.

Very powerful.

So powerful that Ji You and her companions, including Shen Changqing, might be wiped out here. Her heart was panicking and chaotic, but she only allowed herself to panic for one second. After that, she began to frantically devise a strategy.

Step one: Stall!

Stall until a countermeasure was devised for herself and her companions.

Step two: Act!

Weren't they secretly spying on us? Then she'll act! Act until the other side is dazzled and completely loses accurate judgment of her and her companions.

Step three: Set obstacles for the enemy!

Why does this group want to kill her and her companions?

What is their purpose?

Money? Or have they uncovered a secret, causing them to be eliminated to maintain secrecy?

Who are they? How many are there? What are their identities? Why hide underground? How powerful are they? What weapon is each person skilled with?

...

Her group knows nothing about the enemy. To say they'd confront them head-on, her group would have no advantage and only face certain death. Ji You was very nervous, but she was the type who became calmer the more nervous she was. Not taking a stand means death, so she'd take a stand, for only by fighting could she gamble for a way out.

High-level Soul Device, Eight-point Spider, Five-Colored Mushroom...

Ji You utilized the abandoned laboratory, tinkering with a bunch of random things, to set obstacles for the other side. She wanted to probe: What do they care about? Is there a chance to use these things to attract the enemy's attention and then surprise them with an attack where they least expect it?

What might a group of fierce villains care about?

Money.

The first thing Ji You thought of was money, only money, because anytime and anyplace, only money serves as a universal pass. Ji You didn't believe they didn't like money or wealth. If they didn't show their liking, it could only mean that the bargaining chips weren't plentiful enough.

Therefore——

The 100,000-worth Five-Colored Mushroom was just Ji You's first step in testing. This long-abandoned laboratory, the other side surely has visited, did they know what these things were? Ji You couldn't say. Because, this laboratory's endless rows of bottles and jars, each one was valuable, priced minimally from hundreds of credit points to thousands, tens of thousands, or even hundreds of thousands in material, yet this group remained indifferent?

Is it that they don't like money, or is it impossible to carry away this large pile of materials that require specific conditions for storage?

...

The 100,000-worth Five-Colored Mushroom didn't stir their mood even a bit, with no sign of spiritual fluctuation.

So——

The High-level Soul Device was unveiled.

When Ji You revealed the High-level Soul Device, the spiritual fluctuations of that group indeed showed an obvious change! At that moment, Ji You precisely captured five different waves, varying in intensity.

people!

Ji You's confidence soared instantly.

Then.

To further enhance her group's bargaining chips and set more obstacles for the other side, the Eight-point Spider was also created.

Ahem...

Of course, this couldn't be revealed by herself, or else the credibility would be greatly reduced. Ji You silently assessed Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, and Sheng Qingyan's acting skills. Chu Jiaojiao and Sheng Qingyan weren't lacking, but perhaps they weren't as renowned as Shen Changqing.

Second Aunt Chu and Grandma Chu, Grandpa Sheng were also quite reputable, but Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan's resemblance to these world-renowned elders wasn't particularly strong. Shen Changqing was different, he and General Shen Chi seemed to be carved from the same mold, displaying his face was an immediate indication of him being General Shen Chi's grandson.

As everyone knows, General Shen Chi only has one surviving relative, a grandson.

But!

Ji You was slightly conflicted, could honest Shen Changqing really handle it?

Given the current situation, even if he couldn't, they'd have to grit their teeth and go with it.

Unexpectedly——

The obedient Shen Changqing, who got Ji You's hint, chose a very opportune moment to select an ordinary spider in the deserted laboratory, showering it with praise, praised it so much that even Ji You, Sheng Qingyan, and Chu Jiaojiao began to believe.

With Shen Changqing's words, an ordinary spider turned into a '100-billion-worth Eight-point Spider', impressing Ji You thoroughly in this regard.

The truth proved that when an honest person lies, it can be fatal.

Ying Tu was dead.

He was killed in the joint attack of Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, and Shen Changqing. Before entering, Ji You had already decided on the strategy, facing five experienced and vicious foes was too terrifying, everyone must unite to eliminate the strongest combatant immediately.

Ying Tu——

His spiritual fluctuations made Ji You feel the most terrifying, the most dangerous.

It had to be him.

Sheng Qingyan showcased his skills to attract the opponent's cannon fire, Ji You and Chu Jiaojiao pretended weakness to lower their guard.

Shen Changqing, holding the 'extremely dangerous' and '100-billion-worth Eight-point Spider' as a shield, threw out the Spider at a critical moment when the enemy's attack came, creating a momentary gap for himself to support Ji You and Chu Jiaojiao.

Every step, Ji You had considered the possibility of failing, but her companions graced her with surprises.

The blades of Ji You, Shen Changqing, and Chu Jiaojiao simultaneously slashed towards Ying Tu's neck.

The fatal blow came from Shen Changqing because——only Shen Changqing was beyond Ying Tu's defense and expectation. The two strikes from Chu Jiaojiao and Ji You were just to ensure Ying Tu's death.

Seeing the detached head of Ying Tu, everything was within Ji You's calculation, her face remained calm, yet her hand holding the blade trembled.

She...

She killed someone.

For a moment there, Ji You almost lost grip of her handle, but the crisis remained, even more intense than before Ying Tu's death, she mustn't relax, mustn't let slack... Ji You pursed her lips, desperately keeping calm.

She had to stay calm.

Coming from a peaceful era, and struggling through hardships to this point, Ji You had long anticipated she might one day kill to protect loved ones, but she didn't know it would come so soon.

This——

This made Ji You, for a fleeting moment, feel at a loss.

...

Beside her, Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, and Sheng Qingyan's hands, holding their weapons, trembled slightly too, yet no one paused, not even their expressions showing any sign of movement.

Ji You and her companions didn't hesitate or pause for a second, after dealing with Ying Tu, they immediately charged at the remaining four burly men!

Ying Sanqiang, Ying Tiechui, Ying Dadao, and Ying Jian, due to their leader Ying Tu's sudden death, were thrown into disarray. But as outlaws accustomed to living on the dangerous edge, after a brief shock, against Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, and Sheng Qingyan's fierce assault, their survival instincts awakened their ferocity, and the four violently resisted,