

Am I A God?

#Chapter 21 - Read Am I A God? Chapter 21

Chapter 21: Daily Mission 2

Cats were natural-born hunters, and they particularly enjoyed chasing, catching and biting the things around them. They often played hunting games with their masters and other feline companions.

Their primal instincts act up especially when they saw mice, birds, and other small animals, and the cats would start attacking them viciously.

This could be the reason why cat toys were especially popular with most of these cats, apart from the smarter ones.

When Zhao Yao picked up the cat toy, all three cats turned to attention immediately, but both Elizabeth and Matcha barely gave a second glance.

Only Mango, a British Shorthair, excitedly rushed over and leaped onto the cat pole.

Zhao Yao sighed in disappointment, "Shouldn't all cats enjoy these small and whacky toys, especially the feathery ones? Almost all cats would have gone for the cat toy!" He thought to himself.

But seeing the current situation, it seemed that Elizabeth and Matcha had awakened their intelligence, and all these toys couldn't capture their attention. Only Mango had an innate love for the cat toys. Elizabeth and Matcha watched as Mango pounced around. Zhao Yao shrugged, and casually tossed the cat pole over to Mango, and then went back to search for other toys.

Elizabeth and Matcha couldn't be bothered with all the toys, unlike Mango, who leaped in excitement around the bouncy-ball, the scratchboard, and the fake mice.

Zhao Yao glanced over at Matcha, who was in his own world playing Mobile Legends on his phone.

"Matcha, do you want to play with this?" Zhao Yao sheepishly waved the laser pointer around.

"Do you think I'm retarded?" Matcha scoffed.

Mango continued to frolic around Zhao Yao's foot, scurrying around to catch the red laser dot. Zhao Yao swore that if he pointed the laser at the stars, Mango would stupidly follow it.

Having exhausted all his options on Matcha to no avail, Zhao Yao dejectedly sat down and exhaled with a sigh, "Matcha, what exactly do you want to play!?"

"What to play? Obviously, I'm playing Mobile Legends!"

Zhao Yao was taken aback momentarily. "Ah... silly me", he chided as he whipped out his mobile phone. "Hurry up and invite me to a game. I'll carry you!"

"Ok, give me a sec, I'm almost done with this game."

Zhao Yao invited Matcha into his team, only to realize that the Supercat was not only bronze-ranked but just lost a star. Zhao Yao clearly recalled that a few losses at bronze rank wouldn't have caused a loss of a star. How many times did Matcha lose to get to this level...?

"This noob...", Zhao Yao said with a black face. Luckily Zhao Yao was silver ranked, which was enough to carry Matcha.

Immediately after Matcha entered the team, Zhao Yao started a match.

Although Matcha's skills were terrible, Zhao Yao was able to cope as he had played for a long time. Also, since both their ranks were low, they were matched with low-ranking opponents too. Zhao Yao was able to carry Matcha eventually.

They were both on a winning streak, with Zhao Yao crushing his opponents easily while Matcha constantly ridiculed and insulted his opponents.

"Oh! Do you want to kill me? How does it feel to die all the time?"

"Haven't surrendered? You 'tryhards' want to win THAT badly?"

"One death for three of your deaths. Worth it!"

Suddenly, Matcha exclaimed, "What the f*ck... how did the dominator come out?"

Zhao Yao reluctantly said: "That is Zhang Fei."

An hour zipped by quickly. Matcha was ecstatic because Zhao Yao carried him all the way to silver rank. As he played, he let out satisfied purrs.

Matcha had never won so many games in a row. At the end of every match, Matcha kept bugging Zhao Yao to play another.

However, Zhao Yao had no interest in carrying Matcha anymore. He took a glance at his daily mission. It was never-ending.

Daily mission #3: After playing, it was time to train. Please gather the Supercats together and train their abilities for an hour.

It looked simple enough, except that Zhao Yao had never tried using the abilities intensively for more than an hour.

Zhao Yao told Matcha to use his ability. Matcha was reluctant at first, but Zhao Yao made him a deal he couldn't refuse – to carry him again tomorrow, in exchange for the lazy cat to practice his abilities.

The world stopped around Zhao Yao and Matcha for six seconds. Matcha had the ability to temporarily stop time. One hour of practice, in reality, would have been two hours for Matcha and Zhao Yao. If not for the constant pressing of Zhao Yao, Matcha would have thrown in the towel long ago.

Matcha grew hungrier the more he used his powers. This had never happened before.

By the last few minutes, Matcha's eyes turned red as his stomach started growling.

Immediately after the time freeze, Matcha rushed to the automatic cat feeder without hesitation, jabbing his paw into the dispensing button.

Seeing Matcha wolf down his food, Zhao Yao thought to himself, "I thought that ability didn't really consume energy, but now it seems that it does. However, the energy expenditure is still small, and his daily diet should be able to sustain him."

Zhao Yao checked off his third mission and looked at the next one down the list.

Daily mission #4: Need to replenish nutrition after training. Regular cat food alone cannot meet the dietary requirements of the super cat. Please create a higher grade cat feed. Low-grade cat feed cannot make the cut.

Reward: 1 experience point

Failure penalties: None

Looking at this new task, Zhao Yao sighed in disdain. He couldn't cook for himself and had to eat take-outs every day. Now he had the extra responsibility of preparing food for Matcha.

However, Zhao Yao decided to give it a try for the potential rewards in completing the daily tasks,

“To make high-grade cat feed, should I improve the nutritional value of it?” Zhao Yao considered the previous versions of cat feed, ranging from rough, normal, excellent and superior levels. The thing that set them apart was their nutritional level. Deep in thought, Zhao Yao opened his computer and researched on cat food manufacturing-related processes.

Zhao Yao never had the opportunity to research on cat food because of his work commitments. Now that he was freed from his work commitments, he realized that the preparation of these dishes was not as complicated as he thought. The main consideration was the choice of ingredients. It had to be a mix of different meats and vegetables to complement the diet of the cats, and also had to have a decent taste to it.

Furthermore, some cats liked chicken, while other cats preferred beef. Some even preferred pork and fish. If the cat didn't get a meat that they wanted, they would rather go hungry than consume it.

Zhao Yao knew that Matcha's preferred meat in cat food was beef and chicken. Following this, he found a recipe that had these in it and subsequently went downstairs to the market to buy the required ingredients.

Before going downstairs, Zhao Yao disposed of all the existing cat food in the house, to the protest of Matcha.

“Just wait a moment, I will cook for you today!” Zhao Yao smiled as he made his way out.

Logically speaking, cats were carnivores, and the purpose of eating vegetables was to aid in gastrointestinal motility by adding fiber. The vegetables also provided essential vitamins and minerals.

According to the recipe, he found online, Zhao Yao bought beef, chicken, cauliflower and quail eggs at the supermarket downstairs.

Chapter 22: Daily Mission 3

After coming home with the groceries, Zhao Yao began to rinse the meat and prepared the dishes while Matcha had a look of melancholy in his eyes.

Zhao Yao decided to use tap water to steam the meat in order to minimise the loss of nutrients since cats do not consume food with a lot of seasoning.

After the meat was cooked, Zhao Yao minced the beef and chicken together. Then, he added quail eggs and cauliflower into the pot.

Over an hour later, a simple meal for Matcha was finally ready to be consumed.

Zhao Yao referred to BOOK to grade the mushy meal prepared by him.

“Only basic grade?”, Zhao Yao mumbled while touching his chin. “There should be enough meat, what is the meal lacking?”

Zhao Yao went to look up the internet again and realized that most people prepare meals for their cats using fresh ingredients, the same way as he did. If a comparison was to be done for the protein content of the meal, it should be much higher than most manufactured cat food.

He studied various cat food nutritional labels online and found out what was missing from his meal.

“Hmm, taurine, vitamins, micronutrients...?” Zhao Yao frowned and said, “I’m afraid I’m lacking these.”

Matcha climbed over the kitchen’s glass door and stared intently at the pot of cat food while inhaling deeply as if he was trying to smell the aroma of the steamed meat. Mango looked at Zhao Yao and the food that he had prepared with a look of desire in his big and round eyes.

From a distance, Elizabeth looked at the two cats in disdain.

Although she did not look at the cat food, her nose involuntarily twitched.

Zhao Yao shook his head while looking at the two cats outside and said, “No, it’s not ready yet. Please wait for a little longer.”

“If I wait any longer, I’ll starve to death!” Matcha protested, “Let me have a bite, just a bite! Even if I starve, my kitten must eat.” He tapped Mango, looked at Elizabeth and said, “Elizabeth hasn’t eaten anything the whole night.”

“Do not drag me into this, I am not as greedy as you.”, Elizabeth said with discontentment.

“Okay, I will let all of you eat when I get back.”, Zhao Yao said helplessly as he saw saliva dripping down from the corner of Elizabeth’s mouth.

As it pertained the daily mission, Zhao Yao did not agree to let them eat. He immediately locked the food in the bedroom and planned to leave the house to buy some vitamin tablets for the cats.

As Zhao Yao exited from the small district, he drove towards Starry Starry pet hospital as he thinks that the hospital should sell vitamin tablets for cats.

As he walked into the hospital, the nurse in the front counter exclaimed, "Mister, you're here?"

"What is it with the stray cats this time?"

"I am here to buy something; do you sell vitamins for cats?" Zhao Yao said as he smiled.

"You mean nutrition powder?" The nurse blinked and said, "What do you plan to do with it? Add it to cat food? Just for everyday consumption or is it because a cat has fallen ill?"

Zhao Yao said, "I am preparing a meal for my cats and I found out that it is best to add this to increase the nutritional value of the meal."

The nurse's eyes gleamed, "In that case, hold on, I will get a few packets for you. Cats require various vitamins, taurine, calcium, etc."

While talking, the nurse ran out of the hospital, leaving Zhao Yao alone at the counter.

After a few minutes, the nurse did not return. However, Dr. Liew came into the hospital instead, wearing heels with a white coat and a pair of black stockings.

Her emotionless face soon beamed with excitement as she saw Zhao Yao; greeting him with a brilliant smile.

"Boss Zhao, you're here?"

"Call me Zhao Yao instead." Zhao Yao's mouth twitched as he replied, feeling embarrassed by the way she addressed him.

"Zhao Yao, I heard you want to buy some nutrition powder?"

Dr. Liew stared at him with her sparkling eyes and said, "You must be preparing a meal for your cats. In that case, you have to include nutrition powder, especially taurine; cats need large amounts of taurine every day. This is beneficial to their vision, immunity, organs, and heart."

"Alright, just recommend me some then." Zhao Yao replied while waving his hand, as he witnessed how passionate Dr. Liew was.

Then, the nurse came back with several cans and tubs. "These are different imported nutrition powder; besides taurine and calcium, you should include these vitamins and micronutrients which should meet the cats' daily recommended nutritional intake." Dr. Liew explained passionately again.

“How much is it?” Zhao Yao asked.

“\$300.” Dr. Liew exclaimed in excitement, “Since you have so many stray cats, I can give you a discount if you buy more...”

“I don’t need so much.” Zhao Yao interrupted her words and said, “I am only buying for a few cats, a tub will do just fine.”

“Huh?” Dr. Liew sighed and left with a look of disappointment in her eyes.

The nurse said awkwardly, “Dr. Liew has a surgical appointment in the afternoon...”

Zhao Yao brought the nutrition powder home and mixed it with the food that he had prepared. Matcha and Mango surrounded him and stared intensely at the food he was mixing.

Zhao Yao noted that the food had been upgraded to “excellent”.

“Alright, this is for you Matcha; and Mango, this is for you.”

He poured the minced meat separately into Matcha and Mango’s plates. The two cats immediately lowered their heads and began to wolf down the food.

Zhao Yao then walked towards Elizabeth as she lifted her head towards the windows with a look of depression.

Zhao Yao touched Elizabeth’s head and back as he placed a plate of cat food in front of her. He then said, “Don’t worry, we will find the murderer.”

Zhao Yao caressed Elizabeth’s back as he brushed through her smooth fur which felt like a silky cloth. As he lowered his head, he realized that she had already finished all the food on the plate.

“Tastes okay,” Elizabeth said as she was eating the food and swinging her paws.

“Why are you eating so quickly? You are going to have digestion problems.” Zhao Yao said as he placed his hand on her forehead.

“It’s not enough.” Elizabeth articulated unclearly.

Matcha was almost done with his meal as Zhao Yao gave Elizabeth more food. The fourth daily mission was finally completed.

With the experience in cooking cat food, Zhao Yao wondered if this would increase the experience he would obtain.

After all, cat food that is graded as “excellent” would increase experience points every ten days, while the cat food that is graded to be in the “supreme” tier will increase experience points every day. Zhao Yao really wanted to know if the value of the experience points would collectively increase as he mixed food of the “excellent” and “supreme” tiers together in this particular meal for Matcha.

What he does not know is that he would go on to include a mixture of “excellent” food and “supreme” food for the next half of the month; which only yielded a small increase in experience points every day.

Therefore, the experience points gained by nutrition are mainly dependent on the highest grade of food the cats have been fed with. Even if they consume various “supreme”, “excellent” and “basic” graded cat food, it would only increase the experience value by one point.

If Zhao Yao wants to increase the experience value of Matcha’s daily meals, he would have to obtain cat foods in the “supreme” or those in the higher tiers.

As he finally completed the four daily missions, Zhao Yao looked at the BOOK for the fifth daily mission, which is also the last mission.

Mission 5: With great power, comes great responsibility. Spend an hour outdoors with your Supercat and this could prevent the cat from creating a disturbance.

The mission’s bonus goal: To bring a Supercat out for a patrol lasting an hour or longer. If you are able to capture another Supercat, you would reap greater rewards (1 experience point). Failure to meet the bonus goal would not result in any punishment.

While looking at BOOK’s mission content, Zhao Yao thought to himself, “This mission only requires me to bring the Supercat out for a mere hour which seems easy to complete. As for the bonus mission, I would need some luck to complete it.”

Just as he was thinking to himself, he looked at the satisfied Matcha who was lying on the floor after consuming his meal. He immediately picked Matcha up and left the house.

“Meow!” Matcha purred in astonishment. “I don’t want to leave the house! I want to stay at home and use the wi-fi with the air-conditioner switched on!” Matcha exclaimed as he protested with his paws in the air.

“Let’s go, follow me for a walk.” Zhao Yao said.

“Meow! Zhao Yao! You are abusing cats!” Matcha motionlessly screamed as he was carried in the hands of Zhao Yao.

“If you want to bring me out, bring my corpse instead!”

Chapter 23: Car Purchase

Dragging Matcha out of the house, Zhao Yao decided that while finishing up the last of the daily missions, he would also complete the guiding mission at the same time.

“Paying over a million for a car within a week, that should mean I’ll get it immediately, right?” Zhao Yao thought for a moment, and then picked Matcha up and placed him on his shoulder in a single stroke. His brows furrowed slightly, “Silly cat, have you gotten fatter recently?”

Matcha meowed, “If you have a problem with it, then let me go back. Who wants to follow you out anyway?”

Zhao Yao patted Matcha on its head and said, “I brought you out here so that you can become strong. Once your time freeze duration is long enough, we can do whatever we like. You can make love with whichever cat you like, and lick whichever cat’s anus you want to lick.”

Zhao Yao whipped out his cellphone, and while wandering around the small district, he started looking up information on the 4S shop.

Having looked through car dealer after car dealer, Zhao Yao finally found a “Buy Now” Porsche Panamera in a Porsche dealer’s shop, for 1,050,000RMB.

Zhao Yao didn’t know much about cars, but after seeing photos on the website, he felt that this car didn’t look too bad, and decided to purchase two of them.

He exited the small district immediately, started the car, and headed towards the 4S shop with Matcha.

A male sales manager looked at Matcha – perched on Zhao Yao’s shoulder, and a slight expression of doubt appeared on his face. However, he quickly kept this doubt to himself and said, looking at Zhao Yao, “Mr. Zhao, you are in luck. We usually only do pre-orders here, but one of our customers had suddenly canceled his order after having paid the deposit.”

The sales manager led Zhao Yao to the front of a black Panamera. This 4-doored Porsche sports car had a streamlined body which reflected its surroundings like a mirror.

The sales manager presented, “Look at the car’s rear, that’s the spoiler. When the car is traveling below 170km/h, it will maintain a -7° angle, which lowers the drag and improves fuel efficiency.

In Sports mode or Sports+ mode, when its speed goes above 90km/h, the spoiler moves to a +1° angle for improved performance. When the driver opens up the sunroof, it will move at a +26° angle to reduce wind noise.

It has electric suction doors on the front and back, and its back seats are extremely spacious, unlike other sports cars which can only fit your baggage. The Panamera can easily fit 4 people without any problem.

Its boot is also very roomy, enough to store 2 luggage bags...”

Zhao Yao listened to the manager’s sales pitch from the side, and although he didn’t know much about cars, he was very satisfied because the Panamera’s aesthetics suited his taste, and on top of its unique appearance, it also had practical functions, which gave off a feeling of subtleness and beauty.

“I want this car.” declared Zhao Yao.

The sales manager instantaneously broke into a smile and said, “You came at the right time. We have an ongoing sale, and if you can make the full payment upfront, it will only cost you a discounted price of \$998,000.”

“\$998,000?” Zhao Yao furrowed his brows at the sound of this. His mission required him to spend above \$1,000,000.

The sales manager thought that Zhao Yao was not content, and added, “998,000 is already the lowest price. If you’re still not content, we can gift you another 2 complimentary maintenance services, 1 repainting job...”

With a short wave of his hand, Zhao Yao said: “That’s not the problem here. \$998,000 is a tad too low. If possible, could you charge me a million and one dollars?”

“...” The sales manager was silent for a moment, and then, with an astonished look in his eyes, said empathetically to Zhao Yao, “You know that \$1,000,000 is more than \$998,000 by \$2,000, right?”

“Stop with your nonsense.” Zhao Yao answered, “A million and one dollars, else the deal’s off.”

The sales manager had no choice but to consult his superior. Ten minutes later, he said uncertainly, “It can be done, but are you sure...”

“If it can be done, then that’s that. Where do I swipe my card?” Zhao Yao asked.

Following this, the administrative procedures were carried out. Luckily, this Panamera had already been licensed. Zhao Yao paid the sales manager to contact the agency for

a foreign license, deciding to submit the foreign license application first, before slowly queuing to bid for a Jiangmen City car plate.

After a series of administrative procedures, Zhao Yao beheld the Panamera in front of him and sighed. He never imagined that he would own his first sports car just like that.

The next moment, he brought Matcha with him and departed from the place in his car, leaving the sales manager with a confused expression on his face, staring at the distant car's silhouette.

“Rich people really are weird.”

With the Panamera's exceptional sense of control within his hands, Zhao Yao instead felt a peculiar rue and aching in his heart.

Recently, because of the missions, having paid for room decorations, a car, as well as Matcha's daily food expenses, Zhao Yao card – which contained over 13 million dollars initially – was down to less than a million. These had really burnt a hole in his pocket.

“13 million dollars! Just like that and I'm left with so little.”

“My BOOK is way too prodigal.”

Nevertheless, just as Zhao Yao finished purchasing the car, his guiding mission and daily missions were finally completed.

The guiding mission provided 20 experience points, while the five daily missions provided a sum of 5 experience points, but upon completion of all five, the daily mission completion reward was obtained, an additional 5 experience points and...

“Diamond?” Zhao Yao reviewed his BOOK, which now, apart from the newly added experience points, also displayed a never-before-seen diamond icon.

BOOK:Lv1 (80/100)

Diamond:1

Pet (1/1): Matcha

Grade:Lv2 (9/100)

Loyalty:100

Ability: Timefreeze, Duration: 6s, Cooldown: 6s

Experience, as a result of the 20 points from the car-buying mission, 5 points from the daily missions and 5 points from the additional reward, had reached a total of 80 points.

Apart from that, the only other addition was the diamond that appeared all of a sudden.

“This means that if all the daily missions are completed for the day, I can obtain a reward of 10 experience points and a diamond. So, this can be said to be my daily stable income.

What I still don’t know is the additional reward obtained if I capture a Supercat during the patrolling mission, as well as the purpose of diamonds. If I complete all 5 daily missions and get one diamond each day, maybe there’ll be some special use for them in the future.”

With a glimpse at BOOK’s 80 experience points, Zhao Yao thought to himself: Two more days until BOOK can level up, then the pet limit will increase, and the main mission will be completed.

Not long after returning home, his cell phone rang. Zhao Yao glanced down. It was his company’s boss, Yuan Ying. Zhao Yao swiftly pressed “accept”.

“Zhao Yao, you are seriously deciding not to continue with this job, is that right?”

Zhao Yao let out an embarrassed laugh, “My apologies, sir. I still feel that I would be better off working on my own.”

Yuan Ying replied, “Even if you want to leave, shouldn’t you still finish up this project for me first? You are making things extremely difficult for me if you choose to leave now.”

“Finish up this project before you go, and we can part on good terms.”

Zhao Yao furrowed his brows. He now has to look after so many cats each day, on top of that he has to complete the daily missions, research on cat feed upgrading and there may be new missions appearing from time to time. With such a high expenditure each day, how could he possibly return to the company to work?

“I’m sorry, I really cannot come back to work.”

Yuan Ying said coldly, “Fine, but even if you are resigning, your leaves have been used up. Come back to the company tomorrow to hand over your work.”

“Okay.” Zhao Yao was not an irresponsible guy. After being gone for so long, it was about time to go back and do a proper handing over and resignation, he thought.

On the other side of the call, Yuan Ying hung up, and with a cold, impassive look on his face, he shook his head and sighed, “Youths these days...”

After hanging up, Zhao Yao looked over to see a gloomy Elizabeth by the bedside. He opened up Contacts on his cellphone, "It's about time to check up on the situation."

"Hello, Brother Fei? Long time no see."

"Are you free to meet-up sometime this week? It's been so long, since graduation."

Chapter 24: Absenteeism

The next morning, while lying on his bed, Zhao Yao felt something wet licking his face.

As he opened his eyes, his adorable cat Mango, was on his bed staring blankly at him with its tongue out.

"What are you licking me for?" Zhao Yao asked helplessly while placing Mango back on the floor. Looking at the other side of his bed, Matcha, with its underside faced up, let out a loud growl. Recalling last night, Zhao Yao wondered how long he had stayed up playing with his phone again.

Looking at Matcha's fat white belly, Zhao Yao lamented, " Stupid cat, you just seem to get fatter every day."

Zhao Yao proceeded to walk out of his room and saw Elizabeth lying on the floor, in front of an empty cat bowl. She then tapped the empty cat bowl and looked up at Zhao Yao.

"Don't we have an automatic cat feeder?" Zhao Yao asked.

"I don't like the taste and I'm craving for something," Elizabeth replied. "I want to eat the cat rice you made yesterday." As she was speaking, Elizabeth threw up onto the floor.

Zhao Yao took a closer look at the mess Elizabeth made, and it seemed to be partially digested cat food.

This clearly shows that not only did Elizabeth consume the cat food but also took in a greater amount than the last time she had it, leading to her indigestion and her body's reaction to it.

"You know that you hate eating normal cat food, why did you eat so much?" Zhao Yao bemoaned.

Elizabeth patted the empty bowl and said, "If I hadn't tried, I wouldn't have known that this cat food is so inedible. Hurry, go make me some cat rice, and fish, preferably the Norwegian salmon."

“You’ll have to settle for the cat food today, I have to make a trip back to the office.” Zhao Yao planned to return to the company to complete the handover of his work as he resigned from his job. It didn’t even matter to him if the company didn’t pay him for this month, he just wished to leave the company as soon as possible.

If not for his sense of responsibility, he would have just not turned up for work, severing any existing relations with the company. Although the job provided him with a few thousand dollars salary, it didn’t make up for all the extra work he had to put up with.

Looking as Zhao Yao hurriedly left the house, Elizabeth grunted and shifted her gaze towards the automatic cat feeder.

Zhao Yao breathed an air of confidence as he stopped in front of the parking barrier of his company in his Porsche Panamera. He was getting stares from the security guards at the booth.

Walking along the corridors, looking at the familiar walls, desks, and chairs in the office, he realized that he unknowingly had not come to the office for almost two weeks.

Just as he sat down at his desk, Yuan Ying walked up behind him and shouted, “Zhao Yao!”

He turned. “Hi Boss!” he greeted. He then awkwardly continued, “ Sorry, I’ve been really busy lately, so busy that I can’t report for work.”

“Too busy? You’ve just graduated for only a year and you’re already starting your own business? Just wait till you fail terribly and come begging me for your job back.” Yuan Ying sneered.

Without the slightest change of expression, Yuan Ying said, “ I understand. How about this? As the company has yet to find a replacement for you, could you craft up a handover document, listing all the relevant information, designs, codes...”

Halfway from finishing her sentence, she turned towards another male colleague and said, “Lee, could you come over? Zhao Yao’s handover document will be passed over to you. You’ll be taking over his work and ensure that everything goes smoothly with absolutely no mistakes. If there is, you’ll be held responsible.”

Lee nodded his head and replied, “Got it.”

Hence, Zhao Yao carried on with his handover document. Although he had been gone for two weeks, he was still familiar with and responsible for the relevant modules that he had been working on for the past six months.

Moreover, he had a good habit of keeping the files, codes, documents and notes very organized.

He spent his day completing his handover document, went home for the night and then continued the next morning. Around noon, he finally finished the document.

He emailed the document to Lee and left a message in the email saying, "Lee, I've sent you the handover document. Please read through."

Upon receiving Zhao Yao's email, Lee nodded his head and said, "Not Bad! It is very detailed and well written. However, I have to go through again to make sure there are no errors."

"Relax. I'll be done in less than three hours. Don't you worry." Lee assures Zhao Yao.

"Thanks, Lee!" Zhao Yao exclaimed.

With no work on his hand, he turned to his computer and surfed the Internet for any cat rice related things.

After three hours, Lee walked up to Zhao Yao, patted him on his back and said, "Well done. Inside your document, there are all kinds of installation tools, manuals, and codes, very complete and concise."

Zhao Yao smiled and said, "The first time I joined the company I was as lost as anybody else. Thus, I wrote the document as detailed as possible, making the next person who takes over my job life's easier."

Lee nodded his head in agreement and said, "I've sent the email to Miss Yuan. You'll just have to wait for her confirmation and you can then proceed to the Human Resource Department to complete your resignation."

A short while later, Zhao Yao got Yuan Ying's approval. He was slightly taken aback by her swift response and lack of resistance. He expected her to delay the time and even force him to sit through the one-month notice period. Although he had done all the necessary transfer documents and procedures, he was prepared if things went sour. However, to his surprise, Yuan Ying was being very cooperative.

Zhao Yao then proceeded towards the Department of Human Resource. As he walked up towards the front desk, he noticed a young girl, wearing dark overalls and a pair of nude-pink stockings that wrapped around her beautiful long legs. Her soft white neck glimmered under the light, leaving one fantasizing the possibility of kissing her.

Zhao Yao knocked on the door. The girl raised her head, revealing a pair of dark beautiful eyes and kindly asked, "Hi Sir, how may I help you?"

Gazing into Sonia's eyes, Zhao Yao wasn't as nervous as before. By this moment, he had experienced managing tens of millions of funds, the existence of super-cats and BOOK also boosted Zhao Yao's confidence ten-fold.

While admiring the beauty of Sonia, Zhao Yao maintained his cool and replied, "I'm Zhao Yao from the Research and Development Department. I'm here to complete my resignation."

"Sure, give me a moment," she said. Sonia searched up Zhao Yao on the company's database but frowned as the result shows on her screen.

Zhao Yao had been flagged for skipping work for two weeks and the company had decided to terminate his contract.

Sonia initially had a good first impression of Zhao Yao but changed because of the flagged report.

In the eyes of Sonia, such actions displayed a lack of responsibility and unprofessional behavior of Zhao Yao.

Ever since young, Sonia was very obedient and had always followed the rules. Thus, she could not tolerate those who did not follow them.

So she glanced disdainfully at Zhao Yao and said, "You have been unilaterally terminated the labor relationship with the company because of your absenteeism for the past two weeks. As for this month's pay and bonuses, they'll be deducted accordingly by the number of days you've been absent for work. The balance will be paid to you on payday."

"Absent?!" Zhao Yao frowned. "But I've sent an email to Miss Yuan, applying my leave for that period of time. She approved."

Sonia shrugged and said, "Miss Yuan claimed that she did not receive your email."

Zhao Yao was stunned but soon realized that this was Yuan Ying's tactic all along. She had him thinking he was on leave and even as he came back, she made him do a day and a half's work for nothing.

Recalling that he still wrote documents and notes diligently for her, made him really mad.

He initially thought that he had taken two weeks off, but now he was considered absent from work.

Given so, his pay would then be reduced to less than a quarter, and his bonuses to nothing. Now, he had lost at least four thousand dollars.

Although Zhao Yao did not care about these few thousand dollars, he simply would not take it lying down and hated the feeling of being played.

He looked at Sonia and said, "Okay, I got it."

Chapter 25: Digging

Zhao Yao frowned as he entered Yuan Ying's office. Darting his eyes towards the plump lady behind the desk, he muttered, "Manager Yuan, the others have been commenting on my absenteeism, did you not receive my leave application?"

"Oh, I did not receive your leave application" Yuan Ying replied with her apathetic tone, barely even glancing at Zhao Yao. "As an old timer, you should know better that our company's policy on absenteeism leads to termination of the contract," she briefly added.

"But Manager Yuan, you promised to grant me my leave the previous time." Zhao Yao frowned as he rebutted. "Is that so? I must have forgotten then" Yuan Ying shrugged as she replied nonchalantly.

"Also, before the contract is terminated, your entire bonus this month will be deducted but your wages will still be paid for. I am very sorry," she added.

Her lips curled as a form of sympathy as she looked up at Zhao Yao. But all of it was a façade covering her cruel and corrupt intentions.

"Honestly, these few thousands do not really matter to me. However, I do not intend to let this matter slide." he calmly replied while exiting her office.

"Hmph, all talk!" Yuan Ying sneered as Zhao Yao shut the door behind him.

Yuan Ying knew clearly that Zhao Yao did not have a wealthy background- with neither a house nor a car, and that a large part of his monthly salary is tied down as housing rent. She shrugged off his words as senseless talk and did not buy it. Zhao Yao, however, did not leave the building but in fact, returned to his office desk.

At the end of the day, as Yuan Ying was leaving the office, she was surprised to see Zhao Yao still around but was not worried that he could do anything to her.

Just as Yuan Ying was leaving the office, Zhao Yao stood up and started walking in the opposite direction of her office and stopped at an empty corner. Without warning, he dashed into Yuan Ying's Office.

Unnoticed by anyone, Zhao Yao appeared in Yuan Ying's office in a flash.

He switched on the computer and smiled gingerly as he saw that a password screen popped out. He immediately tried the abbreviations of the current project but it was unsuccessful.

He then proceeded to try the abbreviations of the company, knowing that despite the second failure, he knows he will get in as he brought a hard drive with a hacking tool. Furthermore, as Yuan Ying's underling, Zhao Yao was confident that he could find her password.

Thankfully, the second try was a success, and it saved him some effort. After accessing the desktop through the password, Zhao Yao being familiar with the interface of the company's servers and project-related codes, wiped out the entire project database.

However, he knew that even so, every employee's own computer backup could also restore the project but doing so was enough workload for Yuan Ying to go down her sorrows. Congratulating himself on his plan, he continued erasing his fingerprints again.

The next instant, he was back in his lonely corner, without anyone even noticing. Smiling, Zhao Yao glanced at his colleagues working overtime and promptly made his way to the elevator.

As a result, no one should be able to find out that it was Zhao Yao who deleted the project related data; it could only be traced back to Yuan Ying's computer. Zhao Yao smiled as he started to imagine what Yuan Ying's battered face looked like.

Just as he was waiting for the elevator, his colleague, Sonia, who was also getting off work, approached the elevator.

However, Sonia simply glanced up at him, frowned slightly, and then continued looking at her cell phone.

Zhao Yao looked down at her suitcase and asked, "business trip?"

Sonia looked up at him with a glassy stare, remained silent and went back to fidgeting with her cellphone trying to book a taxi through an APP.

Frustrated that there was no response after 20 minutes, Zhao Yao could not help but remind her, "It is the peak period; there are too many people here to take a taxi. There are more than a dozen shopping malls and commercial buildings in the vicinity."

Sonia glanced up, did not speak, but her eyes were starting to flash a sign of anxiety.

Finally, as the elevator arrived on the first floor, she realized that Zhao Yao did not leave with her, but set his course to the B2 floor; which could only mean one thing- he drove to work.

Noticing this, Sonia looked at the time on her phone and with a hint of hesitation, stayed in the lift with Zhao Yao. Bewildered, Zhao Yao glanced at her and asked what was happening.

Shying down with a touch of embarrassment, Sonia looked at the time on her phone once more and finally mustered all her courage to say, "I am in a hurry to catch the airplane that is leaving at half past seven, may I trouble you to fetch me there? I can even pay you the fare of a taxi."

Zhao Yao himself checked the time on his phone, slightly hesitant on agreeing as the airport was indeed a distance away.

Suddenly, it was as if the other side of the Sonia revealed herself.

"I'm sorry, I was really rude to you before, but something urgently cropped up, I really cannot be late, I beg you to send me." she pressed her palms together sympathetically.

Looking at her white and delicate cheeks, coupled with a pair of big puppy eyes aching for sympathy, Zhao Yao admitted that his heart may have softened for her alluring beauty and sincerity to apologize. But deep down he knew that beauty was the main factor.

Zhao Yao nodded and replied, "Okay come with me."

Sonia heaved a sigh of relief, "I am really thankful; I usually take the subway but did not expect such difficulty in getting a taxi after work. I will definitely pay the taxi price to make it up to you." she exclaimed with much gratitude.

"No problem," Zhao Yao replied coolly, waving it off.

As Sonia followed Zhao Yao to his car, she was stunned by the unique design of his Porsche Pella Melana.

"What's the matter? Hop in!" Zhao Yao broke the air of silence from her astonishment as he got into the driver's seat.

"Oh ... oh ..." Sonia quickly got in the car, sitting in the front passenger seat. At that moment, she started to wonder that perhaps Zhao Yao was not as ordinary as he seemed.

Watching the engine start up, Sonia could not help but ask, "This car is expensive, right?"

"Okay, a million or so. Although it is also a sports car, a Lamborghini and Ferrari is certainly no comparison to this. ", Zhao Yao calmly replied

Hearing the figure of 1 million, her eyes lit up and she thought out loud, “Hmm, that’s not bad.”

Originally, in her eyes, Zhao Yao was just an unscrupulous and employee that was often absent without reason. However, at the moment, under the façade of the Porsche, she realized that he was indeed not as simple as he seemed.

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On the other side of the office building, just beside the bus stop, Yuan Ying was all smiles with several female colleagues of the administrative department of the company.

Although Zhao Yao will still leave and delay the duration of her project, she was in a good mood today. “Thousands of dollars in wages and bonuses should be enough to keep him in pain.” she thought to herself.

On seeing the arrival of the shuttle, Yuan Ying did not get on but remained in wait.

“Mary, you are not boarding the shuttle?” her colleagues reminded. Mary was Yuan Ying’s English name.

Yuan Ying shook her head and said, “No, my husband is picking me up today.”

“Wow how sweet.”

“Your husband sure loves you a lot”

“Mary, your husband bought a car?”

The other party has finally raised the question which Yuan Ying replied humbly but slightly proud, “Yeah, I already told him not to buy a car but he kept on insisting on buying one. We all work in the city where there are train and bus services. Do you think there is any use in buying a car?”

A colleague beside responded, “After all, it’s still convenient to own a car”

“You can even go on a car trip and explore”

“Next time life would be easier when you bring your kids around.”

“Oh yeah Mary, what car did your husband buy?”

Delighted that the other party has asked the most important question which Yuan Ying was waiting to answer, she acted as if she is recalling and hesitantly answered, “I think it was some BMW. Sigh, he said that it costs three to four hundred grand. I don’t know cars that well, can’t figure out why he bought such an expensive car.”

The colleagues nearby gave an envious look and expressed, "Such a brilliant car, your husband must be doing very well."

"Sigh, my husband is merely driving a 90 plus grand car. I'm even ashamed to visit my relatives' houses last year."

"I'll be honest with you guys, but please don't be angry," Yuan Ying conveyed cockily.

"To me, cars below a hundred grand are not worthy to be referred to as a car. Previously when my husband hadn't bought a car, I told him if he wants to buy a car, it has to be above 200 grand. I will not get into a car that is anything below that value. Those below a hundred grand are the real frightening ones. Have you seen those locally-produced eight to ninety grand cars? They get crushed very easily! I'm never going to sit in these cars."

The faces of the female colleagues turned black instantly upon hearing that and no words were spoken.

Another female colleague said, "In the end, Mary's husband is still the most capable, he is only 30 years old this year right? You are married to the best guy among us all."

"Haha, it's just luck. His company has been doing quite well this year", Yuan Ying said sheepishly, while she was secretly delighted.

Just at this moment, a Porsche Palmera appeared in front of a shuttle bus stop, slowly driving past the crowd and heading towards the main gate of the office building.

Upon seeing Zhao Yao and Sonia beyond the windows of the car, Yuan Ying, as well as several female colleagues who were there, were all shocked beyond words.

"Zhao Yao?" Yuan Ying stared at the sports car ahead. Although she may not know the model of the car, from the car's one-of-the-kind and seamless design, it is obvious that the car is worth quite a fortune.

As the silhouette the car disappeared, a female colleague nearby hurriedly began to gossip.

"Is that Zhao Yao? How is he driving a sports car?"

"I recognize that car! Wasn't Liu Tao driving this car?"

"Liu Tao?"

"It's the character Andy in <Ode to Joy>! Haven't you watched the TV series <Ode to Joy>?"

“Oh yes oh yes! It’s the car Andy was driving. It is worth over a million!”

“I also saw Sonia in the same car!”

“Absurd! If someone asks me for a date driving the same car, I would also agree”

Hearing the chatters of the colleagues around, Yuan Ying couldn’t bear to look at the sports car that left. She finally understood what Zhao Yao meant when he said that he didn’t care less about a few thousand dollars. He was not trying to put up a strong front, he really meant it when he said it.

Looking at herself, she just looked like a clown in front of others. This made her feel really hurt and jealous of Zhao Yao.

Just at this moment, Yuan Ying’s phone rang. She peered at her phone’s display and it read, “Hey, what’s up?”.

“Manager Yuan, it’s bad! Our server code, as well as data, have all been deleted! Even the backup data is all gone!”

“What?!” Suddenly Yuan Ying felt a headache and her face turned livid. “Don’t hang up, I’ll be right on my way!”

With the latest version of the server code and database deleted, even with the help of the developers’ own original saved version, sad to say, restoration might still take one to two weeks of work. The progress of the project is once again delayed, tarnishing Yuan Ying’s own work performance.

Once she thought about this, the look on her face became worse.

At this moment, Zhao Yao’s previous words struck her.

“...But for this matter, I will not let it slide easily.”

With her eyebrows closed together, she questioned with rage in her heart whether it was Zhao Yao’s doing.

However, Yuan Ying did not have the slightest evidence and after a series of investigations, it was found that her computer accessed the server and deleted everything.

Upon hearing the results, Yuan Ying’s face turned black, and looking at the surprised glares of the people around, she almost spat blood.

...

On the other hand on the Palmera's passenger seat, Sonia looked at Zhao Yao and asked, "You don't have a good relationship with Manager Yuan?"

Zhao Yao thought about it and think that there is nothing he could not say, so he replied, "I told her I applied for leave but she was angry that I was quitting. So she purposely considered that as being absent from work and even deducted my salary. Do you even believe that?"

Sonia looked at Zhao Yao and she was only thinking about that Palmera in front of her. She felt that rich people who could afford to drive this type of car did not need to spread lies on small matters like these.

"I believe you." Nodded Sonia who apologized, "Sorry, I've mistaken you previously."

Looking at Sonia's remorseful look, Zhao Yao could only tear up.

"This is the power of driving a sports car. Once I have a sports car, she will believe whatever I say."

On the other side, Sonia curiously asked, "Did you resign for a new job?"

"Nah, I don't wish to work for others anymore. I want to set up my own business." Zhao Yao giggled and replied.

"Wow, business!" Sonia spoke with envy, "Have you found investors, or your family..." Looking at the Palmera in front, she believed that Zhao Yao must be born with a silver spoon in his mouth. Only then could he retire so early to set up his own business.

"I came from a humble family." Zhao Yao shrugged off and said, "I hadn't found any partner, I intend to use my savings for these few years as the seed fund for my business."

Although Sonia did not encourage setting up a business at a young age and without family background, she still admired his charisma and capability.

As both of them chatted, they reached the airport and Sonia left the car. As she left, she waved and revealed a wide smile, "Thank you. Without you, I would have missed the flight!"

"Its nothing much!"

Seeing the silhouette of the Palmera leaving, Sonia suddenly came to her senses and hit her head, "Oh god, I've forgotten to pay." She frowned as she did not want to be seen as a cheapo.

Zhao Yao, on the other hand, did not care about all these and called with his phone.

“Hey? Brother Fei? Have you reached?”

“Oh yes, I will take roughly half an hour before I reach. Not in a hurry, no rush!”

Once the call ended, Zhao Yao headed towards the restaurant which he had made reservations. Brother Fei was his fellow roommate in his university days.

As Brother Fei’s father and uncle were policemen, he also became a Policeman after he graduated. Although he did not hold a high ranking position, he was very well-informed.

Zhao Yao approached him this time around as he hoped he could help him with a suicide case.