

## F. University 1281

Chapter 1281: "Wandering Earth" Officially Released

New Year's Eve.

All of Xia Country was brimming with the festive spirit of the Spring Festival.

Big red lanterns were hanging high.

At Mist City Arts and Science University, every tree along each path was adorned with bright, red lanterns. Ding Yue had even participated in the lantern hanging.

Moreover, since a portion of the university staff also stayed on campus, hanging the lanterns turned out to be quite an easy task.

Over five thousand students stayed on campus during the winter break, choosing not to go home for various reasons and instead staying at the university for the New Year celebrations.

And at Mist City Arts and Science University, a variety of activities were held every year for the Spring Festival, such as having the New Year's Eve dinner together. It was easy for the students to find a sense of belonging, as if they were in their second home.

From early on New Year's Eve, Ding Yue's mother, Zhang Yuping, together with the canteen team, began preparing the New Year's Eve feast for the faculty and the students who remained on campus.

Ever since Ding Yue first founded Mist City Arts and Science University, he and his family haven't been celebrating the Spring Festival at home, but rather having a "large reunion" on campus.

Huang Youjie and Xu Bin, along with their families, now came to Mist City Arts and Science University every year to celebrate this lively New Year, together with Ding Yue's family, adding the university's key personnel, the gathering was quite a lively affair indeed.

"Principal Ding, happy New Year."

"Wishing Principal Ding a happy Spring Festival."

"Principal Ding, do we have the New Year's Eve feast prepared by the school this year?"

During the day, Ding Yue took a stroll around the university and encountered many students who remained on campus. Upon seeing Principal Ding, they all took the initiative to greet him.

"Happy New Year to you all, students."

Ding Yue responded to the students as well and answered the student who had asked about the New Year's Eve feast, "Tonight, at the Fifth Canteen, the school has prepared New Year's Eve dinner for everyone. Don't forget to go eat, and we can also watch the Spring Festival Gala at the Fifth Canteen."

"Awesome!"

"Principal Ding is the best!"

"The school really never lets me down."

"You might not believe me, but I stayed at the school over the New Year and didn't go home just to get in on the school's New Year's Eve dinner, hahahaha."

"To the guy mooching off the school's New Year's Eve dinner, you are hardcore!"

Upon hearing Principal Ding mention that this year, like in past years, the school had prepared a New Year's Eve feast, every student's face revealed a happy expression.

In the blink of an eye, it was already evening on New Year's Eve.

Night fell, and it was about time for the New Year's Eve dinner.

In the Fifth Canteen, the school had set up thirty big round tables as well as covered the usual dining tables. Here, Ding Yue would spend this New Year's Eve with his family, friends, teachers, administrative staff, company employees, and students.

Gradually, more and more students arrived at the Fifth Canteen.

The big screens in the center of the Fifth Canteen were just right for watching the Spring Festival Gala.

Ding Yue felt that in the past couple of years, the quality of the Spring Festival Gala had indeed improved. The shows from the 2000s were great; thereafter, the quality dropped significantly, but in the last two years, there was an improvement, bringing back some of the original charm of the Gala.

However, for Ding Yue, the most important part of watching the Spring Festival Gala was actually seeing the pride of Mist City Arts and Science University—his students.

That's right.

It was Lin Zhirou.

Lin Zhirou was once again invited to participate in the Spring Festival Gala this year, and she was going to sing her new song "Big Fish," which had been released just over a month ago.

Before the start of the Gala, the New Year's Eve dinner was served.

Before starting the meal, Ding Yue, as usual, said a few words according to tradition.

"Students, teachers, staff members of the school, on this New Year's Eve, I wish you all a happy Spring Festival,"

Ding Yue said, raising his wine glass with a smile to the teachers and students in the Fifth Canteen.

"In the past year, we have achieved very good results. I hope that in the coming year, we can continue to work hard and forge ahead. Alright, I won't say much, because tonight is not a school annual summary. Tonight, let us celebrate together, happy New Year!"

After Ding Yue finished speaking, he directly downed the wine in his glass.

Hurrah!

Woohoo!

Seeing Principal Ding finish his speech, the students in the Fifth Canteen started to make a ruckus.

"Alright, let's eat!"

After Ding Yue finished his drink, he sat down and then began to enjoy the grand feast of the New Year's Eve dinner.

This whole table was filled with food personally prepared by Ding Yue's mother, Zhang Yuping.

Just at this moment, the NTS's annual Spring Festival Gala was just beginning to unveil its curtain, with the opening performance having the festive feel of the Spring Festival.

"Come on, Yue, let's have a drink!"

Huang Youjie, with a drink in hand, walked over to Ding Yue.

Brothers with a deep bond, one gulp down, and indeed Huang Youjie guzzled it in one go, leaving Ding Yue with no choice but to down another glass as well.

Following that, Xu Bin came over.

It seemed those two had conspired, tagging each other in to continuously ply Ding Yue with drink.

Ding Yue saw through their game, and in the end, when they downed their drinks, he didn't join them, just taking a sip to finish the round.

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"Have you guys checked the program list? When is our school's Lin Zhirou performing?"

Huang Youjie asked curiously.

"It's still some time away, appearing on the thirteenth program."

Xu Bin declared shaking his head.

"Just watch patiently. I feel this year's Spring Festival Gala overall has pretty good quality programs," Ding Yue said with a smile.

"Yeah, the quality of the programs at the Spring Festival Gala has been pretty good in the past two years."

An Yujia also said with a smile nearby.

An Yujia did not go home for the Spring Festival this year because she had returned from abroad, and her family went overseas this year. It's not like An Yujia could just go abroad by herself during the Spring Festival.

It's better to stay in Xia Country for the Spring Festival.

In addition to An Yujia staying behind, her junior sister, Director Chen Yilin from the Business Administration School of Mist City Arts and Science University, also stayed in Xia Country for the New Year.

"Principal Ding, another joyful festival is here. For the beautiful future of Mist City Arts and Science University and Feiyue Group, I toast to you."

An Yujia came over and drank with Principal Ding.

"There will certainly be a beautiful future. The many affairs of Feiyue Group will still count on Miss An's concern in the future," Ding Yue said nodding with a smile.

These past two years, after An Yujia joined, Ding Yue had less to worry about at Feiyue Group and only needed to make decisions on major issues.

It goes without saying that An Yujia's role has been quite significant.

"Principal Ding."

After taking her seat, her junior sister, Director Chen Yilin stood up with a look of guilt on her face.

"Director Chen."

Ding Yue looked at overseas-returnee Director Chen Yilin of the Business School and said with a smile, "Happy New Year."

"Happy New Year to you too, Principal Ding. Over the past year, our Business Administration School has given you a lot to think about. In the future, I'll definitely strengthen management, striving to bring Principal Ding a completely satisfactory new Business Administration School," Chen Yilin said earnestly.

Chen Yilin's words clearly expressed her guilt regarding the recent misuse of educational funds at the school, making a promise to Principal Ding that she would lead the Business Administration School well, achieve great results, and not to disappoint Principal Ding.

"I still have a lot of faith in Director Chen's capabilities, keep up the good work."

Ding Yue said, nodding with a smile.

The teacher involved in the last incident had already received legal sanctions, and Ding Yue believed it wasn't Chen Yilin's fault, at most a failure of oversight.

Director Chen Yilin's capabilities, as An Yujia had said when she recommended her, were indeed strong and never doubted by Ding Yue.

"Thank you for your trust, Principal Ding."

Seeing that Principal Ding didn't seem to hold any negative views about her because of the last incident, Chen Yilin felt quite grateful.

If something like this had happened overseas, because someone under her supervision made a mistake, as a direct supervisor, she would definitely have faced doubt or scrutiny from senior management.

"It's almost time, it's almost Lin Zhirou's turn."

Seeing that the twelfth program had already begun, Huang Youjie couldn't help but get excited.

"Lin Zhirou is singing 'Big Fish,' right?"

Xu Bin asked.

"Yes, I think that song is quite nice. I've been listening to it often recently; it has an ethereal quality to it," Huang Youjie said with a laugh.

The twelfth program soon concluded.

Next up was Lin Zhirou's singing.

As expected, the stage immediately entered the mood of "Big Fish," and the students in Fifth Canteen all eagerly awaited Lin Zhirou's performance.

After "Big Fish" was sung, it was like the voice of an angel, leaving a lasting impression on the audience.

After Lin Zhirou's singing segment, the following programs were also quite splendid. Ding Yue, along with his family and the teachers, staff, and students of Mist City Arts and Science University, watched as the Spring Festival Gala approached midnight.

And when it reached midnight, it was time for the most thrilling countdown segment of the year.

At that moment, cities across the country, under the countdown call of NTS's Spring Festival Gala, rang in the New Year's bell.

"Let's countdown together!"

"Nineteen, eighteen, seventeen, sixteen, fifteen, fourteen, thirteen, twelve, eleven!"

Ding Yue and everyone inside the Fifth Canteen began the countdown in cheerful unison.

"Happy New Year!"

Everyone shouted together!

Bang, bang, bang!

As the countdown finished and they entered the new lunar year of Xia Country, fireworks erupted outside the Fifth Canteen, soaring into the sky to celebrate the arrival of the Spring Festival.

The fireworks, still using the pollution-free firecrackers from the New Year's Eve Gala, lit up the sky.

After midnight had passed, the Spring Festival Gala also came to an end.

Having watched the Spring Festival Gala and about finished his drinks, Ding Yue decided to head back to sleep and rest.

However, before leaving, Ding Yue spoke with Huang, Bin, and his sister Ding Xiaoyou about something.

"How about we all go to the cinema and watch 'Wandering Earth' tomorrow on the first day of the new year?"

Ding Yue suggested.



As a sci-fi movie produced by Mist City Arts and Science University and Feiyue Group, 'Wandering Earth' was set to premiere tomorrow, no, actually today on the first day of the new year.

The cinema would probably start its earliest screening around nine in the morning.

The first day of the new year was a day for everyone to have fun, so Ding Yue planned to invite his friends to the cinema to watch 'Wandering Earth'.

"Sure thing!"

Huang immediately agreed without even thinking.

Xu Bin nodded, too: "Of course we have to watch 'Wandering Earth.' If not 'Wandering Earth,' are we supposed to help Q Entertainment Media's 'Demon Sealing' make some box office money instead?"

Anyone from Mist City Arts and Science University knew what movie they should see on the first day of the new year.

"Miss An, Director Chen, little sister, do you want to join us?"

Ding Yue then turned to Miss An, Director Chen, and his sister Ding Xiaoyou, to ask if they wanted to join.

"Yeah, sure!"

An Yujia replied immediately, nodding in agreement.

After all, there was nothing much to do the next day, and on a holiday, going to watch a movie, especially one produced by their own school's company, seemed like a fine idea.

"No problem."

Chen Yilin replied.

"I want to go too!"

Ding Xiaoyou raised her hand as if to indicate that they absolutely couldn't go without her.

"Alright."

Ding Yue smiled and nodded, then said, "I'll call you guys tomorrow. The cinema in the school's shopping center will be open; we can go see it in the biggest IMAX hall with the best visual and audio effects."

In Mist City Arts and Science University, there was a shopping center on campus and within that center was a cinema, which actually belonged to Ding Yue's family and was part of Ding Yue's assets.

Tomorrow, the cinema's schedule would naturally be dominated by 'Wandering Earth.' Though other movies were also screened, in the main cinema, they couldn't really compare to 'Wandering Earth.'

Even though there weren't the usual 80,000+ students in the university during the Spring Festival, more than 5,000 students who stayed on campus would likely go to the movies, so the campus cinema wouldn't worry about business during the Spring Festival Period.

Having arranged with his friends and family to go to the cinema to see the sci-fi movie 'Wandering Earth' the next day, Ding Yue went back to his apartment room and fell into a deep sleep.

He couldn't help it; he had drunk a little too much on this New Year's Eve.

As soon as he got back to his apartment room, he fell asleep straight away.

The next day, when he woke up, it was already noon.

By nine in the morning, cinemas all over the country had already begun officially screening the popular movies of the Spring Festival Period.

'Xiangjiang Spokesperson,' 'Lucky New Year,' 'National Fortune,' 'Demon Sealing' – these were all hot movies for this year's Spring Festival Period.

Of course, there was also the sci-fi movie 'Wandering Earth,' directed by Su Yangfan and produced by Mist City Arts and Science University and Feiyue Group, which was also highly anticipated by audiences.

## Chapter 1283: The Era When Reputation is King

### New Year's Day.

In Xia Country, the first day of the New Year during the Spring Festival is a day when people do nothing but enjoy themselves.

And with the development of the entertainment industry, movie theaters on New Year's Day have become a form of entertainment for many young people, and even middle-aged and elderly people.

So, the Spring Festival period has become one of the two most important release periods for movies during the year.

The other period is naturally the Summer Vacation.

Every year, many big-budget domestic films are officially released in major cinemas across the country during the Spring Festival period, and this year is no exception.

For example, Director Liu Hui's "Hong Kong Spokesperson" from Xiangjiang.

In past Spring Festival periods, the release of a new Hong Kong film was always a given, and this time, the new Hong Kong film being released is the latest work by Director Liu Hui, who has directed many classic Hong Kong films before, and the actors chosen are many heavyweight, even megastar-level talents.

Such a brand-new, big-production Hong Kong cop and robber film is bound to be very popular.

In addition to Director Liu Hui's "Hong Kong Spokesperson", Master Zhang, a well-known director from Xia Country, has also joined the fray during this bustling Spring Festival period.

Director Zhang's new film "National Fortune" has really gathered an all-star cast this time.

This all-star cast doesn't refer to those so-called traffic celebrity types, but to the stars that Director Zhang has consistently worked with over the years, a true congregation of megastars, attracting much attention.

Then there's "Happiness on New Year's Day" by Comedy Paradise, whose humorous drama films have dominated box office charts for years, and audiences often say that if it's produced by Comedy Paradise, it is bound to be a quality film.

Moreover, this time Comedy Paradise has brought together all of its comedy actors for "Happiness on New Year's Day", making it extremely competitive in the Spring Festival period.

Finally, there's the magical epic "Demon Sealing" by Q Entertainment Media, which is touted to have spent nearly ten billion yuan on production and uses a lot of traffic stars; its drawing power remains to be seen.

Today, the movie theater in Mist City Arts and Science University's campus mall is indeed packed with people.

Many students who stayed at school, like Principal Ding, went to the movies, and naturally, the film they watched was Director Su Yangfan's sci-fi film "Wandering Earth".

In the biggest IMAX hall, the screening that Ding Yue and his friends were watching was filled up in the blink of an eye.

"Yue, I looked at the schedule on various platforms, and the screening volume for our sci-fi film 'Wandering Earth' is really low," said Huang Youjie, who was sitting next to Ding Yue, after checking the schedule.

"How much?"

asked Ding Yue.

At that moment, An Yujia replied, "Principal Ding, our 'Wandering Earth' currently only has about 7.5% of the screenings."

"That little?"

Ding Yue was slightly surprised when he heard this.

Although he was aware that "Wandering Earth" might start with a small number of screenings, he had not expected it to be so few. He had estimated that it would at least be around fifteen percent.

But it turned out to be only around half of his expectations.

"Guess which film has the highest screening volume on New Year's Day?"

Huang Youjie asked with a smile.

"I guess it should be Master Zhang's 'National Fortune,'" Director Chen Yilin guessed.

After all, in Chen Yilin's view, a domestic director like Director Zhang is even known as the national director. "National Fortune" also features a collection of various actors. Hence, Chen Yilin guessed that Director Zhang's "National Fortune" would have the highest screening volume.

"NO! NO! NO!"

Huang Youjie shook his head.

"Do we even need to guess?"

Ding Yue shrugged his shoulders and said with an indifferent smile, "In the screening distribution on New Year's Day, it's usually the capital that dictates the screening status, so it's definitely 'Demon Sealing' by Q Entertainment Media that has the highest screening rate."

"Indeed, 'Demon Sealing' has a screening rate of over thirty percent. It's outrageous!"

Huang Youjie nodded with a wry smile.

"They at Q Entertainment Media are rich, claiming to have invested ten billion yuan in 'Demon Sealing,'" said Xu Bin.

"Hahaha, ten billion yuan, I bet nine billion were spent on marketing. The advertising for 'Demon Sealing' has been everywhere. Every time you open any app, you see ads for 'Demon Sealing,'" Huang Youjie joked.

"About that, yeah."

Ding Yue also joined the discussion, but quickly, the film was about to start: "It's starting, let's settle down and get ready to watch 'Wandering Earth.'"

After Ding Yue spoke, everyone quieted down.

Before the film started, the whole cinema was abuzz with conversation, but as the film was about to be screened, silence fell.

Because the students at Mist City Arts and Science University all know that when watching a movie, one must watch quietly and civilly.

When the audience saw those stunning shots in the film, they couldn't help but exclaim in amazement.

Especially that one long shot from Earth to the Navigator Space Station, which left countless viewers in awe.

Ding Yue also had not expected that Director Su Yangfan could recreate this long shot so well, and after looking closer, it seemed even more impressive than the original, particularly with the handling of the visuals and the music, which was simply perfect!

Chapter 1284: It is the era where reputation is king \_2

The stunning sci-fi movie "Wandering Earth" had been released in theaters nationwide from nine in the morning on the first day of the lunar new year and had received unanimous acclaim from the audience.

Although the sci-fi movie "Wandering Earth" only had a 7.5% screen share, the number of viewers was very high, and the occupancy rate was extremely high, with almost every show's occupancy rate exceeding 90%.

This meant that basically every screening of "Wandering Earth" was nearly full.

However, since the screen share of "Wandering Earth" was a bit low, it definitely couldn't match those "blockbusters" with high screen shares in terms of box office revenue for the time being.

For instance, Q Entertainment Media's "Demon Sealing" was the first to hit the box office of one hundred million yuan.

Following closely was Comedy Paradise's "New Year's Luck."

Unexpectedly, National Director Master Zhang's "National Fortune" didn't perform as well as expected. Its box office results were about the same as the Hong Kong director Liu Hui's "Hong Kong Spokesperson," with both movies basically hitting the one hundred million yuan mark at the same time.

Finally, it was the turn for the sci-fi movie "Wandering Earth," which reached one hundred million yuan in revenue near the evening.

By evening, there was a strong surge in box office growth.

As everyone was out during the day, they would likely head to the movies after dinner in the evening.

Since today was the first day of the lunar new year and also the first day of the movie releases, the word-of-mouth had not yet built up.

Even though the sci-fi movie "Wandering Earth" had excellent reviews, the speed of word-of-mouth spread was not very fast due to the low screen share on the first day.

Ding Yue, after watching his company's "Wandering Earth" in the afternoon, felt that choosing Director Su Yangfan to direct the movie was indeed the right choice.

The plot of this "Wandering Earth" was almost no different from the one on Earth in the previous life, and the emotional handling was also much more delicate and substantial.

Therefore, Ding Yue even thought that Director Su Yangfan's "Wandering Earth" was better than the one on Earth in his previous life, adding just a bit more essence to it.

With this rhythm and quality, Ding Yue believed, it was only a matter of time before the "Wandering Earth" organized by the Mist City Arts and Science University would become a hit.

However, Ding Yue couldn't help but check the box office before dinner in the evening.

Today, Q Entertainment Media's "Demon Sealing" had already exceeded two hundred and fifty million yuan, while Comedy Paradise's "New Year's Luck" had surpassed two hundred million yuan.

These two movies were leading the box office on this first day of the lunar new year.

The box office numbers for Q Entertainment Media's "Demon Sealing" on the first day were expected, considering it had over thirty percent screen share.

Moreover, it used high traffic, Ding Yue could even see this trend, where generally the box office would surge in the first three days, then it would no longer have much box office drawing power.

Regarding the quality of "Demon Sealing," Ding Yue merely needed to watch the trailer to know it was just so-so.

If we were talking out of a hundred points, Ding Yue would at most give it sixty, and those sixty points were just giving face to the special effects.

After all, Q Entertainment Media really did spend money, so there was not much to say about the special effects, but the plot, just from watching the trailer, Ding Yue knew how melodramatic it was.



However, the box office for Comedy Paradise's "New Year's Luck" being so strong was unexpected.

It hadn't even reached the evening peak yet, and it had already surpassed two hundred million yuan. With this momentum, it was possible that the first-day box office would surpass four hundred million yuan.

Furthermore, Comedy Paradise's "New Year's Luck" was purely driven by its own word-of-mouth, not because of a very high screen share or intense pre-release marketing.

"Guys, the box office for Comedy Paradise's 'New Year's Luck' is kind of exploding. It doesn't have as high a screen share as Master Zhang's 'National Fortune,' yet its box office is about to surpass by nearly double,"

After looking at the box office chart, Ding Yue said to his friends Huang Youjie and Xu Bin, "Shall we go watch 'New Year's Luck' tonight?"

Ding Yue quite liked the movies from Comedy Paradise in this parallel world and thought their quality was pretty good.

If "New Year's Luck" also had the same quality as the previous films, it would be quite normal for it to emerge and achieve good box office results during the Spring Festival Period.

It was just uncertain how much box office revenue "New Year's Luck" would take from his own "Wandering Earth"?

Even, Ding Yue was guessing whether it would end up being his "Wandering Earth" and Comedy Paradise's "New Year's Luck" in the final showdown?

Thus,

After having dinner, Ding Yue called up his two friends Huang Youjie and Xu Bin, and went to the cinema to watch Comedy Paradise's "New Year's Luck."

After watching "Lucky New Year," it was already past ten at night.

When they walked out of the cinema, Ding Yue looked toward Huang Youjie and Xu Bin and asked, "How did you find 'Lucky New Year'?"

"Its plot design was pretty clever, and it had a lot of funny moments, laughter thunderous!"

Xu Bin gave a candid response.

Indeed.

While watching "Lucky New Year," Ding Yue also burst into laughter several times, it truly was a hilarious comedy, and in Ding Yue's view, it was extremely successful.

Instantly, there seemed to be pressure on "Wandering Earth."

"Comedy Paradise really is awesome."

Huang Youjie remarked, "Each of their comedy movies is strong, and this 'Lucky New Year' might become the strongest, and I anticipate great reviews."

"It's an era dominated by reviews nowadays, so it seems 'Lucky New Year' will become our strongest competitor against 'Wandering Earth'."

Ding Yue also reflected.

However, Ding Yue's reflection differed from Huang Youjie's.

"It really might be possible, but if I had to choose which movie is better, I still think our 'Wandering Earth' wins out because in terms of theme and concept, 'Wandering Earth' is a step ahead. After all, 'Lucky New Year' is just a comedy that makes everyone laugh."

Xu Bin shared his analysis.

"I agree with Bin's analysis."

Huang Youjie nodded.

In the eyes of these two friends, "Wandering Earth" was overall stronger. Even though the themes were different, the impact it left was better with "Wandering Earth."

After all, as Xu Bin had said, "Lucky New Year" really just brought bursts of laughter from the comedy, and after laughing, it didn't leave much of an impression.

But "Wandering Earth" was different, Xu Bin and Huang Youjie even thought about watching it a second time!

Unexpectedly, past eleven at night, a surprising event occurred.

The Comedy Paradise's "Lucky New Year" surpassed Q Entertainment Media's "Demon Sealing" in its opening day box office earnings, temporarily ranking first!

[Real-Time Movie Box Office Rankings] —

1. "Lucky New Year," box office 478 million yuan!
2. "Demon Sealing," box office 450 million yuan!
3. "Hong Kong Spokesperson," box office 310 million yuan!
4. "National Fortune," box office 240 million yuan!
5. "Wandering Earth," box office 190 million yuan!

Unsurprisingly, among the top five movies of the hotly contested Spring Festival Period, Mist City Arts and Science University's "Wandering Earth" had the lowest opening day box office, not surpassing two hundred million yuan.

This was within Ding Yue's expectations.

With such a low screening rate, even if an exploding box office was desired, it was impossible with so few showings!

However!

After cinemas nationwide saw the first day's box office data, they immediately adjusted the screening rates the next day.

Luckily, Mist City Arts and Science University's "Wandering Earth" got a 2.5 percent increase in its screening rate, reaching ten percent.

"Demon Sealing's" screening rate dropped drastically, while Comedy Paradise's "Lucky New Year" saw a sharp rise...

Chapter 1285: The Pinnacle of Domestic Sci-Fi?

Starting from the second day of the new year.

The box office situation of the most anticipated Spring Festival movies changed.

At first,

Ding Yue thought that Q Entertainment Media's movie "Demon Sealing," with its huge pre-release promotions and advertisements, would maintain a box office lead for three to five days during the Spring Festival period.

Unexpectedly, after raking in over four hundred million yuan on the first day of the new year alone, the film completely stumbled the next day.

Most crucially,

on the first day, its box office was already overtaken by Comedy Heaven's "Lucky New Year."

By the second day of the new year, the screen share, attendance, and box office data of Q Entertainment Media's "Demon Sealing" had all visibly declined.

And rising was Comedy Heaven's "Lucky New Year"; Mist City Arts and Science University's "Wandering Earth" also benefitted, with an increase in screen share.

As for Master Zhang's "National Fortune" and the Xiangjiang's well-known director Liu Hui's "Hong Kong Spokesperson," the performance was consistently stable.

Therefore,

on the second day of the new year, the box office was completely dominated by Comedy Heaven's "Lucky New Year."

No choice.

This "Lucky New Year" truly demonstrated quality, crucially serving as great entertainment for the whole family, a humorous drama with funny actors and plots, becoming the uncontested champion during the Spring Festival Period, hardly a surprise.

Even Ding Yue, after watching "Lucky New Year," thought that this movie might dominate the box office from the start of the second day of the new year until the seventh day.

As expected,

on the second day, due to its family-friendly acclaim, Comedy Heaven's "Lucky New Year" quickly became a super popular movie in the cinemas, its box office on just that day exceeded five hundred million yuan!

Including the pre-sales from the first day and third day of the new year, Comedy Heaven's "Lucky New Year" became the first Spring Festival movie to exceed one billion yuan in box office.

With such a strong box office performance, Ding Yue estimated that "Lucky New Year" could at least garner thirty billion yuan, or even more, exceeding forty billion was also not out of the question.

If not for his Mist City Arts and Science University's "Wandering Earth," Comedy Heaven's "Lucky New Year" might have set the record for the highest grossing movie in Xia Country.

Ding Yue believed,

his Mist City Arts and Science University's sci-fi movie "Wandering Earth," may not surpass "Lucky New Year" from the first to the seventh day of the new year, but once "Wandering Earth" gained reputation and spread, he believed the market thereafter would definitely belong to Mist City Arts and Science University's "Wandering Earth."

On the second day of the new year, "Wandering Earth" had a single-day box office that broke through two hundred million yuan, ultimately reaching two hundred fifty million yuan, pushing its total past four hundred million yuan after including the box office from the first day.

As long as the box office continued to rise daily, Ding Yue knew the potential of "Wandering Earth" was just beginning.

On the third day of the new year.

Comedy Heaven's "Lucky New Year" still maintained an unstoppable momentum.

And as Liu Hui's "Hong Kong Spokesperson" gained critical acclaim thanks to its huge Xiangjiang audience, its box office saw a strong rise.

After all, by the third day of the new year, those who wanted to watch "Demon Sealing" had done so, and the same goes for "National Fortune" which, after watching, felt unimpressive.

Then taking a look at the popular movies, "Hong Kong Spokesperson" was not bad, so people went to see "Hong Kong Spokesperson."

As for "Lucky New Year," it gathered even more viewers.

Thus, on the third day of the new year, "Hong Kong Spokesperson" subtly started chasing "Lucky New Year."

What Ding Yue cared about most was still his "Wandering Earth," and on the third day, "Wandering Earth" continued to perform well.

Although its screen share only increased by two percent to twelve percent, its single-day box office had already surpassed three hundred million yuan.

On this day,

many viewers finally discovered the powerful aspect of this "Wandering Earth."

With a lower screen share but high attendance, it achieved a remarkable single-day box office, breaking through three hundred million yuan, while "Lucky New Year" with a thirty-five percent screen share only garnered around five hundred million yuan.

At that time, cinema managers across the country realized that this sci-fi movie "Wandering Earth" seemed very popular.

"Manager Zhao, have you noticed a really impressive piece of data—that 'Wandering Earth' has low screen share but high attendance and box office? Its potential is really huge, maybe we should tilt more screenings towards 'Wandering Earth' starting tomorrow and see what happens?"

Managers at Wan Da Cinema began to discuss, preparing on the fourth day of the new year to increase the screen share for "Wandering Earth" while maintaining the popular movie "Lucky New Year."

As for where to squeeze out more screenings for "Wandering Earth," it naturally came from the underperforming movies "National Fortune" and "Demon Sealing" during these days.

What nobody had anticipated was that the first films to drop out were the two aggressively promoted movies "Demon Sealing" and "National Fortune."

Chapter 1286: The Pinnacle of Domestic Sci-Fi? \_2

"Demon Sealing" failed, showing netizens that not every film pieced together with popular young male stars could achieve high box office returns.

And the failure of "National Fortune" also proved that renowned directors' works aren't necessarily amazing. The quality and watchability of the films are key to success in theaters at this time.

Now, "Good Luck New Year", "Wandering Earth", and "Hong Kong Spokesperson" won over their reputations with their quality, and as word-of-mouth spread, it fed back into the movies themselves, resulting in continually rising box offices.

These three movies are recognized by audiences as high-quality works in the Spring Festival Period.

As for "Demon Sealing" and "National Fortune", they've been left far behind.

"Demon Sealing" might just barely scrape by with a box office slightly over one billion yuan, while Master Zhang's "National Fortune" may not even surpass the two billion yuan mark.

This is the choice of the audience!

If your movie isn't that great, audiences simply aren't inclined to spend money to watch it in the theaters.

In contrast, the box office numbers for "Good Luck New Year", "Wandering Earth", and "Hong Kong Spokesperson" keep climbing.

The fourth day of the lunar year was crucial for "Wandering Earth"!

Because the screening rate for "Wandering Earth" had risen.

And it was on this very day that the long-fermenting reputation for the quality of "Wandering Earth" finally exploded.

With the promotion department of Feiyue Media pushing it, the film was discussed all over the net that day.



Even on Twitter, slogans started appearing like, "If you've seen the little broken globe, we're bros," which helped the organic word-of-mouth praise propagate even further.

On all the major forums and various chat groups, people were discussing this sci-fi blockbuster.

"Guys, have you watched 'Wandering Earth' yet?"

"Is it good? I watched 'Good Luck New Year', and it was pretty funny. Comedy Heaven is really stepping up its game with these films."

"I just finished 'Wandering Earth', and it's incredible, the best film I've ever seen! Here's my ticket stub!"

"It's good!"

"Don't watch it and you'll regret it for the rest of your life!"

"The planet engines are so awesome!"

"Highly recommend, I've honestly become a self-promoter for 'Wandering Earth', surely no one's missed it yet?"

"I first saw the trailer during the Mist City Arts and Science University's New Year's Eve performance, and then went to watch it on the first day of the lunar new year. It didn't disappoint, even brought me enormous surprise and shock - it's a top-tier sci-fi movie!"

"Holy cow! Are you guys rating it that highly?"

"I'm off to buy a ticket now. Damn! Several cinemas are fully booked, it's that amazing? Are they fudging the box office numbers?"

"Honestly, today 'Wandering Earth's' reputation completely exploded. It's normal for cinemas to be full!"

Only then did netizens realize that buying even one or two tickets for "Wandering Earth" today seemed quite difficult.

And the theater managers who had added screening times for "Wandering Earth" yesterday were secretly congratulating themselves.

Because the occupancy for "Wandering Earth" was over ninety percent for almost every show, including screenings at nine in the morning and at noon.

The managers hadn't seen such high occupancy rates in a very long time.

Even though "Good Luck New Year", a very popular comedy film these days, had reached just over ninety percent occupancy at its peak, the lowest it went was twenty to thirty percent.

However, thanks to the high screening rate of "Good Luck New Year", its box office takings for today were high too.

However.

Today, "Wandering Earth" had a strong upsurge, and it looked set to overtake the daily box office of "Good Luck New Year".

...

Mist City Arts and Science University, apartment building.

Since it was still the Spring Festival holiday, Ding Yue, like the day before, spent his day in his apartment room, living a sunlit hermit-like holiday life.

During these seven days of the Spring Festival holiday, Ding Yue didn't want to worry about anything, just wanting to rest well.

After all, once these seven days were over, he would have to start worrying about the new year for Mist City Arts and Science University and Feiyue Group.

"Principal Ding, I went to the cinema to watch 'The Wandering Earth' again today," hee hee hee, "it's really good."

The one chatting with Ding Yue on voice call over Whatsapp was none other than Wen Ruohan, who had already returned to her hometown for the New Year's celebration.

"Xiao Wen, is this your second time watching it?"

Ding Yue asked with a smile.

"Yes, yes, Principal Ding, many of my friends have already started their second viewing, and some are even preparing for their third," Wen Ruohan replied.

"Hahaha, that's great, let's contribute a bit more to the box office of 'The Wandering Earth.'"

Ding Yue laughed loudly.

"The main reason is that it's superb. The first time I watched it, there were many things I didn't understand. Afterward, I looked it up online and then, after watching it the second time, it felt much better," Wen Ruohan explained.

"Whether it can become the number one in the Spring Festival Period box office, or even the number one in the national box office, is up to you all," Ding Yue teased.

"Principal Ding, how much has the box office reached now?"

Wen Ruohan asked.

But before Ding Yue could answer, Wen Ruohan continued, "I just checked, and it has already surpassed several billion in box office. It's so fast, but the movie 'Happy New Year' from Comedy Paradise is about to surpass twenty billion yuan."

Today marked a turning point, as the Spring Festival Period box office pattern had been established.

That is, 'Happy New Year' from Comedy Paradise ranked first with a box office close to breaking twenty billion yuan.

'Mist City Arts and Science University's 'The Wandering Earth' was second with over twelve billion yuan.

The box office of 'Hong Kong Spokesperson,' directed by the Xiangjiang director Liu Hui, was ten billion yuan, ranking third.

As for 'National Fortune' directed by Master Zhang and 'Demon Sealing' by Q Entertainment Media, their box office growth had already become less significant.

"I wonder if we can catch up with 'Happy New Year'."

Ding Yue couldn't help but express his feelings.

Currently, there's an eight-billion-yuan gap in the box office. For 'The Wandering Earth' to overtake 'Happy New Year' and potentially become the dark horse of the Spring Festival Period, it would require a continuous increase in its screenings, and hopefully, a decrease in the screenings or the seating occupancy rate of 'Happy New Year'.

"Principal Ding, I think we can do it because the online reviews for 'The Wandering Earth' are incredible right now."

Wen Ruohan had spent the last two days browsing the internet for reviews on 'The Wandering Earth'.

It wasn't because she had nothing better to do.

Mainly, after returning home for the New Year, she always wanted to keep up with school-related matters.

And the only thing related to school around her was the sci-fi movie 'The Wandering Earth', as it was produced by the Film and Television Institute of Mist City Arts and Science University and the company behind the school.

"Oh? How are the netizens rating it?"

Ding Yue, too lazy to flip through the online reviews, directly asked Wen Ruohan.

"Although the scores on Douban haven't been released yet, on various forums and social media platforms, the netizens' reviews of 'The Wandering Earth' are very high. Many even say that our 'The Wandering Earth' is the pinnacle of sci-fi in Xia Country!"

Wen Ruohan said happily.

Goodness gracious!

The pinnacle of sci-fi!

Netizens sure dare to make bold claims.

Ding Yue knew that in this Parallel World, although domestic sci-fi movies weren't as scarce as on Earth in the past life, there were still some fine works.

Before the production of 'The Wandering Earth', Ding Yue had "inspected" the domestic sci-fi movie market. The gates for the sci-fi movie market had already been opened, and there had even been notable works like Su Yangfan's sci-fi TV drama 'Transdimensional Contact'.

It wasn't extremely prosperous, but it wasn't a complete void either.

The emergence of 'The Wandering Earth' let the audience see a new peak in sci-fi movies.

Whether in terms of special effects, sci-fi creativity, or the storyline, all were very impressive.

That's why netizens rated 'The Wandering Earth' as the pinnacle of domestic sci-fi movies!

Chapter 1287: Selected for Key National Universities

The seventh day of the first lunar month.

In Xia Country, the Lunar New Year typically grants a seven-day holiday, but it isn't the seven days starting from New Year's Day to the seventh day; the holiday begins on New Year's Eve and continues through the sixth day of the New Year.

Then, when the seventh day arrives, many companies have to start working again.

Ding Yue's Feiyue Group was no exception.

Apart from the employees of the Feiyue New Energy Vehicles factory, who had been working overtime throughout the Spring Festival holiday to produce the Feiyue Future New Energy vehicles, staff from other divisions like Feiyue Media, Feiyue Games, Feiyue Logistics, and Feiyue Technology were also gradually returning to the company to maintain its normal operations.

Only if Feiyue Group operated normally and made money could there be more funds to invest in the construction and development of Mist City Arts and Science University.

When it came to the affairs of Feiyue Group, Ding Yue, having started work again, did not have the leisure to fully understand everything. With An Yujia around, entrusting things to her would undoubtedly be problem-free.

What concerned Ding Yue the most was the production of the Feiyue Future New Energy vehicles.

Besides this, there was the box office performance of the science fiction movie "Wandering Earth," which was co-produced by Feiyue Media and Mist City Arts and Science University.

Starting from the fourth day of the New Year, the box office of "Wandering Earth" began to explode.

After the seventh day, as the apex of sci-fi movies, "Wandering Earth" received rave reviews, and its daily box office even surpassed the comedy hit "Happy New Year," with the prospect of overtaking "Happy New Year" in total box office today.

Without a doubt, "Wandering Earth" had become the most successful dark horse of the Spring Festival period.

After confirming that his "Wandering Earth" had a high probability of winning the box office championship for the holiday period, Ding Yue did not pay as frequent attention to the box office of "Wandering Earth."

Even though it might eventually break forty billion yuan in ticket sales and at least two billion yuan of that would be Ding Yue's share, for Ding Yue, two billion yuan was no longer a significant amount.

After all, Ding Yue's Feiyue Group now had two major industries. One was the graphene industry, which, as a base for high-end materials, had an immensely vast market.

The other was the new energy vehicle market. Now that over a month had passed, the sales volume of the Feiyue Future New Energy vehicles had already broken one million units, and the sales revenue had exceeded five hundred billion yuan.

With such high sales revenue, after deducting costs, the profit was at least over two hundred billion yuan.

Ding Yue had earned two hundred billion yuan, making the two billion yuan seem like just a small string of numbers.

In fact.

Money, to Ding Yue now, really was just a number.

What did Ding Yue need so much money for?

To be the richest man?

No!

Ding Yue's goal was still to build the world's top-notch Mist City Arts and Science University and then unlock the ultimate reward of his system, to obtain a reward that transcended mundane monetary wealth!

Mist City Arts and Science University, Administration Building, Principal's office.

Today, only Ding Yue was in the office, along with an artificial intelligence robot named Big White.

Without his secretary Wen Ruohan, Ding Yue felt a slight discomfort in his everyday work routine.

Regrettably, Wen Ruohan would not be able to return until tomorrow.

Usually, as a student of Mist City Arts and Science University, Wen Ruohan would not come in until the semester started, but she also had another role as the Principal's personal secretary.

So, Wen Ruohan would usually come back to school immediately after the holidays.

Although with Big White, Wen Ruohan's work was not as necessary as before, Ding Yue still would not dismiss her.

After all, Wen Ruohan was a personal secretary he had brought up himself, he had become accustomed to her, and she was quite beautiful. Having such a lovely secretary by his side always brightened his mood.

"Big White, please call Miss An over."

Ding Yue instructed the artificial intelligence robot Big White by his side.

"Right away, Principal!"

Big White received the order from its owner and immediately contacted Miss An Yujia.

Approximately five minutes later, An Yujia came upstairs to Principal Ding's office.

Knock, knock, knock!



"Principal Ding, I have arrived."

Knowing that Principal Ding's secretary Wen Ruohan wasn't present, An Yujia spoke up after knocking on the door.

"Come in, Miss An."

Ding Yue let her in upon hearing An Yujia's voice.

After An Yujia entered the Principal's office, she came to the desk with practiced ease, sat opposite Principal Ding, and asked, "Principal Ding, today is the first day of work resumption. I suspect you would like to know about the production of the Feiyue Future New Energy vehicles during the Spring Festival period?"

"Hahaha, truly fitting of Miss An, you understand me."

Ding Yue laughed and nodded.

Having a conversation with someone who understood him saved time and effort; he didn't even need to speak, and An Yujia could already grasp his thoughts.

"Tell me, how is the daily production at our Feiyue New Energy Vehicles factory?"

Ding Yue asked with a smile.

"Principal Ding, since production began, our daily output has steadily increased from two thousand units. Currently, we can reach a daily output of eight thousand Feiyue Future New Energy vehicles. Based on the current factory equipment and workers' conditions, our maximum daily output can reach ten thousand units. Furthermore, the production capacity for the graphene batteries is more than sufficient. The only thing lagging behind is the chips."

Chapter 1288: Selected for Key National Universities \_2

Miss An detailedly reported to Principal Ding on the production situation of the Feiyue New Energy Vehicle factory.

"If we produce ten thousand units a day, it will take us less than half a year to fulfill the current pre-sales deliveries. However, the number of subsequent orders will definitely continue to increase, and additionally, we will also open up foreign markets this year."

Ding Yue stroked his chin and felt that this capacity couldn't be said to be fast, but it couldn't be said to be slow either—it could only be described as meeting the market demand as much as possible.

However, whether the chip supply could keep up in time depended on Guoxing Technology Group.

"What did Guoxing Technology Group say?"

Ding Yue asked again.

"Principal Ding, this morning I just had a call with Mr. Wang Liwu of Guoxing Technology Group. Currently, Guoxing Technology Group has invested tens of billions of yuan in expanding its scale, and the efficiency is quite good. It's preliminarily estimated that by the end of this month, they will be able to start supplying chips for us."

An Yujia replied.

"That's pretty fast. It seems that once our technology is combined with the funding from Guoxing Technology Group, efficiency immediately pushes up."

Upon hearing this, Ding Yue's mouth couldn't help but reveal a smile.

As long as Guoxing Technology Group invested enough money, and Mist City Arts and Science University provided the 14-nanometer lithography machine technology, the close cooperation between the two parties would enable Guoxing Technology Group to quickly manufacture lithography machines.

And with their own domestically produced lithography machines, the quantity of domestic chips was bound to increase sharply.

According to the agreement between Feiyue Group and Guoxing Technology Group, the increased chip production from Guoxing Technology Group would be supplied to Feiyue Group as a priority.

"So, after our first batch of Feiyue Future New Energy Vehicles reaches a production of one hundred thousand units, we will begin delivery in succession. Miss An, what do you think?"

Ding Yue said with a smile to An Yujia.

"Roughly how many units will be delivered per day?" An Yujia nodded and then asked.

To maintain the production volume of Feiyue Future New Energy Vehicles and the supply speed of chips, the delivery of vehicles couldn't just dump the entire production at once.

A gradual delivery would be better for the car owners than delivering one hundred thousand units all at once, followed by a long wait before the next batch of one hundred thousand units.

"About five thousand units a day, or we could decide based on our daily production rate,"

Ding Yue shrugged and said.

"Alright, Principal Ding."

An Yujia agreed with Principal Ding's suggestion.

Delivering vehicles daily and continuously notifying car owners in the order of reservation would increase the anticipation for the owners further down the line and provide hope to those waiting at the end.

Otherwise, after the delivery of two hundred thousand yuan worth of Feiyue Future New Energy Vehicles was complete, and the chips from Guoxing Technology Group just started to arrive, if the car factory hadn't had the chance to ramp up production, the interim period would make the car owners extremely impatient.

"This way, we can ensure that, oh right, you have to keep pushing Guoxing Technology Group; without a reminder, they might not realize the urgency of time..."

Ding Yue had been about to remind An Yujia of this.

But before he could finish, the phone on his office desk rang.

"I'll take this call first."

Ding Yue said to An Yujia and picked up his phone. Looking at the caller ID, it surprisingly displayed Director Xiao Wenxing from the Mist City Education Authority.

"Hello, Director Xiao."

Ding Yue immediately answered the call.

Seeing that Principal Ding had taken a call from Director Xiao Wenxing, An Yujia quietly waited for Principal Ding to finish the call.

"Principal Ding, happy New Year. Today is already the seventh day of the Lunar New Year; this New Year's greeting is a bit late, haha."

On the phone, Director Xiao Wenxing spoke with a laugh.

"Not at all, not at all."

Ding Yue immediately laughed in response.

"Principal Ding, during New Year's, I was so busy visiting relatives that I completely forgot to call you on New Year's Eve, but today, I bring you a phone call with good news,"

Director Xiao Wenxing said.

"Oh? Director Xiao, what's the good news?" Ding Yue immediately asked with curiosity.

Usually when Director Xiao Wenxing contacted him, it was good news, and this time was no exception, though he didn't know what kind of good news Director Xiao Wenxing would bring this time.

"Hahaha, congratulations, Principal Ding! Your Mist City Arts and Science University really brought honor to Mist City this time, and even I, as the head of the education department, have been basking in the glory."

Director Xiao Wenxing said with a laugh.

"Is that so?"

Although Director Xiao Wenxing was keeping him in suspense, Ding Yue still echoed the sentiment without hurry to ask what the good news was.

After all, Director Xiao Wenxing could be considered his "superior," the direct leader when it came to education.

"I also just received the news, Principal Ding, the National Education Administration has decided to list your Mist City Arts and Science University as a National Key Education Project!"

"A National Key Education Project—does that mean, our Mist City Arts and Science University is now officially recognized as a key national institution?"

Ding Yue asked carefully after hearing this.

The National Key Education Project, if Ding Yue's understanding was correct, should indeed mean the university is now officially recognized as a key national institution.

"Yes, Principal Ding, the universities within our country's National Key Education Project are indeed what we recognize as key institutions. Because your Mist City Arts and Science University was already a key private institution in Mist City, this time, the National Education Administration has directly elevated your university into the rank of the project!"

Director Xiao Wenxing said with a smile, "Congratulations, Principal Ding, and because of this matter, I have also received commendation from above!"

As the head of the department that oversaw Mist City's education sector including institutions like Mist City Arts and Science University, which stood out as an exceptional private university, credit naturally went to Director Xiao Wenxing for his role from a responsibility standpoint.

"Hahaha, that's just great, absolutely wonderful, our Mist City Arts and Science University is now a national key private institution!"

Ding Yue was immediately filled with excitement.

This goal, which Ding Yue had thought would take at least five to ten years to achieve, had been reached much sooner than expected.

Of course, Ding Yue was very clear about the reason why the nation had elevated his Mist City Arts and Science University to be a part of the National Key Education Project so quickly—it was definitely because of the remarkable achievements the university had made in recent years, some of which were even on the level of the National Science and Technology Award.

If the nation didn't promote the status of his Mist City Arts and Science University under these circumstances, it would have been rather hard to justify.

Moreover, this time, Mist City Arts and Science University made certain breakthroughs in the field of photolithography research, which undoubtedly accelerated or influenced the National Education Administration's final decision to include the university in the National Key Education Project.

"Indeed, it's surprising, but at the same time, it seems reasonable, given that your Mist City Arts and Science University has performed exceptionally well over the past couple of years, especially in the research field,"

Director Xiao Wenxing said with a laugh.

"We must also thank you, Director Xiao, and Governor Li for your strong support of our Mist City Arts and Science University. Otherwise, we wouldn't have had such a great environment for development and construction,"

Ding Yue said politely.

Although the main reason behind Mist City Arts and Science University's development and construction was Ding Yue's system, the strong support of the Education Ministry and the Mist City Government definitely played a facilitative role.

Perhaps it was also because of this that Ding Yue, who initially anticipated it would take five to ten years to potentially achieve the status of a national key private university, had seen this goal materialize in just the fourth year.

"The main credit still goes to your own good development," Director Xiao Wenxing said, not taking credit for himself. He was well aware that much of this was due to the excellent work in teaching at Mist City Arts and Science University.

Otherwise, how could they have cultivated so many talented students?

Chapter 1289: Launching a Super... Electromagnetic Cannon?

"Principal Ding, it will be about a week from now when the National Education Administration officially announces that your Mist City Arts and Science University has been designated as part of the National Key Education Project. At that time, our local Education Bureau in Mist City will also make simultaneous announcements,"

Director Xiao Wenxing solemnly stated over the phone.

"Okay,"

Ding Yue's mood was incredibly joyful.

Having reached the status of a national key private university was already quite an achievement; the next objectives were to catch up to Qinghua University and surpass Yancheng University, among others, and to become a world-class influential university!

Ding!

Just as Ding Yue was feeling pleased, a long-missed system notification tone suddenly resounded in his mind.

Honestly, it had been a long while since Ding Yue had heard that sound.

"Congratulations, Host's Mist City Arts and Science University has successfully become a [National Key University], completing the [National Key University] task!"

"Congratulations, Host has successfully completed the [National Key University] task and received a reward of [Level 4 University Treasure Chest]+1!"

A system notification announcing task completion and reward acquisition echoed in his ears.

Ding Yue's thoughts stirred slightly, pulling up his system panel.

In the "Items" section, Ding Yue saw that sparkling [Level 4 University Treasure Chest]—a Level 4 treasure chest typically capable of producing some excellent items,

such as technology or techniques that surpass this era.

"Principal Ding, would you like to organize a ceremony or some event at that time? After all, I think this is indeed a matter worth celebrating for your Mist City Arts and Science University,"

Director Xiao Wenxing suddenly suggested over the phone.

"Sure,"

Since it was Director Xiao Wenxing's suggestion, Ding Yue naturally accepted it immediately.

Organizing a celebratory event was indeed appropriate.

After all, Mist City Arts and Science University had transformed from an obscure private backwater to a nationally recognized key university—this transformation was undoubtedly as transformative as a phoenix rising from the ashes.

"Then, Principal Ding, once you have determined the time for the celebration event, do let me know. I will definitely be there, ha ha ha ha,"



Director Xiao Wenxing said.

"Okay, okay, no problem,"

Ding Yue quickly agreed.

It was indeed fortunate that Director Xiao Wenxing would be attending—the education director himself participating in the event celebrating Mist City Arts and Science University's honor of being named a national key university effectively announced to society that Mist City Arts and Science University was a bona fide key university now.

"Alright, Principal Ding, I have some other matters to attend to,"

Director Xiao Wenxing did not ramble further and, after discussing this issue with Ding Yue, he was off to attend to his own tasks.

"Okay, Director Xiao, goodbye, Director Xiao,"

Ding Yue hung up the phone, still in high spirits, and once again stirred his thoughts to pull up his system panel.

He had just been about to open the Level 4 University Treasure Chest, but since he was speaking to Director Xiao Wenxing, Ding Yue did not multitask.

"Principal Ding, did Director Xiao say anything?"

At that moment, An Yujia, who was still in the office, curiously inquired.

"Ha, ha, ha, ha, Miss An, I have some great news—our Mist City Arts and Science University has moved up another level,"

Ding Yue lifted his head and laughed as he spoke to An Yujia.

Seeing how happy Principal Ding was, An Yujia knew it must be a tremendous piece of good news and quickly asked, "Principal Ding, what is the good news?"

"Miss An, our Mist City Arts and Science University has now been listed as a National Key Education Project by the state. That means, starting from tonight, our Mist City Arts and Science University is officially a national key university,"

Ding Yue said, smiling.

"Really? That's really fantastic! A national key university is a title not just any private university can achieve, and most national key universities are public agencies,"

An Yujia said, a genuine smile spreading across her face.

Because An Yujia had long regarded Mist City Arts and Science University as her "home," she was truly happy that the university had received such an honor.

"From now on, our Mist City Arts and Science University is on the right track, Miss An. Our goal is to become a top-tier university in the world,"

Ding Yue nodded as he spoke.

Meanwhile, as Ding Yue conversed with An Yujia, he pulled up the system's item panel and focused on that [Level 4 University Treasure Chest].

What great item might come from such a fine box?

"I want to open this [Level 4 University Treasure Chest]!"

Ding Yue's thoughts stirred, preparing to open the chest.

Ding!

"Host is requesting to open the item [Level 4 University Treasure Chest] from the item column. Please confirm whether to proceed?"

The system prompted.

"Confirm!"

Ding Yue agreed.

Ding!

"Congratulations, Host has successfully opened [Level 4 University Treasure Chest], obtained——  
[Super Electromagnetic Cannon Technology and Design Drawings]!"

As the voice echoed in his mind, Ding Yue paused for a moment.

Good grief!

He had opened a [Level 4 University Treasure Chest] and actually obtained Super Electromagnetic Cannon technology and design drawings?

Super Electromagnetic Cannon?

Chapter 1290: Launch a Super... Railgun? \_2

Are you sure this isn't a piece of military technology?

Weapons!

Oh my goodness!

This is Mist City Arts and Science University we're talking about, an institution for higher education, not some arms company dealing with military weapons!

"This super electromagnetic cannon, seems pretty useless for me to have. Although it's very impressive!"

Ding Yue felt a bit of an amused frustration upon discovering the item he got from opening the University Treasure Chest.

Sure, the thing was certainly valuable, but for Mist City Arts and Science University, it was just a fine piece of technology with no practical application. It wasn't like Mist City Arts and Science University was going to develop a super electromagnetic cannon weapon, right?

Of course.

That wasn't entirely true.

Some of the university's programs might eventually collaborate with the national military industry.

When that time came, perhaps they could share this super electromagnetic cannon technology and designs, contributing to the country's military weaponry development as part of the collaboration?

"Now that Mist City Arts and Science University has become a national key university, stepping onto the world stage should just be a matter of time. I'm not exactly sure how it should develop, but I believe Mist City Arts and Science University can do it, especially with the strong support of Feiyue Group behind it."

An Yujia stated confidently.

She was an agent, and not as knowledgeable about university construction and development. The expertise lay with Principal Ding across from her.

Yet An Yujia was clearly aware that Feiyue Group, the university's backer, was becoming increasingly mighty. With profits from the graphene industry, new energy vehicles, and other sectors, it could annually invest tens of billions or even more into Mist City Arts and Science University.

With such substantial funding and Principal Ding's keen eye for talent, the university was attracting more and more talent, leading to its inevitable trend of development.

"Yes."

Ding Yue nodded with a smile, saying, "Feiyue Group is the source of development funds for Mist City Arts and Science University, and in return, Mist City Arts and Science University serves as Feiyue Group's talent cultivation and technology research base."

"That's right, they complement one another, indispensable to each other."

An Yujia remarked, "Principal Ding, aside from the daily production capacity of Feiyue Future New Energy vehicles, is there anything else you would like to know?"

"Let's talk about the business developments of the other companies in the group, starting with graphene."

Ding Yue wanted to understand more about the Feiyue Group's ventures in the new year.

"As for the graphene material sector, it has been breaking into increasingly larger markets. But, since it's not priced like a Feiyue Future New Energy vehicle, the graphene industry's current scale is around two hundred billion, and the net profit is several tens of billions. Aside from working with the military, we have many domestic companies that need graphene."

An Yujia reported earnestly.

Given the wide application range of graphene materials, they certainly weren't worried about a lack of orders.

"Mhm, the graphene industry definitely isn't an issue. It has become the foundational high-tech material industry for the development of our new energy vehicles and even other sectors. And it's already well-established in Mist City. Speaking of which, Mist City's tax benefits for these industries are quite favorable, aren't they?"

Ding Yue asked with a smile.

"Yes, Principal Ding, Mist City has been very supportive of Feiyue Group's industries, offering low taxes for the next two or three years, along with significant local policy incentives and national policy benefits."

An Yujia responded promptly.

The graphene and new energy vehicle industries of Feiyue Group could generate tens or even hundreds of billions in revenue. Without favorable tax policies, a substantial sum would have to be paid in taxes.

However, to support the development of Feiyue Group's two industries, Mist City had offered substantial tax incentives.

Especially since Feiyue Group had taken over the bankrupt Chang'an Group, the Mist City Government naturally offered Feiyue Group more incentives for city development to show its sincerity.

Nowadays.

Just the graphene and new energy vehicle industries alone could generate hundreds of billions, or even possibly exceed a trillion in GDP for Mist City!

Based on the existing foundation, adding several hundred billion or even more than a trillion to the GDP, Mist City's city GDP could directly soar to a top national position, and it wouldn't be impossible to become the number one city in the country by GDP.

Such a splendid GDP performance was naturally something Mist City Government and Governor Li were eager to seize.

"Then there's Feiyue Media, Feiyue Games, Feiyue Logistics, and other fields that are developing quite well," Principal Ding, rest assured, but these industries may not be as profitable as graphene and new energy vehicles."

An Yujia continued to explain with a smile.

"I understand that as an industry to complement our development, for instance, if Feiyue Logistics takes off, it can help with delivering our products,"

Ding Yue certainly understood.

And so, Ding Yue listened to An Yujia report on the past year and the future development plans of various industrial companies under the Feiyue Group, right in his office.

Listening to her, it was clear that An Yujia had put in real effort, planning the development of each industry under the Feiyue Group in great detail.

This work report took up a whole day in the blink of an eye.

The next day, which was the eighth day of the Lunar New Year, Secretary Wen Ruohan finally returned to school. On the day of her return, Wen Ruohan only took three hours to pack her things before she went to find Principal Ding to start her routine secretarial job.

In the following days, the campus of Mist City Arts and Science University was somewhat quiet with only a few thousand students remaining at school, as the rest had not returned.

The start of the school term was still about half a month away.

But a week later,

Director Xiao Wenxing had some good news for Ding Yue, which was officially announced by the Ministry of Education.

The Ministry of Education officially announced the list of new entrants to the National Key Education Project; most were public universities, except for one private university.

And without a doubt, that private university was—Mist City Arts and Science University!

At the same time, Mist City's Educational Administration also released this significant news.

In sync, Mist City Arts and Science University announced on various platforms that they had become a national key university!

All of a sudden, Mist City Arts and Science University, a private university already known for its reputation, once again caught the attention of netizens, and its popularity surged.

"Goodness, Mist City Arts and Science University has become a national key university?"

"My Mist City Arts and Science University is so impressive!"

"What does it mean to be included in the National Key Education Project? Does it mean becoming a national key university?"

"Let me explain a bit, in Xia Country, we have the Double First-Class Education Project—you all know about Double First Class, right? First-class universities and first-class disciplines. Then there's the National Key Education Project, which we usually refer to as key universities. All Double First Class Universities are key universities, but not all key universities are Double First Class Universities, got it?"

"So that's what it is!"

"Thanks to the big brother above for the explanation."

"Could Mist City Arts and Science University possibly become a Double First Class University in the future?"

"It's not that easy to become a Double First Class University."

"As a student of Mist City Arts and Science University, I just went home for the New Year, what happened?"

Netizens couldn't help but marvel; Mist City Arts and Science University, once obscure, could become a national key university.



And the students of Mist City Arts and Science University could never have imagined that, as students of a private university, they would merely go home for the winter break, only to find upon their return that their school had become a national key university.

This excitement, this sense of pride, spontaneously arose in every student at Mist City Arts and Science University!

Choosing Mist City Arts and Science University initially was simply because this private university had a "high degree of freedom," and before even graduating, they had become students at a key university?