F. University 331

Chapter 331: Opening day, Sci-Fi reading experience

Because of the increasingly large crowd coming to Mist City Arts and Science University on the opening day of the Book Ship Library, the university's security team and other staff members were actively striving to maintain order.

Fortunately, everyone who came adhered to civil manners, maintaining an impressive orderliness on campus.

Besides the popular Book Ship Library, the campus-themed hot pot restaurant, which had long since shot to fame, had people queuing up from early morning.

Zhang Yuping, Ding Yue's mother, was extremely busy in the hot pot restaurant. Hu Jianren, the hotpot master chef, started working overtime from the night before, with several elite disciples recruited from the gastronomy department to prepare a hot pot base.

Indeed.

Since hot pot Master Chef Hu Jianren became the hot pot culinary teacher in the gastronomy department, he had trained several impressive students.

These students spent almost every day working on the hot pot base in the campusthemed hot pot restaurant under the guidance of Master Hu Jianren.

It was expected that by the next year, these disciples could go on their own. According to Zhang Yuping, after Hu Jianren's disciples graduate, they plan to open branches.

There is clearly a need for more than one hot pot restaurant within the university since, from the business volume in the last half of the previous year, the hot pot restaurant on the third floor of the second canteen is almost always packed to capacity.

Hence, opening more branches within the campus makes sense.

But that's not all.

Zhang Yuping has a bold idea: to turn the campus-themed hot pot restaurant into a chain like Haidilao, and open branches in universities nationwide!

Ding Yue commented that his mother's idea was indeed radical. Setting aside whether or not it's feasible, the key question is whether other universities would be willing to cooperate.

"Principal Ding, Director Xiao Wenxing is here."

While Ding Yue and Qi Chunsheng were discussing various matters about the opening day in the office, Secretary Wen Ruohan came and informed Principal Ding of the news.

Given the symbolic significance the Book Ship Library at Mist City Arts and Science University holds,

Director Xiao Wenxing of the Mist City Education Bureau would also be present on the opening day. After all, the progress of a private university like the Mist City Arts and Science University indicates significant strides in Mist City's education system.

"Director Xiao is also coming today?" Qi Chunsheng asked in surprise.

"Yes, I tried inviting Director Xiao and was surprised when he agreed to come. During his previous inspection in our school, he praised our Book Ship Library," explained Ding Yue, rising from his seat to walk outside the office.

Qi Chunsheng and Wen Ruohan hurriedly followed suit.

On the opening day of the Book Ship Library, many teachers and students at Mist City Arts and Science University chose to watch the live broadcast online to facilitate visiting guests from all over the country.

The publicity department was in charge of the official live broadcast on Mist City Arts and Science University's account.

Ding Yue led Qi Chunsheng, the dean of academic affairs office, and Secretary Wen Ruohan to the school's gate to briefly greet Director Xiao and his entourage.

Huang Youjie and Xu Bin, among others, were on the scene to accept interviews from news media along with Chen Ping, the director of the architecture department, the person in charge of Tianfu Construction Group responsible for this project, and various students, including Liu Chuanjie, who won awards for designing the Book Ship Library.

"Manager Zhang, did you feel any difficulties while Tianfu Construction Group was building the Book Ship Library for Mist City Arts and Science University?" A local media reporter asked the Tianfu Construction Group's manager on-site at the front of the Book Ship Library.

"Not at all, because the communication on engineering construction and design drafts between Tianfu Construction Group and Mist City Arts and Science University was very efficient. We built this Book Ship Library committed to high-quality workmanship. I believe this is the most creative structure we've built in recent years," replied Manager Zhang of Tianfu Construction Group.

"Director Huang, I heard that the Book Ship Library will hold over 1 million books. Is that true?" the reporter asked Huang Youjie.

Huang Youjie immediately smiled and nodded, "Yes, our Book Ship Library has a total collection of 1.02 million volumes. It covers many domestically and internationally published books from both ancient and modern times. Perhaps, in the future, we might even collect classic handwritten versions."

Although the Book Ship Library of Mist City Arts and Science University is merely a university library, its collection consists of books from both ancient and modern times.

However,

They may indeed collect some original works in the future. After all, having a collection of an ancient book would be quite remarkable.

At the entrance of Mist City Arts and Science University,

When Secretary Xiao Wenxing and several others from the Education Bureau arrived, they noticed orderly lines of people checking in at the entrance of Mist City Arts and Science University.

"Director Xiao, the discipline maintained by Mist City Arts and Science University for visitors is commendable," commented an official from the Education Bureau, pointing at the queue.

Director Xiao acknowledged and said: "Indeed, Mist City Arts and Science University has done a remarkable job in all aspects. Honestly, during my tenure, this is the first university I have seen that is so diligent."

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"I hope that they will also make decent progress and development in teaching quality in the future," reflected another staff member from the Bureau of Education.

Indeed.

The most critical factor of a university lies in its teaching quality. If Mist City Arts and Science University were merely good in minor details but mediocre in teaching, it would always struggle to achieve recognition.

Director Xiao Wenxing was quite clear about this.

So, he repeatedly stressed the importance of improving teaching quality to Principal Ding Yue.

So far, the teaching quality of Mist City Arts and Science University has been steadily improving; after all, it is still young and needs time to grow.

However, the university seemed to have made good achievements in the field of physics, in which Principal Ding conducts his research.

"I heard that Principal Ding and some professors from Jiangnan University of Science and Technology have made significant breakthroughs in the field of semiconductor materials technology, which is pretty impressive," another staff member mentioned.

"But that's only theoretical, and the research on gallium nitride semiconductor materials has been already done overseas."

"Nevertheless, our nation's contribution to this field is a huge breakthrough. Shouldn't the achievements made by Principal Ding and those professors from Jiangnan University of Science and Technology be considered a boost to the teaching quality of Mist City Arts and Science University?"

Several bureau staff members began to argue.

Just then, Ding Yue, along with Qi Chunsheng and Wen Ruohan, arrived at the school gate and greeted Director Xiao and his colleagues.

"Director Xiao, welcome! I'm utterly surprised and honored that you could take time out of your busy schedule to attend the opening ceremony of our Bookship Library," Ding Yue said, greeting Director Xiao with a genial handshake.

"Your Bookship Library seems to have become a remarkable platform promoting the education culture of Mist City, so how could I miss its opening ceremony as the director of the Bureau of Education?" Director Xiao Wenxing replied cheerfully.

Then, together, they entered the campus of Mist City Arts and Science University, "So many people? It's been a long time since I've seen a campus filled with so much energy. The campuses I inspect are often dressed up, but we in the Bureau of Education know what they're really like."

Ding Yue glanced at Director Xiao in surprise, admiring his directness and appreciating that as a characteristic of a resolute Bureau of Education director.

While chatting with Director Xiao Wenxing, Ding Yue walked over to the forecourt of the Bookship Library.

Inside Mist City Arts and Science University's live stream room,

Many netizens were also watching the live broadcast, curious to see what the inside of the Bookship Library looked like after it had accumulated a collection of over 1.02 million books.

The netizens had already seen the exterior lighting scene of the Bookship Library; this time, they were eager to see the interior.

"So, this is what a 150-million-yuan library looks like. It's grand!"

"I heard they've collected over 1.02 million books. Our university library only has 300,000 books in total."

"Perhaps that's the difference between our university and others."

"I'm currently a sophomore. I hope Mist City Arts and Science University will continue to improve. In two years, I'm going to apply to this university."

"Are there so many people checking in on-site?"

"Unfortunately, I have to work and can't visit in person or join the opening ceremony."

"Hehe, an anchor I like has gone to the opening ceremony."

"I must check-in there in the future!"

"Does that mean there are now two popular check-in spots at Mist City Arts and Science University?"

"Which two?"

"Don't you know? One is the campus-themed hot pot restaurant, and the other is this Bookship Library. You can borrow students' library cards to go in and have a look."

The netizens had already summarized the two popular check-in spots in Mist City Arts and Science University, which have also become must-visit check-in spots for those visiting Mist City.

They are the campus-themed hot pot restaurant on the third floor of the second cafeteria at Mist City Arts and Science University, and the Bookship Library, which is opening today!

At the site,

Ding Yue and Director Xiao Wenxing arrived at the main entrance of the library, preparing to jointly announce the grand opening of the Bookship Library.

"Now, please welcome Principal Ding of Mist City Arts and Science University and Director Xiao from Mist City Bureau of Education!"

As Ding Yue and Xiao Wenxing appeared before the public and the live-streaming cameras, spontaneous applause broke out among the on-site visitors.

"Firstly, I extend a warm welcome to everyone attending the opening ceremony of the Bookship Library today. Our school has decided that the Bookship Library will be open to all visitors today. After the opening ceremony, the library will only be open to our students. However, we welcome any visitors who wish to study or read books in the library. We will also be issuing a limited number of library cards to outsiders. We hope all non-school visitors will respect our library rules. Thank you. Now, I ask Director Xiao Wenxing to announce the official opening of the Bookship Library."

After Ding Yue finished speaking, he turned to Director Xiao with a smile.

Director Xiao Wenxing nodded slightly, then announced loudly, "I declare that the Bookship Library of Mist City Arts and Science University is officially open!"

After Director Xiao Wenxing's proclamation, the venue once again erupted with cheer and applause.

"Director Xiao, please join me as we walk inside and take a look."

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Ding Yue invited Director Xiao into the Bookship Library to take a look around.

"Alright."

Director Xiao Wenxing nodded and followed Principal Ding Yue, walking into the Bookship Library first.

At the same time, the on-site staff organized the queue and opened entrances at all four directions towards the library.

Although there were many people on the square, no one was in a rush because everyone knew orderly queuing was the most efficient ways to enter.

As soon as Ding Yue and Director Xiao Wenxing entered the Bookship Library, they immediately felt the expansive and open space inside, along with rows upon rows of bookshelves.

Director Xiao Wenxing noticed that the ceiling on the first floor was very high, at least six or seven meters, if not higher. Moreover, many bookshelves were also that high, with lots of books placed on those high shelves. How could the students reach them?

This concern caused Director Xiao Wenxing to frown and ask Principal Ding, "Principal Ding, I have to point this out. Look..."

Director Xiao Wenxing, pointing towards the high bookshelves, continued, "The bookshelves are so tall. How can the students get the books placed so high up? Wouldn't they simply become decorations?"

When Director Xiao Wenxing said this, the surrounding visitors agreed with him.

"Hehe, Director Xiao, let me explain," Ding Yue responded calmly after hearing his concern.

Ordinary people would have apologized profusely when faced with such a criticism from the Director of Education.

However,

Ding Yue was very composed and called Xu Bin over, then said: "Director Xu, please introduce the intelligent bookshelf system you designed and ordered."

"Intelligent bookshelf system?" After hearing these words, Director Xiao felt he might have been a bit rash.

Such tall bookshelves that seemed so futuristic surely contained some technology, right?

At this moment, Xu Bin explained to Director Xiao Wenxing with a smile, "Director Xiao, look here, on both sides of this bookshelf are electronic screens. On these screens is the intelligent bookshelf system I designed. Students can select books from the bookshelf on the screen digitally, and then the intelligent bookshelf will adjust the height of the books as needed."

After Xu Bin's explanation, everyone understood what he meant.

So, these bookshelves, while looking like ordinary ones, actually contain certain "high-tech" features. They can adjust the height of each row on the bookshelf up and down, and students can easily get the books they want through this intelligent electronic screen.

"This is quite convenient. Most importantly, it makes use of the space very well. Good job."

After understanding Xu Bin's explanation, Director Xiao Wenxing found it quite novel.

"Director Xiao, would you like to try it yourself?" Ding Yue asked cheerfully.

"Alright."

Director Xiao Wenxing came to the electronic screen and saw a virtual bookshelf on it. He just needed to click on the book he wanted and the bookshelf started adjusting its height.

Quickly, the book that Director Xiao Wenxing wanted was adjusted to a height that he could easily reach.

The whole process was highly efficient.

For Xu Bin, a computer science student, designing such an intelligent bookshelf system was a simple task. The difficulty was not great at all. He had designed it in just two days before and had it custom made a batch of such bookshelves.

"Interesting, I'd like to try it too."

"I want to try it."

"Go line up behind me."

"This library has a great sense of technology, and the first floor is so big."

After seeing this, people nearby immediately came over to experience the intelligent bookshelf system.

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"Director Xiao, this is the second floor of the Bookship Library. Apart from the common reading areas, the most unique feature is the outdoor casual reading areas on both sides."

Ding Yue took Director Xiao Wenxing to the second floor of the Bookship Library.

He introduced the outdoor casual reading areas on both sides of the Bookship, where people could enjoy the sunshine, drink coffee or tea, and read their favorite books.

"Wow, there's 'Starting From a Fake University' written by Er Xiong in this library!" A young man spotted a book written by his favourite internet novel author on the

bookshelf in the internet novel area on the second floor, expressing his great excitement and thrill.

"What kind of book is it? Is it good?" a pretty girl standing next to the young man asked.

"Yes, it's super good. I recommend you buy one from a bookstore and read it. If it's not good, you can hit me!"

Ding Yue couldn't help smiling when he saw the visitors marveling at the number of books in the Bookship Library.

After looking at the outdoor platform not far from the front floor-to-ceiling window, Director Xiao Wenxing showed interest and walked over for a look.

Ding Yue followed him.

The outdoor platform outside was separated from the inside by a large floor-to-ceiling window, with revolving doors on both sides of the window for entry and exit.

On the outdoor deck, there were casual rattan tables and chairs, accompanied by patches of greenery. The environment there was quite pleasant.

"Director Xiao, this area is specially designed for casual reading. After all, not all students who come to the library are here purely for study. Some choose to relax by reading in the library," explained Ding.

Ding introduced Director Xiao to the function of this outdoor reading area and its envisaged users.

"Well, I quite like this idea," Director Xiao nodded in approval.

After the second floor tour, Ding took Director Xiao to the third floor. This area mainly housed ancient texts, which were to Director Xiao's taste.

So he spent about an hour reading on the third floor, experiencing the reading environment and experience that the future students of Mist City Arts and Science University would enjoy.

He found it quite good. The library's lighting was well-balanced, not too bright, and not too shadowy. It was evident that the design of the natural light was spot on.

As more and more people entered the Bookship Library, it gradually became crowded.

Since today was the opening day, many people who came in were in the mood for a 'tour', so the library was a little noisier than usual, which was understandable as there weren't many people who chose to read at this time.

When Director Xiao was reading on the third floor, it was because Ding and Director Xiao were the first to enter the Bookship Library. By the time they reached the third floor, there were still only a few people.

Most people were still on the first or second floor, or in the outdoor reading area.

As a trending university library, many people were taking photos for check-in, and they were also impressed by the grandeur and majesty of the interior of the library.

"If I had such a great library when I was in university, I would have probably gotten into graduate school," commented a visitor.

"Hahaha, stop dreaming. You didn't get into graduate school because your grades were poor, not because the library wasn't good enough," another visitor countered.

"You're too realistic!"

"Honestly, this Bookship Library is the most majestic and stunning library I've ever seen. The design is superb, even better than many provincial libraries I've visited," a visitor praised.

"Yeah, I suddenly feel that the library in my previous university was so low," another visitor agreed.

Everyone who visited the Bookship Library praised its grandeur.

Obviously, the Bookship Library was indeed more impressive than many other university libraries.

On the opening day of Mist City Arts and Science University, the footfall reached its peak. Due to the crowd, the university had to allocate entry time slots to control the flow.

After all, if there were too many people in the library, it would not be a good thing. It could even cause a crowded situation leading to damaging books or bookshelves. Moreover, in case of a severe stampede, it would be terrible.

Therefore, it was necessary to implement timed entry to control the flow in the Bookship Library.

Fortunately, it was just for one day.

Things should be better starting tomorrow when the library was open only to students of Mist City Arts and Science University.

"I hear that your Mist City Arts and Science University will start officially registering new students tomorrow. How's the enrolment situation this year?"

On his way to the university gate after the visit, Director Xiao asked Ding about the enrolment issues.

If Mist City Arts and Science University wanted to keep improving, student recruitment would certainly be paramount. With fresh enrollment, there would be fresh blood to promote development.

All fields need fresh blood, and the education industry is no exception.

Director Xiao cared about Mist City Arts and Science University and so asked about the enrollment situation.

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Clearly, Ding Yue understands that Director Xiao Wenxing is not asking about the enrollment of students through the unified admissions system. Because in this Parallel World, the source of students enrolled through this system in private universities is typically dismal.

So, for private universities to continue, its autonomous enrollment plan is a critical part.

"Director Xiao, this year, we are still adopting a large-scale autonomous enrollment method. The number of prospective students who registered in our school this year has seen a great increase compared to the last year."

Ding Yue gave a brief introduction to Director Xiao: "About twenty to thirty thousand people registered. After we finish our own enrolment process, we will report the relevant data to the Education Bureau."

"Hmm, it seems like you've got a decent number of students. If the school does well, the source of students will be endless. You all have to work hard and keep it up!"

Director Xiao Wenxing gave some encouraging words to Ding Yue.

After all, among the private universities in Mist City, probably only Mist City Arts and Science University can boast such good enrollment numbers.

If it were the public universities, there would be more, such as Mist City University, Mist City Medical University, Mist City University of Technology, Mist City Business University, and Southwest University etc. Their annual enrollments are heading towards tens of thousands, and the number of students on campus can also reach several tens of thousands.

But those are public universities, and are also quite well-known ones. At present, Mist City Arts and Science University certainly can't compare with them.

"Running the school seriously is a must."

Ding Yue nodded and responded to Director Xiao Wenxing's urge and encouragement.

Soon, Director Xiao Wenxing arrived at the entrance of Mist City Arts and Science University. The car from the Education Bureau was already waiting there.

"Very well, Principal Ding, the new academic year is about to start, and I'm looking forward to seeing new achievements from Mist City Arts and Science University."

After saying that, Director Xiao Wenxing got into the car and left.

From the fact that Director Xiao pays so much attention to Mist City Arts and Science University, Ding Yue guessed that Director Xiao must have high hopes for his private university.

Ding Yue estimated.

Because the private education system hadn't been doing well, after all, the predecessor of Mist City Arts and Science University, Mist City Siyuan University, went bankrupt.

Therefore, once a university has the chance to rise, the Education Bureau of Mist City will surely value it.

Ding Yue pondered, Director Xiao, rest assured, Mist City Arts and Science University, will only get better every year!

The past year was just a start, in the next few to tens of years, Mist City Arts and Science University will surely advance towards being a world-class elite institution under Ding Yue's leadership!

Ding Yue looked at his Mist City Arts and Science University system panel.

The current level is [Minor Achievements]. At this level, it is obviously unrealistic to want Mist City College of Arts and Science to come up with something groundbreaking.

You still have to strive hard to upgrade to the [Well-known] level. After reaching this level, Ding Yue can exchange a lot more things in the system mall, including some advanced core technology.

If you upgrade further, then at that time, Mist City Arts and Science University should have enough strength to have a seat among the key universities in Xia Country.

But it seems very far away at the moment.

After all, Ding Yue has just decided on a few departments and majors that Mist City Arts and Science University wants to focus on developing. If they want to become national key-level departments and majors, who knows how long and arduous the road ahead will be.

But, Ding Yue is not in a rush.

After all, Mist City Arts and Science University is still very young, it's only one year old. The thorny path that needs to be crossed every year in the future will certainly be more than it is now.

After sending off Director Xiao Wenxing, Ding Yue returned to the Book Ship Library to check the situation. The order onsite was very systematic. The matters for today's library inauguration can be left to the onsite staff.

The head of the logistics department, Huang, the dean of the Academic Affairs Office, Qi Chunsheng, and the Student Union President, Lin Zhirou, were all busy preparing for the registration of the new students of 2021.

The finance office was also specially instructed by Ding Yue.

That is, if they encounter students who may not afford the tuition fees, they shouldn't rush to reject their registration.

Because Mist City Arts and Science University treats each student equally.

Therefore, Mist City Arts and Science University has specially applied for student loans for poor students from the Education Bureau. The funds will be provided by Mist City Arts and Science University in cooperation with the bank to provide financial loan assistance for students in need.

Now.

All over the country, high school graduates who have taken the college entrance examination have bought airplane or high-speed rail tickets or train tickets, packed their suitcases, and are about to head to Mist City and register at Mist City Arts and Science University.

Because they all signed up for the autonomous enrollment plan of Mist City Arts and Science University on the official website.

In a green-skinned train bound for Mist City, Liu Ping, wearing an old T-shirt, had just made a bowl of instant noodles.

He brought along his stainless steel lunchbox that he used while working on the construction site, and bought a bag of instant noodles. When he got on the train, he could make the noodles.

A bucket of instant noodles is quite expensive for Liu Ping, let alone the set meal on the train, which is even more expensive, Liu Ping couldn't bear to spend that much money to eat.

While eating the spicy instant noodles, Liu Ping watched the fast-moving train, getting closer to Mist City, Liu Ping was very excited.

Liu Ping registered for the Law School of Mist City Arts and Science University, wanting to study law and use legal means to redress for his father.

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Due to certain events, Ding Yue's father received a lengthy sentence which still had him locked up. However, Ding Yue firmly believed that his father had been wronged.

Hence, Ding Yue desired to study law when he entered college.

But the cut-off grades required by law schools were too high, and being from a rural background, Ding Yue could hardly achieve such scores.

With no other options, the impoverished rural area's educational resources and level were too low. Despite Ding Yue's diligent studies and sitting for the College Entrance Examination, he could only score five hundred points, still falling short from the cut-off grades for a degree in law and politics.

Eventually, Ding Yue learned about Professor Luo Xiang becoming an honorary professor at Mist City Arts and Science University and that even Shuisi County dared to bring a lawsuit against the university. Therefore, he decided to attend law school at Mist City Arts and Science University.

He strived to study hard, aspiring to become a grand lawyer after graduation to seek justice for his father!

However.

Ding Yue had no money. Mist City Arts and Science University was a privately-run university with expensive tuition fees; the tuition itself was 25,000 yuan alone on top of accommodation and living expenses.

So, Ding Yue spent the whole summer vacation working laboriously at a construction site, but within only two months, he undoubtedly couldn't earn that much money.

Out of desperation.

Ding Yue had no choice but to mortgage the old house at home to a relative in exchange for 20,000 yuan.

Ding Yue's mother passed away after giving birth to him, and his father was locked up a year later. He was raised by his grandparents from a young age and they too passed away a few years ago. Now, Ding Yue was alone.

Selling the old house at home to a relative in exchange for tuition money wasn't much of a concern.

After finishing his instant noodles, he carefully took out his phone again and watched the enrollment propaganda film for Mist City Arts and Science University.

According to Ding Yue, Mist City Arts and Science University looked truly impressive, especially the accommodation environment; the six-person room looked great.

In reality, Ding Yue wasn't bothered by the idea of sharing a six-person room. After all, he wasn't spoiled or pampered, so choosing a six-person room was the best option for him.

Because a six-person room was cheap, costing only 1,000 yuan.

"Young man, isn't this the enrollment propaganda of the private university that was on the news not long ago? What was it? Arts and Science University?"

Just as Ding Yue was watching the enrollment propaganda of Mist City Arts and Science University, a voice suddenly came in from behind.

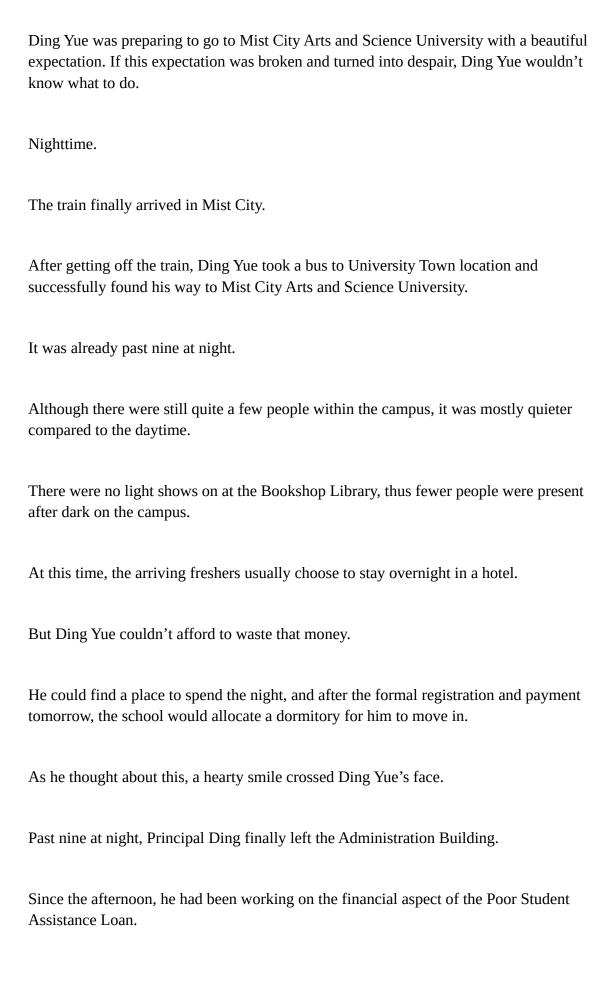
Ding Yue looked up at the young man and nodded hurriedly: "Mm-hmm, Mist City Arts and Science University."

"Ha, it's just a lousy privately run university, only trying to con your money," the young man sneered.

Ding Yue was silent after hearing those words.

Everyone has their own opinions.

To this young man, Mist City Arts and Science University, like other private universities, was just a money trap. But for Ding Yue, Mist City Arts and Science University was surely different from other private universities.



After all, it was crucial for Principal Ding to calculate clearly how much money he was going to contribute.

It wasn't possible to prepare a student loan based on the number of students enrolled, was it? This was unrealistic. The student loan should finally be used for those students who genuinely need it.

"Director Qi, when it comes to the matter of student loans, the specific situation of the student's family must be implemented, right? Those poor students who have applied for a student loan, will all be receiving scholarships afterwards."

After leaving the Administration Building, Principal Ding didn't forget to repeatedly remind Director Qi Chunsheng.

"Mm, Principal Ding, you rest assured."

Qi Chunsheng said he would do a good job in this aspect.

During the last academic year, the scholarship work was done very well and received Principal Ding's praise.

After all, the money from the poor student scholarship should be used where it is needed; it should be allowed to those students who should get it, rather than being extravagantly spent by those families who are not impoverished.

"Alright, go back and rest early, you have to get up early tomorrow to officially welcome the new students."

Principal Ding caring said to Director Qi Chunsheng.

"Okay, then see you Principal Ding."

"Goodbye."

After Director Qi Chunsheng left, Principal Ding turned around and while patting his stomach, he looked at Secretary Ruohan and asked: "So, Secretary Xiao Wen, shall we have some midnight snacks?"

"Sure!"

Ruohan completely forgot about maintaining her weight and not being gluttonous, and was lured directly into the pit by Principal Ding's words about midnight snacks.

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Hence, the two went to the second dining hall for a rich late-night snack to satiate their hunger, then took a post-meal stroll around the campus before heading back to rest.

While Ding Yue and his secretary Wen Ruohan were discussing the upcoming freshmen registration as they passed by an old library, Wen Ruohan was startled with a sudden "Ah!"

"Ah! Principal Ding, look over there."

Wen Ruohan pointed to an object lying on a bench located not far in front of the library. Due to poor lighting, they were uncertain of what it was.

"Hmm?"

Ding Yue pondered, squinting towards where Wen Ruohan was indicating. Because it was too dark, he couldn't quite make out what it was on that long bench either.

However, he could make out a few bags placed beside the bench.

"Could it be a person?"

Murmuring to himself, Ding Yue fearlessly headed towards the bench.

After all, there were thousands of people on campus and it wasn't the dead of night, so there was no need to be scared.

Besides, this was Ding Yue's turf!

After Ding Yue moved forward, Wen Ruohan had no choice but to muster her courage and follow him.

At this point, Ding Yue turned on his phone's flashlight and shone it forward, revealing a figure on the bench which even shifted a little.

"Excuse me, student?"

Ding Yue took a step closer, then called out curiously.

The person on the bench, upon hearing Ding Yue, sat up, looking somewhat anxious and uneasy.

Only after getting closer did Ding Yue manage to see it was a young guy, who looked a little ragged.

He was wearing rather aged attire that seemed like it was from a decade ago. Beside the bench, there were several old, large canvas bags, one of which was stuffed full, revealing a bit of white – it looked like a pretty new quilt.

"I... I'm just resting here for a while." Upon seeing two people appear before him, Liu Ping hurriedly explained.

He chose this more secluded bench just to be inconspicuous and avoid trouble.

"Are you a new student here to register at Mist City Arts and Science University?" Ding Yue conjectured.

Based on his novice facial expressions and stuff crammed beside the bench. Ding Yue deduced his approximate situation.

Moreover, it seems like his family is financially underprivileged.

Most students who come to Mist City Arts and Science University are from well-to-do families who can easily afford the tuition fees averaging tens of thousands for private universities.

Yet, there are some from impoverished families, for whom Mist City Arts and Science University could be their best choice. They probably summon up all their resources to afford a year of tuition fees and depend on the students' part-time work to cover the remaining expenses.

Among last year's freshmen, there were students that fell into this category, one of them being Yang Chen.

Through his drive and hard work, Yang Chen has chosen a solid path for himself.

Ding Yue pondered that the student before him was likely one of the latter cases.

"Mhm, Mhm."

Liu Ping nodded in response.

Having seen this, Ding Yue could guess the student's situation. He likely took the train to arrive at Mist City today and had finally arrived at his dream university, yet couldn't bear to spend money on a hotel to stay, choosing instead to spend the night at a random place in the school.

This frugality, coupled with the determination apparent in his eyes, made Ding Yue think that with proper guidance this student could potentially excel in the future.

Ding Yue avoided probing the student further, as he didn't want to harm a poor student's sense of self-esteem.

So, he introduced himself with a smile, "I'm delighted that you've chosen our Mist City Arts and Science University. I am the President of Mist City Arts and Science University, Ding Yue."

"You... you're Principal Ding?" Liu Ping's eyes widened. Due to the dim night, he clearly couldn't recognize him at first. But now, upon closer inspection, and comparing with the images of Principal Ding of Mist City Arts and Science University seen in the previous videos, it seemed to be him. "Hello, Principal Ding!" Liu Ping quickly stood up, but an object somehow tumbled from him and scattered on the ground. Seeing this, Liu Ping immediately squatted down to pick up the items. "What is this?" Ding Yue helped pick them up and realized they were small wooden blocks of various shapes. Chapter 338: Traditional Crafts, Tenon-Mortise Luban Lock Ding Yue looked curiously at the scattered small pieces of wood on the ground. What were they? Wen Ruohan was also filled with curiosity about these things. "What are these pieces of wood?" Seeing both Principal Ding and this beautiful senior asking about the wood, Liu Ping nervously replied, "These... these are the wooden blocks used to form the Luban lock. They fell apart because they were not yet finished." Luban lock?

Tenon-Mortise?

Upon hearing these terms, Ding Yue's mind was immediately filled with the content of traditional craftsmanship.

Indeed, the Luban lock made using tenon-Mortise craftsmanship had some fame.

No, that's not quite right.

More accurately, it was famous on Earth in his past life. He didn't know whether tenonmortise craftsmanship held the same prominence in Xia Country of this parallel world.

Tenon-mortise craftsmanship was a technique where nails or glue weren't used; only wood was employed to connect and create furniture, toys, and even buildings.

It was definitely part of the traditional craftsmanship of Xia Country.

If Ding Yue hadn't remembered wrongly, there was a man named Mr. Amu on Earth in his past life who was quite popular online due to his expertise in tenon-mortise craftsmanship.

His exquisite skills with tenon-mortise craftsmanship had won the admiration and respect of countless foreigners.

"You know how to use tenon-mortise craftsmanship?"

Ding Yue gave the picked-up wooden blocks back to Liu Ping and asked with a smile.

"Yes, my grandfather taught me." Liu Ping nodded, looking quite honest and sincere.

Liu Ping's character reminded Ding Yue of Yang Chen. Both of them had a simple, honest look in their eyes, filled with firmness and a certain rustic quality.

"Your grandfather must have been a Tenon-Mortise Master, right?" Ding Yue curiously asked.

Liu Ping quickly assembled the scattered wooden pieces in his hands into the general shape of a Luban lock. However, because the parts were incomplete, he couldn't form a complete Luban lock.

"My grandfather's tenon-mortise craftsmanship was indeed passed down and is quite exquisite. But I wouldn't say he's a master," Liu Ping shook his head and replied.

"To possess such exceptional tenon-mortise craftsmanship already makes you quite incredible. Have you thought about bringing your grandfather to our school when you have time?" Ding Yue suddenly had an idea.

This idea would benefit both Mist City Arts and Science University and Liu Ping and his grandfather.

After all, Mist City Arts and Science University had established an Institute of Traditional Chinese Studies.

The institute not only had National Arts as a major but also other traditional craftsmanship majors. However, it seemed like they did not offer tenon-mortise craftsmanship.

So, Ding Yue planned to set up a major for tenon-mortise craftsmanship in the traditional arts department of the Institute.

Then he could invite Liu Ping's grandfather to serve as a teacher of traditional arts. This would not only alleviate Liu Ping and his family's poor financial situation but also promote and pass on the traditional technique of tenon-mortise craftsmanship in Xia Country.

"My...my grandfather has passed away." Liu Ping suddenly lowered his head, replying in a small voice.

"Ah, I'm sorry to hear that. By the way, what's your name?" Ding Yue realized that he had already talked quite a bit with this boy but still didn't know his name.

"My name is Liu Ping." Liu Ping raised his head and replied very seriously.

After all, the man standing before him was the principal of Mist City Arts and Science University.

"Liu Ping, I'm quite interested in your Luban lock using tenon-mortise craftsmanship. Why don't you come with me and teach me about it?"

Ding Yue invited Liu Ping to his dwelling, wanting to learn about the Luban lock using tenon-mortise craftsmanship.

In fact, wanting to learn about the Luban lock using tenon-mortise craftsmanship was only part of the reason.

Another reason was that Ding Yue noticed Liu Ping was likely planning to spend the night on a school bench before registering for classes the next day.

Since he had run into this boy, who seemed to be quite decent, Ding Yue naturally couldn't let him sleep on a school bench.

Although the school had many vacant dormitory rooms, it wasn't appropriate to arrange for him because he hadn't registered yet. Moreover, it was already late, and it was too late to ask the logistics staff to arrange a room for Liu Ping. The logistics personnel would have to wake up early the next day to manage the enrolment logistics.

Therefore.

Inviting Liu Ping to stay at his place for the night was undoubtedly the best choice.

However, Ding Yue couldn't say it directly because children from poor backgrounds often had very strong self-esteem. So, Ding Yue said that he wanted to learn about Liu Ping's Luban lock using tenon-mortise craftsmanship.

"This..."

Liu Ping wasn't sure how to respond to Principal Ding.

Actually, spending one night here would be enough for him.

"Let's go. Teach me how to make a tenon-mortise Luban lock when we get back." Ding Yue invited him again with a smile on his face.

Seeing this, Wen Ruohan, the secretary standing on the side, already understood Principal Ding's intentions and couldn't help admiring Principal Ding's emotional intelligence.

No wonder he was the principal.

Therefore, Wen Ruohan cooperated excellently with Principal Ding, instantaneously transforming from a cute and pretty girl into a "girl," and instantly picked up one of Liu Ping's packages.

Fortunately, the clever Wen Ruohan picked up the canvas bag containing the quilt, which wasn't too heavy. Otherwise, if she had picked up an incredibly heavy bag, wouldn't it be awkward?

"Let's go."

Wen Ruohan picked up Liu Ping's package and said,

Seeing this, Liu Ping had no choice but to nod. He then picked up three packages with one hand while stashing the Tenon-Mortise Luban Lock into his bag with the other. He then picked up the other two packages, making it look effortless, almost as if he was not under any pressure.

Wen Ruohan was utterly amazed.

It made her feel like a weak woman indeed.

Ding Yue brought Liu Ping to his Peach Garden Apartment. It was a spacious three-bedroom and two-living room unit, quite comfortable for a single person to live in.

With two bedrooms and a study, the spare bedroom was perfect for Liu Ping to spend the night.

Upon entering the apartment, Liu Ping was stunned by the sight.

The room like he'd never seen before. It was vast, beautifully decorated, but... there seemed to be a bit of a mess on the sofa. Liu Ping spotted a sock there.

"Huff, huff."

Wen Ruohan huffed, before setting Liu Ping's quilt package down.

Ding Yue chuckled towards Wen Ruohan, "I did tell you that I'd carry it. You didn't listen."

On his way back, Ding Yue offered multiple times to carry the bag if Wen Ruohan found it heavy.

Although Ding Yue assumed he wasn't as strong as Liu Ping, he was confident about carrying a quilt bag.

However, student Wen Ruohan insisted on being headstrong. Now, panting harder than ever, anyone would think Ding Yue had done something to her.

"Stay here tonight, and let me know about the Tenon-Mortise Craftsmanship. Our Mist City Arts and Science University has an Institute of Traditional Chinese Studies. I think the Tenon-Mortise Craftsmanship is a traditional art of our Xia Country. If many people are interested, we can perhaps introduce a major focusing on Tenon-Mortise Craftsmanship. You can then deeply study this major and become a traditional craftsman."

Ding Yue explained to Liu Ping why he brought him here.

He was interested in understanding the Tenon-Mortise Craftsmanship.

"Grandpa said that fewer and fewer people know the Tenon-Mortise Craftsmanship. Good things should be inherited and promoted," said Liu Ping seriously.

"Since that's the case, tell me about the Tenon-Mortise Craftsmanship, come on." Ding Yue took Liu Ping to the living room couch.

"Principal Ding, I'm heading back first, see you tomorrow, bye." Wen Ruohan waved goodbye to Principal Ding and Liu Ping at the door, then left, even closing the door on her way out obediently.

"Can I see your Luban Lock?" Ding Yue was curious to see how magical the Tenon-Mortise Luban lock was.

"Uh-huh."

After Liu Ping nodded, he turned to his bag, taking out an unfinished Luban Lock. He also took out a few pieces of wood as well as a set of tools used to make Tenon-Mortise.

Surprisingly, Liu Ping's bag seemed small but had everything he needed.

"Principal Ding, this is the most exquisite Luban Lock my Grandpa was going to make before he passed away. But... he left before it was completed," Liu Ping said, moving forward with the half-made Luban Lock for Principal Ding.

"Your grandpa must have been very skilled."

Ding Yue could not help but exclaim while glancing at the finely made Luban Lock created by Tenon-Mortise Craftsmanship.

It was a heartfelt exclamation.

That's because Ding Yue found every wooden component of the Lock to be impeccably meticulous.

Liu Ping looked at his wood modules and tools, a look of hope in his eyes and said, "I want to finish the Luban lock my grandpa started."

"Oh yes, Liu Ping, what major are you planning to study at Mist City Arts and Science University?"

Only then did Ding Yue remember to ask which major Liu Ping wanted to study.

If Tenon-Mortise Craftsmanship becomes a new traditional craftsmanship major at the Institute of Traditional Chinese Studies of Mist City Arts and Science University, it could only be his secondary major.

Choosing to come to Mist City Arts and Science University, he must have a target major in mind.

"I want to study law. Principal Ding, the robot in the law school is amazing. Moreover, Professor Luo Xiang is also an honorary professor of the university. I want to study law!"

Liu Ping stopped working, a fiery determination seemed to shine in his eyes.

At Liu Ping's words, Ding Yue couldn't help but frown. The boy seemed to be very passionate about studying law.

Who wishes to study law so earnestly?

It was quite rare.

In the previous session, Mist City Arts and Science University didn't have many law or medical students. Only the brave ones would willingly opt to study law or medicine.

"Studying law is a good choice. Our Mist City Arts and Science University law school will definitely have a bright future."

Ding Yue stated affirmatively.

After all, even Professor Luo Xiang from Xia Country Political and Law University joined Mist City Arts and Science University Law School as an honorary professor.

"Uh-huh," Liu Ping agreed wholeheartedly with Principal Ding.

"Tell me what we should pay attention to while making these structures using the Tenon-Mortise Craftsmanship?"

Ding Yue once again redirected the conversation back to the Tenon-Mortise Craftsmanship.

As he got to know about the craft, he felt quite enlightened. The most important fact was that it was already late at night before he even realized.

Chapter 339: You Can Rely on Diligence and Economy to Go to College At daybreak on August 23rd,

After Ding Yue woke up, he specifically went to Liu Ping's bedroom to wake him up.

The two of them had been discussing the Tenon-Mortise Craftsmanship late into the night.

However,

When Ding Yue moved from the bedroom to the living room, he discovered that the sofa, which had been made a mess by working on the Luban Lock last night, was now very tidy.

The floor, which was originally covered in wood shavings, was now also very clean. Obviously, someone had cleaned up the mess.

Without needing to ask, Ding Yue could tell that it was Liu Ping.

No one else would show up this early in his room, apart from his sister Ding Xiaoyou, right? That's obviously not likely as she might still be sleeping. As the top student at Mist City Arts and Science University, Ding Yue had already registered her at the university, meaning she did not have to sign up, register, or even pay fees, unlike the other students. "Liu Ping." Ding Yue arrived at the bedroom door and called, but there was no response. "Still asleep?" Ding Yue quietly mumbled, thinking that maybe because Liu Ping had been up late cleaning the living room, he hadn't been able to wake up yet. But after checking the time, Ding Yue decided to wake Liu Ping and bring him to register his name for the day. So Ding Yue knocked on the bedroom door. Once he received no response, he finally opened the door only to find the bedroom empty. The bed was perfectly made and Liu Ping's luggage was still in the room. "Huh? Where is he?" Ding Yue looked puzzled, where on earth could he be? Could be be in the bathroom?

Ding Yue looked toward the bathroom, but saw no one.

Just then he noticed the door of the apartment had been left ajar. On entering to take a closer look, Liu Ping appeared from outside.

"Principal Ding, I went to the cafeteria to buy breakfast. I specifically asked the auntie at the cafeteria to list your favorite dishes and bought them."

Liu Ping came in carrying a big bag of breakfast, filled with Ding Yue's favorite meat buns and the like.

"Good going."

With a smile, Ding Yue gave a nod, suddenly realizing Liu Ping seemed a lot like his own secretary?

Wouldn't these chores usually be done by his secretary, Wen Ruohan, on a regular day?

"I wondered where you'd disappeared to." As he sat at the dining table, Ding Yue said while eating his breakfast.

"Principal Ding, the dumplings at the school cafeteria are so good and even relatively cheap," Liu Ping exclaimed enthusiastically.

"Lunch and dinner here are also pretty good and cheap," Ding Yue shrugged and said with a smile, "After breakfast, I'll take you to register your name, then we can deal with your lodgings. I take it you brought your own bed linens and stuff?"

"Mm-hmm."

Liu Ping gave a nod in affirmation.

"In that case, you can save on the cost of bedclothes for your dormitory. Also, are you planning to work part-time while studying? Our school offers a lot of part-time jobs, and the wages aren't bad either."

Ding Yue brought up the topic of student jobs with Liu Ping.

Liu Ping was very enthusiastic about working part-time, and nodded eagerly, "Yes, Principal Ding. What could I do?"

"The cafeteria, the supermarket, a hotpot restaurant, the library. All these places are potentially available but the income there is relatively low."

While saying this, an idea began to form in Ding Yue's mind.

Liu Ping, who has some experience in Tenon-Mortise Craftsmanship, might be able to start a live stream session?

The money he could earn from that should be more than what he'd potentially earn from working part time at the cafeteria, library, supermarket or any other places, which would allow him to complete his studies without major financial issues. Most importantly, he'd also be able to promote the traditional craftsmanship of Xia Country's Tenon-Mortise!

However, this would require some planning, and Ding Yue wouldn't want him to rush into it blindly. He'd need to familiarize himself with it and prepare.

Therefore, if Liu Ping wants to work part-time, Ding Yue thinks he'd better start searching for a part-time job on campus first.

"That's fine, besides classes and woodworking, I should have plenty of time left. I can do anything."

Liu Ping seemed pretty organized, not wanting to waste a single second of his time in college.

"Okay, then you start looking for a suitable part-time job for students. The school will arrange something later on."

What Ding Yue meant was to let Liu Ping take a shot at a live stream showcasing his Tenon-Mortise Craftsmanship later on.

"Uh huh."

Liu Ping responded earnestly.

"By the way, do you have any difficulty with tuition fees?" Ding Yue recalled the matter of tuition fees, and asked out of curiosity.

It's not that failing to pay tuition will prevent you from studying. Every university has supportive policies in place for impoverished students.

The most well-known is the student loan policy.

Student loans practically have no interest fees, and they were made to ensure that underprivileged students can successfully complete their studies.

Mist City Arts and Science University, although a private institution, also grants student loans. Ding Yue had made a point of mentioning this to Qi Chunsheng, the head of the Finance and Academic Affairs office, yesterday.

"I have sold my family's house and the 20,000 yuan will be used to pay the 25,000 yuan tuition. I worked on a construction site during the summer break to make up the rest."

Liu Ping answered.

"And what about next year or the coming years? If you only rely on your part-time work, you should barely be able to cover the cost of living. But don't worry, the school does provide student loans, which are interest-free. After you start earning money, you can repay the student loan. There are good policies for that from both the state and the school."

Ding Yue mentioned the idea of a student loan to Liu Ping.

"Thank you, Principal Ding. Can I apply for a student loan?" Liu Ping asked cautiously.

"Of course you can, as long as you successfully complete your studies at Mist City Arts and Science University." Ding Yue said with a smile, "You can finish college just by working part-time and getting a student loan. But remember, you need to work hard in college."

"You can rest assured, Principal Ding. I will definitely study law diligently!" Liu Ping said with a determined expression.

"Liu Ping, how did you come to choose law? Do you really like law?" Ding Yue was particularly curious.

He wanted to ask this question last night, but they were busy talking about tenonmortise craftsmanship that he forgot.

But now Ding Yue couldn't hold back anymore, because Liu Ping looked particularly passionate about studying law.

Has he dreamt of becoming lawyer or judge since he was a child?

"Yue."

All of a sudden, Huang Youjie's voice came from the entrance of the apartment.

"Come in, come in. It's great you're here. I'd like to introduce you to this student. He'll be your junior in the Law Department."

Ding Yue called Huang over, pointed to Liu Ping with a smile, and introduced him.

Chapter 340: Sister, do you think I can do it?

"Who's this?"

After walking into the room, Huang Youjie saw the young man having breakfast with Ding Yue at the dining table and couldn't help but ask curiously.

"He's our new freshman student, Liu Ping, who has chosen to major in law studies."

Ding Yue briefly introduced Liu Ping to Huang and then introduced Huang to Liu Ping: "This here is Director Huang, head of logistics at Mist City Arts and Science University."

Upon hearing Principal Ding's introduction, Liu Ping quickly stood up and greeted Huang Youjie, "Good morning, Director Huang."

"Hello, hello, welcome to our Mist City Arts and Science University. You've got quite the eye, choosing to study the Law--impressive," said Huang Youjie, extending his hand to lightly pat Liu Ping's shoulder.

In terms of university specializations, Huang Youjie could be considered a senior to Liu Ping.

Liu Ping carefully sat back down and continued eating his breakfast.

Liu Ping knew about Director Huang from his previous research on the university. Besides being the director of logistics, he was also a law student at Mist City Arts and Science University. It's said that the law chip for the robot, Big White, was developed from the 'Comprehensive Legal Solutions' that he and other faculty and students of the law school wrote.

"Huang, what brings you here this early in the morning?" Ding Yue asked Huang Youjie curiously.

Usually, he'd not come this early. He must have some business today, right?

"Isn't today the freshmen registration day? I came here to bring Principal Ding to check on our logistics arrangements."

Huang Youjie shrugged and responded.

Indeed, he came to ask Ding Yue to check on the registration scene.

Last year, he, Ding Yue, and Xu Bin, were kept extremely busy during the admissions process.

However, this year was different. Mist City Arts and Science University now had more than a thousand staff members, making the complex task of admission no longer needed to be done by Ding Yue and other school leaders personally.

"Alright, let me finish my breakfast first. I'll take Liu Ping to register later, and then check out the registration scene," said Ding Yue after nodding affirmatively.

This year, the admission site was set up differently from last year. Last year it was arranged at the cafeteria square, but this year it directly was arranged at the plaza in front of the Book Ship Library.

It was still early in the morning, but there were already many student council members and staff in charge of admissions present at the Book Ship Library square.

Gradually, students started arriving at Mist City Arts and Science University.

More than ten dormitory buildings of Mist City Arts and Science University were ready. In fact, before the admission began, dorm buildings in all departments and schools were arranged according to the estimated number of students.

After registration, students could move into the dormitories. Once the registration is over, they could rearrange the dormitory according to their choices.

This is a unique characteristic of Mist City Arts and Science University; you can choose your own roommates.

If you find it difficult to make a choice, you could follow the school's arrangement for the dormitory. If you still feel out of place in the dormitory, you could also apply to switch to a different dorm.

All these arrangements are meant to give the new students more flexibility in finding suitable roommates, thereby fundamentally reducing potential conflicts in the dormitory.

After all, when a university grows larger in size, dormitory conflicts are unavoidable.

In the past, many colleges and universities have faced serious incidents due to conflicts within the dormitories. The flexible roommate arrangement of the Mist City Arts and Science University not only increases the workload for the dormitory management department but also significantly reduces potential conflicts in the dormitory.

"Disciples, did you come to report to our Mist City Arts and Science University?"

As soon as new students walked into the Mist City Arts and Science University's school gate, sweet high-school girls dressed in JK uniforms asked if they were there to report to Mist City Arts and Science University.

This made the hearts of the reporting boys pound crazily.

The six sweet JK uniformed shishiz at the school gate were part of the second-year students of the Mist City Arts and Science University, arranged by the student council.

Their objective was to welcome the new students in a novel way.

Puff!

Once the JK uniformed girls asked if you were here to report, the fountain in front of the school entrance spurted out and rose high into the sky.

The new students who had just walked into the Mist City Arts and Science University campus were stunned.

"WTF, we are being welcomed by such pretty schoolgirls as we arrive?"

"As soon as we new students are here, even the fountains at the school gate start spraying water."

"Wow, those JK uniformed schoolgirls are so pretty."

"I'm moved. Who amongst you will dare to ask for their Whatsapp?"

"I don't dare do it. I'm scared of being wrestled to the ground by the seniors."

The new students_chattered.

"Junior school brothers and sisters, if you are here for registration, please go this way to the plaza in front of the Book Ship Library to register with your department."

The sweet voice along with sweet JK uniformed school girls was like setting off an emotional explosion in the hearts of the new students who just stepped into the university campus.

"Ah~ I've fallen in love with Mist City Arts and Science University!"

"The school sisters of our school are so pretty."

"I found out that there are also many pretty girls from Mist City Fine Arts College."

"You're obviously a LSP as soon as you open your mouth. What a coincidence, me too, hehehe!"