F. University 691

Chapter 691: What a young and handsome principal

She is bubbly by nature and also loves subculture anime. Even though she's already in her twenties, she still considers herself forever eighteen at heart.

"Hold on now, Xiao Lin. You're here to evaluate our Mist City Arts and Science University, to decide whether or not you want to become our head of the Department of Business Administration, not to get all starry-eyed, you hear?"

An Yujia reminded her vivacious but slightly infatuated junior sister.

"Got it."

Chen Yilin nodded, then whispered, "Why hasn't Principal Ding shown up yet?"

"Principal Ding seems quite caught up today. Our Mist City Arts and Science University has been quite busy lately and furthermore, it's almost the end of the term," An Yujia explained. "But he will definitely come."

The moment An Yujia finished speaking, a voice echoed from the entrance of the room. It was Ding Yue, "Isn't this me coming now?"

"Principal Ding." An Yujia greeted Principal Ding as he arrived.

Chen Yilin looked towards the voice. Principal Ding appeared even more handsome and youthful than the photos she had seen online.

"Hello Principal Ding, I'm Chen Yilin, a junior of sister Yujia at the Wharton School of Business!" Chen Yilin extended her hand, enthusiastically offering a handshake to Ding Yue.

Her small smooth white hand, tied up in bunches, dressed in a subculturish outfit, differed from Ding Yue's imagined image of An Yujia's junior sister.

Ding Yue assumed she would be like An Yujia, possessing a certain captivating demeanor, after all, she was a finance student. If not captivating, she should at least be wearing glasses with a quiet or artistic aura, right?

However, she was indeed wearing glasses – round frames. But they did not lend her a quiet, artistic aura; instead, they made Chen Yilin seem even more youthful and sprightly.

"Hello, welcome to Mist City Arts and Science University." Seeing Chen Yilin's enthusiastic handshake, all Ding Yue could do was reluctantly respond.

Wen Ruohan, seeing Principal Ding shaking hands with such a young and beautiful girl, felt an odd sensation in her heart that she couldn't quite describe.

Ding Yue certainly hadn't expected An Yujia's junior sister to be quite so beautiful.

In Ding Yue's eyes, she definitely scores above 90 for her looks.

"Take a seat. The place you've chosen is excellent. This happens to be the best place to have a hotpot in not only our Mist City Arts and Science University, but in the entire Mist City. It would be quite a pity if you came to Mist City and didn't try the hotpot."

Ding Yue sat down next to An Yujia, with Chen Yilin on An Yujia's other side, and Wen Ruohan next to Principal Ding.

Wen Ruohan had initially intended to head back to her dormitory, but was pulled in by Principal Ding to join them for the meal.

"So you just arrived, huh? Did you get to see the apartment we arranged for you?" After Ding Yue sat down, he started making small talk.

"Principal Ding, Xiao Lin arrived this afternoon. I took Xiao Lin around for a bit in the afternoon, and I also took her to see the apartment. We have stored all the luggage and all." An Yujia informed Principal Ding.

It was previously decided that if Principal Ding couldn't make it in time, then An Yujia would replace Ding Yue to welcome Chen Yilin's arrival, and then take her around the campus of Mist City Arts and Science University.

"You arrived this afternoon? I'm sorry I couldn't welcome you. I had an important meeting with Director Xiao from the Ministry of Education this afternoon, so..." Ding Yue said apploperically.

Originally, they planned a grand welcome for An Yujia's junior sister, but unfortunately, they could only hold a welcome dinner now.

"It's understandable, Principal Ding. You're the principal of a university, so it's normal to be busy," Chen Yilin said with a smile. "By the way, Principal Ding, do you want to know my first impression of Mist City Arts and Science University after I arrived today?"

"Oh? What is it?"

Actually, Ding Yue was quite curious.

Chapter 692: The new director full of vitality joins the chat group

"Principal Ding, when I first came to your Mist City Arts and Science University, the first thing I felt was - it's out of the way."

Chen Yilin stated without reservation.

This was indeed Chen Yilin's first impression of Mist City Arts and Science University.

Because Mist City is already quite large, Chen Yilin originally thought that many universities were in the central area of Mist City. Even if they were located in University Town, they should be in a good location.

But unexpectedly, Mist City Arts and Science University is so remote, what surprised Chen Yilin the most was that the new campus of the Mist City Fine Arts College was located opposite Mist City Arts and Science University.

"Hahaha."

Hearing this, Ding Yue couldn't help but laugh and then said, "Indeed, our Mist City Arts and Science University is quite out of the way, but there's nothing we can do about it, given that the University was only established a few years ago."

"It's a young university, very vibrant, I did notice that. This afternoon, Senior Yujia took me for a tour around the school, and I found that the students at Mist City Arts and Science University are very enthusiastic about their studies."

Chen Yilin spoke with some appreciation.

This was her second impression after visiting Mist City Arts and Science University.

Chen Yilin believes this is very important.

After all, whether a university has a future can be seen in the overall learning atmosphere of the university.

If most of the students in a university spend all day playing and dating, and there are very few people in the library, then this university is probably on a downward trend.

In contrast, Mist City Arts and Science University has two on-campus libraries, and according to Senior Yujia, a third library is planned in the campus that is being built.

Chen Yilin was quite puzzled.

A university with only more than 30,000 people, does it need three libraries?

But when Chen Yilin followed An Yujia to the Book Ship Library to have a look, she finally understood how things stood.

Seeing such a large library, Chen Yilin initially thought that an occupancy rate over fifty percent would be quite impressive.

What she didn't expect was that the occupancy rate of the Book Ship Library exceeded ninety percent!

"That's true, although most of the students at our Mist City Arts and Science University aren't very good in the College Entrance Examination, they all love studying the knowledge of their favorite majors after coming to our Mist City Arts and Science University."

Ding Yue said with a proud smile.

At this point, a waiter came over to serve dishes, and steam began to rise from the hot pot in the middle of the table.

"Also, the campus is quite large, but it seems that most of it is still under construction, right?" Chen Yilin asked.

"Yes, it is estimated that most of the construction will be completed by the end of this year." Ding Yue simply explained to Chen Yilin.

Looking at this, it seems that An Yujia's junior, Chen Yilin, showed some satisfaction with her Mist City Arts and Science University.

If so, she might consider accepting the position as the director of the School of Business and Management.

If such a genius from the Wharton School of Business came to lead the School of Business and Management, they should be able to produce major players in the finance industry in the future.

"So Ms. Chen, what do you think overall?" Ding Yue knew that Chen Yilin was actually older than him, and several years at that.

But she looks very young, pure, and active. Nonetheless, Ding Yue still addressed her as Ms. Chen.

"Ms. Chen... it sounds so old." Chen Yilin rolled her eyes, "How about calling me sister?"

"Xiao Lin, that's not quite appropriate. Think about it, if you agree to come to our Mist City Arts and Science University to become the director of the School of Business and Management, then Principal Ding will be your immediate boss."

An Yujia reminded her junior Chen Yilin with a laugh.

"Alright then." Chen Yilin shrugged.

Originally, she wanted to take advantage of this young and handsome principal, but her intention was instantly seen through by Sister Yujia.

"Principal Ding, overall, I think your Mist City Arts and Science University is quite good, and most importantly, it's very young with a great potential for future development. That's what I value the most."

Chen Yilin responded to Ding Yue with a fairly satisfied expression.

"Does that mean you're agreeing to come to our Mist City Arts and Science University?" Hearing this, Ding Yue's face showed a hint of joy.

The School of Business and Management was about to welcome their new department head.

"What about the salary and benefits?" Like a quirky elf, Chen Yilin asked about the salary and benefits without any hesitation.

Ding Yue gave a calm smile. When it comes to salary and benefits, the offer that his Mist City Arts and Science University gives to their employees is absolutely top-notch among private universities in Xia Country.

"The salary and benefits will undoubtedly be generous. If under your leadership, the School of Business and Management can achieve good teaching results and performance, the yearend bonus will also be quite substantial."

As Ding Yue finished speaking.

"Deal!"

Suddenly, Chen Yilin agreed with much enthusiasm.

Even Ding Yue was caught off guard by how readily she agreed. Was she being too straightforward?

Could it be that this afternoon when An Yujia took her for a tour around his Mist City Arts and Science University, she had done some ideological work on her?

But then again.

Ding Yue noticed that even Yujia looked fairly surprised at this moment.

Chapter 693: The new director full of vitality joins the chat group

"Xiao Lin, have you made up your mind?" An Yujia looked at her junior in surprise and asked.

"Yep."

Chen Yilin nodded, "I've long wanted to leave America. How good it is to come back to our country, and there's such a big development space here. Yu Jia, didn't you consider this before too? Or did you take a long time to decide?"

"Not particularly long," An Yujia shook her head and laughed.

An Yujia once chose the Mist City Arts and Science University and Feiyue Group for the potential for broad future development and ample opportunities.

Now looking back, An Yujia realized she made the right decision. Whether it's the Mist City Arts and Science University or Feiyue Group, both are on a fantastic rising trajectory.

Ever since becoming the CEO of Feiyue Group, An Yujia feels the happiest she's ever been, despite the numerous intricate matters she has to deal with. Compared to her time in the large foreign company, this feels completely different.

Especially when she sees Feiyue Group expanding more and more businesses under her leadership, generating more and more revenue, it brings An Yujia immense joy.

"I have to say, both you and your senior have excellent vision," Ding Yue complimented Chen Yilin.

To choose to work at a private university that isn't famous or prestigious at this time indeed requires unique insight.

"Hehe."

Chen Yilin laughed and started eating hot pot without seeing herself as a stranger.

Well.

Technically speaking, she was no longer an outsider. Since Chen Yilin had accepted the position of Director of the Business Management College at Mist City Arts and Science University, she was considered a part of the university now.

"The tripe is exceptionally delicious."

Ding Yue introduced the signature dish of his university's theme hot pot restaurant.

As everyone present is female and no one was drinking, the welcoming dinner for Chen Yilin, therefore, went on without alcohol.

After nearly two hours, when the meal was finished, Ding Yue asked An Yujia to take Chen Yilin back to her apartment for some rest.

He also went to sleep.

The following morning, as soon as Principal Ding Yue started working, he immediately called for Qi Chunsheng, the Director of the Academic Affairs Office.

"Principal Ding, you called for me?" As Qi Chunsheng entered the office, he promptly mentioned, "We've arranged the final exams in the Academic Affairs Office."

"It's not about the end-of-term exams."

Only after hearing Director Qi Chunsheng's words did Ding Yue realize that the term was almost over.

Time indeed flies. The teaching work of one semester was about to finish, and Mist City Arts and Science University had made some minor achievements during this term, which made Ding Yue feel quite accomplished and joyous.

Once this semester was over, Ding Yue could enjoy a pleasant Spring Festival.

By then, he would sit in front of the TV with his family and watch the Spring Festival Gala.

Even though the Spring Festival Gala was not as good as in previous years, one of the university's student Lin Zhirou would be performing, and Ding Yue was sure to watch.

"Eh? Oh, then Principal Ding, what is it about?" Qi Chunsheng looked a little confused before hastily asking again.

"It's like this. The original director of Business Management College, Liu Qianxing, has been removed, and we have recruited a new one. I'll have Secretary Wen send you the information. You guys in the Academic Affairs Office should notify all platforms, like the university's website, WeChat official account, and the classes' group chat in Business Management College. Update the students about their new head teacher in advance."

This was principally what Ding Yue intended to convey.

Chen Yilin needed to handle various onboarding procedures and return to America to settle some matters before officially starting her new position at Mist City Arts and Science University.

This whole process could take a week, even a month or more, and it seemed unlikely that she could officially start working in the Business Management College this term.

If that's the case, then her official debut could be postponed to the start of the next semester.

"Okay, Principal Ding, when does the new head of the Business Management College officially start?" Qi Chunsheng nodded and asked.

"This semester is almost over." Ding Yue paused, "Most likely, it'll be at the beginning of the next semester. But you guys in the Academic Affairs Office can start preparing now."

"Alright, I got it."

Once Qi Chunsheng left, Wen Ruohan immediately delivered Chen Yilin's information to the Academic Affairs Office.

Within half an hour, Mist City Arts and Science University's official website, forum, WeChat official account, and other platforms released an official announcement - [New! Notice about the new appointment of head teacher for the Business Management College!]

After the announcement, the students of Business Management College naturally paid the most attention.

They eagerly anticipated who their new head teacher would be, her abilities, and whether she could elevate the Business Management College to a key faculty in the Mist City Arts and Science University like the Computer Science and Mechanical Engineering departments.

After all, the dismissal of the previous head teacher did damage the Business Management College to some extent.

Chapter 694: The new director full of vitality joins the chat group Inside a male dormitory in the School of Business Administration.

Upon seeing the official university notification, a student from the School of Business Administration promptly informed his roommates.

"So, we finally have a new department head?"

"It's been a while since Director Liu was dismissed, our School of Business Administration has been like a discarded concubine."

"Ah, let's hope the new head is more dynamic. Look at the Agricultural faculty; they're already welcoming springtime."

"What's happened at the Agricultural faculty?"

"You still haven't heard? Their department head managed to acquire a modern Ecological Agriculture Garden from Principal Ding, and they're also getting more funding for teaching."

"Damn, the Agricultural faculty is stepping up its game, while we in the School of Business Administration are still left out in the cold."

As they were chatting casually, one student opened up the notification.

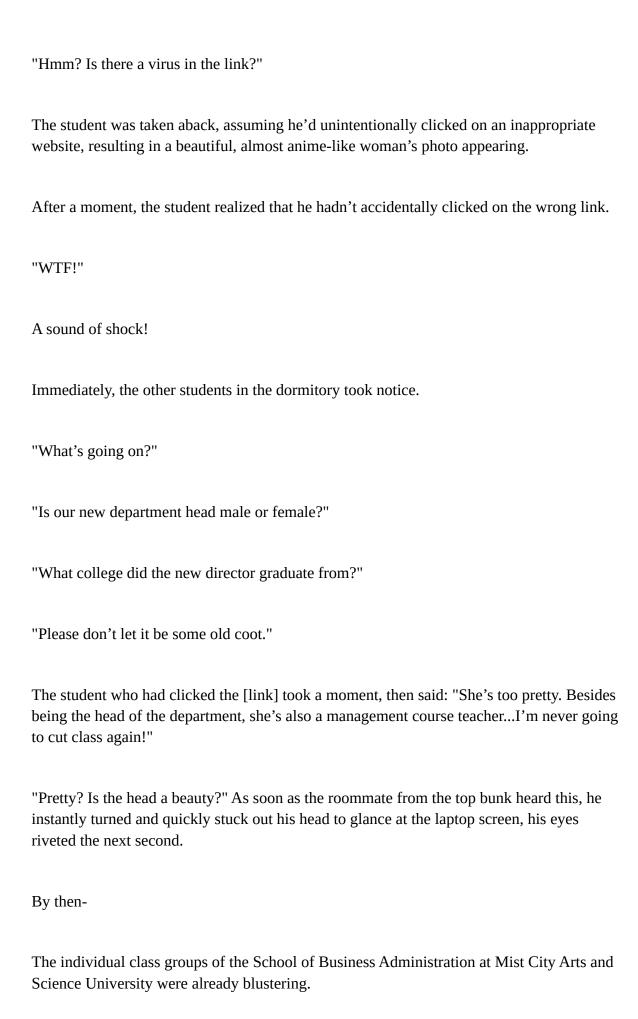
[New! Announcement about the New Director of the School of Business Administration!]

Hello everyone from the School of Business Administration. After extensive deliberations, the university management has decided to appoint Ms. Chen Yilin as the new head of the department. To help you all understand your new head better, click the link [link] to see the basic information about the new head.

After reading the notice, the student clicked on [link] to take a look at his future director.

However, upon opening the link-

A radiant picture of a beautiful woman appeared before his eyes.



Photos of their new director Chen Yilin were being rampant in the group chats, not just in the School of Business Administration group, but also in the group chats of other faculties.

"Bros, check out the new director of the School of Business Administration. I'm so jealous. [photo.jpg]."

"Hahaha, our new director is really beautiful, and she has some kind of anime vibe."

"Is that really their department head?"

"@Zhang Director, dare to tag our Director Zhang, have a look at other people's director."

"Is there still time to transfer to the School of Business Administration now?"

In the biggest student group chat of the School of Business Administration, students were discussing their new head.

"I can't wait to get a glimpse of the new director."

"I'm already dying to attend the management classes."

"Seriously, I've never been so eager to take management classes, I want to study, I want to go to class!!!"

"Are you really keen on attending a management class? I'm too embarrassed to expose you!"

Ding! "Energetic Auntie Linyin" has joined the chat group!

Suddenly, there was a new addition to the group chat...

Chapter 695: Other People's Winter Vacation



Chen Yilin: Um... although it's settled now, the actual start time will be later. Principal Ding said you're having finals soon, so we probably won't meet until next semester.

The students of the Business Management School felt quite disappointed after hearing Director Chen Yilin's words.

Many students had assumed that they would be able to attend Director Chen Yilin's management class tomorrow, but it turned out they would have to wait until next term.

Chen Yilin had engaging conversations with the students in the group chat, covering a wide range of topics, starting from professional knowledge, current events at home and abroad, topics brought up by boys like games, skin care and makeup discussed by girls, as well as various anime-related subjects.

The students of the Business Management School were thrilled as if they had found a treasure. Their new department head was no longer a middle-aged man, nor was she like heads of other departments who were old men in their fifties.

Instead, she was a twenty-something, vivacious, eloquent beauty who liked anime, was proficient in various games, and had a great figure!

Not only did this make the Business Management School students ecstatic, but students from other departments also expressed their envy.

Chen Yilin stayed in Mist City Arts and Science University for two days, mainly to get accustomed to life there. After signing the contract, she left Mist City to return to America.

Chen Yilin needed to deal with some follow-up matters in America and would return as soon as she was done.

An Yujia naturally hoped that her junior, Chen Yilin, would come back soon. If she came back before the Chinese New Year, they could even celebrate the New Year together at Mist City Arts and Science University.

Ding Yue finally felt relieved since An Yujia's junior, Chen Yilin, had officially become the head of the Business Management School of his Mist City Arts and Science University.

Now it all depends on whether the Business Management School can achieve anything impressive under the leadership of Chen Yilin.

After settling this matter, Ding Yue's priority turned to the end of the term and the upcoming holiday.

It was already January. The holiday schedule of Mist City Arts and Science University was set by the Education Department and confirmed by Ding Yue.

Meanwhile, the final exams of each department were systematically carried out under the arrangement of the Education Department.

"Principal Ding, the scheduling for the final exams of each department is almost done. The exams started at the beginning of the month. As for this year's holiday, we, the Education Department, may need to set the date a bit earlier," reported Qi Chunsheng, the Director of the Education Department, in the principal's office.

The busier it was towards the end of the term, the busier Qi Chunsheng became. As the Director of the Education Department, the busiest times for him were the start and end of each term.

"We usually start the holiday at the end of January, right?" Ding Yue checked the holiday dates of last year, and then asked.

"Yes."

"Have the teaching tasks for this year been carried out smoothly?" Ding Yue further inquired.

"Yes, everything has been very smooth."

"That's great. As long as the teaching work goes well and all tasks are completed, we can let the students begin their holiday right after the finals. This way, their winter holiday will be longer," Ding Yue said to Qi Chunsheng with a smile. "Yes. So, Principal Ding, would it be okay if we schedule Mist City Arts and Science University's winter break from January 12th till the start of the new term on March 5th?"

Qi Chunsheng had already come up with several holiday and term-start plans. Since Principal Ding agreed to extend the students' winter break, he chose this one.

The holiday from January 12th till March 5th would last for a total of 51 days!

The usual winter break for universities was around thirty days, or forty days for the longer ones. Having a 51-day break would be fantastic for the students.

The main point was not about the length of the holiday, but it starting earlier.

When it came to January 2022, college students usually wanted the holiday to start already. Unfortunately, most universities started their winter break in late January or even early February.

"Yeah, this schedule seems pretty great." Ding Yue nodded in agreement right after listening to Qi Chunsheng's proposal.

Chapter 696: Others' Winter Vacation

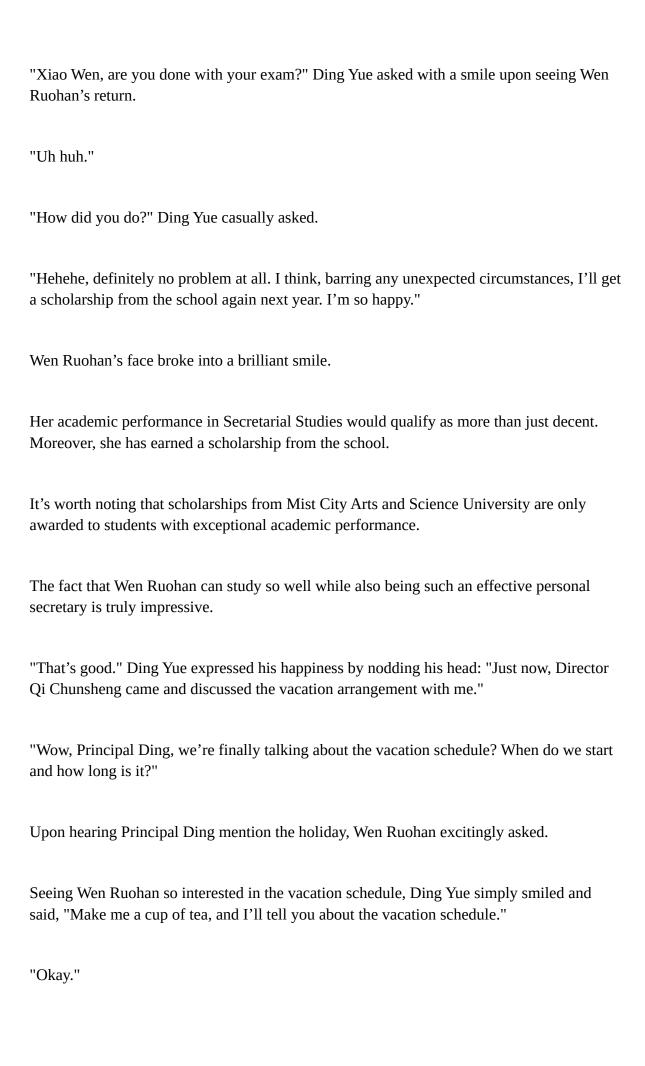
The winter vacation begins early, much to the delight of not only the students but also the teachers and directors from all departments. After all, who wouldn't want to start their holiday earlier?

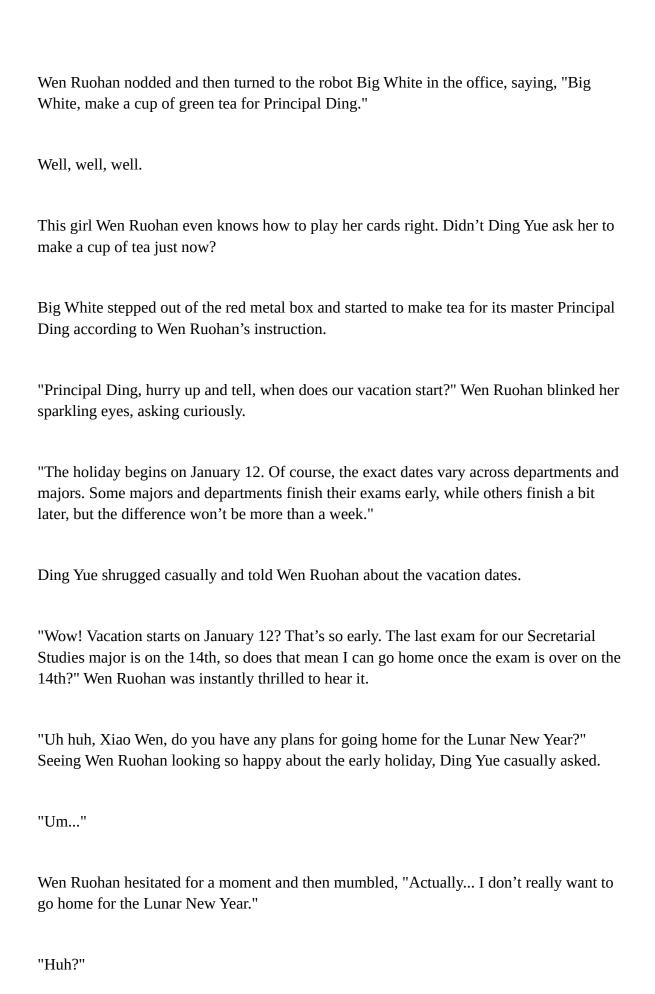
"Director Qi, you can send out the notice now. This semester's vacation will start on January 12 and it'll end on March 5, the official start of school."

Ding Yue instructed.

"Very well, Principal Ding, I'll go prepare the notice now."

After Qi Chunsheng left, Wen Ruohan, the secretary, just got back from her final exam for a course in her Secretarial Studies major.





Ding Yue heard Wen Ruohan mumbling about not wanting to go home for Lunar New Year?

"Yes, I don't want to go home this year." Wen Ruohan took a deep breath, said firmly, and then turned to Principal Ding to ask, "Principal Ding, those who don't go home for the holiday can stay in school, right?"

"Of course, they can. But the question is, why don't you want to go home for Lunar New Year? If I remember correctly, you did go home for the holiday during last year's winter vacation, right?"

Ding Yue was very curious.

What happened to Wen Ruohan?

Why has she suddenly decided not to go home for Lunar New Year this year?

"It's so annoying. If I go home, I'll see my parents arguing all day, every day. It's like listening to a machine gun."

Wen Ruohan said helplessly.

Upon hearing this, Ding Yue immediately understood. So it turns out that her parents are having conflicts.

"Alright, Xiao Wen. If you don't want to go home this winter vacation, you can stay at school. It's also quite inconvenient for me without my handy secretary during the holidays." Ding Yue laughed and gently said to Wen Ruohan.

As for what's going on with Wen Ruohan's family, Ding Yue didn't pry further. As long as she makes up her mind whether to go home for Lunar New Year during the winter vacation, it's alright. He's an outsider and shouldn't intervene too much.

"So, Principal Ding, how long will our vacation be? When will school start again?"

Wen Ruohan asked curiously.

"On the 5th." Ding Yue answered.

"What! The 5th? Is New Year's over by then?" Wen Ruohan was completely flabbergasted when she heard this.

Winter vacation starts on the 12th and school starts again on the 5th? Only 23 days off?

It couldn't possibly be that school starts on March 5th, could it?

Ding Yue then rolled his eyes and said, "Yes, I mean March 5th!"

"Ah! So it really is the 5th of March!" Wen Ruohan almost thought she had misheard.

Winter vacation starts on January 12th and school starts on March 5th. How many days of winter vacation is that?

Wen Ruohan started doing the math in her head.

Then, Principal Ding suddenly announced: "It's 51 days in total."

"My God, fifty-one days! The winter vacation is almost as long as the summer vacation. This is so cool!" Wen Ruohan exclaimed excitedly.

At this point, the official websites, forums, and public accounts of Mist City Arts and Science University had all issued a notice about the 2022 winter vacation.

When students first looked at the start and end dates of the vacation, they thought they had misread.

Winter vacation starts on January 12th and school starts again on March 5th. This was a luxury winter vacation!

"Damn! Vacation starts on the 12th! 51 days off! This is awesome!"

"I thought I was seeing things."

"Awesome, a 51-day vacation, Principal Ding rocks!"

"What? Fifty-one days for Winter break? I didn't mishear, did I? Are you sure it's not the summer vacation duration?"

"Hahaha, I know a guy from a university in the neighboring University Town whose winter vacation is only 27 days. That's hilarious to me."

"This vacation is so comfortable. I can travel before the New Year, then go home for the Spring Festival, and then travel again after the New Year. How cool is that!"

"Yes, yes, yes, I also planned to travel both before and after the New Year since seeing the winter vacation schedule."

The students of Mist City Arts and Science University were absolutely thrilled with this winter vacation arrangement—they felt as if they were already celebrating the New Year.

Soon enough,

The winter vacation schedule of Mist City Arts and Science University started circulating in the chat groups of students from other universities.

Someone even made a winter vacation timetable for universities in Mist City—

[Mist City Arts and Science University], vacation starts on January 12th, school starts on March 5th, totaling 51 days!

[Mist City University of Science and Technology], vacation starts on January 19th, school starts on March 3rd, totaling 42 days!

[Mist City Broadcasting and Television College], vacation begins on January 19th, and school resumes on March 2nd, a total of 41 days!

[Mist City University of Technology], vacation starts on January 20th, school starts on March 2nd, totaling 40 days!

[Mist City Medical University], vacation begins on January 23rd, and school resumes on March 2nd, a total of 37 days!

[Mist City Hongtian College], vacation begins on January 25th, and school resumes on March 3rd, totaling 36 days!

...

Among the numerous universities in Mist City, both public and private, Mist City Arts and Science University not only starts the vacation the earliest but also has the longest vacation.

"Our crappy University starts again on February 28th and breaks on January 30th, less than thirty days. This is barely a vacation."

"Is this how other people's winter vacation schedule looks like? So envious."

"Damn! A 51-day vacation, how cool is this?"

"The winter vacation of Mist City Arts and Science University is almost the same as the summer vacation. Awesome!"

In less than a day, Mist City Arts and Science University's 51-day winter vacation schedule became the hot topic among the university circles in Mist City.

Countless university students envied the lengthy and relaxing vacation schedule of the Mist City Arts and Science University, but some students said that a 51-day winter vacation meant they would be at home until they turned moldy.

Chapter 697: Determining the Rural Support Project January 12th.

Today is the day Mist City Arts and Science University officially begins its winter break.

Many students who have finished their final exams are packing their suitcases in preparation to joyously return home for the New Year, even though the actual holiday is still some time away.

With the New Year around the corner, their anticipation has grown.

"Principal Ding, today our Mist City Arts and Science University officially begins its winter break. We estimate around 6,000 students have finished their exams. In the next two days, over 5,000 students will leave campus. All the departure registration work is being carried out in an orderly manner."

Director Qi Chunsheng from the Academic Affairs Office came to report to Principal Ding again today.

"Good, we must handle the student's departure registration well. Oh, right, our university is quite far from the train station, bus station, and airport. Whether they are taking the bus, the subway, or a taxi, it's all rather inconvenient. Can our school buses be put into service?"

Ding Yue suddenly thought of this.

Of course, it would be great to provide students with more convenience.

"Oh, Director Huang from the logistics department mentioned this to me a couple of days ago. We have allocated all campus buses and we've also rented some public buses from Mist City. We've set up special lines to the airport, train station, and bus station."

Qi Chunsheng immediately reported: "The students can ride these special line buses and public transports to those places for free."

"Well done!"

Ding Yue gave a thumbs-up to Qi Chunsheng, thinking that Huang was quite dependable.

Something he hadn't even thought of had been anticipated by Huang.

Because Ding Yue, Huang, and Bin were told that everything at Mist City Arts and Science University should be student-centered. To provide students with convenience in going home during the holidays would indeed be commendable.

At this moment, one after another, buses and public transports were parked at the gate of Mist City Arts and Science University.

Students orderly lined up with their luggage to board.

Those who were going to the airport took the airport special line, those catching a train took the train station special line.

It was very convenient.

"The school is so thoughtful, we must give it a thumbs up for this move."

"Last year during the winter break, I almost threw up during the bus ride to the airport."

"Principal Ding is so considerate of us, I'm moved."

"This is why I love our school, they're simply too good to us."

Students in the queue discussed the fact that the school arranged for special line buses and public transports. Many students gave thumbs up for the school.

Some of them even said the way their university, Mist City Arts and Science University, treats its students is in stark contrast to the universities their high school classmates attend.

"My high school classmates were envious to death when I told them about our university. Their universities are full of pitfalls," they laughed.

"Of course! I honestly never heard of any university treating their students as well as Mist City Arts and Science University."

"At first, I thought a private university might have some tricks up its sleeve, so I braced myself for the worst, but I had no idea our university would be so great."

"Hahaha, same here!"

Not only did the students of Mist City Arts and Science University think highly of the university, but also many other university students. When they found out about Mist City Arts and Science University's winter break starting January 12th and the university arranging special lines for students, their envy was palpable and they bit the bitter pill.

Starting January 12th, many students from Mist City Arts and Science University gradually started to go home for the winter break.

Of course, some students decided to stay at the university for this year's Spring Festival.

The reason for this was unknown. The university administration could not interfere, perhaps because, like Wen Ruohan, they had familial conflicts and didn't want to return home. Maybe some students simply didn't want to go back and wanted to experience what it was like to celebrate the New Year away from home.

Another group of students chose to stay because, after hearing about last year's university-organized New Year celebrations, they wanted to experience spending the New Year on campus with Principal Ding.

On January 13th, the number of students going home increased gradually.

All departments of Mist City Arts and Science University, including dormitory management and logistics, were working together to ensure students could conveniently and safely return home.

Ding Yue listened to Director Qi Chunsheng's work report almost every day. And this time, it was different from the usual reports.

Previously, each of Qi Chunsheng's reports was a summary over a certain period of time.

In these past few days, Ding Yue listened to Qi Chunsheng's reports about the previous day's exam situations at Mist City Arts and Science University, and various circumstances about student departures.

With the New Year just around the corner, Ding Yue didn't want any problems with Mist City Arts and Science University students during the break.

If he remembers correctly, last winter break, a female student was duped and ended up in a pyramid scheme location due to various reasons.

Ding Yue doesn't want to see such a thing happen again.

January 15th.

As usual, Ding Yue arrived at his office in the Administration Building after getting up early and having breakfast.

Because Wen Ruohan won't be going home this winter break, she has been staying at the university. Her secretarial studies department had already finished their final exams. However, during her stay at the university, she offered to continue serving as Principal Ding's personal secretary.

Chapter 698: Determining the Rural Support Project

"Principal Ding, we've submitted all the materials for the application for the master's degree authorization point at Mist City Arts and Science University. After the Faculty of Architecture surveyed the northern plot, we submitted the application for educational land allocation to the Education Bureau. Besides, Director Jia Nong of the Faculty of Agriculture sent me a form, saying it was a list of people registering to participate in the Rural Support Project."

Wen Ruohan rose and walked over to the printer, and printed out the list sent by Director Jia Nong of the Faculty of Agriculture.

"Let me see, how many people are there in total?" asked Ding Yue.

"Two hundred and seven," Wen Ruohan replied, then handed the printed list to Principal Ding.

"Over two hundred people?"

If Ding Yue remembered correctly, the Faculty of Agriculture only had just over two hundred students. So does that mean most of the students are willing to participate in the Rural Support Project?

It seems that his method of offering academic credit rewards and a subsidy of 10,000 yuan is quite effective.

"Xiao Wen, send the data of this application form to the Education Bureau as well," Ding Yue instructed Wen Ruohan.

"Yes, Principal Ding."

Just as Ding Yue finished talking about sending the application form for the Rural Support Project from the Faculty of Agriculture to the Education Bureau, Director Xiao Wenxing from the Education Bureau surprisingly called Ding Yue.

"Hello, Director Xiao."

"Principal Ding, the matter you mentioned last time about finding areas in need of rural support has made progress. We at the Education Bureau have contacted the Poverty Alleviation Office, and in line with the spirit of our last meeting, we also set up a University Education Poverty Alleviation group. The Poverty Alleviation Office expressed that many areas still need support in terms of knowledge and technology from professional university students like your Faculty of Agriculture. So, I need to ask, how many students from the Faculty of Agriculture at Mist City Arts and Science University are participating in the Rural Support Project this time?"

Over the phone, Director Xiao Wenxing asked somewhat seriously.

Ding Yue listened very carefully to each of Director Xiao's words. After all, this matter is important, and above all else, it was one of his system tasks with a level 3 University Treasure Chest reward. Ding Yue sees it as his responsibility to carry it out thoroughly.

"Director Xiao, I just instructed my secretary Wen to send the list of registered students from our Faculty of Agriculture to the Education Bureau. It turns out you called just as I did. I'm holding the list in my hand. There are 207 students, almost the entire Faculty of Agriculture has registered. However, the number of participants may be fewer in spring next year, as some students may have special circumstances after the New Year."

Ding Yue explained in detail to Director Xiao.

"That's understandable, so it's around two hundred people, right?" Director Xiao Wenxing asked.

"Yes, yes, yes."

"I see, please send the registration form to the Education Bureau, and we, with the Poverty Alleviation Office team, will find suitable locations for your students. Once resolved, we will let you know. After the New Year, you should start preparing. If you need any support from the Poverty Alleviation Office or the Education Bureau, don't hesitate to ask, Principal Ding."

Director Xiao Wenxing was very dedicated to this matter.

Ding Yue knew that Director Xiao Wenxing significantly backed him. The first reason was that he had always had a good impression of Mist City Arts and Science University. Secondly, the Rural Support Project was a good initiative, and most importantly, it was entirely in line with the spirit of the education conference that Director Xiao Wenxing held last time.

"Alright, thanks, Director Xiao. If there's nothing else, I won't disturb you any further."

"Okay, remember to prepare well for the Rural Support Project, goodbye."

"Goodbye, Director Xiao."

After hanging up the phone, Wen Ruohan comes up to tell Ding Yue that she has already sent the registration list to the Education Bureau.

"Xiao Wen, please ask Director Jia to come here again."

"Okay."

For the preliminary work of the Rural Support Project, Ding Yue certainly needed to explain further to Jia Nong, especially since Director Xiao Wenxing specifically reminded him before hanging up the phone.

The Rural Support Project is not merely about completing his system task, but also implicates the execution of the contents of the education conference held by the Education Bureau.

Therefore, Ding Yue was planning to have Jia Nong lead the Agriculture College in making early preparations. This would also allow him to prepare in advance for any possible shortages.

Ding! Dling! Dling!

Ding Yue had just settled down when yet another call came in.

It must be said that Ding Yue had been dealing with quite a few things at school lately, and none of them were trivial matters.

If they were only trivial matters, Ding Yue could have passed the task to the next level of management to handle.

After looking at the caller ID, he saw that it was a call from Director Su Yangfan.

If Su Yangfan was calling him, it was most likely regarding the "Wandering Earth" project.

The "Wandering Earth" project is one of the most important economic activities planned for the next stage of Mist City Arts and Science University. Whether Mist City Arts and Science University will have the funds to continue various research projects and school construction developments depends on the success of the "Wandering Earth" project.

Ideally, it would make as much profit as "Super Combat Team" and contribute a significant sum to support the construction and development of Mist City Arts and Science University.

"Hello, Director Su."

"Principal Ding, are you busy right now?" Su Yangfan asked over the phone.

"It's alright. I have some school matters to attend to in a while. What's up?"

"Well, the last time we had school-wide auditions for the male and female leads and some supporting roles, right? Our team's assistant directors also found some other roles. I thought I would confirm the cast of 'Wandering Earth' with you."

Su Yangfan said earnestly.

"Oh, confirming the cast is a significant matter. Why don't you come over to my office? After I finish up here, we can discuss the cast," Ding Yue instructed directly.

After all, as the university principal, he could handle the school affairs from his office. Whether it was Jia Nong or Su Yangfan, they all worked under him, and it was clearly inappropriate for him to go find them.

"Okay, Principal Ding!"

After hanging up the call, Su Yangfan immediately started to prepare the information on the actors selected by the assistant directors and the confirmed actors from the university. Holding these materials, Su Yangfan headed straight for the Administration Building.

About five minutes later, Su Yangfan had not yet arrived, but Jia Nong from the Agriculture College had.

"Principal Ding, have you reviewed the registration forms for the rural support project from our Agriculture College?" Jia Nong quickly asked as soon as he arrived at the principal's office.

"I've looked through them already."

Ding Yue nodded and calmly replied, "Just now, Director Xiao from the Department of Education called and told me that our rural support project has been confirmed with the Poverty Alleviation Office. They will soon decide on our destination, and Director Xiao specifically instructed that we should prepare thoroughly to head out to the rural support sites after the Chinese New Year."

Jia Nong never expected things to move so quickly. He just submitted the confirmed registration forms, and now they have to start preparing immediately.

"Okay, Principal Ding, I'll organize the preparation work then. But, most of the students from the Agriculture College have already gone home for the holidays, so..."

Jia Nong said awkwardly.

He originally thought that some things would be confirmed after the start of the next semester, who knew things would speed up so fast?

"They've gone home? Well, it's not a problem. Coordinate the preparation work with the Logistics Department. Go to Director Huang if you need anything," Ding Yue said as he frowned slightly, "Since the students have gone home, why don't you set up a Whatsapp group so you can notify them promptly."

"Yes, that's what I was thinking too," Jia Nong quickly responded, "We have no other choice. Then, I'll discuss with the students to see if they can return to the campus as early as possible after the Chinese New Year, so there would be ample time for the students to prepare."

Participating in rural support means students will have to leave the school for an extended period, and it's essential that the students are given time to prepare.

Chapter 699: Want Actors, Not Traffic

After Jia Nong returned, he began preparing for the Rural Support Project, and as Principal Ding said, he would timely notify the students in the College of Agriculture about it.

[College of Agriculture Group]——

Director Jia Nong: @everyone, dear students, today Principal Ding and the education authority have set the location and work content for the Rural Support Project. We in the College of Agriculture are actively preparing for it, to officially launch it after the spring festival.

In light of this, I hope you can all return to the campus as soon as possible after the spring festival to prepare.

"Received!"

"Alright, Director Jia."

"Understood!"

"No problem at all, this winter break is so long and boring, it's quite good to get back to school early."

"Can I return to school after the Lantern Festival?"

"Hahaha, after the Lantern Festival? I really don't want to stay at home, so I'll go back to school after the seventh day of the spring festival."

"In that case, I'll also prepare to return to school earlier."

"Director Jia, which location have we been assigned to for the Rural Support Project?"

"Honestly, I'm pretty excited about participating in this round of the Rural Support Project."

Unexpectedly, most students reacted quite positively to Director Jia Nong's notice about returning to school early.

At this moment, in the principal's office in the Administration Building.

Ding Yue was discussing with Director Su Yangfan about the casting for the science fiction film, "Wandering Earth".

"Principal Ding, these are some actors our assistant director has found for a few roles. Take a look."

As soon as Su Yangfan arrived at Principal Ding's office, he immediately gave the actor profiles to Principal Ding.

Upon receiving the profiles, Ding Yue didn't look at them immediately, but turned to Su Yangfan and asked, "Director Su, which of our students at Mist City Arts and Sciences University have been finally chosen to play the male lead Liu Qi and the female lead Han Duo Duo?"

Ding Yue was indeed quite concerned about this.

During the audition, Ding Yue and Su Yangfan selected a number of standbys. That is to say, any of these students could possibly end up playing the male and female leads.

However, when it came to professional matters, Ding Yue ultimately chose to hand it over to Su Yangfan and his team to make the final decisions, without intervening too much himself.

Moreover, for Ding Yue, the candidates selected actually did match his views on how the male lead Liu Qi and the female lead Han Duo Duo should look. Crucially, these students all boasted quite impressive acting skills.

"Ah, Principal Ding, after extensive discussion within our team, we've made that decision."

Su Yangfan immediately replied.

"Really? Which two students then?"

"Zhao Hao will play the male lead Liu Qi," Su Yangfan answered.

Upon hearing the name Zhao Hao, Ding Yue vaguely recalled him. If he remembered correctly, the first student who auditioned on stage was Zhao Hao, right?

His performance at that time definitely satisfied Ding Yue, and he seemed a perfect fit for the character of Liu Qi.

"Fang Yin will play the female lead Han Duoduo," Su Yangfan then revealed who would play the female lead.

"Fang Yin..."

Ding Yue also had some recollection of her, indeed an outstanding performance arts student from the auditions for the female lead Han Duoduo.

With her serious attitude when acting, coupled with her inherent purity and slightly adorable charm, she was extremely suitable for the character of Han Duoduo in "Wandering Earth", a not yet adult student.

"As for the character Tim, that's Zhou Shanchuan who you, Principal Ding, chose." Su Yangfan continued.

"Yes, I know that."

Ding Yue nodded slightly in response.

Zhou Shanchuan was indeed the best choice to play Tim. Unless someone who looked exactly like the original Tim on Earth was found, Ding Yue wouldn't consider changing the role, and would let Zhou Shanchuan play the mixed-race "young man" Tim who brought the comedic elements.

"Ah, there's also a character named Li Changtiao, right? Is that role being played by one of our students from Mist City Arts and Science University?"

Ding Yue suddenly remembered this character and asked curiously.

Although Li Changtiao was not a lead character, he was still a very important supporting role. According to the plot of "Wandering Earth", Li Changtiao was in charge of computer programming, an indispensable part of the main team.

"Principal Ding, we didn't assign this role to any of our students from Mist City Arts and Science University. Currently, among our confirmed actors for 'Wandering Earth', only Zhao Hao, Fang Yin and Zhou Shanchuan from the university are involved. The rest of the cast were scouted and invited by us."

Su Yangfan explained, motioning to the actor profiles in Principal Ding's hands.

"Well, it's okay. Having three is already very good."

Ding Yue didn't insist on having all the roles played by performance arts students from his own university.

Even if he did wish for this, whether performance arts students could handle major roles would be a question.

So, to ensure the quality of "Wandering Earth", Ding Yue just decided on Zhao Hao, Fang Yin, and Zhou Shanchuan, three students who were very suitable for their roles.

As for the actors needed for other roles, Su Yangfan could make his own selection.

In Su Yangfan's team, the person responsible for selecting the actors was Su Yangfan's most trusted assistant, his assistant director Wang Chou.

Chapter 700: Want Actors, Not Traffic

"In terms of choosing actors, I value genuine talent the most. Our movie, 'Wandering Earth,' doesn't need any popular celebrities."

Ding Yue reiterated the criteria for actor selection to Su Yangfan.

Generally, though celebrity actors do bring a certain audience base, their acting skills are just too mediocre.

Describing them as ordinary is already Ding Yue being too generous.

Many celeb actors ruin TV shows or movies with their pathetic acting skills. Ding Yue wasn't going to let that happen to his carefully planned film 'Wandering Earth.'

"Hmmm, the actors we selected and invited were strictly chosen according to the standard you set, Principal Ding. We pool suitable actors only and don't consider celebrity actors to play just any role."

Su Yangfan replied seriously.

For Su Yangfan's last film 'Transdimensional Contact,' he hadn't hired any popular celebrities. Even the most popular actor in that production had only played a minor role, and was a third-rate celebrity at best.

"That's good."

Ding Yue nodded in satisfaction, then picked up the actor profile and started scanning it seriously.

The first thing that caught his eye was the actor for Liu Peigiang, one of the protagonists.

The name was Tang Han, which sounded like a mighty man.

In the original earth world, Wu Jing played Liu Peiqiang's role. Ding Yue figured that Wu Jing might not exist in this parallel world.

But finding someone similar would also be pretty cool.

Ding Yue looked at the details of this man called Tang Han. At 39, his age fit the character's age perfectly, and the first impression of Tang Han's appearance was quite good to Ding Yue.

Although he was very different from Wu Jing, Ding Yue felt that if Tang Han played Liu Peiqiang, he would do a good job.

Most importantly, Tang Han looked like a real actor at first glance.

"Actor Tang Han," Ding Yue murmured, "Is it determined that he will play Liu Peiqiang?"

"Yes, Principal Ding. After discussion, we think Tang Han's image matches Zhao Hao's well. At first glance, these two have somewhat of a father-son vibe. What do you think, Principal Ding?"

Su Yangfan nodded in response, and also sought Principal Ding's opinion.

If Principal Ding felt that it wasn't appropriate, Su Yangfan would also consider Principal Ding's opinion.

He had set up a meeting with Principal Ding to discuss the roles in 'Wandering Earth' today, aiming to finalize the casting.

Who else than Principal Ding, the owner of both the novel's copyright and the production funds, would have a say in this matter?

Principal Ding had absolute control over 'Wandering Earth's' screen adaptation. Even though Su Yangfan was the director, he could only do what was within his duty.

"Well, I do agree with you. They seem quite similar. Good choice." After listening to Director Su Yangfan, Ding Yue looked carefully at Tang Han's face again in comparison with his student Zhao Hao in his memories.

Well!

If you didn't know them, you might really think they were father and son.

"Principal Ding, Mr. Tang Han has starred in 'Ferocious Tiger' and 'Iron-blooded Man,' among other films and TV dramas. His acting is solid, and he is one of the actors I like."

Su Yangfan gave a brief introduction to Tang Han.

Ding Yue also saw from the profile that Tang had starred in the popular TV series 'Ferocious Tiger,' the movie 'Iron-blooded Man,' and the drama 'Our Mission,' among others. He had become an experienced and tenacious actor.

Hmm! Very good. Ding Yue likes this kind of powerful acting.

"All right."

Ding Yue nodded slightly, saying to Su Yangfan, "Let's have Tang Han for the role of Liu Peiqiang. Oh yes, how much is his pay?"

This was another question of concern to Ding Yue. If Tang Han's pay was too high, Ding Yue might also reconsider whether to hire him or not.

"Principal Ding, Tang Han's acting fee is typically over 2 million yuan, and if it's a larger-scale movie, the fee may be around 5 million yuan."

So replied Su Yangfan honestly.

Five million in acting fees!

Astonishment was etched on Ding Yue's face when he heard this.

This was quite a bargain compared to actors who casually charged tens of millions or even tens of millions more.

But then again, considering Tang Han's skills and the performance of the films he starred in, Ding Yue felt his price of three to five million was worth every penny.

As long as the performance is good, the acting fee wouldn't be a problem.

"Alright, negotiate with this Mr. Tang Han when the time comes." Ding Yue nodded, deciding to have Tang Han play the role of Liu Peiqiang, the protagonist of 'Wandering Earth'.

If the acting fee for one of the main characters, Liu Peiqiang, is just three to five million, then the total acting fee for all the main characters wouldn't exceed thirty million yuan. This sum did not seem excessive for a sci-fi film like 'Wandering Earth' with a budget exceeding a hundred million yuan.

Ding Yue understood that although the budget of 'Wandering Earth' was over one hundred million yuan, it was likely to increase due to refinements during filming. Ding Yue prepared for this mentally.

Of course, Ding Yue had also arranged for the money.

'Super Combat Team' had a box office profit of nearly 1.3 billion yuan. Originally, Ding Yue planned to invest around seven hundred million yuan in the lithographic experiment project.

But on second thought...

Such an investment might not be cost-effective as the project was long-term. Luo Peng and Tong Yihang had told him that it would take at least two or three years to make a breakthrough in advanced nanometer-level technology.

Given this, it's better to stagger the investment in the lithographic experiment project.

Besides the existing investment, Ding Yue planned to allocate a further five hundred million to the project in the second phase.

As for the rest of the money, Ding Yue could put it into other faculty projects or into the increased budget of 'Wandering Earth'.

"The grandfather of Liu Qi... Actor Liu Wenda."

Ding Yue continued to peruse through the actors' profiles.

The actor who played another major character, Han Zi'ang, was also the grandfather to both the male and female leads, Liu Qi and Han Duo Duo.

This role required an older actor.

In the original film on Earth, this role was played by actor Wu Mengda.

Interestingly, this character chosen by Su Yangfan and his team, Liu Wenda, even shares a character "达"("Da") in his name with that of Wu Mengda.

"Principal Ding, Liu Wenda is a veteran actor with decades of performance experience. I personally think he is extremely suitable to play grandfather roles. In terms of acting skills, Liu Wenda definitely won't have any problems."

Seeing that Principal Ding had come across the profile of actor Liu Wenda, Su Yangfan provided a brief explanation on the side.

"That works just fine, quite fitting for the role of Han Zi'ang in my mind."

Ding Yue nodded and said.

Since Director Su Yangfan spoke so highly of Liu Wenda, and after a brief review of the seasoned actor's credentials, Ding Yue could hardly find any issues.

If he had to find fault, Ding Yue turned to Su Yangfan and asked, "Is Mr. Liu Wenda in good health? The role of Han Zi'ang has some challenging scenes."

Ding Yue's only concern was whether Liu Wenda could withstand the tough scenes and environment while filming 'Wandering Earth'.

After all, Liu Wenda's profile stated he was over sixty years old.

"As for old Mr. Liu, his health shouldn't pose any problems. I remember he joined a production just last year."

Su Yangfan frowned slightly and muttered, "I'll have the assistant director thoroughly confirm it later."