

## F. University 901

Chapter 901: Freshman Convocation for Class of 2022

Before the opening ceremony officially began, Ding Yue asked Bin about the situation.

"Mm, Qi has already mentioned this to me; we've increased our efforts in teacher recruitment. Now the job advertisements have been published all over the internet."

Xu Bin nodded and replied.

This was something Xu Bin could handle competently.

"Okay, later I will allocate more funds to your personnel department. The benefits for recruiting teachers should be maintained at a high standard, and as for the advertisement, go ahead and promote it. We really do need teachers right now," Ding Yue continued to instruct.

"I can tell, look at all those people below, my, a whole crowd of them. Over fifty thousand students, indeed we'll need quite a number of teachers to handle them," Xu Bin couldn't help but remark.

He never imagined that in just three years, Mist City Arts and Science University would have enrolled so many students.

In the future, Mist City Arts and Science University would certainly become the private institution with the highest number of students in Xia Country—actually, it is fair to drop the description 'private' for comparison's sake, because no public university in the future would be able to match the student population of Mist City Arts and Science University.

"Indeed, just get things done well. Huang, how about your law school? How is the progress with the lawsuit?"

Ding Yue immediately turned to Huang Youjie and inquired about the lawsuit initiated by the law school against the Twitter bloggers.

"Yue Brother, rest assured,"

Huang Youjie said confidently, "The lawsuit is already in process. The first verdict from court after acceptance should start coming in within the next two to three months, or at the latest, within half a year."

"Good, I'll wait for the good news from your law school."

As Ding Yue was not an expert in the field of legal proceedings, he believed that such professional matters should be entrusted to professionals.

It was fortunate that his Mist City Arts and Science University had a substantial law school.

And with Huang, a good law student as his buddy, those Twitter bloggers would certainly not get away this time.

While Ding Yue was chatting with Xu Bin and Huang Youjie,

a group of people made their way toward the VIP area.

Among them were Feiyue Group's CEO An Yujia, Ding Yue's sister Ding Xiaoyou, Professor Yang Kaining, and Director Bai Liwei of the medical school, among others.

It wasn't surprising for An Yujia and Professor Yang to attend the opening ceremony.

But why did his sister Ding Xiaoyou come as well?

"Xiao You, this opening ceremony, why did you come here to join the fun?" Ding Yue asked upon seeing his sister Ding Xiaoyou.

"Hmph, why can't I come? Besides, I don't have any classes to attend anymore."

Ding Xiaoyou rolled her eyes at her brother Ding Yue.

Goodness.

If other students at Mist City Arts and Science University heard this, wouldn't they call Ding Xiaoyou the ultimate "Versailles"?

It had been just a year.

During her time at university, Ding Xiaoyou already had no more classes to attend.

That's right.

She had raced through not just the undergraduate curriculum, but also materials meant for masters and doctoral programs.

Most importantly,

she led the team that completed the research on graphene battery technology and participated in the graphene mechanical exfoliation preparation machine project. Her academic achievements were incomparable to the multitude of geniuses across the country.

It could be said that Ding Xiaoyou truly was a legitimate "Versailles."

"There's no helping you," Ding Yue sighed helplessly, then said, "Alright, you as a senior should experience watching the freshmen's military training. Remember, this time last year, you were still standing in the crowd below."

"Brother, 'shit da bian le.'

"Ah?"

"Times have changed!"

"Speak clearly!"

After their banter, Ding Yue looked at Professor Yang Kaining and smiled, "Professor Yang, how have you been feeling at the university lately, have you gotten used to it? After so many years abroad, how have you adjusted your daily routine?"

Professor Yang Kaining had only decided to return to Xia Country from Switzerland during this summer break, choosing to continue his career at Mist City Arts and Science University.

Thus, acclimating to the new environment was the most important issue for Professor Yang Kaining.

"I've mostly adjusted and adapted to it now."

Professor Yang Kaining nodded, wearing a kindly smile as he spoke.

"That's good."

Ding Yue nodded in response, and then invited Professor Yang Kaining to take a seat on the stage.

After all, Professor Yang Kaining was not like the other teaching professors.

Professor Yang's status indeed was much higher.

He was a globally renowned scientist in the field of life sciences, and this time he was nominated for the National Science and Technology Award with the 3D biological printer—it was very possible that he would win.

Therefore, it was only right to arrange a place for Professor Yang Kaining on the stage.

"Principal Ding, it's about time."

At that moment, Xiong Yang, the Director of Physical Education and Culture Department, came over to remind Principal Ding.

The Ceremony was about to officially begin.

"Alright, let's get ready to start."

Ding Yue nodded his head.

So thereupon,

As "March of the Athletes" played in the background, Xiong Yang, the Director of the Physical Education and Culture Department, blew into the microphone he was holding and then said, "Students, today is an important day for our Ceremony and Military Training Mobilization Meeting. Cheer up, at ease, attention, right dress, eyes front..."

The Ceremony and Military Training Mobilization Meeting began with a speech by Xiong Yang, the Department Director.

Xiong Yang spoke for about five minutes or so before saying, "Now, please allow me to invite the leadership of Mist City Arts and Science University, Principal Ding, to speak."

Whooosh!

The applause of over fifty thousand people was like thunder.

Ding Yue was almost startled by it.

Below the stage, a dense crowd of new students; anyone with a fear of crowds might faint on the spot.

But Ding Yue did not.

Seeing so many new students, Ding Yue could hardly contain his joy.

These were all going to be the "treasures" of Mist City Arts and Science University; with them, the future development and prospects of the university were assured.

"Students, in this season of crisp autumn air, you have come to a sanctuary filled with knowledge. Here, you will learn the knowledge you are passionate about, master the skills you aspire to, and forge your wonderful lives..."

Ding Yue began to improvise during the president's address at the Ceremony.

Speaking of which,

The president's address was one of the most important parts of the Ceremony.

As Mist City Arts and Science University was a private institution, the principal was the decision-maker of the university, and the students certainly needed to hear what Principal Ding had to say.

And the words Ding Yue spoke at the Ceremony were designed to stimulate the students' enthusiasm for learning and their expectations for the future.

Meanwhile, as Ding Yue spoke,

he was multitasking, pulling up his system panel.

In the item section,

Ding Yue found what he had exchanged for with reputation points a couple of days earlier in the system store—the "University Top Student Halo."

This thing was essentially just like last year's Academic Overlord Totem.

And not much different from the Study Card the year before that.

In any case, it could enhance the students' learning efficiency and brain development, among other effects.

Even a super poor student, once affected by the "University Top Student Halo," would possess the learning ability of a top student.

As for whether one could truly become a top student, that depended on each individual's "fate."

After all, the "University Top Student Halo" had a maximum and minimum limit to learning efficiency.

Under varying circumstances, some students could soar to great heights with the "University Top Student Halo," becoming true top students like Tong Yihang and his peers.

Others might not reach the ceiling and thus would not become what one could call a real top student.

Even so,

it was still not a problem to become proficient in one's field of expertise.

"Activate the 'University Top Student Halo'..."

With a thought, Ding Yue used this item...

Chapter 902: For the Aerospace Academy

The golden, resplendent halo enveloped the entire Central Sports Ground.

Over fifty thousand first-year students, imperceptibly influenced by this dazzling golden halo, felt its effects which were indeed linear and not achieved overnight.

It would require the students to progressively unlock its potential during their future course of study.

"University Top Student Halo activated successfully!"

Ding Yue couldn't help but reveal a smile at the corner of his mouth upon seeing the prompt before him.

The annual opening ceremony also represented Ding Yue's yearly tradition of bestowing the academic enhancement BUFF halo on new students; it was this special BUFF that set the students of Mist City Arts and Science University apart from the rest.

After activating the "University Top Student Halo," Ding Yue continued with his opening ceremony speech.

The speech lasted for roughly ten minutes.

Ding Yue didn't indulge in too much idle talk. In essence, his message was for students to consider Mist City Arts and Science University as their second home and to diligently strive to improve themselves from that point forward.

Upon graduation, they were destined to soar to success and secure well-paying jobs.

The students listened intently and with great interest.

Because Mist City Arts and Science University had now demonstrated its formidable teaching capabilities, it was estimated that more than half of the fifty thousand-plus freshmen chose to come here to fulfill their university dreams precisely because of the university's meteoric rise in the past year.

Perhaps it was here that they could realize their self-worth.

Whereas at other universities, they might just blend in with the crowd, possibly even coasting through their days until graduation, only to find themselves devoid of any real skills and struggling to find a job.

But at Mist City Arts and Science University, it was different.

Many freshmen had heard that students from several majors at Mist City Arts and Science University, currently only sophomores or juniors, had already secured jobs at Feiyue Group.



It was simply too fantastic!

To have students already securing jobs while still studying is a rare sight in the entire country for a university like Mist City Arts and Science University.

"Alright, students, that's all from me for today. I wish you all a smooth military training, academic success, and a joyful life. Love from your Principal Ding!"

After finishing his speech, Ding Yue waved to the students gathered below the stage.

Then, he concluded the principal's speaking segment of the opening ceremony.

Ding Yue's "mission" for the day was complete, mainly to endow students with the learning BUFF during the principal's speech. What followed was for others to take over, such as Xiong Yang, the Director of Culture and Sports, or the chief military training instructor.

The Ceremony and Military Training Mobilization Meeting lasted about an hour.

Then Xiong Yang, the Director of Culture and Sports, announced that the one-month military training for the freshmen was officially underway!

More than fifty thousand freshmen began to disperse from the Central Sports Ground one after another.

While the Central Sports Ground was large enough to accommodate plenty of freshmen for military training, with this year's freshmen class exceeding fifty thousand, one sports ground was certainly insufficient.

Last year during military training, even one sports field wasn't enough, and eventually, they had to extend the training to the major road next to the gymnasium.

But this year would be different.

Because Mist City Arts and Science University now had more than one sports ground.

The Central Sports Ground was one of the two newly built sports grounds, the largest in terms of area, built to the scale of a city sports center.

The cost was significant.

Besides, there was another sports field to the south of the campus and the one from the old campus.

Which means,

Mist City Arts and Science University now had three sports fields and several gymnasiums. With so many sports facilities, there was more than enough room for the military training of over fifty thousand first-year students.

For a university to have three large sports fields was a rarity in the country.

Generally, a university only had one sports field along with some basketball courts, volleyball courts, and other facilities, which is considered the standard.

Larger universities might boast two sports fields.

But three or more sports fields? Those were exceedingly rare.

And Mist City Arts and Science University, given the scale of its student body, now had a large Central Sports Ground and two other sports fields, totaling three, befitting a university with a campus spanning 7500 acres.

The infrastructure development of Mist City Arts and Science University was indeed among the top in the nation.

Moreover, there were viral educational buildings such as the Book Ship Library and the Archive.

Compared to three years ago, Mist City Arts and Science University had undergone revolutionary changes.

Ding Yue was no longer concerned about the subsequent military training at the university.

After all, as the head of the institution, Ding Yue had many matters to attend to, and military training was no longer an area that required his focal attention.

In Ding Yue's agenda, other significant matters naturally took precedence.

The development of the school constantly required the decision-making abilities of Principal Ding, the man at the helm.

Having returned to the principal's office in the Administration Building, Ding Yue resumed his work.

Although expanding the scale of the graphene industry was currently his top priority, Ding Yue certainly couldn't neglect other affairs of Mist City Arts and Science University.

Chapter 903: For the Aerospace Academy

It's just a matter of prioritization.

By now, Ding Yue had already arranged the expansion of the graphene industry.

So today, Ding Yue had to deal with some other matters of the university, such as the allocation of funds.

Before collecting tuition fees for the term, Ding Yue had roughly ten billion yuan available for use, which was originally intended to be entirely invested in the photolithography machine experiment project.

But now it seemed that the photolithography machine experiment project needed to be paused for a while, so there was temporarily no need to invest funds in it.

Moreover, the investment in the photolithography machine experiment project was not to be made all at once, but rather progressively over time.

After freeing up the ten billion yuan, and with the enrollment of more than fifty thousand new students as well as over thirty thousand existing students paying tuition fees,

the total tuition fees collected this year amounted to over twenty billion yuan.

This is the charm of private universities.

High fees!

The more students there are, the more money is made!

Out of the twenty billion yuan of tuition fees, Ding Yue planned to use a few billion yuan as the basic educational expenditure for Mist City Arts and Science University for the upcoming year.

Such as teaching salaries, logistical maintenance, scholarship distributions, and so on.

Although this seemed like a lot, a few billion yuan should be more than sufficient.

That still left twenty billion yuan.

Ding Yue couldn't possibly gamble the entire twenty billion yuan on expanding the scale of the graphene industry at once; he still had to leave some for the university.

Why leave some for the university?

The reason was simple.

In the next year, who knew which department or major might need money for development?

For instance,

what if the computer science department launched a major project that could benefit the next several years like graphene did? Would Ding Yue invest in it or not?

Or if Professor Yang Kaining initiated a project in life sciences that required funding, how could he not support it?

Keep in mind,

at the time, Ding Yue had personally promised Professor Yang Kaining that no matter what project he researched, he would fully support it!

Therefore,

out of those twenty billion yuan,

Ding Yue planned to set aside half, which was ten billion yuan, as potential funding for various departmental teaching projects that might arise over the coming year.

That left another ten billion yuan, plus the previous ten billion yuan spared.

Twenty billion yuan in funds were intended to be invested in expanding the graphene industry, which should hopefully last until contract negotiations, right?

Once contracts were secured with major manufacturers like Huawei Technology Group, Dami Technology Group, and Penguin New Energy Vehicles, the money would start flowing in endlessly.

By then, the foundational money for establishing the graphene industry would essentially be secured.

This was Ding Yue's financial planning strategy for the forthcoming year.

In reality,

there would likely be quite a few changes.

Firstly, the sci-fi movie "Wandering Earth" might be released within the year, and if all went well, it should be able to make some money for Mist City Arts and Science University.

Secondly, the production of the medical healthcare robot Big White was underway, and it could generate a substantial profit within a year.

Also, wasn't Feiyue Animation Studio working on the "Love, Death and Robots" animated series? If it became a hit, it might earn quite a bit of money as well.

How to arrange the university's funds,

only Ding Yue himself could decide on that matter.

Ding-a-ling!

Suddenly, just as Ding Yue was pondering how to "burn money," his cellphone rang.

Ding Yue glanced at the caller ID, which showed it was a call from Principal Xu Dongcheng.

Principal Xu Dongcheng had a good relationship with Ding Yue, so naturally, he could directly call Ding Yue on his personal cell phone.

"Hello, Principal Xu, what made you think of calling me?"

Ding Yue picked up the call and asked with a smile.

"Of course, I was thinking of you, Principal Ding. How is it going? Mist City Arts and Science University started its new semester, right? I heard that this year you enrolled over

50,000 new students, and together with the returning students, and now with only three grades, you already have over 80,000 people, even more than our Westlight University."

Principal Xu Dongcheng said enviously.

"Hahaha, you flatter me, Principal Xu. Westlight University is doing well, too." Ding Yue replied modestly.

Although Mist City Arts and Science University had a higher number of enrolled students, Westlight University had a significant number as well.

With four grades and graduate students included, Westlight University also had over 50,000 people. It was said that this year Westlight University had enrolled close to 20,000 new students.

"Truth be told, Principal Ding, in previous years, our new student intake at Westlight University was just over 10,000. But this year, since we adopted the advanced management concept from Mist City Arts and Science University, our new student number has reached almost 18,000, nearly 20,000. It's a significant increase, so I really should thank you, Principal Ding."

Principal Xu Dongcheng said very sincerely.

"You're too kind, Principal Xu."

Ding Yue still maintained his humility.

"Principal Ding, Mei Jia mentioned that she feels quite comfortable at the school. She didn't participate in the military training this time, right?"

Principal Xu Dongcheng asked.

"Yes, yes, yes, after consulting with Mist City Central Hospital and Professor Yang Kaining, we decided that Mei Jia should maintain her normal lifestyle. Military training is definitely very physically demanding, and it could affect Mei Jia's physical condition after her surgery. So, we decided to exempt Mei Jia from the military training this year." Ding Yue

explained, "But Mei Jia said that of course, she wouldn't want to miss out on such a wonderful memory, so if she can't participate in the military training this year, she will wait until next year. By then, Mei Jia's health should be fully restored, and she can join the training."

"Okay, we will follow whatever arrangements you make, Principal Ding."

Principal Xu Dongcheng said with a smile, "By the way, Principal Ding, chatting with you here, I almost forgot to mention the actual matter."

"Oh? What's the matter, Principal Xu? I knew that if you were calling me, there must be something."

Ding Yue reacted and prepared to listen to what Principal Xu Dongcheng had to discuss.

"Here's the thing, Principal Ding. Last time, didn't you mention that you wanted to develop other departments and majors in the school, and you talked about the aeronautics and astronautics major, right?"

Principal Xu Dongcheng asked.

Ding Yue immediately recalled such a matter.

He had indeed spoken to Principal Xu Dongcheng about how Mist City Arts and Science University planned to develop various aspects in the future.

For instance, while maintaining the current popular and robust departments, he also wanted to give other departments the opportunity to develop.

Take the College of Forestry and Agriculture, for example.

In the past year, Ding Yue had invested a considerable amount of money and effort into this college.



As for what Principal Xu Dongcheng mentioned about the College of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

Ding Yue had indeed considered it.

However, establishing a large-scale development for the College of Aeronautics and Astronautics would be extremely costly, and he had to take it step by step.

But now the aeronautics and astronautics college at Mist City Arts and Science University lacked even the practical teaching equipment, apart from teaching the basic knowledge.

To be precise, a plane!

They ought to get a plane for aeronautics and astronautics students to use for hands-on teaching, right?

"Yes, yes, yes, what about it, Principal Xu? Do you have some good news to tell me?"

Ding Yue immediately asked.

"Of course, there's good news. If there weren't any, I wouldn't make this call to disturb you, Principal Ding, a busy man like yourself."

Principal Xu Dongcheng said with a laugh, "Here's what's going on. I have a friend whose airline has a domestic 919 passenger jet that needs to be disposed of because of an engine issue. That is to say, this 919 plane can't fly, but for a private university like ours, it definitely has educational and research value, don't you agree?"

"Yes, so you're saying, Principal Xu... I could buy this domestic 919 passenger jet?"

Ding Yue understood what Principal Xu Dongcheng meant.

And the matter seemed quite appealing.

The College of Aeronautics and Astronautics at Mist City Arts and Science University indeed needed a plane for teaching practical courses and research.

#### Chapter 904: Bidding for Domestic Large Aircraft

Having heard Principal Xu Dongcheng speak, Ding Yue knew what he meant.

For Ding Yue,

it was indeed a great opportunity to be able to purchase a domestically produced C919 commercial airliner, which was by no means an easy feat.

After all, the domestically produced C919 commercial airliner represented the dream of a great aircraft for Xia Country and was only developed and gradually delivered for use in the past two years.

Speaking of large aircraft,

for Xia Country, the pursuit of large aircraft technology has always been a goal, with foreign corporations like Airbus and Boeing dominating the majority of the market.

Xia Country had been developing its own domestically produced large aircraft for many years.

And the C919 was the result!

To say it's the domestic pride of large aircraft would not be an overstatement.

"Principal Xu, do you really have a way to let me buy this domestically produced C919 commercial airliner?"

Ding Yue quickly asked.

"Hahaha, Principal Ding, if I didn't have this handled, I wouldn't be calling you about it. That aircraft, you see, was originally going to be remelted and remade, but several universities have expressed interest in this domestically produced C919 commercial airliner.

Although there might be problems with the engine, we're not buying it to fly in the sky, aren't we? We're acquiring it primarily for educational use," Principal Xu Dongcheng said with a laugh.

"Exactly, of course, we are going to use it for educational purposes."

Ding Yue immediately followed up, "Then Principal Xu, how can we buy the C919?"

"Well... Principal Ding, to be honest, it's not certain that we can get it. I'm just passing on the message; you can try your luck because many universities want this domestically produced C919 commercial airliner. You know this is Xia Country's first domestically produced large aircraft, so you can imagine its popularity,"

Principal Xu Dongcheng quickly explained: "It's precisely because several domestic universities want it that Xiahang decided to hold onto it, instead of sending it back for remelting and remaking."

"So you're saying it's not yet determined who will get the plane, right?"

Ding Yue understood what Principal Xu Dongcheng meant.

"Right, but given the current situation, I've heard from a friend there are still quite a few interested universities. He was also asking if I was interested, but since Westlight University already has two old planes for teaching models, we don't need it for now. That's why I thought to tell you, Principal Ding," Principal Xu Dongcheng replied.

"Then, thank you, Principal Xu. Did your friend mention how to secure the C919?"

Ding Yue asked again.

Ding Yue did indeed covet the plane quite earnestly.

After all, it was a domestically produced C919 commercial airliner. Once acquired, it would be greatly beneficial for his aviation and aerospace faculty. Perhaps this C919 would signal the start of great development for the aerospace program at Mist City Arts and Science University.

Moreover,

Ding Yue had already considered developing the aerospace program. After all, if successful in this field, it would significantly enhance Mist City Arts and Science University's societal standing.

"With so many universities interested, my friend said that Xiahang is likely to auction it off,"

Principal Xu Dongcheng said.

"Then it's settled. We at Mist City Arts and Science University will secure this domestically produced C919 commercial aircraft!" Ding Yue said with confidence.

It was just a matter of money.

Was Ding Yue short of money?

He was not.

The auction price for the C919 was at least in the hundreds of millions. For Ding Yue, taking out this kind of money was no difficult task.

He had set aside ten billion yuan for the educational development of Mist City Arts and Science University for the coming year.

Wasn't purchasing a domestically produced C919 airliner exactly what the university's aerospace faculty needed for its educational development?

Considering that the first group of aerospace students were already in their third year and had never even touched an aircraft, was that acceptable?

If that was the case, why bother with aerospace education at all?

So,

it was indeed an essential need for the aerospace faculty!

Just like buying a house, demand-driven properties are always most popular because everyone needs to buy one. Without one, how will they marry, how will a family of three live?

"Are you that confident, Principal Ding?"

Principal Xu Dongcheng asked with a smile.

"Absolutely."

"However, I've heard that Southeast Aviation University also wants this domestically produced C919 aircraft, and several other universities are also strong contenders, including a private aviation university in Guangcheng. If you want to secure this C919, Principal Ding, you may have to dig deep into your pockets," Principal Xu Dongcheng cautioned Ding Yue.

"No problem, Principal Xu. Tell your friend to include Mist City Arts and Science University in the list."

"Alright, I'll take care of it."

Two days later, Ding Yue's Mist City Arts and Science University received an invitation from Xia Country Aviation Group.

They were specially invited to Yancheng to participate in the auction for universities, with the starting bid for the aircraft set at 120 million yuan.

Ding Yue did some research over those two days.

Although the starting bid for the domestically produced C919 commercial airliner was 120 million yuan, its value was at least 200 million yuan. Depending on the excess from the auction, obtaining it for between 220 and 250 million yuan would not be considered a loss.

## Chapter 905: Bidding for a Domestic Large Aircraft

Just afraid of encountering a blockheaded opponent.

Though Ding Yue had money, he couldn't be reckless with it. If he couldn't secure the domestic C919 commercial airliner for 250 million yuan, then Ding Yue would consider giving up and go purchase another large aircraft instead.

So, on September 3rd.

Ding Yue took his secretary Wen Ruohan, flying to Yancheng where Xia Country Airlines Company had prepared the auction site.

Principal Xu Dongcheng also came to join the bustle this time, seemingly as a companion to Ding Yue for this auction.

"Principal Ding, there are a total of nine universities participating in the auction for the domestic C919 commercial airliner. Originally, other companies wanted to join, but they were rejected. It seems that Xiahang plans to sell exclusively to domestic aviation universities this time."

Principal Xu Dongcheng shared the information he had learned with Ding Yue.

"Mm-hmm, that's quite good. If other companies were involved in the auction, we might not have been able to secure it," Ding Yue nodded.

He also knew that only nine universities were involved in the auction.

Xiahang did quite a good job this time by not scrapping or selling the "retired" domestic C919 commercial airliner to other domestic or foreign companies.

Instead, it was selling to domestic aviation universities for use in aviation education.

Also, the starting price of 120 million yuan was quite fair.

The auction itself wasn't very grand.

After all, the participants were all domestic universities.

The most renowned among them was Southeast Aviation University, one of the top three aviation institutes in the country, along with Xia Country Aviation University and Northwest Aviation University.

It was obvious that Southeast Aviation University was not lacking large aircraft for teaching purposes.

So they were clearly targeting the domestic C919 as their big catch.

Actually, everyone was here for the domestic C919.

But Ding Yue was different.

Ding Yue pondered that after buying this domestic C919, he might be able to exchange it for related black technology from the system store. Perhaps then, his Mist City Arts and Science University could achieve something in the field of aerospace?

Ding Yue's thoughts were always visionary.

He should take this opportunity to gradually develop the aerospace institute!

About ten minutes later at the auction venue.

The person in charge of the auction from Summer Aviation Group arrived at the scene. After introducing the domestic C919 commercial airliner, he announced, "The auction starts now, with a starting bid of 120 million yuan..."

The starting bid was 120 million yuan, with each bid increment set at a minimum of five million yuan.

Indeed, the next second, a university bid 125 million yuan, marking the first bid increment of five million.

"140 million!"

The auction had only just begun, and already a university had directly increased the bid by 15 million.

Ding Yue was in no hurry.

He wanted to see just how high these universities could go with their bids, and then decide if it was within the range he had anticipated.

If it was, he would bid for it directly. If not, then it wasn't meant to be, and Ding Yue couldn't be bothered to keep adding bids of five million each time.

"Principal Ding, what's your budget?"

Principal Xu Dongcheng, sitting beside Ding Yue, saw that he hadn't raised a bid and asked out of curiosity.

"Principal Xu, how much do you think this domestic C919 commercial airliner could go for at the highest?"

Ding Yue turned his head to look at Principal Xu Dongcheng and posed a counterquestion.

"I think this domestic C919 commercial airliner's auction price will at least reach upwards of two hundred million yuan. As for how high it could go, I have no idea, because we don't know the psychological expectation price of these universities, right?"

Principal Xu Dongcheng merely made a rough estimate.



"I might as well tell you, Principal Xu. Our Mist City Arts and Science University's highest bid could probably go up to 250 million yuan. If it exceeds that, I feel there's no need to buy it. At that point, it would be better to buy an old plane," Ding Yue said with a smile.

"Mm, about the same. If it goes over 250 million yuan, it would indeed be too expensive and not worth it," Principal Xu Dongcheng said thoughtfully and nodded.

Actually, if Principal Xu Dongcheng hadn't been indifferent to the need, his bidding strategy would probably be pegged at the 250 million yuan mark. Any higher, and it wouldn't be worth the purchase.

"155 million!"

At this moment, another university placed a bid.

Just like the previous university, they increased their bid by 15 million, indicating the minimum bid increment of five million yuan was far from satisfying their bidding determination.

"160 million!"

Southeast Aviation University placed a bid.

They only added five million yuan, seemingly testing the waters to see if other universities would compete against them.

But at this price point, there definitely would still be bids.

Indeed.

Within less than five seconds, another high school had bid 170 million yuan.

"170 million, Southern University Aviation Institute has bid 170 million yuan, do we have any bids higher than 170 million? 170 million for the first time..."

At this price level, the speed of the bidding had clearly slowed down.

Everyone seemed to be watching and waiting.

"175 million!"

Southeast Aviation University couldn't sit still anymore.

Seeing that no one else was bidding, they quickly added five million.

"180 million!"

Southern University Aviation Institute also increased their bid by five million, appearing somewhat determined to win at all costs.

Ding Yue just sat in the auction seats enjoying the spectacle.

He was just watching how high they would go; after all, Ding Yue was in no hurry. Even if a high school's bid was called twice, Ding Yue would still have the chance to make a move.

"180 million for the first time!"

"185 million!"

Southeast Aviation University seemed to be in a full-on battle with Southern University Aviation Institute.

Both institutions were adding in increments of five million, and everyone else was watching the drama unfold.

"Two hundred million yuan!"

Just then, suddenly, a high school placed a high bid.

Two hundred million yuan!

Typically, two hundred million is considered a high price range.

After all, Ding Yue's estimated pricing range was between two and two hundred and fifty million yuan.

Southeast Aviation University and Southern University Aviation Institute were both stunned. How could a new competitor emerge while they were in the heat of the battle?

Who was this new competitor?

When everyone looked, they saw that this high school was East Sea Hope University.

A private high school.

Xu Dongcheng was quite familiar with it. East Sea Hope University and his Westlight University had a somewhat similar ring to their names.

East Sea Hope University was also an established private institution, but its overall strength was slightly inferior to Westlight University.

East Sea Hope University was backed by Hope Real Estate, a rather well-known domestic real estate company.

"Hope University is quite wealthy."

Ding Yue looked over and then muttered to himself.

"Real estate developers, can they lack money? Years ago, when domestic housing prices soared, Hope Real Estate made a killing with a few new properties in the country."

Principal Xu Dongcheng said with a sense of nostalgia.

Back then, Xu Dongcheng had missed the chance to get into real estate, otherwise Westlight University might be even more impressive now, since at that time, real estate was really profitable.

Property prices went from a few thousand to break through ten thousand, twenty thousand, and even thirty or forty thousand yuan.

"I don't believe they can come up with that much cash flow."

Ding Yue murmured to himself.

A company worth tens of billions, or even hundreds of billions, might find it difficult to come up with several billion in cash assets.

But Ding Yue was different.

As long as it related to the construction and development of Mist City Arts and Science University, Ding Yue could pull out ten billion, or even twenty billion yuan without a problem.

"Principal Ding, are you not bidding yet?"

Xu Dongcheng asked with a smile.

"No rush, let's wait and see," Ding Yue remained in a carefree state.

"205 million!"

Southeast Aviation University seemed to be getting serious, bent on securing the domestic C919 large aircraft!

Southern University Aviation Institute, which had previously been bidding against Southeast Aviation University, stopped raising their bid upon seeing this.

It appeared that Southern University Aviation Institute's budget was below two hundred million yuan.

A price of two hundred million could eliminate several high schools from the bidding due to inadequate budgets.

Now, after the bidding had reached two hundred million, only those who were wealthy and keen on acquiring the large aircraft remained.

Among them was Ding Yue's Mist City Arts and Science University...

Chapter 906: @Principal Ding, New Members Join the Group, Hurry Up and Assign Colors  
Mist City Arts and Science University Aeronautics and Astronautics College Group—

Students were chatting about various topics concerning Xia Country's aeronautics and astronautics.

After some new students joined, seniors warmly welcomed the newcomers, usually tagging them and asking them to follow rules, such as the following:

1. Newcomers, look over here
2. Don't spam!
3. No adult content allowed!
5. Crack down on advertising bots!
6. Send red packets!
7. Share photos!

Note: Young people should avoid 'driving'. Driving can distract you, so be sure to remember the above nine rules for newcomers when joining the group!

Liu Peng: [QQ Red Packet · Newcomer Red Packet]

Zhang Cheng: [QQ Red Packet · Newcomer Red Packet]

Zhao Yanli: [Photo.jpg]

Liu Yuhui: [Photo.jpg]

"Wow, are all the newcomers this proactive?"

"Freshmen brothers and sisters, you're so cute."

"@Liu Yuhui, seeing how beautiful you are, I advise you to quickly confess to a senior. I hope you'll be sensible!"

"@Liu Yuhui, do you have a boyfriend, junior sister?"

"@Liu Yuhui, little junior sister, as your senior, I feel it's my duty to show you around Mist City Arts and Science University. Meet me at the entrance of the second cafeteria tomorrow, shall I give you a tour?"

"@Liu Yuhui, is military training tough, junior sister? Want me to buy you a watermelon?"

"Stop fawning over her, don't you remember the school provides free watermelons for those in military training?"

"@Liu Yuhui, junior sister, if there's anything you don't understand in your studies, just look for me."

"Wow, are you really concerned about the junior sister's studies, Chen? Even I'm embarrassed to point it out!"

Just as the seniors were teasing the adorable new juniors who had just joined the group, a message suddenly appeared that surprised everyone.

[Director Song Wankong has invited Principal Ding to join the group!]

When the students saw this message, it caused an uproar.

"What the heck! Principal Ding joined the group?"

"Stop flirting, Principal Ding is here."

"Greetings, Principal Ding!"

"Wow, Director Song actually pulled Principal Ding into this?"

"I kept telling you not to 'drive' so recklessly toward the edge of the city. You didn't believe me, and now look, Principal Ding is here!"

"@Principal Ding, Newbie, follow the rules upon joining—

First, go big on adult content..."

"..."

"..."

"..."

"Wow, dude, you're truly brave!"

"That's our Principal Ding, bro, how could you dare?"

Over in Yancheng.

Ding Yue had just had Director Song Wankong pull him into the Aeronautics and Astronautics College's main group, and as soon as he joined, wow, he saw someone mentioning him to enhance adult content?

Ding Yue: ?????

Is this really a student group from our Mist City Arts and Science University?

Do the students have such energetic hobbies besides studying?

"Don't mess up the group."

Ding Yue typed a few words and sent them into the Aeronautics and Astronautics College student group.

Originally, Ding Yue had Director Song Wankong pull him into the group to announce something personally to the students, but seeing the situation, he felt the need to earnestly advise them.

Don't fool around.

If the group gets messed up, we'd have to create a new one, which would be such a hassle.

"Principal Ding has spoken."

"Wow, now that Principal Ding is here, do you still dare to flirt?"

"Welcome, Principal Ding!"

Upon seeing Principal Ding had spoken, students started replying one after another.



Seeing this, Ding Yue thought it over and decided to just announce the matter directly.

So.

Ding Yue: @everyone, classmates, today I have good news for you all. After the decision by our school's leadership, the school has purchased a domestic C919 large aircraft for the Aeronautics and Astronautics College to use for practical teaching. We expect the aircraft to be delivered to our school in a month!

As soon as Ding Yue sent out this message, students went wild with excitement.

"What the heck! Principal Ding bought us a plane?"

"666, brothers, type 'Principal Ding is awesome' in the group!"

"Principal Ding is awesome!"

"Principal Ding is awesome!"

"Principal Ding is awesome!"

...

In no time, the phrase "Principal Ding is awesome!" was flooding the group chat.

"Stop right there, didn't we agree not to spam? Even copy-pasting isn't allowed!"

The admin quickly stepped in to stop them.

Ding Yue: The aeronautics and astronautics sector is a key industry our country is focused on developing. Our school has established the Aeronautics and Astronautics College and has gathered all of you outstanding students in aerospace. The school has always taken your education seriously and hopes that you all will live up to the trust placed in you and strive to study hard for the future of our nation's aerospace industry!

Taking the opportunity, Ding Yue gave a motivational talk to the students in the group chat.

After all, aerospace is a truly magnificent endeavor.

Of course.

The actual aerospace industry has not much to do with Mist City Arts and Science University's Aeronautics and Astronautics College right now.

But Ding Yue believed that one day, the Aeronautics and Astronautics College at Mist City Arts and Science University would become a famous department nationwide, and even in the whole world. Let's start with that goal this year!

Let it start with Ding Yue buying a domestic C919 large aircraft for the Aeronautics and Astronautics College!

The next second.

The students unanimously started flooding the group chat with messages of "We won't let Principal Ding down!"

Seeing this, Ding Yue didn't say anything further.

The announcement had been made.

He had also encouraged the students of the Aeronautics and Astronautics College to work hard and contribute to the country's aerospace industry in the future.

Ding Yue personally notified the group because he had successfully bid 245 million yuan for the domestic C919 large aircraft at an auction in Yancheng.

Chapter 907: @Principal Ding, New Members Join the Group, Hurry Up and Assign Colors  
Speaking of which.

During the bidding process, as the price had reached two hundred million yuan, only three or four universities were still in contention.

Among them, Southeast Aviation University and East Sea Hope University initially were neck and neck.

One was a public university, and the other was a private one; they were at it until the bid reached around 230 million yuan, at which point East Sea Hope University gave up.

Southeast Aviation University had clenched its teeth to reach that price too.

They thought they were about to triumphantly secure the domestic C919 large aircraft.

But what they hadn't anticipated at all was this.

At that moment, Mist City Arts and Science University, which had up till then not made a bid, suddenly entered the fray.

Ding Yue directly added 15 million onto the 230 million yuan bid!

The price shot up to 245 million yuan!

Southeast Aviation University was dumbfounded on the spot; pursuing the bid further wasn't practicable, but if they didn't, they would have to concede to the deep-pocketed Mist City Arts and Science University.

The reason Ding Yue added fifteen million in one go was to show Southeast Aviation University that he had the strength to increase the bid by 15 million yuan all at once on top of such a high baseline price.

If you plan to follow, then follow with 15 million, and let's determine a winner.

Clearly, Southeast Aviation University hesitated, and after that hesitation, they chose to give up, not competing with Mist City Arts and Science University.

Although they could have added five million, the other side had raised the bid by 15 million in one fell swoop to 245 million yuan. An additional five million would make it 250 million yuan, which was already way beyond Southeast Aviation University's budget.

But it was estimated that Mist City Arts and Science University could still increase the bid.

Therefore, Southeast Aviation University ultimately decided to withdraw.

And so, Mist City Arts and Science University won the auction for the domestic C919 large aircraft at a price of 245 million yuan!

After securing the domestic C919 large aircraft, Ding Yue immediately informed Director Song Wankong of the Aerospace College at his university.

Director Song Wankong had initially said he was going to notify the students right away.

But Ding Yue thought about it for a bit and decided to do it himself, so he asked Director Song Wankong to add him to the Aerospace College group chat. The moment he entered, he saw Chang Wei beating up Lai Fu... No, he saw the students fooling around with colors!

"Principal Ding, it looks like everyone really wanted that domestic C919 aircraft, but in the end, you won it with a hefty bid. Congratulations."

Principal Xu Dongcheng laughed and said to Ding Yue.

"This domestic C919 aircraft is of extraordinary significance to our Aerospace College at Mist City Arts and Science University," Ding Yue stated with profound meaning.

Though no one would understand why a privately run university, with an Aerospace College that was not exceptionally distinguished, would be willing to spend 245 million yuan to purchase a domestic C919 aircraft.

Only Ding Yue himself knew best that this aircraft was the key to unlocking the potential of Mist City Arts and Science University's Aerospace College.

After the auction ended, delegates from other universities also came over to congratulate Ding Yue.

Vice Principal Liu from Southeast Aviation University was magnanimous, shaking hands with Ding Yue and saying, "Principal Ding, I've long heard of your remarkable achievements at a young age, and I didn't expect to meet you here today."

"You flatter me, Vice Principal Liu," Ding Yue humbly responded.

This deputy principal was from a national key university and held considerable status.

"Principal Ding, with your institution having secured the domestic C919 at such a high cost, are you perhaps planning to vigorously develop your Aerospace College?" Vice Principal Liu inquired.

"Yes, that is indeed the plan. Plus, as you may know, Vice Principal Liu, Mist City Arts and Science University is a new institution, and our Aerospace College does have a fair number of students. We truly lack practical teaching equipment, which is why we decided to purchase this domestic C919 aircraft," Ding Yue explained with a smile.

"Hahaha, Principal Ding, your point is well taken. I've heard good things about your students. If in the future the students from your Aerospace College consider pursuing graduate studies, maybe they can think about Southeast Aviation University," Vice Principal Liu said as he reached out and lightly patted Ding Yue's shoulder.

Ding Yue was younger than Vice Principal Liu and said nothing when he was patted on the shoulder, just smiling along: "Yes, yes, you're absolutely right, Vice Principal Liu."

In reality.

In his mind, Ding Yue was thinking: My, aren't you wishful thinking!

"The student I've painstakingly cultivated is considering pursuing postgraduate studies at Southeast Aviation University?"

"Doesn't that mean I, Mist City Arts and Science University, have essentially prepared them for your benefit?"

Ding Yue certainly wouldn't allow such a thing to happen. Generally, if his own students wanted to pursue postgraduate studies, he would do everything in his power to ensure that they stayed at Mist City Arts and Science University.

And in most cases, the majority of students would indeed prefer to stay.

Because Mist City Arts and Science University has given them a sense of home. Here, they could immerse themselves in a better learning atmosphere and benefit from the efficiency of the university.

If there really were students wanting to leave Mist City Arts and Science University,

Ding Yue wouldn't forcibly keep them.

After all, that wouldn't be right.

It's just that,

if a student really left Mist City Arts and Science University to pursue postgraduate studies elsewhere, for example, if a student from the School of Aerospace Engineering went to Southeast Aviation University, then there was nothing to be done as it was the student's own choice. From then on, that student would no longer enjoy the learning BUFF of Mist City Arts and Science University.

And once they lost the learning BUFF provided by Mist City Arts and Science University, they could only gradually revert to their former "underachieving" selves.

After chatting for a while with Vice Principal Liu from Southeast Aviation University, a manager from Summer Aviation Group and the person in charge of the auction came over to find Ding Yue.

"Principal Ding, thank you for bidding on our domestic C919 large aircraft. Although the engine of this aircraft has some defects, we will replace it with a healthy engine," said Manager Wang, smiling at Ding Yue.

"Replace the engine?"

Ding Yue asked curiously, "What about the original engine?"

"If Principal Ding is interested, we will also send over the original engine designed exclusively for the domestic C919 large aircraft to your school, although... it is a defective engine," Manager Wang quickly replied.

If it weren't for the defect in the engine, this domestic C919 large aircraft would definitely not be up for auction here.

It would either be normally delivered as per orders or sent back for remanufacture. It's just that because of special circumstances, many universities expressed interest in this slightly problematic domestic C919 large aircraft.

Therefore, after some consideration, Summer Aviation Group decided to use this domestic C919 large aircraft for the academic field of Xia Country's aviation universities.

"Alright, let's proceed that way," Ding Yue said with a nod and a smile upon hearing this.

"Sure, we will disassemble the aircraft and deliver it to Mist City Arts and Science University within a half month, completing the assembly. All of this will be handled by the Summer Aviation Group. You can rest assured, Principal Ding," said Manager Wang.

"That's really great," said Ding Yue.

Initially, Ding Yue wondered how he would transport this aircraft with engine problems from Yancheng to Mist City after winning the bid.

After all, it would certainly be placed at his Mist City Arts and Science University.

It turned out that Summer Aviation Group had already considered this matter. They would take responsibility for the entire transport and technical services, and the large aircraft would be disassembled and delivered to Mist City Arts and Science University.

After all, the destiny of the aircraft was to be used for teaching at aerospace colleges; it would never take off in its lifetime, so disassembling and reassembling it wouldn't be an issue.

"Xiao Wen, hurry and go make the payment," Ding Yue instructed his secretary Wen Ruohan after glancing at Manager Wang's expression and quickly thinking of this.

After all, he had already won the bid.

And once the payment was made, the domestic C919 large aircraft would indeed belong to them.

"Certainly, Principal Ding," Wen Ruohan promptly nodded in response.

"Miss, this way, please..." Immediately one of the staff members from Summer Aviation Group led Wen Ruohan to make the payment.

After Mist City Arts and Science University made the payment,

Summer Aviation Group began preparing the next steps.

As for Ding Yue, he didn't stay in Yancheng for long. The very next day, he bought a flight ticket back to Mist City and returned to his Mist City Arts and Science University...

Chapter 908: This is totally not cool!

September 4.

Mist City Arts and Science University.

Over 80,000 students at the university were routinely engaged in classes, life, military training, and other various activities.



The sophomore and junior classmates had officially started classes from the beginning of September.

More than 50,000 freshmen, on the other hand, were participating in a month-long military training that commenced in September.

This year's military training was livelier than last year's—not to mention the year before that.

After all, there were simply too many people.

But even with more than 50,000 students, the current campus and sports facilities of Mist City Arts and Science University could accommodate everyone.

Every day at noon and in the evening, several of the university's cafeterias were almost always packed with people.

After returning to Mist City Arts and Science University from Yancheng, Ding Yue couldn't help but feel a bit moved and happy at the sight of his prospering university.

In just a short span of two or three years,

his Mist City Arts and Science University had grown to such a massive scale.

The brand-new campus was now bustling, and the student population ranked first among Mist City's higher education institutions.

"The best scenery is right here," Ding Yue said, standing at the entrance of Mist City Arts and Science University, his voice laden with emotion.

"Principal Ding, are you talking about the scenery of our university's gate? But... it's not as nice as the Book Ship Library," Wen Ruohan asked innocently beside him.

"What I mean is... never mind, let's go back to school," Ding Yue said, not bothering to explain further.

After that, he walked into the campus, heading toward the Administration Building.

However, halfway there, Ding Yue received a somewhat troublesome phone call.

The call was from Director Zhu Youzhao of the School of Film and Television.

"Principal Ding, I heard you went to Yancheng and just got back today. You should already be back at school now, right?" Zhu Youzhao inquired over the phone.

Director Zhu Youzhao had actually come looking for Principal Ding yesterday but had not found him, only then learning that Principal Ding had taken a trip to Yancheng. Obviously, Director Zhu Youzhao wasn't quite clear about the specifics of the visit.

After all, Director Zhu Youzhao's responsibilities were confined to the School of Film and Television on a regular basis, and his most pressing recent job was to assist Director Su Yangfan in producing the sci-fi movie "Wandering Earth."

And now, the School of Film and Television's biggest project, the sci-fi movie "Wandering Earth," had run into a bit of trouble.

To be precise, it was quite a significant problem.

If it couldn't be resolved satisfactorily, it might severely affect the original production schedule of "Wandering Earth."

"Yes, I just arrived at the school. What is it, Director Zhu, is there something you need?" Ding Yue responded.

It felt like it had been a while since the School of Film and Television's Director Zhu had sought him out, probably because he had been quite busy. But the sudden call today definitely meant there was an issue.

"Principal Ding, then I will come to your office now. Shall I also call Director Su?" Director Zhu Youzhao thought it over. Some matters still needed to be discussed face-to-face with Principal Ding as it was somewhat unclear over the phone.

"Fine, I'll wait for you in my office," Ding Yue said, then after a moment added, "Can you briefly tell me what it's about? Is it about 'Wandering Earth'?"

"Wandering Earth" was the largest project currently under the School of Film and Television's purview, and from the tone of Director Zhu's voice just now, it definitely wasn't a minor issue.

There shouldn't be any problems on the teaching front, as if there were any teaching issues, Director Zhu would have reported them to Director Qi Chunsheng of the Academic Affairs Office first.

Then Director Qi Chunsheng would report to him,

If Director Zhu Youzhao was directly reaching out to him, it was most likely about a project matter within the School of Film and Television.

"Yes, Principal Ding, it's about the 'Wandering Earth' project. I'll explain in detail after I arrive," Director Zhu Youzhao replied.

"Alright."

Bee-bee-bee~

After hanging up the phone, Ding Yue quickly made his way to the Administration Building with Wen Ruohan in tow.

By the time they arrived at the bottom of the Administration Building, Ding Yue took out his cellphone and said to it, "Big White, I'm back, open the door."

Inside the principal's office at that moment,

A red metallic box emitted a "beep" as it awoke from its sleep state, began inflating, and responded to its owner Ding Yue, "Okay, Principal!"

Having gone through multiple upgrades, Big White could now inflate much faster than before.

In no time at all, Big White was fully inflated.

Then, Big White stepped out of the red metal box, headed to the office door, opened it, and stood at the entrance waiting for its owner, Ding Yue, to return.

Ding Yue's cellphone could remotely control Big White using voice commands, thanks to a program that Bin had written for him. It was quite handy.

For instance, whenever Ding Yue was away and did not bring Big White with him, he could use the dedicated program on his phone to communicate with his AI robot Big White and get it to provide information and data online, saving Ding Yue the trouble of searching himself, which was incredibly convenient and useful.

Suddenly, after Big White had opened the principal's office door, two people approached.

One was Zhu Youzhao, the Director of the School of Film and Television, and the other was Director Su Yangfan.

Besides being a director, Su Yangfan was also a faculty member of Mist City Arts and Science University's School of Film and Television. He was primarily responsible for the filming and production of the sci-fi movie "Wandering Earth."

Principal Ding had allocated a substantial budget for the production of "Wandering Earth."

The pressure was on for the School of Film and Television's "Wandering Earth" project, especially following the tremendous success of the previous "Super Combat Team."

Chapter 909: This is totally not cool!

"Huh?"

When Zhu Youzhao and Su Yangfan saw the office door open and Principal Ding's robot Big White at the doorway, they quickened their pace and walked over with curiosity.

"Hello."

Big White greeted the two people before him.

These two individuals were in the database of Mist City Arts and Science University's staff, so even if Big White had never met Director Zhu Youzhao and Director Su Yangfan, it could still recognize their identities.

"You... hello, Big White."

Director Su Yangfan was quickly captivated by Big White and greeted it.

"Big White, is Principal Ding in the office?"

Director Zhu Youzhao asked.

"Principal Ding is on the way back," Big White answered.

"I have heard that Principal Ding's robot Big White is very artificial intelligence, and seeing it now, I can tell it's true. This artificial intelligence technology is pretty advanced, isn't it?"

As a science fiction enthusiast, Su Yangfan was quite surprised and delighted to see real-life artificial intelligence robots that had previously only existed in science fiction movies.

Moreover, Big White was a rather well-known domestic IP animation character.

Most importantly, this well-known domestic IP animation character was created by the Mist City Arts and Science University's School of Film and Animation!

It must be said that Mist City Arts and Science University was truly impressive.

"It is said that this Big White was created by the Computer Science Department, incorporating cutting-edge technology in its systems and all that, but the specifics, I don't quite understand," Zhu Youzhao said, shrugging his shoulders.

Just then, Ding Yue arrived upstairs.

"You're here so soon?"

When Ding Yue reached the top, he saw Director Zhu Youzhao and Director Su Yangfan gazing at his artificial intelligence robot Big White at the entrance of his office.

They had actually arrived before him, which was quite fast considering he hadn't seen them at the bottom of the Administration Building just before.

"Principal Ding."

Upon seeing Principal Ding, both Zhu Youzhao and Su Yangfan immediately turned around and called out.

"Come in and have a seat."

Ding Yue said, allowing them into his office, then entered the office himself with Big White and his secretary, Wen Ruohan, following him.

Once inside the office, Wen Ruohan said quietly to Big White, "Big White, please serve the tea."

"Okay."

"So, what's the situation with our 'Wandering Earth' project?"

Having taken his seat in his office chair, Ding Yue asked calmly.

By now, Ding Yue had seen so much of the university's various affairs that he had become unflappable.

No matter what the situation,

one must stay level-headed, then solve any problems that arise or, if it's good news, simply be happy for a while.

After all, with such a vast Mist City Arts and Science University to run and with so many things happening, if Ding Yue fretted over every little problem, he figured he wouldn't live very long.

"Principal Ding, our film 'Wandering Earth' is almost at the end of shooting, and the special effects production has started, but we've run into some issues with the special effects. We had a partnership with Summer Light Shadow Studio, one of the top special effects studios in the country. Initially, our negotiations went well, but... just two days ago, as 'Wandering Earth' entered the special effects production phase, Summer Light Shadow Studio held us up."

Director Zhu Youzhao briefly outlined the situation to Principal Ding.

"Held us up?"

Upon hearing this, Ding Yue couldn't help frowning, "Do you mean what I think you mean?"

Director Su Yangfan nodded and said, "Yes, Principal Ding, the price we initially agreed upon was already quite high, but now Summer Light Shadow Special Effects Studio wants more money."

Well, well!

Ding Yue suddenly understood.

It turned out that the special effects partner for 'Wandering Earth' was asking for more money at this critical moment.

"How much more?"

Ding Yue asked curiously.

If the increase was not significant, it could be considered; after all, the other party was one of the top special effects studios in the country. Their value was clear, and paying a bit more to ensure the special effects work for 'Wandering Earth' was reliable seemed reasonable.

Especially for a sci-fi movie like 'Wandering Earth', where special effects were crucial.

"They want to increase by fifty percent!"

Director Su Yangfan replied.

"That much, are they robbing us?"

Upon hearing this, Ding Yue almost jumped up in shock.

Wasn't this blatantly trying to rob them, Ding Yue dismissed his earlier thoughts!

Special effects production was already burning through money, the budget for "Wandering Earth"'s special effects was estimated to be at least around one hundred million yuan, now, adding another fifty million yuan onto that, wasn't this outright robbery?

"Principal Ding, with such a price hike, it's really difficult for us to accept and make a decision, that's why we immediately came to report to you, Principal Ding. But it seemed you were not at the school yesterday."

Director Zhu Youzhao sighed and said.

"True, I went to Yancheng yesterday and it did cost a fair amount of money."

Ding Yue nodded in response.



Going to Yancheng yesterday to purchase a domestically produced C919 jumbo jet cost him over two hundred million yuan, but Ding Yue at least thought it was money well spent. Having a C919 could set the path for the development of the Aeronautics and Astronautics Faculty.

The Aeronautics and Astronautics Faculty could also expand design or upgrades based on the C919, and there would certainly be great returns.

But the special effects for "Wandering Earth," which already required an investment of one hundred million yuan or more, now faced a fifty percent price increase—that was excessively steep.

Even Ding Yue found it unacceptable.

And for Summer Light Shadow Special Effects Studio to do this, it was simply unfair.

"Speaking of which, Director Su, where did you find this studio? They're really not playing fair!"

Ding Yue complained, then asked, "Didn't you sign a contract initially?"

"Principal Ding, we were planning to sign the contract before the special effects production began. Just before signing, Summer Light Shadow raised their prices. I feel there must be a problem behind this, as such situations have never occurred before," explained Director Su Yangfan.

"Really?"

Upon hearing this, Ding Yue's brows knitted tightly.

As Director Su Yangfan explained, there indeed seemed to be something suspicious about the situation.

Over the years, Summer Light Shadow Special Effects Studio had never done such a thing as raising prices by fifty percent at the last minute. And now, Mist City Arts and Science University happened to be the first to encounter it.

Could it really be such a coincidence?

"Principal Ding, if we don't collaborate with Summer Light Shadow now and look for other special effects studios, there will be some delays. The most crucial issue is..."

Director Su Yangfan paused mid-sentence.

"What is it?"

Ding Yue lifted his head and asked Director Su Yangfan.

"The most crucial issue is that we have also contacted other top domestic special effects studios, but their prices are too high," Director Su said helplessly.

"What do you mean? Has the market rate for special effects gone up?" Ding Yue asked.

"Not at all, Director Zhu and I were discussing this on the way here, and it feels as if someone is targeting us," Director Zhu Youzhao replied immediately.

"So how do we resolve this? We definitely need special effects for 'Wandering Earth,' and only the best will do. What are your suggestions for a solution?" Ding Yue looked to Director Su Yangfan and Director Zhu Youzhao.

Both of them were silent at this point.

Director Su Yangfan even shook his head, and after a long pause said, "If we find a foreign special effects production company, it will be even more expensive."

Director Su Yangfan was right in saying this.

Ding Yue had previously looked into information about this aspect of Parallel World.

The domestic film industry was quite mature and was on par with international standards in terms of visual effects, ensuring that domestic special effects could meet the requirements of large productions, with the key advantage being that they were cheaper than Hollywood.

If they were to switch to a Hollywood visual effects company now, costs would definitely rise.

Although Ding Yue was confident "Wandering Earth" could recoup the investment,

he couldn't let himself be swindled like this, could he?

"Huh?"

Suddenly, a bold idea flashed through Ding Yue's mind...

Chapter 910: Xia Country's Largest Entertainment Group

Ding Yue's mind quickly generated an idea.

Since the special effects production company for "Wandering Earth" suddenly raised their prices, and all the other domestic special effects studios were in cahoots, turning to foreign Hollywood special effects companies would be too costly.

Faced with such a situation, why couldn't I establish my own special effects studio?

In the future, the film and television academy at Mist City Arts and Science University and Feiyue Media were definitely going to produce more films and TV dramas, and there would be a great demand for special effects in this aspect.

If others have control over our "lifeline" now, what will it be like in the future?

Having my own special effects studio, and on top of that, having my own production team, would enable me to form a full industry chain and handle all the production processes.

As long as the wages I offer are high enough, there won't be a shortage of people willing to do special effects for me.

The most critical point is.

The first thing Ding Yue thought of was the students at Mist City Arts and Science University; they might be the sharp sword to break this deadlock.

"Director Zhu, do we have any students in the film and television academy who are particularly skilled in special effects production?"

Ding Yue immediately looked at Director Zhu Youzhao and asked.

Because the field of film and television special effects is not a separate university major but involves many different disciplines related to graphics, visual 3D, and various other relevant majors, anyone from these areas could become talent in the field of movie special effects.

Even under the animation major, there are corresponding courses and the like.

"Although our university does not have a dedicated film and television special effects major, we do have related courses that involve multiple majors within the film and television academy. Among these, there should be quite formidable talents in the animation major. Principal Ding, are you suggesting?"

Director Zhu Youzhao replied, then he "got" Principal Ding's idea and looked slightly surprised.

"Exactly!"

Ding Yue immediately nodded and confidently said with a smile, "Since Summer Light Shadow Special Effects Studio is going to bail on us, why don't we take matters into our own hands and establish our own special effects studio? From then on, we could settle this once and for all!"

"It's a good idea, Principal Ding, but... to set up our own special effects studio, we will need a lot of manpower, material resources, financial resources, and even time. If that's the case, our 'Wandering Earth' project will likely have to be postponed."

Upon hearing this, Director Su Yangfan agreed with Principal Ding's idea without even having to think about it.

However, as good as the idea was, it also had obvious drawbacks.

As for manpower, material resources, financial resources, and all that, Su Yangfan believed it wouldn't be difficult to resolve with the capabilities of Mist City Arts and Science University. The issue was time, as the science fiction movie "Wandering Earth" definitely couldn't be produced smoothly.

After all, they had to first establish their own special effects studio.

Even if Summer Light Shadow Special Effects Studio hadn't flaked, it was still possible that the post-production and special effects might not proceed smoothly as planned, let alone now that they need to set up their own studio first.

Upon hearing this, Ding Yue took a deep breath and calmly said, "It's okay if it's delayed a bit, and given the foundation of our students at Mist City Arts and Science University, they might not need too much time to get the hang of it."

Ding Yue thought for a moment.

Originally, filming for "Wandering Earth" would finish in September, followed by post-production and special effects stages. If all went well, the movie could be released during February of next year, the Spring Festival period.

The ideal scenario would be to make it for this year's Spring Festival Period.

But given the current situation, it's understandable that they would be worried about not making it in time for the Spring Festival Period.

However, Ding Yue was quite confident.

Because he, Ding Yue, could use reputation points in the system mall to exchange for exquisite skills in film and television special effects production, and then endow selected students with these skills. Surely, that would allow them to progress swiftly, wouldn't it?

In terms of technical levels, there are no issues with using special effects production techniques exchanged from the system mall.

But!

It was as Director Su Yangfan said; perhaps they would need to race against time.

"If Principal Ding says so, it might be worth a try. It would be perfect if 'Wandering Earth' could be premiered during the Spring Festival Period. If we can't make it, Principal Ding, should we opt for the National Day Golden Time or the Summer Vocation?"

Director Zhu Youzhao further inquired.

"If we can't make the Spring Festival Period, then let's aim for the summer vacation period," Ding Yue considered and then decided. If they truly couldn't make it in time for the coveted Spring Festival Period, that would be a shame, but if things didn't go smoothly, they would have to go with the Summer Vocation.

There are three busy periods within a year for Xia Country's film market.

Among them, the Spring Festival Period needs no introduction, as almost every year, there are blockbuster hits.

Moreover, the Spring Festival Period is the most effective time for generating high box office returns, and many powerful movies choose to premiere during this period.

Next would be the Summer Vocation.

Although the National Day Golden Time is also a favorable time for movie releases, it lacks a bit of flavor compared to the Summer Vocation.

The Summer Vocation is long and often produces high-grossing, high-quality movies.

Then comes the National Day Golden Time.

"Director Zhu, please call together the students and teachers from the film and television academy and any other majors related to special effects production. Let's mobilize them," said Ding Yue.

Having decided to create his own special effects studio, Ding Yue immediately took action.