Scholar's Advanced Technological System

"Lu Zhou!"

Lu Zhou was walking towards the male dorms when he heard someone shouting his name. He turned and saw Lin Yuxiang jog towards him.

Her fair hands rested on her kneecaps as Lin Yuxiang bent her waist and gasped slightly. She gasped again and asked, "Why are you walking so fast?"

Lu Zhou asked, "What's up?"

"Nothing's wrong. I just wanted to thank you for what happened back at Professor Tang's office. I owe you one," said Lin Yuxiang with a smile on her face.

"Oh, that's nothing. Don't need to thank me," said Lu Zhou as he shook his head.

"Even though I know I'm very stupid, I'll work hard and catch up to you! So... thank you for giving me a chance," said Lin Yuxiang.

Emm...

This isn't possible.

There's no way for you to catch up. You can't even catch up to the tail light.

However, he did not burn this bridge. Lu Zhou still tried to smile, "Well, work hard. I believe you can do it."

"Really? Thank you for your support!" said Lin Yuxiang. As she kept her hands behind her back, she said happily, "Then... As a way to thank you, can I buy you food?"

Even though the suggestion of food was very tempting, Lu Zhou still rejected it when he thought about the relationship between his other teammate.

"Go and eat with your boyfriend. I won't be third wheeling you guys."

Lin Yuxiang heard the words come out of Lu Zhou's mouth and laughed. She played with her hair as she said, "What are you talking about? I don't have a boyfriend?"

Lu Zhou was slightly stunned and asked, "Isn't that Wang Xiaodong your boyfriend?"

"What are you talking about?" Lin Yuxiang groaned with dissatisfaction. She looked at Lu Zhou seriously and said, "He's older than me and I treat him like a brother. It's not like that."

What, what, what?

What is this?

Lu Zhou paused for a second before coming back to a realization.

Ah...

This is the so-called thing right...

Lu Zhou laughed and tried to refuse gently, "I'm sorry. I still have some personal stuff to do tonight. Let's go some other day."

Lin Yuxiang obviously did not expect the rejection. She was stunned for a second then immediately her face light up with a smile again, "Well! I'll contact you later then... Oh yeah, give me your WeChat."

This time Lu Zhou did not reject her and he took out his phone.

After all, she was his teammate. Having her contact details was convenient.

After exchanging WeChat, Lin Yuxiang held her phone as if it was a treasure. She happily thanked him, turned around and walked away briskly.

...

There was a type of girl in the university – pretty, innocent, and their smiles were like your first love. A smile that gave you butterflies in your stomach.

They would make you think that they liked you and would inadvertently start to approach you.

"So good", "Wow, you're amazing", "Ah, if only I was half as smart as you."

They could recognize their shortcomings and where their shortcomings were. This was obviously an advantage, but they were dissatisfied with themselves.

They were good at using the art of language and their circle of friends to mask themselves into a lonely and weak person. To arouse the attraction of the opposite S*x and to manipulate them.

However, when you started to chase her, you would walk a step forward while she would walk a step backward.

So, you would start to reflect on yourself and doubting yourself. You started to gradually lose yourself and you would become a black hole filled with dissatisfaction.

Until one day, you discovered that you were just one of the many prisoners trapped by her...

If you abstract this phenomenon into a social behavioral model, you would find this collective social behavior to be similar to the structure of ants.

All the workers and soldiers were loyal to one queen ant. Only a small number of male ants, that were strong, wing growing "bachelors", would have a chance to mingle with the queen.

As for that Wang Xiaodong, his role was probably the so-called spare tire?

Through a rational analysis, Lu Zhou felt that he probably understood it now.

As for Lin Yuxiang's objective, it was very clear to him. She was trying to win a prize in the mathematical modeling competition. Perhaps she saw that Lu Zhou was unhappy with having her as a teammate, so she deliberately approached to manipulate him.

If she could make these two guys fought for her, then that would be even better. She just had to sit back and win the national competition by doing nothing.

He had to admit. This type of girl was the nemesis of a genius.

Those who devoted too much time to study was bound to have difficulty balancing other areas.

Why Lu Zhou did not get baited by her?

That was because he knew better.

He knew that he was honest and slightly handsome at most. He was not rich or tall.

Getting into a relationship with this girl was completely pointless.

...

Lu Zhou went back to his dorm and was about to bring his laptop to the library to continue research thesis topics.

However, just after he stepped his foot into his dorm, Huang Guangming came over and slammed the door.

Kacha—

What?

He even locked it?

Lu Zhou watched Shi Shang and Liu Rui walked towards him with a smirk on their face and he said, "Say whatever you want. Let's discuss. Other than money problem, we can discuss it!"

Shi Shang laughed and said, "Zhou."

Liu Rui smiled and followed, "Zhou…"

Lu Zhou, "Can you guys stop being so romantic, I'm getting goosebumps!"

Huang Guangming blocked the dorm door with his body and said with a serious face, "We saw everything. Be honest! Who was the girl downstairs? Which department? When did you start dating? Which stages are you guys at? What are you feeling?"

Lu Zhou: ? ? ?

Shi Shang patted Lu Zhou's shoulder and sighed, "Brother, it's not that I don't want to help you, but can you look at it from our loners' perspective? Brother, I would just ask you for one thing. Go and invite your girlfriend's roommates. Let's arrange some activities. I'll cover the costs. You can decide on the specific activities. I'll owe you one whether I get a girlfriend or not."

Lu Zhou sighed. He held the hand that was on his shoulder, "Brother, it's not that I don't want to help you… But that student is my mathematics modeling competition's teammate. Also, she was brought in by another teammate. It was my first time meeting her today."

"How is this possible! So you guys have nothing going on?" asked Liu Rui suspiciously.

'Yeah, you could say so," nodded Lu Zhou.

The three guys in the dorm suddenly looked like shrimps as they said stuff like, "No fun, let's go", "I told you, Zhou is still a loner", "Let's just get Shi Shang a girlfriend and make him set up a group date for us". They sat back down in their chairs and got ready for a video game match.

The exams for mathematical analysis and advanced algebra were completed. Next week was English and C language exams. The dorm already started to get into summer vacation's mentality and no one wanted to study.

Lu Zhou saw that no one was bothering him anymore and so, he took his computer bag and left.

Yesterday, although he stayed at the library until closing time, other than downloading a lot of documents and reading a lot of books, no progress was made.

But yesterday's accumulation provided him with a lot of ideas. Today, he was ready to work hard, finished selecting the topics, and to start writing the theses.

This sounded like it would be simple, but actually, it was very difficult.

The mathematics thesis was easy to write, but the other nine computer theses were not his expertise. He had read more than 30 related theses. More than half of them were in English. After downloading them from the library, he stayed up until two o'clock in the morning and he had barely finished reading. He still had very little understanding of the topic.

Even if he learned the C language textbook, he still would not understand the harder topics.

As expected, his study ability was no match with a real genius.

If only the system gave him another studying mission...

Lu Zhou walked towards the library and suddenly remembered.

Chapter 22: The Correct Thesis Writing Posture

Lu Zhou was different compared to how most people wrote theses. All of his problems could be solved by asking the system, therefore the importance of proposing appropriate ideas far exceeds the realization of the idea itself.

Thus, the key to the problem itself lied in choosing the topic.

Lu Zhou's criteria for choosing a topic was very simple.

Since he was going to be a mudslide in the academic world, then he would have to find the easiest topic to do! The easiest journal to submit to!

What was worth mentioning was, as the second largest science major in the engineering department, finding an easy journal to submit to was relatively easy.

Just like mathematics, where a "new solution to a proof theorem" could be published into a thesis, in the field of computer science, even a new algorithm could be published into a paper.

13 years ago, in an interview with the guy who founded Khan Academy, he said, "90% of academic papers are useless", and "How many PhD papers have really been used?". Hundreds of silicon valley giants agreed with him.

Of course, there was a lot of criticism towards him.

The statement indeed was biased, but it also reflected some problems on the opposing end.

Internet information security and artificial neural networks were considered the norm. Also, big data and cloud computing had become hard hitting areas. Artificial intelligence was even more of a mess as even civilians had joined in on the conversation. In addition, it was not just domestic, it was the same abroad. It was a common problem for all "young disciplines".

Lu Zhou considered these factors. Therefore, he eventually chose the area of artificial intelligence.

Of course, the field of artificial intelligence was huge. From video games to frequency changing electric toothbrush, strictly speaking, this thing had penetrated into society. It was just a matter of how deep the level of penetration was.

Lu Zhou thought for a bit and typed a line of text in a Word document.

[Application of Artificial Intelligence in Geographic Information Systems]

From the phone's navigation system to autopilot driving, from traffic control to unmanned aircraft navigation.

He chose the later, just in time for the emerging concept of "unmanned aircraft logistics".

Of course, this area was still very broad. However, he was not worried as he had nine theses to submit!

It was like pouring water into the sea of academia. He planned on breaking it into nine parts with a hose and then slowly poured it in.

Hence, his fingers tapped the keyboard and he continued to write.

[A pixel analysis algorithm based on artificial intelligence]

[Optimization Algorithm for Dynamic Image Recognition Based on Artificial Intelligence]

[Automatic measurement method of human body size based on artificial intelligence algorithm]

[An Artificial Intelligence Algorithm for Harvesting Addresses]

{An artificial intelligence based...]

However, it was not just about completing the title. He still had to write an abstract to describe the topic in detail. After all, a video game "bot" and Ironman's "Jarvis" both belonged to the same category of artificial intelligence. Lu Zhou did not expect the system to accurately understand the difference between the two.

Due to this, not only did he had to write a detailed description of the idea, it would not even appear in the final thesis.

He had just finished all of this when the library approached its closing time.

He dragged all of the documents into the same folder that had the thesis on mathematics. Lu Zhou stretched his back and leaned back on his chair. He thought back to when he wrote his first thesis and started to say in his heart.

"System, give me a thesis price estimation."

The system very quickly gave an answer to his question.

[Total 10 questions. Total cost: 210 general points. Would you like to confirm a purchase?]

An average cost of 21 general points, after that he would only have 125 general points left. However, he would receive 800 general points when he completed the mission, not to mention additional rewards if he received an S grade. This was worth it!

"Confirm purchase!"

Lu Zhou closed his eyes. Soon, a feeling of being shocked by electric traveled from his spine up to his brain. This was followed by a huge flow of information.

Although his information science experience points had not changed one bit, after receiving this new information, he felt his understanding of artificial intelligence had deepened.

Purchasing knowledge with general points was also a learning method. However, it was much simpler and easier than studying it by himself.

Of course, it would still take a while for him to completely digest this knowledge.

However, it was enough for him to write the theses!

Lu Zhou took a deep breath and opened his eyes. There was a spirit of fire in his eyes.

Ten theses.

He would take a month at most.

He was going to complete this!

...

The next day, Lu Zhou forced himself to wake up early. He brushed his teeth and put on his clothes, and then he went out of his bedroom.

As a result of staying up all night, there were two dark circles below his eyes. He could not even count the number of times he yawned on the way to the cafeteria.

"Lu Zhou!"

Chen Yushan was wearing a backpack and stood nearby. She smiled and said hello. When she noticed his dark circles, she said, "Wow, where did you get those panda eyes?"

"I got them from the zoo... This joke is so cold, it's not funny at all," said Lu Zhou while yawning.

Chen Yushan's appearance looked the same as usual. A pair of thick round glasses with her long black hair tied in a ponytail. Speaking of which, he had only seen her wearing makeup and contact lenses once. In a time where even young girls started to wear face masks, this type of "natural" girls was rare.

They began to walk together.

Chen Yushan asked, "You're not going to the library today?"

Lu Zhou thought for a bit and said, "I might go in the afternoon. I have a mathematics modeling competition training to attend to first."

"Wow, math modeling competition," said Chen Yushan. She nodded her head and said with experience, "The prize money for that competition is pretty high. It'll be very helpful for your future career. I'll root for you!"

"You've joined before?"

"What are you talking about? I won the level two prize. I amazed the audience with my strengths!" said Chen Yushan as she flicked her eyebrows satisfyingly. She pumped up her chest and said, "If you don't understand anything, feel free to ask for my help!"

"Cool, cool, cool," replied Lu Zhou with a perfunctory attitude.

I guess this modeling competition doesn't care about your mathematics skills...

That's a bit difficult to do.

Just as Lu Zhou was thinking this, Chen Yushan who was walking next to him opened her mouth.

"Wait a bit, don't move."

"Yeah?"

Chen Yushan turned around, opened her backpack, and pulled out a pack of tissues.

Lu Zhou was confused about what she was going to do. She took two steps, looked at Lu Zhou with a serious face, then suddenly reached out and wiped his face.

"Ah, disgusting. You don't care at all, do you? You didn't even wipe your eye boogers before leaving the dorm.," said Chen Yushan as she threw the tissue into a trash can.

*The f*ck?*

Lu Zhou face was instantly red and he was no longer sleepy.

It was not because he was embarrassed.

It was because...

Did I walk around all day with that big eye booger on my face?

Lu Zhou had a stiff expression as he asked quietly, "It... wasn't that obvious right?"

Chen Yushan laughed, "Okay, fine. It wasn't that noticeable. But I do suggest you go and wash your face in the bathroom before you enter a classroom."

*No s*hit, Sherlock!*

Lu Zhou immediately went into a bathroom, splashed some water on his face, and started rubbing.

...

He felt refreshed after washing his face.

Lu Zhou went into the classroom with a wet face. He walked in and saw only one person inside.

He sat down in the first row and greeted the person.

"Morning."

Wang Xiaodong saw Lu Zhou and his expression did not change much. He just nodded briefly and said hello. He then started to read his textbook again.

Next week was the school wide English exams. Only people like Lu Zhou, who studied the entire level four English textbook like a freak, was unworried about the exam. After all, the exam's vocabulary and grammar requirements were level four. Therefore, he only had to study the level four textbook. He would not get that high, but 80 marks were no problem for him.

Sitting there was boring and talking with Student Wong was even more boring. Lu Zhou took out his phone and started to read the material from yesterday. With these materials, he began to slowly digest the knowledge his brain took in last night.

Fortunately, most of the artificial intelligence programs were written in C++ because the language had higher degrees of freedom. The popular language Python was used to write a shell at most. For example, the first generation artificial intelligence learning system by Google, "DistBelief", was the best example of an AI written in C++.

The only programming language Lu Zhou knew was C++, so it was not difficult for him to understand this knowledge.

If someone ever asked him how he wrote these theses, he could still write a couple of lines.

With the two people busy doing their own activities, the time reached eight o'clock quickly. With the sound of the bell ring, their instructor for the mathematical modeling competition, Liu Xiangping, walked into the classroom.

Chapter 23: The Classic Business Modeling Problem

When Liu Xiangping saw the two people in the classroom, he smiled and said, "There are only two people here? I heard there's another one."

"... I'll call her and ask," said Wang Xiaodong. Embarrassed, he walked outside with his phone.

The professor was not in a rush. He opened his vacuum flask and sipped some hot water. He then casually sat next to Lu Zhou and asked with a smile, "What's the current situation on your team's configuration?"

Lu Zhou put down his phone and replied with a smile, "I'm responsible for building the model, Wang Xiaodong is responsible for programming it, and Lin Yuxiang is responsible for writing the thesis and presenting."

"Modeling, coding, and writing. The standard configuration I see," said Professor Liu. He laughed and continued to say, "Speaking of which, you're the undergraduate student Lu Zhou, right? I've read your thesis and it was really good."

Lu Zhou eyes lit up, "Professor, you're in mathematics?"

"You could say so, but I research physics side of things and I don't publish mathematics theses much," said Teacher Liu. As he squinted his eyes and looked at the classroom door, he said, "Your female teammate seems to be quite unreliable."

Lu Zhou felt awkward and could only smile out of politeness.

Teacher Liu smiled as well and left the issue alone. He paused before saying, "As for your team configuration, let me suggest some slight changes. Making the model and thesis should be done by one person, the two other people should program the model. The advantage of this is that the person writing the model would have a strong grasp of the topic, and thus, the process of writing the thesis would be much smoother. Of course, the downside is that the person would be under a lot of pressure. The competition is only three days long. It means that when the person finished writing the model, he or she would have to immediately start writing the thesis."

Lu Zhou asked thoughtfully, "Two people for coding?"

Teacher Liu sipped his tea and replied slowly, "That's right."

Lu Zhou laughed and did not give an answer yet, "I'll think about it. After all, I should discuss this with my teammates."

At the same time, the sound of footsteps came from outside the corridor. The last teammate had finally arrived.

"My apologies, I'm slightly late. I'm really sorry!" said Lin Yuxiang as she walked into the classroom with Wang Xiaodong. She looked down at the professor with an apologetic expression.

"It's okay. Since everyone is here, let's begin," said Professor Liu Xiangping as he smiled casually. He did not blame her for being late. He turned around and walked to the podium, plugged a USB into the computer, turned on the projector, and pulled out his PowerPoint presentation.

"Before I present, I want to first ask you guys a question. This question isn't very hard in itself, but it's an example of a mathematics modeling question. I hope you guys can understand what exactly is mathematical modeling by doing this question."

He pressed the mouse and turned the PowerPoint to the next page.

"Three businessmen, each carry a passenger on a boat to cross the river. The boat can only accommodate two people. The passengers secretly decided that if there are more passengers than businessmen on either side of the river, they'll kill the businessmen.

However, the method of taking the boat is determined by the businessmen. Question. How can the businessmen cross the bridge safely?"

In reality, this question was not difficult at all.

Lu Zhou did not even use the power of the system to find an answer. He replied.

"First round, two passengers go, one passenger comes back."

"Second round, two passengers go again, one passenger comes back."

"Third round, two businessmen go, one businessman and one passenger comes back."

"Fourth round, two businessmen go, one passenger comes back."

"Fifth round, two passengers go, one passenger comes back."

"Sixth round, the last two passengers go and they would successfully cross the river!"

Clap, Clap, Clap!

Lin Yuxiang started clapping with her tiny hands and her face was filled with an expression of being awed.

Wang Xiaodong's expressions did not change one bit. He looked like a worldly man.

From his perspective, this question was not that difficult. Although he did not try to solve it himself, he believed that his IQ was high enough to solve it in the same amount of time.

"Completely correct," laughed Professor Liu. He continued to say, "Even without any mathematical knowledge, this problem can be solved simply by logical analysis. What if we expanded this question into N businessmen?"

This question was slightly harder. However, while the mathematical side was easy, the hard part was abstracting this problem into a mathematical problem.

Lu Zhou gave it a serious thought for a moment. He already had a general outline in his brain.

"Can I use the blackboard?"

"Of course, you can," said Professor Liu Xiangping while he waved his hand as an invitation.

Lu Zhou walked up to the blackboard and started to write with a chalk.

[Let the number of businessmen before crossing the river as X_k. Let the number of passengers be Y_k. k = 1, 2..., X_k. Y_k = 0, 1, 2, 3. Let the two dimensional vector S_k = (X_k, Y_k). A successful crossing condition is recorded as S.]

Therefore $S=\{(X,Y)|X=0,Y=0,1,2,3;X=3,Y=0,1,2,3;X=Y=1,2\}$

2. The number of businessmen on the kth ferry is 2 U_k, and the number of followers is V_k. The two-dimensional vector $D_k=(U_k, V_k)$ is defined as a decision. Allow the decision set to be recorded as D, which is known by the boat capacity: $D=\{(U,V)|1\leq U+V\leq V, U, V=0,1,2\}$

3 Combining the above conclusions, the variation law of state S_k with D_k is: $S(k+1)=S_k+(-1)^k*D_k$

]

"Amazing..." gaped Lin Yuxiang as she looked at the blackboard with a blank face. Her mouth was slightly wide opened. She watched Lu Zhou walked down the podium and she asked in surprise, "You don't even need to write down your calculations?"

"I can just calculate it in my head," said Lu Zhou while laughing.

Wang Xiaodong still remained silent.

From looking at his expression, the arrogant genius was thoroughly convinced by Lu Zhou's mathematics ability.

Professor Liu looked at the steps on the blackboard and nodded his head, "Perfectly correct! But from a mathematical model perspective, you only completed half of the work. After building at the model, there's still one more step. Implementation of the model. Of course, this model is very simple and I trust that Student Wong can definitely use his programming skills to build this. So, we won't waste our precious time."

Wang Xiaodong pushed his glasses. The expression on his face remained the same as it portrayed a sense of confidence.

Given that there was no chance for him to show off his programming skills, he was a bit disappointed.

After a pause, Professor Liu continued to say, "Data modeling is actually a process of simplifying a practical problem into a problem that can be expressed in terms of data and simple sentences. Then, solve the problem through mathematical tools."

"So, the key is, what actual problems are your team going to solve?"

"Building a model isn't testing your programming abilities or your mathematical abilities. It is actually testing your ability to translate real life problems into data and find a way to solve it. You guys have to remember this."

"As for building the model, I don't have much advice. There is no shortcut other than to practice and broaden your knowledge. As for programming, I can give some advice."

"There are four types of commonly used software. Matlab, Mathematica, Lingo, and SAS. You don't need to master all of them but you have to at least master one of them. The key is to use the software that suits you to solve the actual problem," said Professor Liu Xiangping while he looked at Wang Xiaodong.

This was because he was mainly talking to him.

Wang Xiaodong pushed his glasses, nodded his head, and said, "I've used Matlab and SAS so there's no problem."

Professor Liu nodded, "Knowing these two are enough. You guys have to learn this by yourself. I can only help you when you are stuck."

"The last point is regarding textbooks. I recommend that you read some books on mathematical modeling such as Mathematical Models, Mathematical Modeling Algorithms and Applications, and Mathematical Modeling Basics."

"I still have some handouts and materials from the university. You can copy them and look at them at home but remember not to pass them out or upload it online. Understood?"

The three students replied at the same time: "Understood!"

Professor Liu laughed and said, "Okay, that's it for today. I don't have much else to say. It's all up to you guys now. Come download the material from me if you need it. After you're done, go and study English."

Chapter 24: First Training Session

After downloading the material, Professor Liu dismissed them. He expressed that if they were not busy revising, they should look over the material tonight.

Tomorrow they were going to meet in the school's computer room and to start their first training session.

After Professor Liu dismissed them, Lu Zhou carried his laptop and walked to the library. He continued to write his theses.

He did not even look at the material on his USB.

After all, for him, the system mission was a higher priority than school work.

Other than writing theses, Lu Zhou would occasionally help Chen Yushan with a few math questions.

Honestly speaking, the girl's foundation in mathematics was absolutely horrible. He had no idea how she apparently scored 85 in her first-year mathematical analysis exam.

"You guys don't study mathematics in business school?" asked Lu Zhou. He was completely defeated by a question regarding finding the limits of a function. He rolled

his eyes and wrote the answer on the draft paper. Without any mercy, he said, "The teacher just explained this question as an example in class."

Chen Yushan blushed. She refused to accept defeat and defended herself, "I'm studying economics management in the business school. It's not like I study accounting. I've got a lot of other stuff to memorize. When would I have time to study mathematics?"

"I know that you also need to study accounting and statistics for economics..."

"Shut up, I'll buy you lunch."

Lu Zhou shut up immediately. He said in his heart, "Don't be polite, ask me anything you want."

It'd be best if you can buy me dinner as well...

When someone bought him food, Lu Zhou would feel as if he owed them. Even though his financial situation was pretty bad, he would still find a chance to buy them food back.

However, if Chen Yushan wanted to buy him food...

He did not feel ashamed at all.

He used his skill to earn the meal. Why would he have to treat her back?

He helped her with all of the topics in advanced algebra and he did not even charge her. It was normal for her to buy him food.

After the library closed, Lu Zhou went back to his dorm and continued to work a little bit more. He finally finished writing his first thesis.

The value score of the first thesis was the highest out of the ten. The system assessed it at 30 general points. He thought about some of the conclusions of this paper as it was a supplement to the arguments in his previous thesis. Lu Zhou was prepared to submit it again to the "Theoretical and Applied Mathematics Communication" journal.

As for the rest of the nine theses, his submission goal was "Modern Communication and Geographic Information Technology"

As a non-core journal, this domestic journal was rare and it did not require any review and layout fees. It also did not care if the author had financial support. It would even pay the authors 150 yuan per thesis. Comparing this with the other journals that only cared about the pockets of researchers, this was the "clear stream" of the academic mudslide!

Nine theses were 1350 yuan!

By the time he finally finished uploading his mathematics thesis, it was already two o'clock in the morning.

Lu Zhou saw the time was late. He turned off his laptop, yawned, and laid in bed. As he listened to his roommates' snoring sound, he slowly drifted into his dreams.

...

Professor Liu and Lu Zhou were lazy and did not wake up early. He walked into the computer room behind Professor Liu. When he walked in, he discovered that he was not the latest to arrive. When he walked in with Professor Liu, only Wang Xiaodong was inside the classroom.

"Morning."

As always, Lu Zhou smiled and said hello. He thought that the proud genius would ignore him. As a result, he did not expect to hear him reply.

"Morning."

Although it was only one word, it was quite a big breakthrough for him.

Lu Zhou was gratified.

Honestly speaking, he was not worried at all about his team's abilities. The only thing he was worried about was his relationships with his teammates. He knew that he was not the only one worried about this. Professor Liu must also be concerned.

If Lin Yuxiang could be used as a mediator, it would not be that bad to have her on the team.

Probably.

Just as he was going off track thinking about this, Lin Yuxiang finally arrived. This time was better as she was only late by 15 minutes.

As always, Professor Liu Xiangping did not say anything to her. He just smiled faintly. He signaled her to find a place to sit down and then started the course for the day.

According to the training plan, today was the first training session, which was to develop cooperation between the teammates.

They did not want to waste too much time so the questions were not difficult. They could all be solved on the spot.

Professor Liu gave a string of fictitious data of telecom users and made up more than 20 tasks to do. The requirement was to classify consumer habits through mathematical modeling and design products for different user groups.

As the data was made up, the data source was not given in the question. He only gave them an excel spreadsheet.

The knowledge needed for calculations was biased towards statistics. It involved economics and product management techniques. Compared to yesterday's appetizer, the difficulty of this question had undoubtedly improved.

The simple mathematical formulas were not necessarily useless in this practical application. Rather, the difficulty of this question was not in the mathematics part. It was how to convert this type of problem into a mathematical problem.

The good thing was that the question itself was not that complicated. It just required a broad range of knowledge. Lu Zhou thought about it for nearly half an hour. He first used statistical techniques to classify customers. Then he used a matrix algorithm to solve two of the questions.

Lu Zhou brought a couple of draft paper to Wang Xiaodong and put them on his computer desk. He said, "The model is done and I've sent it to your email. The other part I calculated it with a pen so it's written on the paper. You should be fine with organizing the formula and entering it into the computer right?"

Wang Xiaodong nodded and his answer was concise, "No problem."

As expected, the efficiency of the two geniuses was extraordinary.

Lu Zhou quickly finished building the mathematical model. Wang Xiaodong also quickly used the computer in the computer room to code the program. It took them less than two hours. It was estimated that it would take a day but they had already finished it in such a short amount of time.

After examining the results of Lu Zhou and Wang Xiaodong respectively, Professor Liu could not help but be impressed. He had coached a total of five mathematical modeling competitions. These two were the most talented students he had ever met.

Lu Zhou smiled and accepted the teacher's compliment. As for Wang Xiaodong, there was no expression on his face as usual. However, from the corner of his mouth, a sliver of satisfaction could be seen.

The first training session went smoothly.

However, the biggest problem was Lin Yuxiang...

Although this girl had written a lot of student council's reports, she had never written a thesis before. She spent half an hour researching the format requirements and made no progress.

Wang Xiaodong was embarrassed. After all, it was him that strongly recommended Lin Yuxiang and believed that she could take on the role. The competition had not even started and she already dropped the ball in the first training session.

Although Lu Zhou had a slight smile on his face, his heart was full of resentment.

You said you're in student work, then properly do student work. You should stay in your own lane. My future is bright, why would you come and drag me down.

Next time, at least search online on how to write a thesis beforehand. All you know how to do is let people pity you! How useless!

I'm so pissed off!

Teacher Liu was not angry at all. He just smiled and comforted Lin Yuxiang who kept apologizing. He then allowed Wang Xiaodong to guide her through thesis writing and called Lu Zhou to the hallway.

He took out a cigarette, looked at the two students inside the classroom, and said to Lu Zhou, "What do you think? Have you thought about my suggestion from yesterday?"

Chapter 25: I'm So Angry

"…" Lu Zhou did not answer.

"I can understand. You must have your own opinions about her," said Professor Liu with a smile. He added, "Just like my research community, every team would always have a useless teammate. They don't care at all about the project. These people would always exist."

"Professor, your mentality is so good," said Lu Zhou with a smile.

"It's not that my mentality is good," said Professor Liu. He waved his hand and smiled, "It's because I'm used to it by now."

He patted Lu Zhou on the shoulder and said in a serious tone, "You have to understand that getting the first prize is our only goal. It might seem unfair to those who have to do more work, but this is just a learning curve."

Lu Zhou thought about it for a bit and nodded, "Okay, I understand. I can be responsible for building the mathematical model and writing the thesis, but I have one condition."

"Say it," said Professor Liu with a smile.

"I want to reduce the number of group training sessions moving forward and change it to solo training. We can resume group training closer to the competition time," said Lu

Zhou. He paused for a second before continuing, "This way, I can be more flexible with my training schedule."

Having to get everyone together to train would waste too much time.

Lu Zhou still preferred to work at his own tempo.

"No problem as I originally planned to do this as well," replied Liu Xiangping with a smile.

The two people went back into the computer room.

At last, Lu Zhou could write the thesis.

After all, he had experience from submitting an SCI thesis and he had done quite a lot of research for that system mission. Looking at writing thesis alone, not to mention the useless Lin Yuxiang, even the second-year student, Wang Xiaodong, was no match for him.

Of course, today was just a training session. There was no need to polish the paper in accordance with the standards of the competition. The layout required ten or twenty pages of paper. It could not be finished within a day.

Lu Zhou wrote the key parts of "model hypothesis" and "problem analysis" according to the format of the mathematical modeling thesis. For the less important parts, he wrote down the title and skipped it.

Lin Yuxiang looked at the completed thesis and expressed her gratitude. She expressed pitifully that she had dragged them down today and that she was very sorry and would try to catch up with everyone's footsteps.

Lu Zhou did not respond, but in his heart, he sighed.

Try your best!

After dismissal, Lu Zhou rejected Lin Yuxiang's invitation to buy him food.

He strapped on his computer bag, walked to the library, and began to furiously write his thesis.

Chen Yushan sat next to him. Other than occasionally asking him a question or two, she also had her head down doing questions. Although she was very curious why a mathematics major like him was writing a computer science thesis, she did not ask why.

He leaned against the chair and stretched his arm. Lu Zhou was about to go to the toilet when his phone started to vibrate on his desk.

Lu Zhou picked his phone up and saw it was Fat Wu calling. He immediately stood up and walked towards the library's toilet.

He answered the phone and leaned against the window.

"Hey, what's up?"

"It's me, Wu Dahai. Are you free this week?"

The sincere voice of Fat Wu came through the telephone. It was obvious he needed manpower for a job.

He was a third-year student, but he did not care at all about the graduate entrance exam. He did not look for jobs either. He spent all day working and was never in school. If he did not have a student ID card, Lu Zhou would doubt that he was even a student at the University of Jin Ling.

"What kind of job?" asked Lu Zhou.

Although he was very busy right now, if the pay was high, he would still consider it.

However, he knew that the probability of that was low.

"Jin Ling recently opened a building and the developers need people to pass out flyers. 20 yuan an hour. They need people all week. Are you coming?" asked Wu Dahai.

"... I'm a bit busy these few days. I can't do it," said Lu Zhou with a mild tone. Even though Lu Zhou was a bit excited, he had to think about the nine theses he still had to write.

"It's fine. I'll find someone else then," said Fat Wu. He did not care and said, "Go do your own stuff."

Lu Zhou hung up the call and went to the toilet. Then he went back into the library.

When he returned to his chair, he saw his draft paper under the keyboard and Chen Yushan was sitting next to it. She looked forward to seeing him. When he saw her expression, he could not help but smile. He did not say much and started to pick up his pen to solve the problems.

Finding the general solution for the problem of a second-order constant-coefficient differential equation was a pretty difficult topic in advanced algebra. As it combined multiple knowledge points such as trigonometric functions and integral derivation, it was usually used as the second or last big question on the exams.

However, for Lu Zhou, it was not a challenge at all.

He was not bragging. There was no university level advanced mathematics questions that he could not solve.

Chen Yushan looked at Lu Zhou as he was solving the question and asked softly, "Who called you just then?"

"A student. He wanted to give me jobs," answered Lu Zhou swiftly.

"You still work?" asked Chen Yushan with her eyes widened. She asked softly, "But I see you stay at the library all day..."

"I've been working less recently. I worked at night last time..." said Lu Zhou. He stopped his pen and added, "It was sorting packages."

"Why did you have to specify?" asked Chen Yushan curiously.

"No reason... I solved it."

Lu Zhou said while handing the draft paper back to her. He spent less than three minutes to solve this problem. It was extraordinarily fast. A normal student could take up to half an hour on a question of this level.

"Ah, thank you… I hope you don't mind me asking, but are your allowance not enough?" asked Chen Yushan as she took the draft paper back.

"… You could say so," answered Lu Zhou.

He had never even had an allowance.

Chen Yushan nodded her head as a sign of understanding. She then opened her mouth and said, "Then… I have a job for you. It's easier than sorting packages. Do you want it?"

Lu Zhou was typing when he suddenly stopped and looked at her strangely, "It's not teaching you mathematics, is it?"

"My mathematics… isn't that bad!" said Chen Yushan. She was about to raise her voice when she remembered that she was in the library. She held back and said softly, "It is teaching mathematics, but not for me. I have a cousin who is still in high school. She's from the City of Jin Ling. She lives near our school. She's about to enter Grade 11, but her results are horrible. Especially mathematics. My auntie is worried to death about her studies, so she asked me to find a tutor. Preferably a tutor who is good at mathematics…"

Chen Yushan looked at Lu Zhou apologetically, "Originally, I was planning on asking my roommate, but she has to prepare for the graduate entrance exam so she has no time. Also, it's been so long since she did high school stuff that she has completely forgotten about it. I thought… Anyway, you seem to be pretty harmless. So, I just want to ask if you have time during the summer holidays…"

Lu Zhou: ? ? ?

What the hell is harmless? Is she calling me handsome?

For a long time, Lu Zhou did not anything. Chen Yushan said softly, "No time? I can ask someone else…"

"What's the pay?" asked Lu Zhou. He wanted to know the salary before giving her a response.

He had originally planned to work throughout the holidays. It was either working for Fat Wu or this girl.

Chen Yushan thought for a bit and said, "200 yuan an hour with the transport fees covered. From July onwards, go there every Saturday."

"How much???"

"200 an hour… What?"

Lu Zhou heard her. He placed his hands down on the keyboard and became silent.

"Is it too little?" asked Chen Yushan. When she saw that he was silent for so long, she thought it was too little. She said tentatively, "Maybe I can ask my auntie…"

"No need," said Lu Zhou. He shook her hand, "Deal."

"Then why was your expression so serious? I thought it was too little," said Chen Yushan. She relaxed and rolled her eyes at Lu Zhou.

"Nothing, I just felt that…" said Lu Zhou. He looked at the ceiling and sighed softly, "I'm so angry."