

Scholar's Advanced Technological System

Chapter 26: Who Am I? Where Am I? What Am I writing?

"... Mom, I'm not coming back for the summer this year."

"Yeah... the thing is, the professor recommended me to join the National Mathematical Modeling Competition. The school organized training during the summer... No need, there's no application fee. The school already paid for it! It'll be New Year before I come home. Stay healthy. I'm very healthy right now, don't you worry!"

"... You don't have to give me money. I still have some money from last semester's scholarship, plus I work some odd jobs when I'm not busy. You guys should save your money for Tong Tong. You'll have to spend quite a lot when she goes to university."

"... Ok, that's it."

Lu Zhou took a deep breath. He leaned against the railing at the balcony in his dorm and hung up the call.

Every Sunday night he would call home.

Speaking of which, time was flying by so fast.

Lu Zhou lamented as he looked at the stars outside his window.

He was nearly done with his first year at university. His sister was about to enter 11th grade, one of the most important grades for high school students.

Unlike him, his little sister studied liberal arts.

He could maybe help her with mathematics but he could not help with her other subjects.

Next to the balcony was the bathroom. Huang Guangming was bathing inside when he suddenly said with a mean attitude, "Big boy, calling home?"

Lu Zhou was shocked for a second. He then said, "Do you want to come out or not? Just wait, I'll block the door with the mop."

"F*ck me. F*ck me. Brother Zhou, have mercy. I was wrong. Ahhhhhh~ If you don't let me out, I'll start singing in the bathroom."

Huang Guangming already opened his mouth wide and started to sing like an animal.

"Ahhhhh, five rings, you're one ring more than four rings~~"

Goddamn it!

That voice was like a chicken being killed. Lu Zhou had goosebumps all over his body. He turned around and closed the door to the balcony before heading back inside the dorm.

However, the sound insulation of the bathroom was bad. A wall could not block it.

The two people inside the dorm heard the singing and were instantly mad. Especially Liu Rui who loved to overexaggerate. He laid his body on the table, held his jaw and yelled, "F*ck me! Why are you singing, my teeth, it's hurting!"

In a time of panic and crisis, Shi Shang pulled out his chair and stood up abruptly. He yelled, "Don't panic brother! I'll clean up this mess!"

"F*ck off!"

As expected, he had nothing much to say.

Lu Zhou was extremely annoyed. He was about to stuff this guy into the bathroom as well and beat him up together with Huang Guangming.

Why am I the only normal person inside the dorm?

Ah, how uncomfortable!

...

In the following two weeks, Lu Zhou was either at the library writing his theses, on the way to the library, or sitting in the exam room.

During the last week of his exam, no one was as confident as him.

Unlike them, he had the ability to back up his confidence.

Just like he estimated, he passed English without any effort.

C language was the same. Other than a rather creative question, there was barely any difficulty. It was like the knowledge gained from the mission was engraved in his brain and he could never forget it.

However, during the modern history exam, Lu Zhou was completely frozen.

He opened the exam paper and stared at the first question.

Who am I?

Where am I?

What am I writing?

He tried to ask the system, but the system gave no response. No matter how much general points he gave, this type of social science question was unavailable in the system's knowledge base.

Fortunately, Lu Zhou knew a little bit on modern history. He only needed to find out the general direction. It did not matter if he believed what he wrote was right. It was fine as long as he filled in the questions.

As for how correct his answers were, it would be up to the exam marker.

After all, he tried his best!

Three days after the modern history exam, Lu Zhou finally submitted his final thesis.

He had worked insanely hard over the past three weeks to the point of getting skinnier. Yet, when he looked at what he had achieved, he felt quite accomplished.

Three SCI theses in a week. 10 SCI theses would not even take a month!

I want to ask who else could do this?

What?

After three days of mindless waiting, the last paper had successfully passed the review stage.

When Lu Zhou received the acceptance email, he could not help but think whether there was really no problem in submitting so many substandard theses. Also, all of the theses had the same name on it. Did no one find out about this?

Maybe the system helped him distribute the manuscript to different reviewers.

Either way, there were no issues. It would be an issue in a few months when the official publication comes out.

Lu Zhou carried a feeling of excitement as he went into the pure white system space. He quickly walked to the semi-transparent information screen.

[Congratulations, user, for completing the mission.]

[Mission completion details: The user successfully submitted 1 mathematics thesis, 9 information science thesis. 39 days left. Evaluation: S+. Additional "reward mission" given.]

He actually got an S+ grade!

The additional reward... Was actually a reward mission!

Lu Zhou looked at the S+ and the extra reward on the information screen with excitement. He was so excited that he had forgotten about everything else.

Although he did not know what a reward mission was, he knew that it would have cost 1000 general points to buy!

[Mission reward: 100 mathematics experience points, 900 information science points, 800 general points, one lucky draw ticket (90% garbage, 9% samples, 1% blueprints)]

[Reminder: Mathematics level 0 → level 1, Information science level 0 → level 1]

He finally leveled up the goddamn mathematics subject!

Lu Zhou's heart was full of excitement. Not only because he leveled up, but because he finally pierced through the ceiling of mathematics. This meant that he was finally out of the novice village and the upper limit of other subjects would be unlocked to level 1.

Just what...

He did not feel any substantial changes when he leveled up. He thought that it would be similar to exchanging general points for thesis knowledge, where the system would pour the knowledge into his brain. However, it was different.

He failed to realize that his own brain was filled with the knowledge that he had never even heard of.

"It seems that the subject level of the system does not mean that I have the ability to master the subject, but only the authority to open some kind of knowledge database? And I still need to consume general points to access this "database"? I wonder if there's a discount for lower level problems."

Lu Zhou touched his chin and silently recalled the details of Riemann's conjecture in his heart as he ordered the system to estimate the price.

However, as usual, the system did not respond.

"I guess level 1 mathematics is still not high enough to solve Riemann's conjecture."

Lu Zhou thought for a second and said, "What about Beal's conjecture?"

Beal's conjecture was a generalized theorem of Fermat's last theorem. It was believed that the reward for solving Beal's conjecture was at a million USD. Last time, he tried to solve this problem with the power of the system, but the system did not give him a response.

[Required general points: 5000, the mathematical level required: Level 2]

Lu Zhou saw this number and laughed. He immediately gave up on the idea.

Why is this so expensive!

At least, this time the system gave a price. It seemed that his guess was indeed correct. Raising the subject level was really just to unlock the high tech system database. However, if you wanted to look in the database, you would still need to consume general points.

Chapter 27: Brain Is Too Empty, Study More!

After knowing this, Lu Zhou put his concentration back to more realistic problems.

He took a deep breath and said in his heart.

"System, open my characteristic panel."

The semi-transparent information screen flashed.

[

Core science:

A. Mathematics: Level 1 (0/10000)

B. Physics: Level 0 (100/1000)

C. Biochemistry: Level 0 (0/1000)

D. Engineering: Level 0 (0/1000)

E. Materials science: Level 0 (0/1000)

F. Energy science: Level 0 (0/1000)

G. Information science: Level 1 (0/10000)

General points: 925 (One chance of lucky draw)

Mission: Not taken yet (Reward mission*1)

]

The level 2 experience points requirements added a zero back to his panel. Lu Zhou thought about the hard-earned 1000 experience points and could not help but feel discouraged.

At least the mission reward would also increase as I level up.

However, in that way, the mission difficulty would already be increased.

He just hoped that this rubbish system would not give him some kind of mission like "publish 100 SCI theses".

That would really kill him!

Lu Zhou did not immediately use his lucky draw. Instead, he left the system space. He went into the bathroom and washed his face in the sink. Then he went back in his bed, laid down, and went back into the system space.

He took a deep breath, looked at the wheel of the information screen, and exclaimed.

"Begin lucky draw!"

"..."

"Stop!"

He looked at the arrow with a blank expression with a peaceful mind.

[Congratulations, you won the sample prize!]

Other than the blueprint, they are all rubbish prizes.

Even when I got the blueprint, it was just some mathematical proof theorem.

Anyway, Lu Zhou had no hope for this system. He just wanted to finish the lucky draw and to start doing missions to earn general points.

[Received: Focus capsules (40 capsules per bottle, 5 hours duration. Will develop a 24-hour resistance if taken. After taken, it can improve brain cell activity and enhance the speed of knowledge absorption and logical thinking ability.)]

Emm...

What???

Lu Zhou saw the instructions on the back and lost his calm. He nearly stuck his face on the screen.

Focus capsule!?

Damn, this is good stuff!

Forty times five equals 200 hours! If the effects were the same as his first mission, he could read an enormous amount of textbooks!

Maybe the secret ritual to the lucky draw was staying calm instead of washing my face?

Lu Zhou burst into tears. He had made up his mind that he would calm himself down next time.

Lu Zhou did not want his luck to disappear and so, he did not say anything and selected the reward mission.

[Reward mission begin!]

[

Mission: Reward mission (Able to cancel anytime, no general point penalty will be given).

Description: User knowledge level is too low, the system has selected a quality list of books to fill your empty brain with!

Requirements: Finish reading book list (0/30). Also completely comprehend the topics in the books.

Reward: 1000 experience points of any subject to user's choosing.

Unlock technology branch – Artificial Intelligence Level 0

]

Lu Zhou was speechless as he looked at the mission on the screen.

He was not mad at the mission requirements, but the line in the description.

What do you mean my brain is empty?

I scored full marks in mathematical analysis and advanced algebra!

Lu Zhou felt the maliciousness coming from the system, but he was still happy about the rewards.

It was his first time seeing the technology branch.

He did not know why the system separated artificial intelligence from information science as a separate technology branch.

Leveling up artificial intelligence was not difficult. He was already level 1 in information science. He just had to finish the mission and spend 100 general points to upgrade his technology branch.

Lu Zhou opened the list of books the mission gave.

[Ordinary Differential Equations]

[Complex Variable Function Theory]

[University Physics]

[Inorganic Chemistry]

[Organic Chemistry]

[Lehninger Biochemistry]

[Mechanical Engineering Design]

[Introduction to IC Design]

[Construction and Interpretation of Computer Programming]

[Python Language Introduction Tutorial]

[.....]

From mathematics to information science, these books' knowledge base nearly completely covered the subjects in the core technology tree.

"..."

Lu Zhou roughly scanned the contents of the book list and was speechless for a while.

He finally admitted that his brain was indeed empty.

I guess very few people are considered smart in this world by the system's standards!

*Speaking of which, is there even anyone in the world that is proficient in all disciplines?
Even a single discipline can be split into an infinite number of fields with an infinite
amount of research directions.*

Maybe this system has some kind of misunderstanding when it comes to human beings?

Lu Zhou thought it was likely.

...

Lu Zhou exited the system space and sat up from his bed. He then took the laptop beside him.

He opened his email and saw that Professor Liu had already sent the questions into his mailbox.

They planned this out during the last training session. Lu Zhou would build the mathematical model, then he would send it to Lin Yuxiang and Wang Xiaodong for them to program it. Then, they would send it back to Lu Zhou for him to write the thesis. Finally, Lu Zhou would send the whole thing to Professor Liu.

Professor Liu took into account that everyone had their own busy schedules and that he had his own projects to do. Therefore, he decided to give out one question every Monday. As for the rest of the time, the student could read books and do additional training on their own.

Lu Zhou quickly finished building the mathematical model and sent the data to the other two people. He then stretched his back and turned his laptop off.

Although the school exams had finished, his mission had just started. He did not want to waste time and so, he prepared to go to the library.

He put on his clothes and was ready to climb down the bed when someone knocked on the door.

"Liu Rui, go open the door," said Huang Guangming. He was wearing slippers and playing video games.

Liu Rui was also playing the game, but he was playing a useless support character. Therefore, he was not angry at all by Huang Guangming's request. He opened the door and quickly sat back down.

Turned out, it was the class leader, Tian Jun. He walked in, looked around, smiled, and said, "I see you guys are all playing video games."

Shi Shang replied, "Of course! Exams finished, leader. When can we go back home?"

Tian Jun smiled and continued to say, "There's a class meeting this afternoon. We'll discuss the holiday plans. Oh yeah, have you thought about applying to the mathematical modeling competition? If you get above 80 in your advanced algebra and mathematical analysis exam, the school will organize summer training."

Huang Guangming and Shi Shang both replied, "We're not going!"

Liu Rui paused for a bit and asked, "Can't you apply for the competition yourself? What is the difference if the school applied for you?"

Tian Jun smiled and answered, "If you apply yourself, you have to find an instructor yourself. The school team has a specific teacher organizing the teams. But there's a lot of people applying so there might even be elimination rounds. There's going to be sixty or so people left for around twenty teams."

Although Liu Rui was unhappy about training during the summer, he knew that Lu Zhou was going to stay in the school for the summer. This gave him a sense of urgency to catch up.

Liu Rui stopped hesitating and said, "Sign me up!"

"Okay, I'll write your name down," said Tian Jun. He smiled and looked at Lu Zhou, "Lu Zhou, how about you? Are you applying?"

"I've already applied," said Lu Zhou humbly with a smile.

Huang Guangming was surprised. He turned his head around and asked Lu Zhou, "Wow, Zhou, advanced algebra was so hard and you actually got 80 marks?"

The results were actually released two days ago. Other than Lu Zhou, everyone in the dorm had already compared their marks. It was the same as last semester. Liu Rui was still first, Huang Guangming came in second with 88 marks, and Shi Shang struggled but got 80.

They specifically did not ask Lu Zhou not because they were excluding him, but because they did not want to anger him. Hence, they were very careful about not mentioning it.

After all, these three people remembered clearly that this guy left half an hour into both exams.

What could he possibly write in half an hour?

Did he even get to the long questions?

Liu Rui saw with his own eyes that Lu Zhou finished the exam, but he still did not believe it. He wrote his questions meticulously. He wanted to believe that Lu Zhou guessed most of the questions.

Lu Zhou paused and contemplated if he should tell Huang Guangming what he got for the two subjects.

Both were full marks. It would be too scary to even say.

The boat of friendship could sink.

The class leader misunderstood. He thought that Lu Zhou's hesitation was because he did badly in the exams. He laughed awkwardly as he said, "There are no requirements for applying yourself. It's fine if you didn't get 80. Okay, that's all. Liu Rui, are you sure? I'll write your name down."

"I'm sure." Liu Rui nodded his head. He was certain.

Actually, he was certain about it since a long time ago.

Not only did he want to enter, but he also wanted to win!

This was his purpose. The summer vacation was only two months away and even Lu Zhou applied. How could he fall behind!

Chapter 28: The Final First Year Class Meeting

It was in the afternoon when they gathered at classroom 403 of Building A. The final class meeting for the undergraduate mathematics class was held as scheduled.

A group of boys squeezed into the classroom. The thin and tall instructor who was wearing a pair of glasses walked over.

This instructor's name was Zhang Wei and he was studying a PhD in mathematics. He was usually busy with his own research project and therefore, he was rarely seen.

Although he was busy, he still cared about the class activities. He would arrange a meeting almost every month and talk about safety, discipline, and study techniques. He would even brag to the undergraduate students about the time when he was still studying the bachelor's degree.

Instructor Zhang slowly walked to the podium and put his hands behind his back. He scanned the students below, cleared his throat, and said, "After this meeting today, your first year at the university will come to a successful conclusion. Let me emphasize again on safety. Last time there's this dumbass who left his burning hot outlet in the dorms and burnt the whole thing down. He's probably doing his college entrance exam again this year. Who knows if we'll see him after the summer."

Sounds of laughter came out of the classroom.

Instructor Zhang coughed lightly and said with a smile, "I'm just joking to keep the atmosphere light. In short, you must be careful regarding safety! I know for a fact that some people are hiding hair dryers and other electronics that heat up fast. They even sneaked pass inspection. But I hope those people will check that their socket is unplugged..."

Instructor Zhang rambled on for 20 minutes regarding safety issues. He paused and started to talk about the conclusion of the semester, "You guys did pretty well in your exams. I hope you can keep it up. Also number three helper, you have to work hard as well. Don't think that being a part of the class committee is just collecting homework and having meetings. You should also set an example for studying."

The committee member that got called out smiled awkwardly and scratched his head.

He was considered a genius when he first came to the university. However, he kept on having too much fun and now his studies were taking a hit. It was true that he did horrible this semester. He only received a 65 for advanced algebra, but he was ready to take it again.

Instructor Zhang continued, "Student Luo Rundong did pretty good, 95 marks, and only one mistake. Congratulations to him! Also, Student Liu Rui, 92, not bad as well! Only these two people got over 90 marks. Everyone else has to work harder!"

Huang Guangming reached out and rubbed Liu Rui's shoulder as he said softly, "You're too good, Brother Liu!"

Shi Shang also reached out his hand and rubbed Liu Rui's other shoulder, "Too good, too good! Give us some of your good luck!"

"Get off me. It's too hot!" said Liu Rui as he pushed the hands off him and acted annoyed. He then sighed in relief and felt satisfied.

As expected, he had overestimated it. Only two people got over 90 marks and that were him and a genius mathematics student called Luo Rundong.

As for Lu Zhou...

He's still far behind!

Dumb student, pretending to go to the library!

The class started to argue as they were envious of the two genius students.

This advanced algebra exam wasn't difficult, it was very difficult!

The paper was written by Professor Tang and all the questions were on the verge of being impossible to solve. The questions were not exactly unexpected, but they always hit the students' knowledge base blind spots. It was difficult just to get 80 marks and anyone that could get 90 was a god!

"In addition, I want to greatly praise student Lu Zhou. Lu Zhou's improvement this semester was tremendous. 100 marks in both mathematical analysis and advanced algebra! He shocked the teachers. They even doubled marked his exam paper and it was still full marks. Not a single mistake. He has the exact right attitude in learning, similar to my style in the past. You guys should learn from him," said Instructor Zhang as he stared at Lu Zhou with an expression of approval and nodded his head.

The people in the class froze instantly.

No one responded to the instructor's praise of Lu Zhou.

Luo Rundong's eyes went wide opened as he looked behind in disbelief. Liu Rui's smug smile became very stiff and even his eyebrows were twitching.

Both subjects...

Full marks?

Full marks?

Like someone who had set off a firework, the classroom instantly exploded into chatter.

"F*ck me! Brother Lu is insane!"

"Too good, too good!"

"Holy sh*t, he's insane!"

"Ah, I thought he turned in his paper because he didn't know how to answer the questions, but I guess it was because he finished..."

Huang Guangming and Shi Shang did not say a word and reached out with their hands. Lu Zhou quickly dodged and warned them, "I'm warning you. Don't touch me. I'm not gay!"

Huang Guangming smiled mischievously and reached out, "Come on, Brother Lu, let us get some of your luck."

Shi Shang said impolitely, "Yeah, big boy."

"F*ck off!"

"..."

Instructor Zhang looked at the classroom that was in chaos and did not interrupt. He slowly walked to Lu Zhou and said to him, "Of course, even though you scored full marks, don't get too cocky. Continue to work hard. What the hell did you write in modern history? You almost failed. If you're looking for a job after graduation, I'd recommend you to find some time and study this course instead. You can't fail the political classes if you want to do the graduate entrance exam."

Lu Zhou said humbly, "I understand."

"Good that you understand," said Instructor Zhang. He nodded his head and said, "Oh yeah, how come I didn't see your name on the mathematical model competition sheet? I know that you're doing your own research, but it's still worth participating in these valuable national competitions. I still haven't sent in the sign-up sheet. How about you think about it while I put your name down?"

"I've already applied. Professor Tang helped me apply," said Lu Zhou said with an implicit tone.

"Oh, I get it now," said Instructor Zhang. As expected, he understood. He nodded his head and smiled, "Then you have to work hard."

"Thanks," replied Lu Zhou with a smile.

The noisy students finally calmed down as Instructor Zhang walked back to the podium. His hands were behind his back and he cleared his throat. The meeting continued but no one really listened.

This was too surprising.

The mathematical analysis paper was easy. It was written by an older teacher. The other classes probably also had students who scored full marks. But the advanced algebra paper was written by Professor Tang! Less than thirty students scored above 90 in the entire department! How the hell did you score full marks!

Not to mention, you handed in the paper early!

As for the possibility of cheating, it was simply impossible. So, no one had even thought about it. Not to mention, the invigilator was Dean Lu. The score must have alarmed the department. The school would definitely look over the surveillance tapes.

There were no dead spots for the surveillance cameras. It would be obvious if he cheated, and everyone knew that this paper was definitely written by Lu Zhou himself.

Instructor Zhang saw the students not paying attention to his speech. He muttered something about summer safety issues and the parties for the next semester before dismissing everyone.

The class meeting ended and Lu Zhou was surrounded by a group of people.

"Brother Lu! Can I be your friend?"

"Brother Lu, do you still need a teammate for the mathematical modeling competition? I can dress up as a girl!"

"Brother Lu! I helped you back in military training, can I leech off you next year!"

*F*ck me, can you not say stuff that can be misunderstood!*

Lu Zhou finally squeezed out of the crowd and ran down the stairs.

Instructor Zhang smiled and looked at the energetic students as he thought, "It is so nice to be young." He picked up his briefcase and walked away.

Liu Rui put on his backpack quietly. He thought for a bit before walking up to the class leader.

"Leader, can I cancel my application to the mathematical modeling competition?"

"Yeah, if the class guide hasn't turned in the sign-up sheet," said Tian Jun. He continued, "Why are you canceling? We're counting on you."

Liu Rui forced a smile and did not know what to say.

Originally, he joined the competition because he did not want to lose to others.

But now...

His opponent had already become a god in other people's eyes.

From now on, whenever someone asked about the Class one, 201 dorm room, no one would ask, "Isn't there a genius student called Liu Rui in your room?". Instead, it would be, "F*ck, you're in the same dorm as Lu Zhou!"

The gap between him and Lu Zhou was so big that he did not even know what facial expression to make.

I wanted to get into the national round while he's already aiming for the first prize.

Liu Rui sighed.

His ambition was shattered in an instant...

Chapter 29: Maybe, This Was Talent?

"Zhou, Liu Rui, we're leaving. You guys take care."

"See you in two months."

Shi Shang and Huang Guangming carried their suitcases as they waved goodbye. They left and only Liu Rui and Lu Zhou stayed in the spacious dorm room.

The summer vacation began.

Within a week, the entire school was deserted. It would not be the end of August until people started coming back to school. Only then would the school go back to being lively. Not only would the returning students come back, but new students would also arrive.

Lu Zhou signed up for the summer school application. He said goodbye to Liu Rui and left the dorm with his laptop. He first went to the dorm center to hand in his application before heading towards the library.

The style of study at the University of Jin Ling was intense. Even though a lot of students left the school, the library was still full of students studying for the graduate entrance exam. Piles of books occupied the empty seats, preventing anyone else from taking it.

Lu Zhou could not help but think what were these people doing. The books were starting to collect dust yet no one went back to the seat.

Lu Zhou saw his usual seat occupied by a book. He was about to find another seat before he saw Chen Yushan sitting right next to it. She swiftly removed the book and waved her hand at him.

Lu Zhou realized that she reserved the seat for him.

He took her up on the offer and walked towards her.

Lu Zhou placed his laptop down on the desk. He did not sit down immediately. Instead, he went to the bookshelves.

He remembered the contents of the book list. After a little bit of hesitation, he finally picked out [Linear Algebra (National Industry Edition)].

The system highlighted the location of the books using holographic images that only he could see. Unfortunately, the system did not label the value score of the books. He just had to use his own judgment to determine the reading order.

The order of reading was important as there was a correlation between the different knowledge contents. Even different subjects could influence each other.

Without reading [Semiconductor physics] and [Basic circuit design], it would be impossible to understand the topics of [Microelectronics]. Without the foundations of microelectronics, learning [IC design] would be like trying to learn magic.

Studying mathematics was undoubtedly a safe choice.

Normally, mathematical skills would often be applied in other scientific fields, but the opposite rarely happened. Luckily for Lu Zhou, mathematics was his strong suit. Even though the materials for the other disciplines were new to Lu Zhou, with his mathematical background, it would not be too difficult for him to learn them.

Perfectly for him, there were gaps in his knowledge of mathematics, so most of his understandings were shallow.

For example, the reason he was able to write his first thesis was because of his deep understanding of complex and real functions analysis. He would be completely lost on the other topics that the thesis did not cover.

Thank god no one was bored enough to test him with a textbook. Otherwise, he definitely would not be able to answer it.

If someone found out that he had not even finished a function analysis textbook, yet submitted a thesis called "Optimal Inversion Theory of Linear Operators and Linear Functionals", he would be ridiculed.

Lu Zhou stood behind the bookshelves and took out the white pill bottle from his pocket. "It'd be great if I have water," thought Lu Zhou. He looked at Chen Yushan's cup on her desk. Finally, he gave up on that daring idea.

Lu Zhou took out a pill, closed his eyes, and threw it in his mouth. He forced the pill down by swallowing his spit.

He waited for a while and did not notice any changes. Suddenly, a slight tingling sensation spread from the back of his head. It eventually swept through his eyes and gathered toward his eyebrows.

It was hard to describe the feeling. It was like an invisible ant crawling over his head.

Nanorobots?

Or some kind of special hormone?

Lu Zhou was unsure. The technology given by the system was beyond the scope of existing knowledge. The only feeling he had was that his brain felt sober and his thinking was extremely meticulous, almost like Newton or Einstein.

Also, this intense feeling was like eating a piece of Stride gum. It did not stop.

Lu Zhou realized that it was the drug's effect.

He did not hesitate before grabbing the book and sitting back down. Meticulously, he flipped to the first page of the book.

The focus capsule's effect was different than the immersive reading experience from his previous mission.

The immersive reading from last time was like his entire body was being swallowed into the belly of a whale.

Whereas the feeling the focus capsule gave him was like it stimulated his brain cell activity. He was taking in knowledge but also thinking critically.

Time quickly passed by and soon, it was already 6 o'clock at night. An orange skyline shone through the windows.

Chen Yushan stretched and looked at Lu Zhou. She saw that he had the same position as an hour ago and could not help but admire.

How talented!

I guess this is how you train to be a genius!

But isn't his neck sore from sitting like this?

Chen Yushan poked Lu Zhou's arm and asked softly, "Oi, little brother, are you going to the cafeteria?"

Lu Zhou shook his head and replied, "You go first, I'm not hungry yet."

Five hours had passed by. The drug's effect was starting to decrease but there was still some effect left.

He wondered, "How long would this effect last?"

"Then, I'll go first..." replied Chen Yushan. She suddenly thought about something and asked softly, "Oh yeah, do you still remember about the job I talked about?"

Lu Zhou asked, "Yeah, when do I start?"

Chen Yushan suggested, "Tomorrow is Saturday. How about we meet at a planned time? I'll take you to meet my auntie."

Lu Zhou thought about it and nodded his head: "..."

Anyway, he was free tomorrow and the drug had a 24 hour of no effect period after consumption.

200 yuan an hour. If he just worked a few times, his tuition next year would be covered.

After the two agreed to meet outside the school at nine o'clock, Chen Yushan packed her stuff and left for the cafeteria.

After Chen Yushan left, Lu Zhou turned his attention back onto the textbook.

Over time, he could clearly feel the level of his attention decreasing back to his normal state.

The topics that could be understood in one read would now require a few readings.

The most obvious part was that without the drug's effect, he would constantly get distracted, even more so than normal.

Lu Zhou looked at his notes and his notebook. He sighed and took out his phone to look at the time.

It was already half past seven.

He was finally hungry.

"The pill's effect lasted for five hours. After that, the effect would slowly decrease over the course of an hour, until there is no effect left."

"I can't study at all without the pill. This is not good..."

Lu Zhou picked up the book and went to the librarian. He took out his library card and borrowed the book. He then packed his stuff and left the library.

He went to the cafeteria on the way back to his dorm and ate some noodles for dinner.

He then went back to his dorm, sat down, and continued to read the book.

He did not care how slow his knowledge absorption was, studying was studying.

Although under normal circumstances his studying speed was very slow, it did not prevent him from remembering the topics that he had already learned. He could still extend his current knowledge.

Of course, the most important part was that he did not want to be over-reliant on this focus capsule.

After all, there were only 40 capsules in a bottle. It would soon be gone. It would be difficult for him to obtain it again, given its probability.

Around 9 o'clock, Liu Rui came back to the dorm from his mathematical modeling competition training meeting.

He glanced at Lu Zhou who was studying and put down his backpack before walking over.

"Zhou, exams are already over and you're still studying?"

"I have nothing to do anyway. There's not much stuff doing on," replied Lu Zhou with a smile.

Liu Rui looked at the contents of the book Lu Zhou was reading and did not say anything.

He found that his mind was much more peaceful after he accepted this situation.

If they were close in skill level, he could still hope to catch up. However, the difference between 90 and full marks was too huge. He did not even have the motivation to try.

It was still painful to think about it.

The month before exams, he would study the second he woke up until the second he slept. Lu Zhou was still working part-time, but somehow "awakened" before the exam. He tried a bit and easily surpassed him and Luo Rundong.

Liu Rui did not understand what had happened to Lu Zhou's body that made him so amazing.

At last, he could not resist and asked to clear his confusion.

"Zhou, do you have any techniques for studying mathematics? Can you teach me?"

Liu Rui was blushing slightly when he said this.

Before, he would never help when his roommates asked for his notes.

Lu Zhou paused and seriously thought for a bit.

"I don't know either... Maybe it's talent?"

"..."

Liu Rui heard him and nearly puked.

Stop being so fake. You should still respect me even though I'm a dumb student!

Lu Zhou looked at Liu Rui from behind. He secretly sighed and knew that his friend had gone crazy.

But what could he do?

He was in despair as well.

I can't tell anyone that I have a system in my head right?

Chapter 30: Let's Play Checkers, I'll Let You Go First

It was early in the morning when Lu Zhou crawled out of the bed. He washed himself up in the bathroom and left to eat breakfast.

While he was walking, he saw Lin Yuxiang and a tall guy walking together.

The two were laughing together and it looked like they were very close. Almost like they were an inch away from holding hands.

The guy carried a luggage case. It looked like he was sending her to the train station.

Lu Zhou did not want to feel awkward so he did not say hello. He just sighed and mourned for Wang Xiaodong for a second.

As expected, his intuition was correct.

Lu Zhou walked slowly to the front gate and looked at the time on his phone. It was exactly nine o'clock.

A beautiful figure stood near the front of a sycamore tree. She waved at him as if she was trying to tell him "this way".

Lu Zhou noticed Chen Yushan and walked towards her.

Chen Yushan's appearance today was completely different than what she looked like in the library. It was like she was another person.

The thick round glasses became contact lenses while her normal bangs became air bangs. She wore a slanted t-shirt, denim shorts, and a pair of white sandals. Her lovely white toes were even visible.

Chen Yushan noticed Lu Zhou walking over and said, "You're finally here."

It was obvious that she had been waiting for a while.

Lu Zhou replied apologetically, "Oh, isn't it nine o'clock?"

Chen Yushan rolled her eyes and said, "Wow you're right on time! I can't argue with you!" She shook her phone and said, "The meeting spot is close by, I called a DiDi cab."

Lu Zhou wondered why they did not just walk if it was so close. He hesitated for a bit and decided not to question her.

Soon after, the cab arrived and the pair sat in the backseats.

Lu Zhou thought about the 200 yuan per hour pay and his inexperience in tutoring. He could not help but feel worried. He decided to ask Chen Yushan what the situation was like, "Is your cousin a science or liberal arts student? How are her grades?"

Chen Yushan was uncertain when she replied, "Science, I think, but her maths, physics, chemistry, and biochemistry grades are all pretty bad."

Just Mandarin and English left I see.

Lu Zhou could not help but ask, "Then why doesn't she study liberal arts?"

Chen Yushan paused for a bit as she did not know either.

"How would I know."

The two chatted for a bit and finally arrived. They hopped out of the car into a busy street and walked towards the coffee shop around the corner.

The decor in the coffee shop was very elegant and the furniture looked very classy. It was still early in the day so the seats were mostly empty.

Chen Yushan brought Lu Zhou inside and walked towards the back of the coffee shop.

A mature looking 30-year-old woman sat near the bookshelves at the back. Her black hair was tied elegantly behind her head. She held a book and read elegantly. She was also dressed tastefully. It was obvious she had class.

Lu Zhou could feel a strong sense of strength coming from her and he could tell that her status was high. Either in the law industry, or a company manager, or a CEO...

Also, she definitely looked younger than she actually was.

Chen Yushan greeted her warmly before introducing Lu Zhou, "Auntie, this is the student Lu Zhou that I talked about. He's a super genius student, especially in mathematics. He's amazing! He could definitely teach Meng Qi mathematics!"

This woman smiled at Chen Yushan, turned to Lu Zhou, and said, "Hello."

"Hello," Lu Zhou replied nervously.

"Stop standing around and sit down," said the woman. She smiled gently and asked, "Do you want to order anything?"

Chen Yushan smiled and said, "I want a large Mocha."

Lu Zhou said warmly, "I'll just have a cup of water."

The woman smiled and said, "Don't be so polite." She pressed the button on the table, the waiter came and she said, "A cup of Mocha and a cup of Americano."

The woman placed down the menu and looked at Lu Zhou. She continued, "This place's Americano isn't bitter at all. It has a strong chocolate taste. Good for beginners. I'd recommend you to try it."

It seems like she is a strong woman that likes to be in control of everything.

It's hard to imagine that a parent like this would have a child with bad grades...

Lu Zhou was analyzing in his heart, but his facial expression remained polite. He smiled and said, "Then... I'll respectfully accept your offer."

The woman smiled and said, "Students from the University of Jin Ling are so polite. Do you study liberal arts?"

"Mathematics."

The woman looked at Lu Zhou in surprise and did not say anything. She took a sip from her coffee cup and before taking out a business card from her bag. She placed it on the table and gently pushed it towards Lu Zhou.

"This is my business card."

Lu Zhou was astonished when he looked at the card.

Yang Danqi, Chairman and General Manager of Yali Fashion Ltd. Contact number: XXXX...

He had never heard of Yali Fashion before, but he definitely knew about the positions of chairman and general manager.

Speaking of which, can you take two job titles within a company? Aren't you busy?

"I... I don't have a business card. Sorry."

"It's okay, I understand. You can just add my WeChat," replied Yang Danqi.

Lu Zhou took out his phone and used the phone number in the business card to add her WeChat. He also tried to remember her name.

The waiter came over with a tray and placed two cups of coffee on the table.

"Shan Shan has already discussed the payment with you, so I think that you already understand," said Yang Danqi. She crossed her legs and said calmly, "200 yuan an hour, transportation fees covered. Every weekend starts from one o'clock in the afternoon until six o'clock at night. Any questions?"

The WeChat went through.

Lu Zhou sat stiffly and nodded his head, "No questions."

Yang Danqi nodded and said, "Okay, then you can start working tomorrow. The address is on the back of the business card. You can come by yourself or with Shan Shan."

That's it? It's a done deal?

Lu Zhou still could not believe it.

After all, he had not even seen the student. He did not even have to meet her and see if he was a good fit?

Almost like Yang Danqi saw through Lu Zhou's doubts, she sipped her coffee and said, "Since you were recommended by Shan Shan, I trust that you are skilled. You are in the University of Jin Ling, so you must have your own insights in learning. I don't like to drag things on. I like to be decisive. If you don't do well, I can just replace you."

Lu Zhou wanted to ask what she meant by "not doing well".

He thought for a bit and decided not to ask that question. He said with a decisive tone, "Don't worry, I'll definitely make your money worth."

The most basic skill of a salesman was to make the customer trust you. Do not ask stupid questions if you want the customer to trust you and just do the job well.

Lu Zhou learned this when he was installing routers for people.

Yang Danqi smiled politely, nodded, and said, "Hearing you say this makes me trust you."

She looked at the time on her watch and put her phone into her bag.

Yang Danqi said, "It's getting late. I still have a meeting later so I've to go to the office." She continued, "You and Shan Shan can eat lunch here if you want. I've already spoken to the servers. I'll cover your bill for today. I'd recommend the pizza, it's very delicious."

"See you later auntie."

"Aun... See you later, Mrs. Yang."

Yang Danqi left. Chen Yushan laughed out loud as she mocked Lu Zhou, "Did you almost call her auntie?"

Lu Zhou admitted, "Yeah."

Chen Yushan said, "It's fine if you call her ma'am since she's forty something years old. But my auntie doesn't like people calling her ma'am, so just call her Mrs. Yang."

Lu Zhou understood and nodded.

Generally speaking, a woman who paid attention to her appearance would be quite sensitive about her age.

It was best if he could avoid this minefield so that he could keep his 200 yuan per hour job.

Lu Zhou asked, "What do we do now? Wait... till twelve o'clock for lunch?"

Chen Yushan laughed and said, "You can eat while you wait. You're getting treated. Anyway, isn't this your favorite? Of course, you don't have to wait here. We can go and walk around, but you're paying for lunch."

Then lets wait here

The prices around there were all very high. There was nothing he could afford.

Lu Zhou took a book from the shelves and began to read.

Chen Yushan stared at him for a long time while he did not respond at all. She finally could not resist asking, "Do you know how to do anything other than reading?"

Impatient, Lu Zhou asked, "Then what should we do?"

Two people were not enough for board games and their phones were too crappy for video games. It seemed like the only thing they could do was read.

Chen Yushan looked around and saw two people sitting next to them. Her eyes lit up and said, "Wait a bit, I'll be right back."

After which, she went to the front desk.

Lu Zhou was wondering what she was doing. Soon after, she came back holding a set of checkers.

Placing it on the table, she said excitedly, "Let's play checkers, you go first."

Lu Zhou: "..."