

I Can Meet with Dead Scientists #Chapter 71 - 68 Zhang Fei's First Trial of Passion (Part 1) (Thanks to Boss "Release That Mother Monkey" for rewarding the Alliance Leader!!!) - Read I Can Meet with Dead Scientists Chapter 71 - 68 Zhang Fei's First Trial of Passion (Part 1) (Thanks to Boss "Release That Mother Monkey" for rewarding the Alliance Leader!!!)

Chapter 71: Chapter 68 Zhang Fei's First Trial of Passion (Part 1) (Thanks to Boss "Release That Mother Monkey" for rewarding the Alliance Leader!!!)

After setting up the gel bait, Chang Licheng parted ways with Ye Guohong for a while, each returning to their dorms.

After all, Xu Yun's task is complicated if you think of it that way, but it's actually quite simple.

The whole class was so eager mainly because they wanted to return Xu Yun's favor for taking care of everyone.

When Chang Licheng returned to the dorm, Fu Ming, today's other occupant, was typing away furiously on the keyboard.

Fu Ming, 21 years old this year, 180 cm tall and weighing 180 kg, a current student at Ke Da and a fan of online novels.

Pen name Naked Hole... oops, it's actually Melting Snow Brewing Tea.

However, unlike Xu Yun, Fu Ming started his career younger, and his talent was much better.

The first book had excellent first-month subscriptions, and the second book reached nearly ten thousand. He's an undoubtedly talented writer.

However, this person has a flaw...

He's just too lazy.

For instance, his second book had 8,000 initial subscribers and over 7,000 continuous, whereas other authors easily start at tens of thousands of subscriptions, earning seventy to eighty thousand a month.

Yet, this lazybones writes a steady 4,000 words a day, occasionally updating single Chapters or taking days off.

Over time, subscriptions didn't increase but instead decreased by nearly half.

But Fu Ming didn't care, spending more words chatting online than he would writing new Chapters.

"Hey Master Fu, slacking off in the chat again?"

Upon returning to the dorm, Chang Licheng joked familiarly with Fu Ming. Having been roommates for over a year, he had gained some understanding of web novels.

If not for his lack of writing skills, he might have even wanted to start an author account to write novels himself.

Fu Ming didn't mind Chang Licheng's teasing, quickly sending out an emoji while saying to him:

"Yo, class rep, done with the roach bait?"

"Yeah, all set up."

Chang Licheng nodded, picking up his cup to get some water from the dispenser. But before pressing the switch, he instinctively bowed his head to carefully inspect around the dispenser.

Fu Ming looked at him confusedly and asked:

"Class rep, what are you doing?"

"Checking for cockroach poop."

Once Chang Licheng confirmed there were no signs of cockroach poop, he filled a large cup with water and drank it all:

"Let me tell you, Master Fu, you should've seen the corner around the trash can. Just now Old Ye and I lifted the plastic bag, and holy cow, the whole area was covered in little black dots. It gave me goosebumps. Now, whenever I see something, I want to check for black dots. It's so damn scary!"

He shook his head as he spoke, looking as if he was still spooked.

The middle part of the floor where Class 2 of Physics is located had a ten-square meter open area with three or four large blue trash cans and garbage bags for collecting dormitory waste on the entire floor.

Because of this, that area has the most cockroach activity, naturally leaving behind a lot of droppings.

From the expression on Chang Licheng's face, it's obvious it was not a pleasant area.

Fu Ming didn't want to inquire further, simply asking out of curiosity:

"Class rep, do you think the cockroach bait concocted by God Xu and the others will work?"

Hearing this, Chang Licheng hesitated for a moment and replied with pursed lips:

"It's hard to say. If it were something related to physics, I could have an opinion, but biology... let's just hope it works."

He spoke quite tactfully. In fact, on his way back to the dorm, he had already searched for information about imidacloprid.

According to the encyclopedia,

it's an insecticide that came out more than thirty years ago and is a bit outdated now, with many pests having developed resistance.

Just like fishing, the foolish fish have long been caught and what remains are the clever ones.

Therefore, Xu Yun's so-called updates are mostly just talk, and the effectiveness of the bait is probably weak.

Waking up the next day, he'd be lucky to see seven or eight dead bodies.

However, since Chang Licheng isn't a particularly talkative person, he just briefly expressed his thoughts without being overly pessimistic.

Seeing this, Fu Ming didn't say much more and continued chatting online.

As for writing...

Heh, other than the last three hours, who would be writing? (This isn't a quote from me, go ask Lazy Luoxue)

After several more hours, most of the students from Chang Licheng's dorm—or rather, the dorm for Class 2 of Physics—returned one after another.

Some dorms were discussing the cockroach bait given by Xu Yun, while others didn't raise any topic at all.

And so, night fell.

Many people in university dorms have encountered that one roommate who plays TikTok aloud during others' naps or games all night while others sleep—the keyboard is annoyingly loud with blue switches.

However, as a single guy without a girlfriend but who is gentle, Fu Ming naturally wouldn't do such annoying things.

To not disturb his roommates, he specially spent over 2,000 yuan on a silent capacitor keyboard.

At this moment, Fu Ming was working overtime to catch up on today's draft, his expression tense without the previous joy from chatting:

Just now he spent a bit too long in the chat, and when he returned to his senses, it was already 9:30 PM.

With a pace of 1,300 words per hour, finishing the 4,000-word Chapter within two and a half hours wasn't an easy feat—moreover, it was the end of the month, and this pigeon had already used up all his leave records.

According to Jidian Novel Network's writing policies, failing to reach the full attendance requirement despite using leave will result in the monthly full attendance award not being issued!

According to the veteran Bursting Flames from Group 7, the full attendance award could cover a trip to Da Baojian thrice!

The time now was already 11:40 PM, and Fu Ming still had over 600 words left, making every minute and second feel like a race against time!

While Fu Ming was typing desperately, a rustling sound suddenly came to his ears.

Initially, Fu Ming thought it was his roommate turning on the bed, rubbing against the blanket, but as he kept typing, he started feeling uneasy:

The sound came from outside the dorm, and how to describe it...

It was a bit like the sound crickets made back in his village, produced by the flapping wings of many insects.

However, thinking time was limited, Fu Ming forced himself to ignore the source of the sound and continued writing today's Chapter:

"Brother, you might not know, but our gang has two command tokens, entrusted to the Southern Branch leader and the Northern Branch leader for safekeeping. When the two tokens combine, it releases unparalleled power, enough to solve any current issue!"

"Really? Any current issue?"

"Indeed, any issue!"

"Mind if I ask what your gang's tokens are made of? Seven Dragon Balls?"

"No, it's Uranium 235."

...

Yet, just as Fu Ming finally got into the groove, a loud exclamation suddenly came from outside the dorm:

"Holy shit!"

"Oh my god!"

"Honey, come quick and see!"

The voices were so loud that they instantly echoed throughout the fourth floor, waking up many who were already asleep.

Fu Ming didn't respond yet, but the guy on the bunk next to his, who was also woken up, spoke up first:

"What the hell is up with those guys outside in the middle of the night, did EDG win another championship or did LGD fail to ban Magnus again?"

Then this hot-tempered guy climbed out of bed wearing his dinosaur pajama suit and walked to the door, pulled it open forcefully, and shouted:

"Stop making noise... holy shit?!"

The next second.

This hot-tempered guy slammed the door shut quickly, letting out a strange, meaningful cry from his throat:

"Cockroaches, so many cockroaches! Cockroaches marching like ants from Room 401 to the end. It's all fucking cockroaches, aaaaahhhh!!!"

.....

Chapter 72: Chapter 69: Zhang Fei's First Experience of Cloud and Rain (Part 2)

At this time, it was already close to midnight, most dorms had either gone to bed or turned off the lights.

Therefore, the angry guy's piercing voice was extremely penetrating in the darkness, causing the lights in several dorms in the neighboring building to turn on.

Given how it affected surrounding students, it was even more of a shock for the roommates in the same dorm.

With this loud shout, Chang Licheng and another roommate were completely awakened.

Chang Licheng rubbed his eyes while yawning and asked:

"Leon, what's going on? Something about cockroaches wandering...?"

As he spoke, he paused for a moment, having understood about three-quarters of Leon's sentence, and realized:

"Oh, I get it, it's Xu God's cockroach bait working, right? Some cockroaches died?"

Look at you being scared to bits by a couple of cockroaches, and they call you a Lu Dong guy. Do you think this is worthy of your Liangshan Hero ancestors?"

Upon hearing these words, Leon's face showed a slightly peculiar expression:

"Class monitor, don't bring up Water Margin, even Monkey Sun from Journey to the West wouldn't know what to do. Do you know what's going on outside?"

Before Chang Licheng could respond, Leon gestured a width with his hands and pointed to the corner of the dorm:

"Three meters wide passage, both sides near the walls are filled with cockroaches, damn it! They're lined up like army ants from room 401 all the way to at least room 420. Think about what kind of scene this is!"

Chang Licheng was initially stunned and instinctively wanted to refute, since the image was too challenging to common sense:

"This doesn't add up, let me ask you, when our dorm door is closed, there are no gaps below, so cockroaches can't get in, I understand that.

But in those few seconds when you open the door? Don't these things squeeze into any opening?"

If as you said, the edges of the passage were all cockroaches, wouldn't several sneak in during that short time?"

Leon opened his mouth, intending to say something but quickly realized he couldn't explain Chang Licheng's questions, reluctantly mumbling:

"But, they're indeed all cockroaches, at least thousands or tens of thousands..."

"Class monitor, Old Leon seems to be telling the truth."

Just as Chang Licheng still wanted to say something, Fu Ming suddenly chimed in, raising his phone which showed the main page of the professional group:

"Look at your phone, everyone in the group is talking about it."

Upon hearing this, Chang Licheng hurriedly took out his phone.

As Fu Ming mentioned, at this moment, the small professional group of only a few dozen people was rapidly filling with messages.

There were also a few short video clips flashing by, practically all about cockroaches.

[Chen Xingyu]: "Holy crap, what's outside? Biological crisis?????"

[Hu Qing]: "Don't open the door, open it and bear the consequences!!!!!"

[Gao Yang]: "Literally stunned, our dorm sleeps late, the door was open and it took five minutes for cockroach groups to come in before we realized something was wrong..."

[Chen Xingyu]: "You think you're unlucky? I just walked out to take out the trash, and the light at the door happened to be out. Walked a few steps and realized something was off, felt thousands of cockroaches crawling over your flip-flops? Now my roommates forced me to use detergent to scrub my feet T.T....."

As he continued, Chen Xingyu suddenly sent a video: "I took this when returning to the dorm, feel free to watch if you wish, and if you don't believe, you're welcome to open the door to verify ♪(´U`●) ♪"

[Jiang Biguo]: "... So you still have the mind to record a video?"

[Chen Xingyu]: "[Complicated emotions emoji] Well, it's already dirty anyway, doesn't matter now...-≡^(`Д`)"

Chang Licheng first replied with ellipsis, then, somewhat intrigued, clicked on Chen Xingyu's video.

The video was short, only around ten seconds, but the footage was quite shocking:

The phone was held at the height of an adult male's neck. Despite a streetlight malfunction causing dim view, further away lights revealed densely packed cockroaches scurrying from the stair entrance towards the trash heap in the middle of the floor.

Even passing dorms with open doors, they did not detour inside.

Of course.

Not all cockroaches were heading to the trash heap.

Some cockroaches coming out from open dorms, perhaps affected by dorm's bait, attracted many compatriots to start doing something embarrassing on the way.

An old saying goes.

If troops pass a thousand, there's no border; if troops pass ten thousand, there's no edge; if people pass ten thousand, they are boundless.

This saying applies to these cockroaches at present, making it difficult to estimate the count just from the video.

The video evidence set before him, coupled with the monkey-like screams outside, made Chang Licheng believe about ninety-eight percent.

As for the remaining two percent, it wasn't disbelief, but rather a science student's caution—after all, it hadn't been seen with his own eyes.

While Chang Licheng watched the video, Fu Ming suddenly spotted something.

With a small exclamation, he quickly approached the balcony entrance, turning on the balcony light:

"Whoa, class monitor, look at the balcony!"

Chang Licheng responded and looked over.

Sure enough, at this very moment, there were over ten cockroaches gathered on the dorm's balcony floor, stacking layer upon layer, doing something akin to acrobatic feats.

Seeing those cockroaches with wings raised, obviously in a mating frenzy, Chang Licheng suddenly understood some of Xu Yun's advice:

Before sleeping, close the balcony doors and windows well, take in clothes beforehand if possible, apply bait near cockroach feces on the balcony, avoid dorm interiors...

"Right, Xu God!"

With Xu Yun's name floating into his mind, Chang Licheng recalled this "mastermind."

Ignoring the lateness, he immediately dialed Xu Yun's phone.

A moment later, Xu Yun's voice came through:

"Hello, Licheng? Not sleeping this late?"

"It's me, Xu God, what are you doing now?"

"Writing a paper, what's up?"

"It seems the cockroach bait you gave is working..."

"Oh, that's good news, after sleeping, you'll probably wake up and see plenty of dead cockroaches."

Gulp.

Chang Licheng swallowed hard and added:

"Xu God, it seems we don't need to wait until wake up, now... Um, to tell you straight, the whole hallway is filled with cockroaches, at least thousands if not tens of thousands."

On hearing this, Xu Yun was originally rushing his paper, but paused, putting down his pen:

"What do you mean?"

"I mean the whole hallway, from the stair entrance, cockroaches are moving like ants in line..."

Beside his desk, Xu Yun listened, eyes widening.

"... Wait, tell me, how much bait did you apply?"

Chang Licheng was silent for a few seconds:

"Xu God, you only mentioned the dorm balcony amount, didn't specify the public area's dose."

Old Ye saw the black mass of cockroach feces at the trash area, vastly more than the dorm, thought maybe a rice grain size wouldn't suffice, coupled with what we read about Ci Insect Forest potentially having developed resistance, so we applied extra..."

Xu Yun suddenly felt a sense of unease at hearing Chang Licheng's intermittent explanation.

Considering the inconvenience to dorms in the East District and multiple testing needs, Xu Yun deliberately had given Chang Licheng more bait—after all, this stuff is harmless and isn't commercially viable, storing isn't difficult:

"I gave you two tubes of 150 ml large syringe, right? How much did you guys use?"

"... Um, applied all over, covered half the wall....."

"... Damn it??!!!"

....

Meanwhile, as Xu Yun was on the phone with Chang Licheng.

Fu Ming glanced at the comment section with constant requests for updates, feeling somewhat vexed:

"Today's incident truly isn't on me..."

Thinking and pondering, his eyes suddenly lit up.

He quickly scrolled up the group chat, found Chen Xingyu's previously recorded video, and shared it via the 'Easter Chapter' feature on Qidian Novels:

"Believe it or not, today I was startled silly by cockroaches..."

...

Chapter 73: Chapter 70 Further Escalation of the Situation (Starting Today, Explosive Updates!!)

Generally speaking, there are usually two forms of the use of Cyanofipronil:

Intermediate powder and gel baits.

The intermediate powder is mostly used in agriculture, with large quantities and wide coverage, but the insecticidal efficiency per unit volume is relatively limited.

After all, insecticidal efficiency is directly linked to cost, and the term "agriculture" essentially means farmland or orchards, ranging from a few to hundreds or thousands of acres.

If farmers were to purchase such highly effective insecticides, their income wouldn't cover the cost of the pesticides.

Besides intermediate powder, Cyanofipronil commonly used in daily life mostly comes in the form of gel baits, which are high-specification and high-concentration polymer insecticides.

For instance, Bayer's Baymex theoretically kills more than fifty cockroaches with just 0.2 grams.

The third-generation Cyanofipronil is already impressive, not to mention the fifth-generation Cyanofipronil developed by Xu Yun and his team.

milliliters of water weighs 150 grams, and the density of the fifth-generation Cyanofipronil gel bait is significantly higher than that of water. The gel bait contained in two 150-milliliter syringes amounts to about seven hundred grams altogether, approximately seven liang per syringe.

This amount of gel bait applied to walls...

You can simply imagine what kind of concept this represents.

More importantly, due to Ke Da's location within Luzhou City District, the drainage facilities throughout the campus inevitably distribute from inside outward.

Located on the eastern edge of the campus, Building 14 is a major outlet node where multiple internal sewage pipes converge, with a cockroach population several times higher than in other areas...

Thus, the severity of the entire situation is far higher than what Chang Licheng observed within the dormitory.

.....

When Xu Yun arrived at Building 14, the area around the dormitory was already surrounded by a large number of spectators from nearby dormitories, who had tactfully maintained a distance of thirty to forty meters from Building 14.

"Please make way, I'm an assistant from the physics department, thank you..."

Xu Yun squeezed his way out of the crowd with some difficulty, only to see in the middle of the field—right outside the dormitory entrance—stood a few dormitory managers and night patrol staff who had rushed over.

Through the powerful flashlights in their hands, an immensely terrifying scene could be faintly seen:

Students who have lived in dormitories should know.

Each dormitory building typically has three to five white drainage pipes with a diameter of about fifteen centimeters arranged on the exterior, mostly between the walls of two adjacent dorms.

At this moment, countless cockroaches were slowly climbing up from below along the outer walls of several drainage pipes.

Then they turned left on the third-floor ledge, climbed through a staircase corner window into the fourth floor...

The remaining part simply flooded in from the first-floor main entrance, swarming toward the fourth floor.

Of course, for every entry, there's also an exit.

For instance, some cockroaches already in a state of poisoning-induced excitement spread their wings wide open, flew out of the windows, with a large crowd of the same sex following behind...

Under the night sky, the onlookers outside seemed like Cao Cao's army back in the day, forcibly stopped by Zhang Fei on Dangyang Bridge.

Interspersed in this horrifying scene were the tightly closed doors and windows of dormitories, along with intermittent strange calls and screams.

Seeing this situation.

Even the Ke Da night patrol team, with over a decade of security experience, stood there dazed, looking at each other while holding flashlights, baffled and at a loss.

The dormitory manager sister on the side was sharp-eyed and noticed Xu Yun coming out of the crowd with difficulty, her face immediately lighting up with joy:

"Assistant Xu, you're here too? Come and see, what's going on?"

Xu Yun approached and looked up at the densely packed cockroaches with a wry smile:

"Sister Liu, how long has this situation been going on?"

Sister Liu was a somewhat plump middle-aged woman. She and her husband had been doing dormitory management for over a decade, and upon hearing the question, looked puzzled and a bit frightened:

"I don't know either. At that time, I was cooking for the guys in 203. Suddenly, there was a strange cry from somewhere, and then I saw a swarm of cockroaches rushing upstairs. That was quite a scene...."

Cooking with open flames is forbidden in Ke Da dormitories, so some dorm managers prepare small dishes like chicken giblets. If students want to enjoy some beer in their dorm on weekends, they can order a dish or two at quite a reasonable price, which also counts as a little extra income for the dorm managers.

Sister Liu, who was initially doing private work, hurriedly turned off the stove and ran out with her husband upon sensing something amiss.

Upon hearing this, Xu Yun couldn't help but sigh:

"Sister Liu, have you contacted the school leadership?"

"I just called a few counselors and the branch leaders, and Dean Tian is on his way here..."

"Dean Tian? Hasn't he rested yet?"

"No, he said he was doing some experiments, and upon hearing the news, he told me he would come to the scene immediately and mentioned not to call the fire department..."

Upon hearing this, Xu Yun felt a slight relief.

Throughout Ke Da, aside from a few project team members like Qiu Sheng, the only one who could quickly deduce the situation, besides Xu Yun himself, was Tian Liangwei.

If it had been any other department or school leader, who knows what kind of major incident might have erupted.

More composed individuals might handle it calmly, but encountering some more emotional leaders, they might start imagining scenarios as extreme as earthquakes or even start demonizing the event—after all, many schools are built over graveyards, and many school leaders are quite superstitious.

In almost every school's top ten campus legends, there are always some ghostly connections.

And so, after about twenty minutes or so.

Tian Liangwei finally arrived quickly on the scene with his assistant.

Just as he split the crowd and reached the entrance, his scalp tingled, watching the swarming cockroaches, and instinctively blurted out in his hometown dialect:

"Oh damn, so many cockroaches? Xiaoxu, what the hell is going on?"

Xu Yun, who had been waiting here, sighed softly and recounted the entire process in detail, trying to shoulder as much responsibility as possible:

"... That's about the situation, Director Tian. It's mainly my responsibility for not clearly communicating the dosage issue with Li Cheng and the others..."

Tian Liangwei initially had his brows furrowed, but as he listened, a rather peculiar expression gradually appeared on his face:

"Well, you can't be entirely blamed; it's ultimately an issue of information discrepancy. Those two blockheads probably Googled agricultural Cyanofipronil and thought that the effect you gave them was just like that....."

Anyway, leave that aside for now. Xiaoxu, do you have any solutions?"

Xu Yun remained silent for a while and then spoke:

"Director Tian, the first thing we need to do is stabilize emotions. I have already contacted a few physics department leaders inside the dormitory. Through group-to-group and individual notifications, all the dorm rooms have been closed.

The students inside the dorms are mainly experiencing some anxiety, but otherwise haven't been much affected, so we need to make more effort in comfort work."

He paused after saying this, then continued:

"As for subsequent suggestions, my view is... to wait!"

"Wait?"

Xu Yun nodded and said:

"After all, while the dosage was definitely excessive for two syringes of gel bait, the coverage area is relatively limited."

Ideally, it should already have been transmitted to the third set of receptors, and after two more cycles, it should basically stop.

So instead of manually intervening, why not just wait on the side and spray some pesticides around to prevent the cockroaches from escaping?

The only issue is that students in the dorms may need psychological counseling. Perhaps the end-of-semester score could be increased by 0.2 points for everyone? They'll surely be bouncing back energetically with no issues tomorrow!"

Tian Liangwei's mouth twitched a few times:

".... You're asking the school to compensate with grade points for something you caused?"

He then sighed:

"We'll discuss compensation later. Let's execute the plan as you suggested; I'll explain to the college and school. Gosh, initially I thought we were facing a biochemical crisis..."

Meanwhile, as Xu Yun and others were conversing, the online world gradually started buzzing with activity...

....

Chapter 74: Chapter 71 Fermentation!

As an online writer who often procrastinates, Fu Ming, although his daily updates are relatively limited in word count, has undeniably written some pretty enjoyable books.

Otherwise, he wouldn't have had two consecutive works become big hits, with the second book's initial subscriptions nearing ten thousand—haven't you seen how many authors have been in the business for five or six years, yet their best achievements are just one or two thousand subscriptions?

The reason for Fu Ming's drop in subscriptions isn't due to the storyline falling apart but because he updates infrequently, so most readers prefer to "fatten up" the book first.

As a result, the number of members in Fu Ming's reader fan group has always maintained around a thousand people, and it's quite lively.

Apart from sharing spicy pictures, the group's daily staple activity naturally involves nagging the writer to update.

[Release That Mother Monkey]: "@Unlucky Author, any updates on the second Chapter today, tweet-tweet?"

[Barbie's Escape Golden Fish Grass]: "It's almost midnight, no updates for sure. Pigeons are just like that [shrug emoji]."

[Little Angel Lingbo]: "@Unlucky Author, you should learn from Neighbor Old Yin and Little Chicken, look at their typing speed, and that one who writes about Marvel, Mie Yijuan, can write thirty thousand words as a part-time job in one day!"

Just as the group was routinely roasting the "pigeon," an admin suddenly chimed in.

[Little Princess of the Bayun Family]: "Check out the latest Chapter, oh my god, it's terrifying!"

Although it was already close to midnight, there were still plenty of night owls in the group who practiced "immortal cultivation," and they instantly perked up upon hearing this—not knowing why this group seems to survive without needing to work, chatting all night.

[Xian Weiren]: "Lady Bayun, what happened?"

[Daoist Ancestor Wu Fan]: "I took a look, there's no update...."

[Little Princess of the Bayun Family]: "@Daoist Ancestor Wu Fan, check the easter egg Chapter."

With this callout from admin Lady Bayun, the entire QQ group suddenly went silent.

After all, regardless of how much they enjoy saying cheeky things, the precondition for joining the group is being a legitimate reader, having liked and subscribed to Fu Ming's books to join the group.

Therefore, aside from the lurkers, upon hearing Lady Bayun's statement, the vast majority instinctively opened the novel app.

However, this silence lasted less than half a minute before the whole reader group erupted with excitement.

One question mark after another filled the screen, interspersed with numerous @Fu Ming messages.

[Daoist Ancestor Wu Fan]: "wdnmd, is this a Photoshop or a real video?"

[Xie Wenyuan]: "I was freaked out, what the heck is this? A cockroach?"

After a while, Fu Ming quietly popped up:

"It's real, location USTC, coordinates Building 14, let me allow you to hear the wailing of the whole building...[video]."

Compared to the easter egg Chapter—namely the video shot by Fu Ming's friend Chen Xingyu—the second video's footage wasn't as explosive.

But while the footage was smooth, the timing and content were much richer than the first clip:

You can first see a few seconds of the dormitory's environment, then Fu Ming zooms in, getting closer to the door, and at this point, you can clearly hear the bizarre screams of several students on the same floor.

Then he walks to the balcony and films the dozen or so cockroaches still stacking like a tower, the edges of the frame showing the light from many phones or flashlights below—that's the schoolmates from nearby dorm buildings who came to watch the drama, and the excited shouts from outside.

At the video's end, Fu Ming heads back to his seat, capturing the author's backend to show that it wasn't a stolen video.

Then he continued typing:

"Actually, I initially wanted to film on the balcony, but my roommate persistently stopped me. I thought if I insisted any longer, I'd either get knifed or gagged, so I gave up.

So just bear with what you see, I really didn't intend to procrastinate today.....T.T."

As Fu Ming released this content, the group instantly got lively.

As everyone knows nowadays in group chats, forwarding messages is practically a routine operation, and many have even developed the habit of forwarding messages.

In the water chat, someone frequently sends [chat records], and clicking on them either shows spicy pictures or news worth gossiping about.

Some of it's true, some false, leading to many messages going viral and even blowing up online.

But in fact, behind these sorts of messages, there are usually orchestrators.

They'll release the message in many groups or accounts simultaneously to spread a piece of news.

For example, with many forwarded messages, you can see at the bottom an invite to join a gossip group. Upon entering, the group is muted, and after two pieces of gossip are forwarded, you'll get four or five ads, a classic case of eating from both ends.

Therefore, in general, from the initial message to going viral, it's usually a process involving survivor bias.

However, apart from this, if some messages are particularly interesting and have relatively more sources, they too might go viral.

One example is the recent case of an author having their account hacked and the text altered, which became a hot topic.

It shot straight to the trending list at that time—while there might have been some manipulators during the trending period, initially, it went viral thanks to netizens sharing it.

And coincidentally.....

Fu Ming's easter egg Chapter happened to have these characteristics.

In fact, from the source perspective, his group, with thousands of active members and hundreds online, was far more substantial than that author's base back then.

Take Yuan Yin for example.

Yuan Yin, female, a student in a certain major at Jinmen University, one of Fu Ming's few female fans.

Besides reading novels, she's also a small Bilibili creator, occasionally producing videos critiquing and commenting on anime.

Unlike those trending creators, Yuan Yin has been at it for more than two years, but her fan count remains at just over three thousand, with video views hovering around five to six hundred or a thousand.

The number three thousand might seem large, but in a video platform, the heft of three thousand isn't even worth three hundred elsewhere.

Based on Bilibili's creative incentives, Yuan Yin can earn about.....

Forty bucks a month.

Yet this hasn't quenched her enthusiasm for creation, and she still eagerly updates her videos, gradually accumulating a fan group of over sixty people.

Upon seeing those two videos in Fu Ming's group, Yuan Yin was both frightened and thrilled, casually forwarding them to her group:

"Just saw two heartfelt short videos, super tearjerking!"

Within moments, the group was flooded with ellipses.

[Huai Xun1]: "Yin——Yin——!!!"

[Qi Zhenshang]: "Truly brings tears, those who haven't seen it, hurry up..."

While the group members ganged up to chastise Yuan Yin, a few also forwarded the videos to other groups.

Simultaneously, among Fu Ming's group, many book friends adopted Yuan Yin's forwarding approach, sharing massively.

They couldn't help it; the video was just too mind-blowing.

Among them, some had certain standings in society or online, while others were quite average. Under such ripple-effect forwarding, Fu Ming's chat record quickly spread.

During that time, there were indeed objections about the synthetic nature of the video—in reality, many harbored such thoughts, possibly as high as five or six out of ten.

But the level of 'synthesis' far exceeded the realm of obviously fake, so even those who didn't believe it was real still casually hit forward.

And so it went.

A little past three in the morning.

A topic suddenly surfaced on the trending list, with its popularity rising steadily:

#USTC#Cockroach#.

.....

Note:

Today's an all-nighter coding session, asking for monthly votes!!!

Chapter 75: Chapter 72: Splendid Scenery (Fog)

"What? It's trending now?"

Hearing the report from the person in charge of the publicity portal, Tian Liangwei, who was directing the related matters on-site, couldn't help but frown:

"How long has it been, and it's already gaining the traffic to trend at midnight?"

Although Tian Liangwei is already over sixty, as a college leader, he is fairly familiar with matters of the internet.

If there were a video or picture going around, he wouldn't be too surprised.

After all, with so many people on site, taking photos and recordings is quite normal.

But for a picture or video to transform from information to news, it requires a substantial base for transmission.

There's some possibility during the day, but in the latter half of the night relying on scattered fragments to naturally gather enough heat...

Honestly speaking,

the probability isn't high.

Facing Tian Liangwei's skepticism, the head of the publicity portal smiled helplessly:

"Dean Tian, it's like this.

After confirmation from our technical department, it appears the source of the information comes from a student in building 14.

His name is Fu Ming, a web writer with a sizable follower base on the platform.

Under the reposts from those fans, the message skipped the initial fragment accumulation phase and was spread through multiple channels right from the start.

Moreover, at the end of the video, to prove it's not stolen online material, he deliberately filmed the screenshot of his writer's backend, accidentally capturing Ke Da's textbooks and campus card.

Netizens traced back to Tieba, where some curious students were discussing the matter, although their spread wasn't as wide.

Once these two groups converged, the matter was thoroughly established."

The person in charge paused briefly, tentatively suggesting:

"Dean Tian, should we first lock down the public opinion platform?"

Tieba is simple; the moderator is a teacher, just increase the post level and that should be fine.

As for the trending list, it might be troublesome, but I estimate in about an hour it shouldn't be too much..."

Before he could finish, Tian Liangwei waved his hand and interrupted him:

"No, no, don't control comments. This kind of thing isn't something that can't be shown. Controlling comments will only make people think we're guilty, some things just become worse that way.

Let's do it this way, you personally handle the public opinion platform.

Don't worry about normal discussions, and don't hold the student who first broke the news accountable.

However, if you see any comments taking this opportunity to blacken Ke Da or stir emotions, address them first, there might be some old acquaintances from across the sea behind them."

Tian Liangwei's words carried some deeper meaning, since certain events have not just happened once or twice.

Though Ke Da's ranking isn't as high as Qingbei Jiaofu, due to contextual issues, Ke Da, National Science University, and Harbin Institute of Technology often face some ill-intentioned attacks in media.

Sometimes, the frequency of attacks even surpasses that directed at Qingbei Jiaofu.

Now that Ke Da is facing such an incident, most of the discussions probably aren't malicious, but there will surely be some looking to profit from chaos.

Upon receiving Tian Liangwei's instructions, the head of public opinion immediately accepted the order:

"Understood, I'll get on it right away."

After the head left, Tian Liangwei turned to look at the dormitory building.

He was about to thoughtfully comment, 'It's a tumultuous time now,' but suddenly caught sight of the densely packed cockroaches on the water pipe, startling him:

"Damn it, I'm so damn scared of dense clusters!"

.....

Considering that Tian Liangwei is already over sixty, and the temperature difference between day and night is quite large this season, the outside is prone to causing colds.

Therefore, under the persuasion of several accompanying leaders, Tian Liangwei first returned to his residence.

Xu Yun, meanwhile, stayed at the scene with a few security personnel, working the night shift.

As for the students inside the entire dormitory building, a team of fully equipped security personnel had entered an hour and a half earlier, outfitting each student in protective clothing before escorting them out of the dormitory for resettlement.

After all, although the cockroaches couldn't enter the dormitories, the viruses carried by so many cockroaches were a potential hazard, and the smell produced by their gathering was quite unpleasant too.

In such an environment, staying a few minutes or even an hour might be fine, but if it's for the whole night, something might just happen.

And so it went.

An hour swiftly passed by.

As time went on, the number of cockroaches on the dormitory wall visibly decreased.

The ground outside the building also gradually appeared with some cockroach carcasses, with the farthest one falling as far as two hundred meters away.

Meanwhile,

the entire building faintly exuded an unpleasant odor, which was a mix of cockroach corpses and excrement.

During this period, Xu Yun kept an eye on Weibo and Tieba, to be precise, on that topic.

Currently, the topic's Weibo heat had already surged to the tenth position, second only to the previous Old Niu.

No surprise,

when dawn breaks, this topic is highly likely to rush into the top six, given how bizarre its content is.

Whether it can go any higher will depend on whether there's any big news in the entertainment circle tomorrow.

Then another hour passed by.

By this time, the effect of the gel bait had begun its critical phase of exertion.

The majority of external cockroaches, exhausted, fell to the ground. Roughly thirty percent were completely lifeless, while the remaining seventy percent were barely clinging to life.

Half an hour later.

Five thirty in the morning.

On the ground, aside from a handful of particularly tenacious individuals, 99% of the cockroaches had entirely lost any signs of life.

Meanwhile, having had a short rest for a few hours, Tian Liangwei returned to the scene.

The trending topic had climbed to number eight.

"Xiaoxu."

Upon arriving at the scene, Tian Liangwei glanced at the dormitory building and said to Xu Yun:

"Isn't it about time now?"

Xu Yun nodded:

"It's close to time."

Tian Liangwei nodded slightly and looked at the person beside him:

"Director Guan, I'll leave it to you."

The Director Guan Tian Liangwei referred to was the head of the security department at Ke Da, and also a retired special forces soldier, serving as the commander of the campus reserve unit.

He was tall and well-built, with a square face, appearing quite reliable at first glance.

The security system of Ke Da had conducted numerous drills for special situations like septic tank explosions, so within the various units of the university, the security department was undoubtedly the most suitable choice for today.

More than ten minutes later.

A twenty-person hazardous materials team was assembled, with Xu Yun joining as an 'atonement' consultant.

Then, under the lead of Director Guan, the group steadily moved towards Building 14.

At this time, the sky was just beginning to brighten, so certain scenes only became clear as they approached the dormitory building.

The most conspicuous among them were undoubtedly the four originally white drainage pipes:

The sections above the fourth floor could still barely be seen as white, but the areas below the fourth floor were stained with a significant amount of cockroach excrement.

From a distance, the pipes appeared mottled in black and white.

At the lowest end of the pipes, a sharp cone approximately 40 centimeters high had formed from a pile of cockroach corpses.

Within five meters of the water pipe, the ground was densely covered with cockroach bodies or remains, with not a single gap in sight.

There is a rumor on the internet about cockroaches:

If you see one cockroach, it means there are actually hundreds of thousands of cockroaches in your house.

This notion is clearly incorrect because cockroaches are insects that need to stay near a water source to survive, and within residential areas, the areas with the most water are usually the bathroom and kitchen.

If there were hundreds of thousands of cockroaches in the sewer, the sewer would have already been clogged beyond use.

However, tonight, the number of cockroaches that died in Building 14 might genuinely be this many.

After all, it's one of the output nodes for the water used by over ten thousand people in the university; the filth underground is unimaginable.

As for the total number of cockroaches at Ke Da, it's conservatively estimated to be at least over three million—don't think this number is large; three million is actually considered small.

In 2017, Jinling University had created a decomposer model, which included creatures like worms, mites, beetles, and cockroaches.

Within densely populated areas of ten thousand people, the number of cockroaches exceeded a million.

Not to mention places like schools, where a large amount of kitchen waste is produced daily, it's normal for the number to be several times that of regular residential areas.

This is similar to the iceberg theory, where the submerged part that's invisible to the naked eye is far greater than what's visible above the surface.

Tap, tap, tap—

The boots of the protective suits tapped against the ground as Xu Yun and his team soon entered the dormitory building.

At this moment, the stairs from the first to the second floor were fully covered with rows of cockroach corpses.

Each stair step was conservatively estimated to have two or three dozen carcasses.

Director Guan used cleaning equipment to clear a path, and the team moved from the first to the second, then to the third floor.

Finally, they arrived at the fourth floor where Chang Licheng and others were located.

As a retired special forces soldier, Director Guan's capabilities weren't as exaggerated as the legendary soldiers in novels, but his experience and psychological resilience were sound.

For instance, during his peacekeeping missions abroad, he had seen some blood and had faced off against vicious criminals.

Yet even such a formidable man as him got goosebumps all over when he saw the scene on the fourth floor!

At this moment...

The corridor on the fourth floor, over thirty meters long and three meters wide, was densely covered with at least three centimeters thick of cockroach carcasses!

Director Guan and his team forced themselves to endure the discomfort, stepping over the mound of cockroaches, leading the team to reach the very center of the entire incident.

This was the open space on the fourth floor where rubbish was piled.

Well, how shall I put it.

This area should no longer be described with the term 'open space':

The walls that were comparatively cleaner were now densely covered with cockroach excrement, turning the entire wall black.

The windowsills and trash cans, even the gaps in the area, were filled with cockroach legs!

The ground had heaps of various body parts forming small hills, raising several cones.

In this ten square meter area, the thickness of cockroaches was at least over ten centimeters, with countless numbers!

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Chapter 76: Chapter 73 Ke Da: Super Double!

Three hours later.

A shadow darted quickly out of the dormitory building, running to the base of a large tree and removing a mask.

"Yue," he dry-heaved.

Behind him, Xu Yun and Director Guan, among others, also walked out of the dormitory building with tired faces.

Three hours earlier, upon arriving at the 'scene of the incident,' Xu Yun and the others immediately started the cleanup work.

Compared to the complex and numerous scenes, their method of cleanup was actually quite simple:

The campus's agricultural institute provided a large vacuum cleaner, which was reportedly developed to clean up locust corpses and could inhale large objects.

Xu Yun and the team retained the front suction port, while the latter part containing the storage box was modified into easily detachable burlap sacks.

One person held the front, while another blocked the sack, directly sucking up the roach corpses from the ground.

Once a sack was full, they would tighten it and set it aside, then continue with another, repeatedly collecting the roach corpses.

Of course.

This process might sound simple, but actually doing it was quite challenging.

After all, many roach bodies were no longer intact, and white eggs or sticky liquid could occasionally be seen, which was quite disgusting even through protective clothing.

While cleaning, occasionally a roach with strong vitality would suddenly flutter into the air, rushing straight at your face.

Even with a mask as a shield, such an encounter would be extremely shocking to an average person.

As such, Xu Yun and his team spent a full three hours to finally clear the roach corpses - which was only the first step of the entire process.

The subsequent disinfection, cleaning, and student accommodation arrangements were also highly bothersome issues.

As for Xu Yun and the team's achievements...

Do you see those fifty-seven sacks over there? (Note: I called and asked a doctoral friend who studies insects, and he said a 180-pound sack can hold about 1,500 American cockroaches, so fifty-seven sacks should be reasonable.)

The remaining follow-up matters were handed over to Director Guan to handle, while Xu Yun hurried over to the waiting Tian Liangwei.

At this moment, Tian Liangwei was talking with someone, and as Xu Yun approached, he first greeted him:

"Teacher, I'm out."

Then his gaze turned to the man beside the teacher, hesitated for a few seconds, and said:

"...Hello, Principal Zhang."

The "Principal Zhang" in Xu Yun's words was fully named Zhang Rui, who was the dean of the School of Mathematical Sciences and also held a concurrent position as the executive vice-principal of Ke Da.

Zhang Rui was also one of the most promising local mathematicians for the Wolf Prize, having graduated from Krypton Gold College at Zhangshuo University.

Therefore, students from the Math Institute generally called him Dean Zhang, while those from other colleges referred to him as Principal Zhang.

Zhang Rui's duties primarily involved miscellaneous aspects of campus life, which simply put, meant student and staff necessities, thus earning him the nickname 'the housekeeper of Ke Da' by some staff.

With such a big incident involving student accommodation at building 14, Zhang Rui's presence there wasn't really unexpected.

After Xu Yun greeted them, Tian Liangwei glanced at Zhang Rui and asked:

"Xiaoxu, is the dormitory all cleaned up?"

"Yes, everything is cleaned up, only the disinfection remains."

"...Now, can you still keep up, or do you want to rest for a bit?"

Xu Yun was momentarily stunned upon hearing this and then immediately understood:

"Not tired, not tired, if you have something to say, just say it."

His advisor's words hinted at something more, especially since Zhang Rui was also on site, making the upcoming discussion quite apparent.

A four-character summary would be...

Accountability, punishment!

Thinking of this, Xu Yun felt a bit heavy-hearted.

Although in strict terms, the main responsibility for this accident lay with Chang Licheng and Ye Guohong's operational errors, if responsibility was to be pursued, as the initiator, he couldn't entirely escape the blame.

Once penalties were issued, some things could become quite troublesome, potentially even recorded on his file, which would invariably be a hassle.

Of course.

Xu Yun wasn't without any confidence, to just let others dictate his fate.

Although the incident at building 14 was unexpected by all, it inadvertently proved the efficacy of imidacloprid, and Ke Da couldn't overlook its commercial value.

If there were indeed any financial penalties, at most he would have to advance a bit of his future earnings, and it was unlikely he'd face expulsion or probation.

Most likely, it'd just be a matter of losing face or attracting unwanted gossip.

And just as Xu Yun's mind was racing, Tian Liangwei spoke seriously:

"Xiaoxu, you were personally involved in this matter, so you should know that from early morning until now, Ke Da has suffered losses in manpower and resources.

Externally, we've faced some media and social pressure, even impacting the school's image..."

Xu Yun listened silently, awaiting the result of the penalties.

"So after a unanimous leadership decision, we have finally come up with a solution — we will conduct a campus-wide cockroach extermination at specified locations in the East District, and broadcast it live online!"

"No problem, I accept the school's..."

Xu Yun was nodding like a little chick pecking at rice, ready to shoulder all responsibility.

But as he spoke, he suddenly felt something was amiss:

"Uh, wait, what did you say?"

This time Tian Liangwei couldn't hold back a chuckle, and slapped Xu Yun on the shoulder:

"I said the school plans to hold a large-scale extermination event and broadcast it live online. You need to quickly produce some fifth-generation gel bait for me, understand?"

Looking at the bewildered Xu Yun, Zhang Rui also chuckled.

He happily added:

"Comrade Xiaoxu, actually, at the beginning, the school leaders were indeed a bit troubled by this incident.

Cockroaches swarming into dorms is not negative news, but it's not exactly positive news either.

If we don't refute the rumors, people accuse us of playing dead and not responding. If we try to control the narratives, wild conspiracy theories emerge, and if we do dispel rumors, we don't even know how to issue an announcement.

So, after the leaders deliberated, they decided, hey, there are already so many roaches just in building 14, why not hold a dedicated extermination event in the East District instead?

Additionally, live-stream the whole thing, turning it into a wave of traffic conversion.

Ultimately, it could even be a positive topic, and perhaps help with next year's admissions — who wouldn't choose a campus free of cockroaches, right?"

After hearing Zhang Rui speak, Xu Yun stood there in a daze.

According to his teacher and Zhang Rui...

Ke Da not only didn't plan to penalize him, but they also intended to make a big splash out of it?

After a while.

A very complex emotion surged in Xu Yun's heart, leaving him deeply moved.

Readers familiar with Ke Da probably know that Ke Da's motto has eight words:

Combine knowledge and action, integrate theory and practice.

Here, 'theory' refers to book knowledge, as well as scientific values, outlooks on life and the world, and simply, reason.

'Practice' refers to actual practice and reality.

Concepts must merge with reality and align with the times instead of sticking to old ways.

Zhang Rui — or rather the leadership's decision, was undoubtedly the best embodiment of this motto.

Xu Yun recalled a news story he saw before:

About a year or two ago, a freshman girl from Shangdu Normal University won three thousand jin of watermelons in an event by Freshmart.

Originally, she planned to share them with all classmates.

At the time, school forums, Weibo, and Penguin groups were buzzing with discussions about this, the related topic trended frequently.

Even students from surrounding schools expressed intentions to 'seize watermelons' that day; almost the entire online community anticipated the occasion.

However?

This fantastic opportunity for a flow monetization event was ultimately rejected during the distribution phase by the school administration, leaving the girl no choice but to distribute them to city bus drivers.

Shangdu Normal University even got criticized on trending topics for it, and had to resort to damage control.

A golden opportunity for gaining traction was botched into negative publicity, which eventually led to a drop in enrollment rates the following year.

Yet Ka Da now exhibits its unique side.

Not only did it waive the penalties Xu Yun was supposed to face, but it also effectively retaliated with a huge upside, attacking with a positive move instead.

Of course, many issues still require very serious discussion, such as the arrangements for extermination venues in a way that doesn't disrupt students. But merely looking at Ke Da's actions unquestionably makes it quite a fan favorite.

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Chapter 77: Chapter 74: The Unusual Person (Repaying Debt 1 Chapter)

The super counterstrike by Ke Da not only exceeded Xu Yun's expectations but also astonished social media opinion.

After all, rumors had been flying around online, with endless speculation.

Some said Ke Da had dug up an emperor's underground palace, others claimed it was a harbinger of disaster. Someone even photoshopped a student record to change a Japanese student's surname to "Aburame," amusing a bunch of Naruto fans.

Of course.

There were also plenty of comments regarding Ke Da's pest control actions.

In short, there's truth mixed with falsehood, and vice versa.

But when it came to the main point, most people subconsciously leaned towards natural accidents, with few believing it was the result of human factors.

So, when Ke Da's official Weibo announced the upcoming complete cockroach extermination on the East Campus, along with a full network livestream, various voices of doubt surged in.

One highly-upvoted comment was like this:

"Come on, isn't it just an insect outbreak due to seasonal factors? In 2014, Zhejiang Agriculture also experienced a swarm of millions of termites. In essence, it's just self-regulation of the regional ecosystem. Why drag in the new generation insecticides? It's no different from those who pretend to be street-shot internet celebs and start endorsing products after a few days of fame."

The comment received 47,000 likes and over 1,200 related replies.

There were plenty of similar skeptical comments, even from verified bloggers.

Some skepticism was pure and derived from logical judgment, while others had certain personal biases.

For example, experts from other schools who had academic conflicts with a certain Ke Da professor or public figures who generalized the Ke Da incident to criticize the local education environment, turning the comment section into a faction gathering of sorts.

However, where there's doubt, there'll naturally be people trying to debunk the rumors, especially among the students of the East District of Ke Da.

Even if they weren't present at last night's incident, they're still firsthand sources.

Among these students, the students of Applied Physics Class 2 were the main fighting force.

"Damn it!"

In the temporarily arranged dormitory, Chang Licheng slammed the desk in frustration:

"Block them if you can't out-argue them. Is this level a Jiao Da master's student?"

Fu Ming, next to him, leaned over to take a look:

"Come on, you know how Weibo is. There's no need for degree verification, you can fill in Qingbei Jiaofu as you wish. You really think him writing Jiao Da is for real?"

Degrees should be checked on Zhihu. Although there are lots of arguments, there's at least a verification threshold. Unlike Weibo, where even middle schoolers can claim Peking University."

Chang Licheng sighed irritably and shook his head:

"It's not about the authenticity of his degree, just that his criticism is too harsh. Look at this, accusing us of fame-mongering and money-grabbing. He talks as if he's personally seen the board of directors meeting."

Keeps mentioning PhDs and Masters, yet can't even tell the difference between academic and professional master's programs. Isn't he obviously a troll?"

Easily half a day ago, after being 'rescued' from their dorm by the security team, the students of Building 14 had been urgently relocated to another empty dormitory building for settlement.

Different from other universities, Ke Da admits fewer than 2,000 undergraduates each year, so there are quite a few empty dorms on campus.

As direct witnesses of the cockroach incident, the minds of Chang Licheng and his peers hadn't completely calmed down, although being guys, they were rather carefree.

Moreover, the school granted them a two-day leave. There's even talk about getting credit or GPA compensation from the faculty, showing a very amiable attitude.

Thus, over time, the desire of these few hundred people to express this gradually overcame their inner fear, spontaneously turning them into a "Navy" online.

Chang Licheng's thoughts were a bit more complicated. After all, the whole thing started with the antics he and Ye Guohong engaged in, so compared to other classmates, he was more active online.

"Dingdong——"

As Chang Licheng was about to regroup and take on another online debate, a message prompt sounded in his friend list.

Upon checking, he found it was a user with a "jojo" avatar, IDed as "gao处不胜含," with remarks as 'Wang Zhaomin.'

The message was very concise, just two words:

Hey Xiaochang, there?

"Wang Zhaomin..."

After a few seconds of recollection, Chang Licheng quickly remembered who it was—someone he met last year when he first entered university, an older student from another school, who has some part-time job resources around the campus, including tutoring, leaflets, mascot costumes, etc.

Back then, Chang Licheng and his roommates signed up for several of his jobs before finding out he was actually a broker, commonly known as a "snakehead."

A job with a 15-yuan hourly wage would see a 30% cut when handed over by him, leaving only ten yuan for the part-time students.

Newbies who didn't know better were often easily roped in, and by the time they figured out and found jobs through other channels, a new batch of newbies would have arrived.

Such people undoubtedly have abilities, higher than quite a few, but their character varies.

At least after several interactions, Chang Licheng voluntarily cut off contact with him, saying nothing bad behind his back, yet keeping a respectful distance.

Even without contact, formal greetings remained, as shown in his quick reply:

"Yep, here, Brother Min. Long time no talk, still in Lu Prefecture these days?"

Soon, Wang Zhaomin replied:

"Moved to Yanjing to hang around, practically a drifter now."

Chang Licheng: "Yanjing, huh? That's a nice place, but living costs seem pretty high, right?"

Wang Zhaomin quickly replied:

"Absolutely, finding an apartment through Ziroom costs over 5,000 a month. Anyway, never mind that. By the way, Xiaochang, I heard something happened in your department yesterday?"

"Yep, cockroach siege [facepalm]."

"I see. I saw on Ke Da's official account that it was caused by insecticides. Is that true?"

Hearing the mention of insecticides, Chang Licheng instantly got interested, typing a few extra words:

"Of course it's true! It was a new type of insecticide developed by one of our seniors, and yesterday I personally applied it."

After sending that message, the chatbox from Wang Zhaomin suddenly quieted down.

However, it was clear from the top of the chat box that Wang Zhaomin was still "typing a message," probably organizing his thoughts.

A while later, a new reply came from Wang Zhaomin:

"Xiaochang, to be honest, I've got a lot of cockroaches in my apartment lately, all those American cockroaches. My girlfriend is scared to death at night. Do you happen to have any leftover insecticide? Could you give me some?"

Surprised, Chang Licheng instinctively typed:

"I do have some, but... it's not convenient. This insecticide hasn't been made public. Maybe you could wait a bit longer, Brother Min?"

A few seconds later, another reply came and it made Chang Licheng raise an eyebrow:

"[Crying] Can't wait... the cockroaches are overwhelming. Or how about this, you put some insecticide into a small vitamin C bottle for me, and I'll transfer you 300 yuan, how about it?"

yuan is quite an enticing amount for a student.

Yet, Chang Licheng remained firm, rapidly typing:

"...Really can't do it. Maybe I can ask the senior if he could sell some to you?"

Seeing how firm Chang Licheng was, Wang Zhaomin had to give it up:

"Forget it, I'm not familiar with your senior. I'll look for other solutions. Maybe Wu Xiaoliang's formula could work....."

Reading the reply from Wang Zhaomin, a weird feeling inexplicably rose in Chang Licheng's heart.

He slowly scrolled up the chat log, focusing on two sentences at the end:

"Doesn't seem right, would there be lots of cockroaches in Yanjing during this season? And also American cockroaches?"

....