

M Factory 111

Chapter 111: Upgrade!

This was really all completed in one go.

Wu Yu and everyone else had an “Am I seeing this right?” kind of expression.

Before they arrived, they were all talking about how the owner was dishonest, how could he use only one day to crudely fix their chase boat.

Standardized ship building steel all came flat and leveled. If he wanted to fix the hull of the chase boat, then he needed to cut out the necessary size, and use a folding machine to get the correct angle and bends.

The process was very easy, as there weren't any technical challenges, but it was very time consuming.

Besides, this dazzling silvery metal style hull, no matter how you looked at it, it didn't look like regular ship building steel at all.

And that beautifully carved police emblem. Only a laser engraver could do that right?

How does this factory do it?

“What kind of steel is this?” Wu Yu tapped his subordinates, hoping that he could have an answer so that he didn't look bad.

“Can it be stainless steel.....” The officers all looked at each other, and they all had an ‘we've hit the jackpot’ kind of feeling.

“No way. I heard stainless steel was super difficult to process, if they were to be used for ship hulls then just think of the price.”

Let's not talk about what kind of steel this was made from, just by that beautiful looking hull, that embodying emblem carving, and that knife like ram head alone was enough to hook onto their wants and desires.

Being in possession of great stuff was a hobby for all humans, no matter the age, gender, or race.

“This is a new product from our company, the nickel-titanium memory alloy. Not only is it anti corrosive and rust free, it can also ‘heal’ back from any kind of impact.” Ye Qing with a master artisan in tow, appeared behind them and explained to these dumbstruck people.

“Nickel-titanium memory alloy?” Wu Yu still found it somewhat incomprehensible: “Last month my son kept on bugging me to get him a bike online. Yet, he wasn't satisfied with the cheap ones at all, rather he wanted the 5000 kind made from titanium alloy.”

“You said this ship hull is also made from titanium alloy?”

“It's nickel-titanium memory alloy, possessing great anti corrosive and rust free properties, and can alleviate all your repair costs.”

“It can return back to it’s original form after an impact?” Wu Yu caught on to the main point, if this hull could really turn back after an impact, then.....

Their Anti Smuggling Unit’s chase boats needed to hit the shipyard an average of five times each year for hull repairs.

Not counting dents and scratch, just the paint needed each time was already costly enough.

If this expense could be saved, then Wu Yu was naturally happy. However he wouldn’t straight out believe what Ye Qing said, rather he needed to see it happen.

A 6’2” muscular officer borrowed a sledgehammer from Ye Qing, spat on his hands, then mustering his strength, smashed the hammer onto the silvery white ship hull.

Bang~

The echos of the heavy hit sounded off endlessly, yet the officer was thrown to the ground by the humongous rebounding shock, and when he actually got up, he was jumping around while cradling onto his hands.

“Xiao Zhou, you alright?” Wu Yu caringly asked.

The officer jumped around for ages before finally opening his hands, to display the redness of it caused by the rebounding shock for all to see.

“Siiii ~” A burst of hissing, which wasn’t for the wellness of this superficial injury, rather it was for the hull which didn’t seem to have been damaged at all.

That hit just then, actually didn’t even leave a dent.

With no dents, then how were they going to examine whether or not this hull could actually repair itself?

That was actually very simple. Ye Qing called a peon over and had him try hammering it.

The peon, who looked like a complete muscle head, had Wu Yu looking forward to the results.

Bang ~

Crack ~

The thunderous echoes had everyone cover their ears. As for the sledgehammer, its wooden handle actually split down the middle.

The force of this hit way exceeded a thousand pounds, yet the hull of the chase boat still remained unblemished.

Without boasting, if this hit was performed on the original boat hull, then there would definitely be a hole right now.

Experimenting to that point, there was no need to continue. Although they hadn’t seen its self healing abilities, but the silver white ship hull in front of them had the top tier materials they had been dreaming of possessing.

But the price.....

A titanium alloy made bike cost 5000, then how much was this ship hull in front of them?

Wu Yu suddenly felt like leaving the boat here for repairs was the worst decision he had made in a long time.

"2,000,000." Ye displayed two fingers, and named the eye popping price.

"Plus 10 year warranty. That's right, free repairs for the ship of any kind within the next 10 years." Ye Qing shrugged, and in an 'I don't really care' tone continued: "Of course, if you think this price is too expensive, I can always replace it with regular steel for a market price of 100,000."

Wu Yu immediately called everyone over for an emergency meeting.

The content of the meeting was very simple, should we buy this?

They first looked up the price of titanium on the internet, and found that a ton of titanium alloy would cost them about 150,000.

2,000,000 could buy them 13 tons of titanium alloy ingots and the ship hull in front them weighed in at around 10 tons. Titanium from the rumors was also difficult to work with, thus the most costly part of buying the alloy were the labour fees, then again, this alloy also had self healing abilities.

An offering price of 2,000,000 wasn't too expensive. In comparison, the average annual repair fees spent on a single chase boat already exceeded 400,000.

Sadly they didn't know that Ye Qing filled in 30% of the alloy with regular steel, hence weakening the material's integrity by a bunch. However, this did also lower the amount of capital invested in making it.

If the free repairs deal was upheld, then they could make back the total cost of the hulls in 5 years. More importantly, with this specialized ship hull, they could actually go head to head with those smugglers.

Yesterday that yacht had them truly understand how important having a thick hull was.

This factory owner, through watching the chase, definitely noticed their interest in possessing ships with stronger and more reliable hulls.

Analysing the pros and cons, Wu Yu, with firm determination, decided to buy one for a trial.

They really couldn't afford to always be so far behind those smugglers in terms of utilizing new technologies.

If they could bring out a completely new and more advanced equipment to face the smugglers, then wasn't that just paving the way for his political career?

Of course, he still needed to have them test out everything about the hull before he could report this and get an estimate on his available budget.

Ye Qing naturally didn't have anything against it, because all they had to do was sign a purchasing contract.

Half an hour later, this new hulled flashy chase boat once again entered the waters, turned on its engines, and the officers hated not being able to speed back to their unit's harbour.

However, the Dragon Creek Beach was filled with submerged reefs. Even if they were give 10 more lives, they still wouldn't risk it.

Wu Yu also sat in the chase boat and was actually looking forward to the boat's testing results. If this specialized hull was actually like how Ye Qing described it, then they've basically had themselves a brand new 'weapon' to use against those smugglers.

When that times came, every smuggler they met would become their unit's achievement.

The chase boat, just like a nimble swordfish, cut across the shadow filled Dragon Creek Beach.

Only when they finally weren't able to see any more reef shadows did the officer in charge of piloting dare to raise the speed.

Only after having increased the cruise speed to 20 knots, and having left the reef filled stretch of the Dragon Creek Beach, did everyone relax and start chatting.

Boom ~

Yet the chase boat, without increasing speed for half a minute, was back to flying across the air.

Everyone was stunned by the sudden series of events, but also clearly heard the giant screeching sound coming from the bottom of the boat as it scrapped past some rocks.

"Xiao Liu, you blind?" A somewhat old officer hurriedly supported the Chief, and exploded on the pilot: "Don't you see the Chief on the ship? What are you so anxious about?"

"I I..... I'm sorry Chief....." The young officer embarrassingly apologized: "I was just too anxious to get back to harbour, so I didn't pay close attention to the sea."

"Quick, see if the bottom's broken or not." Wu Yu waved his hand to indicate that he was fine.

Opening the hatch to the storage space below the deck, several people dove in to examine the damages, yet they were all shocked beyond belief.

Under their careful examination they found a slightly dented area on the V shaped boat bottom inside the storage room.

The dent wasn't big, just a couple of centimeters.

The sound of the reef breaking from the hit was quite clear, yet the dent resulting from that was only this big.

So what was this outrageous structural strength?

Yet this wasn't the reason for their completely shocked expressions, because this obvious dent actually slowly retracted.....

Just like memory foam, the dent slowly disappeared, and no traces of it could be found again.

Wu Yu stared at the location of the disappeared dent and was completely speechless.

10 long seconds later, he spoke: "When we get back I'll immediately report this, and get the customs office to pay for having all our ships swapped out."

The eyes of the other officers were just like they were glued there, as they just kept on staring at that spot.

Their thoughts had already gone out to the wide open seas, as they day dreamed about going head to head with those smugglers in ships made from nickel-titanium memory alloy.

And let those smugglers truly understand what the iron fist of the Anti Smuggling Unit truly meant.

Chapter 112: A bottomless pit

Creating the memory alloy hull only took 20 minutes, yet installing it took the peons more than 2 hours.

That efficiency.....

Guess that was the kind of speed at which the New Ports shipyard operates with, otherwise how the heck were they able to build all those carriers.

Ye Qing did a count of his current assets. The bank card received around 50 million in the past couple of days, and taking away all of the capital invested, his profits were exactly 50 million. (TI: Where's the change damn it?) (ED: You might have to stick your head deeper down Ye Qing's deep pockets to hear it.)

Money naturally needed to be spent to be considered money. Currently the majority of the work being done at the the Dragon Creek Beach factory was completed by hand by the monsters. This obviously took most of the monsters' time, so Ye Qing felt like he must do some automation upgrades to the factory to free up some of the monsters.

Of course, with the tools shopping center in hand, all the small equipment necessary could be conveniently bought.

All Ye Qing really needed to do was buy all the needed materials, and those huge pieces of equipment not available in the tools shopping center yet.

Just when Ye Qing was about to go on another shopping spree, he got a call from General Manager Wang.

Yeah, it was the guy who sold him the pressure press and electric furnace. He informed Ye Qing that his credit card was here, and asked where he was, as he was going to personally deliver the package.

"Don't worry, I'll come pick it up." Having hung up, Ye Qing could hardly contain his excitement.

The ICBC AE Centurion credit card was one of top ranking credit cards in the country. With this card, not only would everyday life become more convenient, there was also the face associated with owning one.

After driving to the local HQ of the ICBC, picking up and setting up the card, Ye Qing had finally joined the the rank of credit card users.

Of course, different from all those credit debtors, Ye Qing's finances were much more robust. His first credit limit was already one of the best in the world, but even if he were to hit the limit ten times in a row, he would still be able to pay off everything on time.

Sitting inside the Lagonda, Ye Qing carefully examined the exquisitely designed card, and had an uncontrollable urge to go splurging.

The initial limit on the card had been set at 2,000,000. Generally a credit limit was determined by the user's spending habits, so it could be a billion or it could be absolutely nothing.

Having not used a card before, there was no real good way to assess the limit, so Ye Qing straight up wired 50 million onto the card.

And all that was left was to buy buy buy. First stop, the machine exchange market to buy more 5 axis CNC lathes.

Many of the parts used in the mechanical engineered chairs needed the precision levels of the 5 axis CNC lathes.

The tools shopping center didn't currently offer 5 axis CNC lathes because those guys were just as big as a newspaper stand. However, this time, Ye Qing wasn't prepared to buy any domestically made equipment at all. The precision levels necessary for making the chairs were just too strict, and during the process of creation there existed the need to swap out for multiple different kinds of blades.

Hence the more comprehensive its abilities were, and the more automated it was, the more monster power Ye Qing could free up.

To be completely honest, the industrial strength domestically could create these 5 axis CNC lathes. However, no matter if it were in ability or precision level, it was miles behind their foreign counterparts.

Furthermore, in the field of mechanical automation, the difference between domestic and foreign products was simply drastic. Yet the difference came from the amount of time spent developing and researching. The country so far had only been industrialized for several decades, in comparison all those western nations had at least a century to develop their technologies.

In a regular factory any experienced worker could oversee multiple domestic CNC lathes at the same time.

If the lathes were to include blade storage units, and automated blade change systems, then a single master artisan could completely cover 10 of those machines.

So the more CNC mills available, the less work the monsters had to do.

It cost roughly two million a pop for a German made DMG 400 series lathe and its associated blades. Ye Qing straight up bought 20 of them, but there were only 3 in stock within the entire Zhongyun region, so the rest need to be shipped in from other areas.

Totalling up to 40 million, the dealer was delighted beyond speechless, and continuously guaranteed that he would have the ones in the region delivered by tomorrow.

Having swiped his card, Ye Qing lazily sat down in the rest area, and called the Centurion support staff to request for a temporary limit increase.

The one who picked up was a girl with a wonderful voice. Moreover, she was Ye Qing's private support servicer, available on call 24/7.

"Good afternoon Mr. Ye, how may I help you today?"

"I need a temporary credit limit increase." Ye Qing looked at the shopping list in his hand, all the stuff on there added together still needed about another 30 million.

"Mr. Ye, may I ask how much are you looking for?" The customer support girl was sweetly asking the question. Moreover, Ye Qing could guarantee that this girl could definitely speak multiple languages.

"Is 100 million possible?"

The other side was silent for a bit before the girl came back on with some stutterers: "Mr..... Mr. Ye, I..... I noticed that you wired over 50 million earlier, and now there remains 12 million after all your expenditures."

"If I may ask, what do you plan on buying with this 100 million?"

"Whatever I see fit. So can I get this 100 million limit?" Ye Qing felt this was super fun. This girl's weak replies had Ye Qing feel as if he was somehow bullying her.

"I'm very sorry Mr. Ye, but due to you possessing the card for only so long, our system can't provide a detailed estimate, so I need to report this to my managers and have them do the estimates."

"Sure, roughly how long?"

"10 minutes. I'll call!"

Without missing a minute, Ye Qing's phone rang 10 minutes later. Still the same girl, who in a very sorry tone, informed Ye Qing that his credit limit had been increased to 20 million.

Well 20 million was, with the 12 million on the card, just about enough. If it was really not enough, then down payment first, and then clear the rest later when everything arrived.

It was just that the girl was apparently obsessed with apologizing. Not only did she personally apologize, but also apologized on behalf of her entire service team on how their service wasn't up to par. What's more she even apologized on behalf of the ICBC to cement her sincerity.

This service attitude.....

Ye Qing could only give it a perfect score, but sadly that wasn't possible at all. Hanging up the call, Ye Qing turned to challenge the metals market, and literally emptied out all his credit.

So good. Now not only was he penniless, he also owed the bank 22 million.

Naturally it was all worth it. Yet, after completing all these mineral transactions, Ye Qing made another trip to an agency to have them help his factory register a municipal level [Metals Research Laboratory] and a [Mechanical Drive Research Facility].

As the factory expanded, Ye Qing of course needed to keep up with the pace of time, and spread his advances into every possible sector. If he wasn't able to produce a single research brand at all, then when he kept on coming out with endless revolutionary products there would definitely be a lot of problems and questions waiting.

Before Ye Qing asked an agency what were the requirements for getting a research facility approved, and the answer he got was that no matter whether it was only municipal levels, his factory still needed to meet certain thresholds.

The size of the factory at the Dragon Creek Beach, excluding the underground base, now definitely met the requirements for getting at least the first level municipal research designation.

When the research names had been approved, then all Ye Qing needed to do was make some random advances, invite a couple of professors to hang their names, and then he will have met the requirements for registering for provincial level laboratories.

In a couple of days, when he had money again, Ye Qing was set on buying out the entire region of the Dragon Creek Beach.

Which includes the sea, and the hundred some hectare of barren hills. The barren and resourceless region, had no development value at all, so naturally the price of the land was going to be cheap as all heck.

At 5 pm, Ye Qing returned back to the factory feeling a bit tired.

But before the Lagonda even passed the gates, Ye Qing shockingly found twenty some speed boats lined up in a long line as they headed straight for the factory docks.

Chapter 113: Before the exhibition

“1, 2, 3, 4, ……”

Ye Qing stood on the dock and just like counting candy, counted 26 chase boats.

The boats came in all shapes and sizes, but no matter what, they all had the Anti Smuggling Unit painted on them in royal blue.

The boats, one after another, slowly approached the dock.

Ye Qing had already guessed their intentions, but never thought that they would come this quick and with this many. Who knew, maybe the chase boats in front of him were the Anti Smuggling Unit's entire fleet.

The first boat was completely filled with acquaintances, who immediately shook Ye Qing's hand when he got on shore.

“Mr. Ye, 26 chase boats in total, which makes up our entire fleet. So can you upgrade them all to have memory alloy hulls?” The leading officer, full of smiles, pointed to the long line behind him: “The metal your factory made is just too freaking awesome. Having seen that metal in action, our old hulls are just like pieces of crumpled paper.”

“Of course, of course.” Ye Qing stared at that line of boats as if they were fat sheep: “Some of the ships are slightly bigger than the rest, but I’ll give you guys a discount, 2,000,000 for each one of them.

“Sure sure, just make sure the quality is the same.” The officer straightened his back, meaning that they didn’t lack the funds at all.

“Ok then, I’ve got a bunch of alloy right now, I just need to get their measurements and we can start working.” Ye Qing called over two master artisans and had them go do some pretend measuring.

After conveniently taking the 3D camera from the office, and taking photographs of each ship, Ye Qing told him that the hulls would be ready tomorrow, and installation was going to take another day.

“Two days?” These police officers looked at each other with complete shock, as that speed was just too mind blowing, because they originally thought they needed to wait at least ten some days.

After completing measurements, the unit left behind five boats and ran. They would come back tomorrow and switch out the five with new ones as to not affect their daily operations.

52 million was the total upgrade fee, and 30 million of it was already wired over the next day as a down payment.

Of course, the more he made, the more income tax he had to pay. However, Ye Qing didn’t have to worry at all. The old factory was also under Ye Qing’s name, but his dad had this covered. After all, he has been doing this for decades now, and with the large expansion of the old factory, he also hired two professional accountants just so nothing went awry.

Ye Qing right now still owed the bank 22 million. Although he had all of next month to pay it off, since he was going to pay anyways, Ye Qing paid it all off immediately after receiving the wire transfer.

As for the 20 DMG 5 axis CNC lathes he bought yesterday, they all arrived one after another from nearby cities.

As these top tier equipment of the industrial sector arrived, the Monster Factory’s rankings also increased by two to take a firm seat all rank 15 within the local rankings.

As he got ever closer to the top 10, the five road blockers up front were all quite familiar to Ye Qing.

They were all large companies within Zhongyun’s industrial sector. Take [Hayden Electronics] ranked at #14 for example, they mainly focused on making washing machines, and their factory was worth around 500 million. Their sales were mainly targeted towards developing countries, which lead to a bunch of annual foreign exchanges for the country.

Ye Qing took a look at the two factory’s industrial index, and found a difference of only 30 some thousand, which could be made up for in just a couple of days.

Being within the top 10 of Zhongyun was only the beginning for Ye Qing. Surpassing Samsung, Sony, Airbus, Boeing, those world class international organizations, was Ye Qing's true goal.

Of course, that dream might be kind of big right now, as a single Boeing 747 – 400 passenger jet could be sold for 200 million. That was just the price for the plane itself, which didn't include any additional designs, facilities or parts. With Ye Qing current factory, he needed to work hard for at least half a year before he could make up for the price tag of only one of their products.

Lord Yu moving a mountain — wasn't completed in just one day.

Ye Qing felt like he was Lord Yu on an excavator, and the mountain being moved was filled with explosives.

The path had already been clearly set, all that needed to be done now was to walk it.

The lathes were all placed within a newly built steel workshop. Ye Qing, unable to intervene in the setup process, left it all to a master artisan.

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At noon, Ye Qing had movers move two rapid engraving machines from the factory to the downtown office.

Currently, all the exterior packaging of the mechanical engineered chairs was done in the basement warehouse of the Blue Sky Tower. Ye Qing pulled five chairs from there, and together with the engravers, sent them off to the Expo area in Shanghai.

There were two more days until the Shanghai Science and Technology Exhibition, which would take place in the gallery building.

That was Asia's largest no support gallery. After hosting the World Expo in 2010, it was classified as a permanently preserved building, so it was commonly used for all kinds of exhibitions.

Being able to attend the exhibition this time was mainly thanks to Li Huaxing.

Different from all those companies that compete for an opportunity to display their products in front of an international audience, the main and only reason why Ye Qing was going was to screw over Kangyuan Inc..

Of course, being a national level exhibition, it naturally needed to be filled with all kinds of today's advanced technologies, concepts, and the revaluation of all kinds of new products from all kinds of companies.

Even if there was no Kangyuan, Ye Qing was still willing to participate and to view the technical advances today, to see if he 'learns' anything which could provide him with an all new inspiration.

It was both a feast for the eyes, and a great learning opportunity.

Especially when Ye Qing now had the 3D camera and data glasses.

A massive bunch of reporters and audience members taking pictures left and right, while he has an era defining camera and a pair of data glasses mixed in.

That scene, just couldn't be imagined.....

“Hehe ~”

Of course, ending others' livelihood wasn't something Ye Qing would do. Everybody was there to learn and discuss; it was just that Ye Qing's learning abilities were just too great.

His display room was situated in one of the furthest and worst corners possible. Adding on the fact that Ye Qing didn't want to make a personal trip to do the decorations, he straight up sent Xu Xiaohu and two customer service girls to do it. While he would make the trip personally the day of.

As soon as he heard Ye Qing was sending him on a business trip, and he needed to stay there for a couple days, Xu Xiaohu was completely dejected and pitifully asked: “Uncle, it's almost the day of Xu Ninggong's new movie premier, and I was hoping to go watch it. Who knows, I might even be able to get her signature.....”

“Young man, your career is much more important.” Ye Qing's a tone that was just like an elder educating a youngster: “Just look at me, I haven't even finished my placement matches yet. If I were to spend all my time on other things, then how could I grow the company this big?”

“When the time comes, I'll probably be able to get you a signature.” Ye Qing raised his eyebrows, meaning he would definitely be going to the premier.

Xu Xiaohu, though still unwilling, left anyways. Yet just before he left, he left a picture with Ye Qing, begging him to get it signed.

Ye Qing originally thought it was a picture of Xu Ninggong, but wow, who would've thought that it was actually of him, moreover it was him in a western suit acting all cool and stuff.

How could this be?

Sending off Xu Xiaohu, Ye Qing took the time to drive back home, and looked through his old desk drawer.

After sorting through a bunch of junk, even finding two formerly popular MP3 players, Ye Qing finally found what he was looking for.

It was an already yellowing yearbook, where the front cover had the massively popular SHE printed on it.

Once he opened up the yearbook, the inside was filled with the dreams and wishes of old classmates and friends.

Of course, Xu Ninggong wasn't inside, as they were put into different classes during grade 6. Ye Qing carefully tore off a clean page from the back. If he got the chance, he would also have her sign it, to make up for her missing out back then.

After carefully putting away the clean piece of yellowish paper, Ye Qing drove back to the Dragon Creek Beach.

Ye Qing was going to display the mechanical engineered chairs and the rapid metal engraving machines as his products at the international exhibition in two days, however no matter what he thought of, he always felt like he was missing something.

Missing a gift, for Kangyuan Inc..

That high end massage chair maker was seriously an ass. Not only did they hire a bunch of ghost writers, they even wanted to create an accident for the mechanical engineered chairs, to sink it into a literal PR nightmare.

The famous vlogger Lou Tianjun hasn't contacted him yet, so Ye Qing wasn't clear whether or not the incident was still going to happen.

However, in the end it didn't really matter because even if it was acted out, it was still a free advertising opportunity for Ye Qing.

The exhibition was planned out by the Shanghai government, so when the time came, it would definitely be filled with reporters from all countries and international merchants looking for the next big thing.

For this kind of occasion, he must employ his most elegant and refined manners. As such, the gift Ye Qing prepares must also be a bit more refined, and a bit more tech savvy.

Such that as soon as people saw it, they would immediately think of how great it was, and how it so fit with the main theme of the science and technology exhibition.

Chapter 114: An unexpected accident

Most well known domestic industries and international corporations that had sub branches in the country would participate in the exhibition.

The brochure for the exhibition also detailedly presented each and every participating company's profile as well as their products.

The advertisements here were literally everywhere. Gree Electric even covered an entire cover page with ads, saying that despite the scorching summer, Gree Electric kindly reminds everyone to bring their winter jackets when entering the exhibition gallery.

The weather now was hotter than the last summer, and since the gallery was a light steel structure, without air conditioning the place would literally become a death trap.

Ye Qing reckoned that Gree Electric had definitely undertook the job of providing temperature control for the entire gallery, hence the reason they were able to print such an ad on the cover page.

The Monster Factory name wasn't mentioned on the brochure at all, due to signing up too late.

When the exhibition actually started, only then would the brochure be updated again for all the guests to see.

Because the exhibition's main goal was to let domestic products enter the international stage, the the more detailed the descriptions, the more international deals they would be able to attract.

So, of course, Kangyuan Inc.'s newest product also got a detailed description.

With the detailed description in hand, Ye Qing could now take measured steps to create a 'great' gift for them.

3 PM, Xu Xiaohu called to report that he had arrived at the expo gallery. Ye Qing had him look around and take note of how other booths were decorated, and to go ask Huaxing Heavy Industry for help that if he ever encountered problems.

Ye Qing was intentionally grooming Xu Xiaohu to be more mature and hold more responsibilities.

Now that he had made fortunes, he couldn't just leave his family hanging. All of Ye Qing's relatives were quite nice to them, and Xu Xiaohu wasn't one of those all take and no give kind of kids, so naturally Ye Qing was going to groom him a bit.

Having explained everything that needed to be taken care of over there, Ye Qing swung into the newly built steel workshops.

Right now the Dragon Creek Beach factory had in total four modern standard factory buildings. Among them two had already stopped production. As for the one that was filled with the twenty imported 5 axis CNC lathes, Ye Qing was planning on making it a fully automated production workshop.

The target: make enough chairs to cover the work of fifteen monsters daily.

An assembly line easily cost hundreds of millions, which Ye Qing didn't have. However, the monsters' creative abilities were just truly overpowered, because no matter if it was the massive plate chain structure of an assembly line, or if it was all those automated tools, they could all be hand made by the monster.

Now that Ye Qing had imported twenty 5 axis fully automated CNC lathes, with them making the necessary parts for the chairs, when an assembly line was actually assembled, then there would be enough parts to go around for assembly.

Ye Qing had already bought a bunch of parts needed to assemble an assembly line. In the workshop, on top of a building blueprint, Ye Qing was planning out the every detail of the assembly line, and discussing with the master artisans as to what to put where.

First step, the base. Before the aluminum base was completed by the rapid metal engravers, but now Ye Qing decided to forge it directly at the metal smelting center.

A pot of melted alloy could be cast directly into 1500 base units. The whole process only took two hours, and since it was passed through the forging press, it's structural strength became even greater than before.

Next came assembling the main support arm. Before, all the drilling was done by the peons with press drills. Now, after Ye Qing and the master artisans' discussion, they had decided to buy several uncommon grade drills from the tools shopping center, and make some drilling arms out of them.

Drilling arms could only move up and down, but Ye Qing could use high precision ball screws to fix the precision problem of the drill arms.

Slowly replacing everything done by the monsters with automation was the basics of automated assembly.

That was also why a single assembly line was priced at at least a couple hundred millions.

High precision production was a must when replacing hand productions. As such, a machine's price would crazily increase several folds as soon precision became a necessity.

Bit by bit, all kinds of assembling equipment were added to the assembly line.

A bunch of designs were drawn on top of the building blueprint, and thank god for the master artisans being present to consult with. All Ye Qing needed to do was to come up with a rough idea, then the master artisans would swiftly come up with a legitimate solution. If these were regular engineers, then Ye Qing reckoned that just planning out the assembly line alone would take at least half a month.

Busying himself all the way till 8, Ye Qing didn't even bother to take a break as he finally completed planning out the assembly line.

The master artisans guaranteed that everything could be done in two days. When it was completed, all the fine tuning could be done in accordance to market needs.

Stretching his sore and cramped muscles, Ye Qing felt that if he continued like this with the master artisans, then passing the master engineer exam just became as easy as stealing candy from a baby. After another two years, it was even possible from him to participate in national level research projects.

After having filled his stomach with some random stuff, Ye Qing got back to his office and chatted with DouDou while carefully flipping through the international exhibition.

Ye Qing needed to sort through which technologies could be of actual use, and which ones were there just for show.

When the time came, he would take detailed photographs of the ones that he had put down as need to sees.

Within this brochure were two of Ye Qing's acquaintances.

One of them was Huaxing Heavy Industry's Chairman Li Huaxing, while the other was the CEO of Illusion Corporation Yan Zhaoge.

The newest product of Huaxing Heavy Industry was an 8 wheel hybrid powered all terrain sight seeing vehicle. From Ye Qing's point of view, the vehicle was purely for nature sightseers, especially for places like Africa with their massive open stretches of land, but no real usage value.

Although its seating designs looked quite comfortable, its underlying structure was just disappointing as it was filled with traces of mining trucks.

As for why it didn't have much real usage value, it was because the vehicle didn't include any new advances in technology. If Huaxing Heavy Industry could make it, then any other truck making heavy industries could also do it.

Illusion Corporation was mainly promoting their VR glasses and associated accessories. In addition, they were also promoting the software they had developed for the mechanical engineered chairs.

Since Ye Qing wasn't really proficient in the software side of things, he couldn't really value how good the VR software was, but the higher their glasses sales were, the higher the chair sales would be.

Having detailed which ones to watch on a laptop, Ye Qing found that more than 70% of the participants were international groups with outsourced factories in the country.

*Sigh ~ " Ye Qing let out a massive sigh. It seemed like he would have to personally represent the country's entire industrial sector.

Then let the Monster Factory carry out the mission of defeating every single international participants!

Closing up the laptop, Ye Qing and DouDou were already discussing the exhibition in two days time. DouDou said that her station would send over a reporting team, but she couldn't make it as she still needed to host the radio show.

Ye Qing sent a dancing monkey and said that it was too bad, as she was missing out on seeing his company fly high over all the competitors.

DouDou sent a rolling on the ground rabbit emoji.

"Haha~" Ye Qing couldn't help but laugh at it, as the emoji just had too many meanings.

Another 10 minutes of chatting, they both called it a night.

Ye Qing then took a stroll around the dock, and give the raging miners and peons some assignments for the night .

There still remained 15 chase boats that needed memory alloy hull upgrades, but that could all be done in one night if the monsters worked over time.

In the morning of the next day, just as Ye Qing was in his beauty dreams, he was woken up with an urgent call.

Taking a look at the number, it was actually from one of the customer service girls that was sent to the exhibition gallery with Xu Xiaohu to do the booth decorations.

"Hey ~ Xiao Yun, what's the matter" Ye Qing took a look at the time, 7 AM.

In the call, Xu XiaoYun sounded half anxious and half choking, as she tried to give a full report: "Boss..... Not good, our display booth got destroyed, more than half of the products that we brought over are broken."

Ye Qing immediately woke up, and sat straight.

His first reaction was, an attack from people hired by Kangyuan Inc.

However as soon as the thought rose, it was immediately snuffed.

The Shanghai International Science and Technologies Exhibition wasn't some private exhibition that is filled with bribes, Rather it wouldn't allow any random shady things to happen.

The annual Shanghai International Science and Technologies Exhibition had already been hosted by the Shanghai government 19 times.

Just the exhibition location being at the permanently preserved largest support free gallery in Asia, already said a lot about the degree of strictness for the exhibition.

Kangyuan doing some small shady things to trip him up was bound to happen, but they straight up won't dare to destroy his display booth.

So then who actually destroyed his display booth?

Chapter 115: By Gree Electric

"Where's Xu Xiaohu?" Ye Qing calmly asked.

Although Xu Xiaohu and Xu XiaoYun only had a character's difference, Ye Qing still had a good impression of her.

"Uh... He went to find the people in charge, and told me to... to call you."

Ye Qing could clearly tell how nervous and afraid she was from her voice.

What Xu XiaoYun said first also let Ye Qing relax a little as it was about the booth getting destroyed instead of who got hurt.

That meant that the three of them didn't get hurt at all.

In comparison to the booth getting destroyed, the damages to the 50,000 rapid metal engravers, and 88,800 mechanical engineered chairs were all small things.

"Don't be scare, slowly tell me everything that happened. For now, forget about the damaged products." Ye Qing's calmness let the girl who had just turned 20 and entered the workforce focus and calm down.

"It's not just our booth that got destroyed, there's many others as well." Xu XiaoYun calmed down, and slowly explained everything that happened to Ye Qing.

"It was all by Gree Electric."

"What?" Ye Qing's complete shock cut right into Xu XiaoYun's explanation.

Holy, Who doesn't know of Gree Electric?

Gree Electric was ranked within the Top 500 corporations in the country as they were the leading expert in everything air conditioning. This time they even put up ads on the front cover of the brochure, so how could they go destroying all those booths?

That was just too shocking, as Gree Electric had always kept a pretty good reputation.

"The..... The air conditioners they put up dropped on our booths." Xu XiaoYun's single sentence almost had Ye Qing choke to death.

“From what Xu Xiaohu said, the central air conditioner they installed for the gallery, just then, for some unknown reason, started collapsing from the other end of the gallery like dropping dumplings. Our booths were all held up by plastic casings, so the line literally destroyed all of the booths in its path, and our products as well.”

“Boss, 4 of our chairs are broken, that’s more than 350,000 gone. Me and Liu Jiedu were both scared to death by all of this. Good thing that when it started collapsing, Gree Electric workers also started to yell, so no one actually got hurt.”

“Right now the whole gallery is a mess, many companies’ products are destroyed, even Changwei TV’s booth lost several dozen TVs.

“I.....” Ye Qing felt like his head had been literally beaten into a plup.

Why couldn’t you just get to the point! Before Ye Qing was still wondering who would be so stupid as to deliberately destroy other people’s display booths.

But no matter how he thought, he still wouldn’t have thought that it would be the collapsing of Gree Electric’s air conditioning units. Gree Electric had great experience with large scale central air conditioners. They even had products overseas, and this time they had even put up ads on the brochure’s cover.

They even put up a friendly reminder for the viewing populace to watch out for the cold.

Watch out for the cold in the middle of summer, that was domineering right?

It was just.....

Gree Electric wanted to show off for once, but in the end they tripped and fell face first.

Ye Qing felt that mistake was seriously too low. Though, the real reason hadn’t been found yet, so Ye Qing couldn’t really say if their skills weren’t up to par or if it was actually an accident.

“Boss, what we do now?” Xu XiaoYun anxiously asked: “Right now the entire Gree Electric booth is surrounded with people. We can’t get through at all.”

“I’ll come now. I’ll call when I get to the gallery.” Her explanation had Ye Qing recognize just how big the incident really was. He knew how large scale central air conditioners work. There were temperature coverings for the pipelines, and there was also an extension at set intervals.

It was just that no matter how Ye Qing thought, he still couldn’t get around how the entire thing came crashing down. By convention, the pipeline should be secured to a hanging frame on the ceiling, which should have a support strut every meter.

“Boss you gotta come quick. Oh and bring some more products with you, our products.....”

Hanging up the call, Ye Qing’s head hurt too much to even bother thinking.

Quickly getting dressed and washed, he called the company office to ship another 8 chairs, then had the peons bring out another 2 engravers from storage.

Ye Qing left everything in the factory to the master artisans, and left without waiting for the truck driver to arrive

There was very little traffic in the morning, so Ye Qing was able to get away with driving 140 on the highway.

Entering the metropolitan limits after an hour and a half, the speed suddenly came to a crawl. Ye Qing following the traffic and spent another hour before arrive at Loupu Bridge.

When he finally got off the bridge and arrived at the expo place, Ye Qing saw the entire parking lot filled with all kinds of luxury cars, and cargo container trucks. Many workers in uniforms were carrying different sized tools as they headed towards that humongous gallery made up of reinforced glass and steel supports.

The main entrance was filled with hanging banners, and the most eye catching of them was from Gree Electric.

[All new water cycling technique will let you experience an all new winter's embrace. Remember to bring your jackets!]

When Ye Qing crossed the triangular shaped glass doorway and exited the long display hallway, he felt as if he had entered a futuristic moshpit.

This largest support-free gallery, just to welcome the exhibition, used all kinds of coloured fabric to create a large irregular diamond shaped ceiling art.

This diamond shaped piece of artwork was also one of this exhibition's display products, and according to the signs out front, it wasn't rare at all. However, the paint used on the fabric was isolated from UV rays, a technique that came from current space technologies, which was suppose to combat aging exteriors, as it was suppose to be able to block out 99% of UV rays.

As for the display areas below the hanging piece of art, it was a complete mess.....

Ye Qing made a call to Xu Xiaohu, and several minutes later, he arrived in front of Ye Qing gasping for breath.

An image was worth a thousand words, so without an explanation, Ye Qing followed through twist and turns and finally arrived in front of his display booth.

A white plastic cased, rectangular shaped pipeline, perfectly laid right down the center of this entire row of booths.

The separators on these booths were all completed with light plastic materials. With this kind of material, anyone with some strength could punch a hole right through it, so how could it prevent collapsing pipes from a twenty meter drop?

As a result, the entire row of display booths looked as if it had just got ran over by a tank, as the degree of destruction was just utterly complete.

Four chairs, which were set up for tourists, were crushed right under the pipes, a metal engraver also got damaged, with this kind of precision equipment, a hit of this degree basically meant goodbye.

Xu XiaoYun and the other girl were currently sitting in the pathway in complete confusion. However, as soon as they saw Ye Qing, they immediately found a support to lean on, and hurriedly gathered up and began to explain what had happened with lingering fears.

Ye Qing calmly comforted them as he looked up.

The ceiling art work acted as an insulator, while the steel framework that the art hung on, apart from supporting the weight of the art work, also needed to carry the weight of all kinds of circuitry, lighting equipment, and the expansive central air conditioner unit.

The pipeline being able to fall meant something was wrong with the metal support structure.

Looking up, Ye Qing found that the black cylinder steel supports that supported the weight of the air conditioning pipe lines had utterly changed to look like pieces of twisted fried dough.

“The heck.....” Ye Qing questioningly scratched his chin.

The steel structure was light steel which had passed through hot galvanization and flash cooling.

This kind of material was very popular in construction these days, as they were always the first material used when designing. The government definitely invited a very experienced planning group to design the decorations for the exhibition.

Ye Qing didn't know whether or not the light steel itself passed computer calculated stress testing, but the entire framework structure must have passed weight testing, and the weight of the central air conditioning unit must have also been considered.

Ye Qing stepped on this fallen air conditioning piping, yet the associated feeling wasn't like the feeling of regular pipes, rather it felt seriously heavy and dense.

Following along the destruction created by the falling pipeline, Ye Qing found that the damages were much worse than originally thought. In total, more than 40 companies' display booths had suffered damages.

However, no one got hurt, and the dropping dumplings effect described by Xu XiaoYun wasn't exactly accurate. Rather, it was more of a domino effect.

In addition, when the first section came crashing down, everyone was warned ahead of time, and had already dispersed.

Arriving at the Gree Electric display area, the place had basically become a farmers' market. Massive amounts of young people in all kinds of logoed uniforms surrounded Gree Electric's entire display area, stared at them with killing intent, and questioned them in a beyond raging tone.

However right now there was no one talking about related compensations. Tomorrow would be the opening day of this year's annual science and technology exhibition, yet right now one of the corners of the gallery laid in complete waste.

So then were they going use these scenes of destruction to welcome international VIPs and news teams tomorrow?

In addition, Ye Qing also wanted to know from these people what was the real cause of this incident.

Chapter 116: The blame game

Standing outside of Gree Electric's booth, Ye Qing could sometimes hear references to high ranking positions like district chief, director, and director general.

The cause of the accident also cleared under these chaotically heated discussions.

First, no shortcuts were taken with the ceiling's light steel framework.

According to the original design, the ceiling framework could still support the weight of many more products.

The chief of Chronicle Studio, which was in charge of the designing the exhibition hall, also arrived. This ponytailed artistic man with a goatee was famous to the point where even Ye Qing had heard of him.

He was Xiao Jun, who studied at China's Construction University in Beijing, then went abroad to America's Yale University. He oversaw the design of a string of iconic architectural works and works of art, including many iconic architectural works in foreign lands, which had been awarded international awards by the Britain's Royal Institute of Architects.

Of course the sky art under the ceiling here wasn't designed by him, but by one of his students.

He came over to clean up the mess created by the student. On paper the design seemed flawless, but in front of the cruel reality, the weight bearing light steel was warped into pieces of fried dough twists.

Chief designer Xiao Jun stared at the structure that used to support the air conditioner pipes for days as he tried to unravel the puzzle that caused the pipe to drop.

However, when maintenance people for Gree Electric opened up the pipeline from the extensions, they gave everyone a pleasant surprise.

The crowd hurriedly flocked to the starting point of the collapsing pipeline.

Inside the warped pipes was loads of pooling water. In addition, the pure bronze cooling pipe and the copper crevice disks that ran through the central shaft was covered in a light layer of ice.

"You, you....." Xiao Jun was angered to the point of trembling, as he pointed at the AC maintenance workers and the acting coordinating manager: "Look at the good work you've done. This is the result of your boasting, to let us experience a new winter?"

"Are you guys making air conditioners, or are you making freezers?"

Xiao Jun was literally pissed to the point of going nuts.

No wonder, no wonder he couldn't find the cause.

His student who was responsible for designing this plan had always been level headed and deeply loveable, so Xiao Jun had also personally looked over his plan.

At the beginning of planning, clearly all equipment and part weights had been tallied, and they even included a certain margin of error.

No wonder he couldn't find the cause even after arriving at the site of the destruction.

Holy ..., there was actually ice forming within the AC pipeline! No need to guess where the pooling water came from, it was obviously from the melting ice. It was just that the pipeline was very tightly sealed, so none leaked out.

A winter experience; it already froze, so how can it not be cool?

If you added in this much ice, how much extra weight was this in the entire pipeline?

So the problem wasn't from their end. At the same time that Xiao Jun let out a sigh of relief, his anger also rose once again.

Irresponsible behaviors like this from Gree Electric were basically making a joke out of Chronicle Studio's hard earned reputation and future.

If it weren't for them finding the cause, then how much loss would the studio actually experience?

"I need an explanation." A ice cold looking man in a western suit stated after showing up.

Beside him were two recently graduated youngsters. The nearby workers when looking at them, and they all had signs of awe.

His name was Wen Xiaowei, the new district chief of the new Loupu region. In addition, the municipal deputy secretary general, and the deputy director of the free trade test area management committee were all based in his district.

"District chief Wen, and Mr. Xiao." Gree Electric's representative manager, after having greeted everyone, didn't bother to explain the reason as to why ice had formed, rather he asked everyone present a single question.

"What do you guys think of our Gree Electric's air conditioners?"

How is it?

Gree Electric's air conditioners were basically everywhere, especially those large scale central air conditioning units. In ten towers, at least three of them would be using Gree Electric's central air conditioning units.

Hearing the manager's question, everyone went into deep thought. They weren't bad. There weren't no clear bonuses, but there were also no major flaws.

"Our Gree Group was established 30 years ago, and have been in the air conditioner business for most of that time. We have 20 different series of household and commercial air conditioners, as well as 300 plus other appliances."

The representative manager, feeling a bit wronged, as well as feeling a bit confident, continued:

"Everyone, do you think we, Gree Electric, when releasing an all new kind of air conditioning technique,

would not test it under all imaginable conditions, and not think about the ice forming problem faced by almost all air conditioners?”

Having finished, the manager straight up looked at Chief planner Xiao Jun.

“Your Studio definitely didn’t do any data check on the weight of the air conditioning unit we installed on the steel framework. If you guys did, then you would’ve found that the data we provided is actually 30% more than the real product.”

“This water circulated central air conditioner used our group’s patented superconducting water technique to remove heat. Just look at the central bronze pipe, the superconducting water, even under -10 °C, still remains in a liquid state, and is able to continuously circulate inside the sealed bronze pipe.”

“Every 10 cm of the pipe has a bronze guide disk, to allow the compressor to inject new air into the pipe, which is cooled as it passes along the way, then is blown out into the room by natural winds.”

“Natural winds naturally contain water vapour, so the longer the air conditioner remains operational, the more ice is formed. This ice forming is a very common scene, especially during winters in the south. If an air conditioner doesn’t form ice while in use, then it’s definitely broken.”

“Our outdoor main frame possesses a very smart detection system. When ice has formed to a certain degree, it’ll heat up the superconducting water to remove this ice.”

“However, this ice removal system should never be triggered, as this level of ice formation basically doesn’t affect our product at all.”

“As for the data we’ve provided, it already includes the weight of the excessive ice formation. That 30% extra weight already exceeds the trigger point of our ice removal system.”

“Hence our product is perfectly fine. The data we’ve provided is also unmistakable.”

Everyone on site looked at the manager as if shocked stupid.

The cause of the incident, from their eyes, was actually the least likely cause?

They already accounted for the extra weight from the ice, and even added on another 30% to the weight.

A single spiel from this manager had them feel the confidence Gree Electric had in their products, and the amount of extra consideration they had for their products.

Dealt with air conditioners for 30 years.....

Yeah, they’ve made air conditioners for 30 years, so how could there exist such a gaping hole in laymen’s eyes?

Then what was the cause of the problem?

Xiao Jun’s facial expression was already twisted to the max, to the point where even if a supercomputer was present, it still wouldn’t be able to unravel it.

"I apologise for misunderstanding you." District chief Wen Xiaowei took the lead on apologising, yet right after, he was also faced with the same doubting question.

The Studio definitely didn't make any mistakes, the newly forged light steel also wasn't those shoddy building materials, and Gree Electric's product was also fool proof.

Then where was the problem?

Wen Xiaowei's thoughts were trapped inside of a dark shroud.

Tomorrow would be the opening day for the exhibition. Then to delay its opening due to construction problems would literally be like taking Shanghai's international reputation as well as this 19 year long annual exhibition's reputation, shoving it down a toilet, and flushing it down the drains.

Without finding the cause, don't mention fixing the gallery, what are they going to do with the fallen pipes?

The AC that dropped belong to a single corner. Yet the entire exhibition gallery is several tens of thousand square meters, which all used the same kind of steel sky framework, and the same kind of central air conditioner.

Modern day industrial products are all made from the same model. Hence if problem occurred in one corner, then that means the entire gallery is filled with problems.

Wen Xiaowei naturally believed that the root of the problem could be found, but how were they to resolve the safety problem of the entire gallery?

Did they really need to risk the chance of collapse in other locations, just so that they could open the exhibition without delay?

"Since the problem isn't from the AC, then the cause must be in some minor detail we've missed." Wen Xiaowei immediately fired off an order: "Get me a Construction engineering inspection company, and a material laboratory on the line. I do not believe in not able to find the root of the problem."

The onlookers of the various companies, all started to shout out random speculations. Some said the strength of the fixture bolt was not up to grade. Others said the problem was with the welding of the steel framework. The light steel framework was made out of low alloy metal, so traditional welding techniques may not provide the necessary strength needed.

Of course, none of their speculations were correct.

Others were all discussing spiritedly, while Ye Qing with his data glasses, picked up some of the fractured light steel framework from the ground for careful examination.

"Perhaps....." Ye Qing commented with some pensiveness: "Perhaps I know why this happened."

Chapter 117: A plan (1 of 2)

In Ye Qing's hands was a piece of cylindrical synthetic light steel. Under the powerful engagement of the data glasses, everything from its composition to its degree of damage was datafied. Ye Qing could

clearly see that the split scar on that piece of steel was covered in a crude layer of coarse brownish grey grains.

Originally the light steel was covered in a layer of black anti-corrosive paint. Now the paint was falling off patch by patch. In Ye Qing's view, the coarse grains were the result of countless minute fractures in the steel.

It was the direct result of metal fatigue as its inside structure had already been damaged by outside forces, resulting in a massive decline in strength.

As for why there were traces of metal fatigue on the steel, that was due to the continuous application of outside forces. Countries around the world had experienced many aviation related accidents caused by these said metal fatigues.

If a piece of metal was put there, it wouldn't be damaged without outside forces.

Yet the sky art piece was completely stationary, and the lighting and electric wiring also can't move.

Then the only part of the ceiling that could create motion was the water circulated air conditioner.

The water circulated air conditioner had an opening in the pipeline every couple of meters, where an extractor was spinning constantly at high speeds.

"It's most likely that the vibration frequency from the extractor resonated with the frame metal, hence rapidly increasing the wear on the frames." Right now Ye Qing's data glasses looked like transparent glass, so no one would notice their strangeness.

"How did you come up to that conclusion?" Xiao Jun nervously looked at Ye Qing.

"It's actually really easy if you want proof." Ye Qing took off his glasses and pointed to another pipeline: "The consistency of industrially products is generally very high. You guys can go check those other frames over there. If even those frames have clear drops in structural strength, then that could only mean that the frequency from the extractor vibrations was resonating with the steel."

"That's actually very likely!" The acting manager of Gree Electric was first stunned, then slapped his thigh: "Since none of our designs were a problem, then the frequency resonance would be our most suspected cause."

Several maintenance workers hurriedly rushed below the still in place air conditioner extractors. They familiarly took down the extractor, the nearby piping, and the attached ceiling frame.

Without the need for additional instruments, the light steel was easily tested with pliers, as it was quite clear now how soft and weak the steel supports were.

"It's really the result of resonance." The manager anxiously commented: "But how can that be, our motors definitely pass the standard tests, and the bearings' concentricity is also levels above the national standard, so there can't be any excessive vibrations."

"It's not excessive vibrations, it's the natural vibrations of the machine." Ye Qing explained to everyone that was still confused: "If a machine has excessive vibrations, then it'll be quite easy to tell just by hearing it."

“However, while a machine is operating, in addition to have rotating fans, there’ll naturally be vibrations.”

“This is commonly known as normal vibrations because the sound from it is quite gentle and the extent of the vibration is small. But there still are high frequency cases. If the vibrating frequency in this case is similar enough to that of the surrounding material, then there will be resonance.”

“And very clearly, the vibrating frequency of these steel frames are very close to the machines’s natural vibrations, resulting in a case of serious metal fatigue.”

“I don’t know if everyone has seen Final Destination or not, but in the movie there is one scene where the support frame of an air conditioner resonated with it, resulting in the collapse of the entire air conditioner.”

“I understand now.” The manager suddenly reached enlightenment: “This is a coincidence, pure coincidence. We do perform resonance tests on our products, but it wasn’t possible for us to eliminate natural vibrations. Who would’ve thought that it would actually resonate with the steel frame it’s hanging from.”

“So simple ~”

“This is really a simple fix. All we need to do is change the spinning speed of the air conditioner to avoid resonance, and we’re good to go.”

“Then what are we going to do with the already weakened structural framework?” Xiao Jun angrily asked, and had many workers who were here to watch the fun terrified.

Yeah.....

A section of the pipeline had already collapsed. That meant that right now, in the entire gallery, every other air conditioner could also collapse.

As for this off chance for collapse, who was actually willing to risk it?

“Seal the exhibit area for now. I need everyone to leave so that we can fix this hidden danger.” Wen Xiaowei immediately ordered. As long as no one was injured, then there will always be ways for redemption.

No one hesitated as everyone hurriedly ran off.

It was just like suddenly going from spring to summer since the sky art still had some heat retention properties as the coldness inside hadn’t faded yet.

But running out from under the sky art put them all under the blazing summer heat.

“Thank you, thank you so much for find the cause. You saved us just too much precious time.” Standing outside, Wen Xiaowei’s nervousness passed a bit as he non-stoppingly shook Ye Qing’s hand.

“Where’s your display both? If we can fix the gallery, then I’ll definitely display some advertisement for your company on the big screen.”

“Z-42, It’s the Monster Heavy Industries at the corner there.” Ye Qing feeling a bit embarrassed as he reported his company’s exhibition spot.

That was the corner of the last row; one of worst possible positions available for any exhibition.

“Monster Heavy Industries!” Wen Xiaowei raised his thumb and praised: “A truly imposing name.”

“Young man, you’re definitely in the mechanical field, and are most likely very experience in it.” Xiao Jun also came up to express his praise: “Us architects will always consider resonance generated from winds. America’s Tacoma Narrows Bridge incident was a painful example.”

“However it’s just this is indoors, who would actually spend that much money to perform resonating tests on some stationary thing?”

“Even if it was done, there would still be no results. Before we were all pushing the blame, as we all thought it was caused by the excessive weight from the formed ice.”

“Yet who would’ve thought the problem would be with mechanical resonance.” Xiao Jun ashamedly said: “This is knowledge in two completely different areas.....”

“Let’s forget about this right now.” Wen Xiaowei cut in: “I’m sure everyone understands the seriousness of the situation. Since we’ve discovered the problem to be with the sky art framework, then we must seize the moment and fix it before the opening.”

“Otherwise tomorrow at 9, we won’t be able to start the exhibit, and that’s damage to the image of our entire country.”

“Mr. Xiao, you’re a well-know architect within the country. That piece of sky art is also designed by your studio, so please help us come up with a possible solution.”

Xiao Jun gravely nodded his head, sank into deep thought, walked back and forth from time to time, and even made several calls to the light steel maker to see if they had any stockpiles in storage.

Finishing the calls, he then asked his assistants to use simple calculations to estimate the structural strength of the entire sky art framework.

Messages came in one by one, and as they came in, Xiao Jun’s forehead was slowly covered in sweat.

Pacing back and forth some more, frowning from time to time, followed by major enlightenment, then there was the disappointment of head shaking.

Finally Xiao Jun ashamedly said: “There’s no other choice, these steel materials are all custom designed products. I just asked the producer, and they don’t have much stockpiled. They don’t even have enough to fix the damaged corner.”

“To be honest, even if there was enough stockpiled, the framework was started a month ago as it was pieced together piece by piece by the welding team.”

“So, as the matter stands, there’s only one option left.”

“What option?” Wen Xiaowei wiped his sweating forehead as he nervously asked.

“The main structure of the sky art is still fine, only a corner of it collapsed. We can fill in the corner with dry wall, and forget about pulling up another section of air conditioners.”

“The destroyed booths also need to be immediately fixed.”

“Then.....” Xiao Jun ashamedly said: “Under every AC extractor, we’ll need to place a supporting columns to support the weight of the extractors and the pipeline.”

“We need approximately 300 steel columns. There isn’t much time left, so the columns just need to be thick enough to bear the weight of the extractors and pipes.”

A much better plan (2 of 2)

A *clang ~* sound was made as the crystal tea mug in one of Wen Xiaowei’s assistant’s hands dropped onto the ground.

He was the head of the Expo. After hearing the detailed plan from the outstanding architect, this head felt like he wouldn’t be able to show his face in public anymore, as he would become everyone’s laughing stock until the day he died.

An international exhibition, inside the gallery, there would be 300 some steel columns in display booths, and in the center of major pathways.

How were people going walk? How were companies going to advertise their products?

Walk S shapes to avoid the columns?

What would those international journalists and foreign VIPs think once they’ve seen this?

What if you added in a couple of girls, just to ridicule the expo some more, and had them do some pole dancing?

The expo grounds was placed in an internationally known park, so the head of the expo naturally had seen many weird thinking youngsters, doing some really, really, reallllly ‘creative’ actions in the park.

“Mr. Xiao you.....” Wen Xiaowei right now was seriously anxious, he even changed the way he addressed people: “Can you think of another plan? Please? If we’re to really install columns, then the expo this time.....”

Xiao Jun helplessly shook his head. The sky art this time was designed by his studio. If there was a way, how could he not think about redeeming his studio?

“We..... Can only so some decorations to the support columns.” Xiao Jun tremblingly wiped his sweaty forehead and said disappointedly: “The steel columns are a must. I’d rather be laughed at, then risk people getting injured.”

“300 steel columns is a must. Maybe in some areas, we can switch for something more practical. For example, on pathways, we can place some kind of arch column over it.”

“It’s just that I don’t know if we have the time to make so many arch columns.....”

“Then we’re going to need some decorators to come make some decorations or to arrange some flowers.....”

“I..... I need to ask the Mayor.” Wen Xiaowei took a deep breath and went to make a phone call.

5 minutes later, Wen Xiaowei slowly walked back, completely pale faced.

“Go. Mr. Xiao can you please oversee the placement of these columns? Try your best to avoid the route of pedestrians and the activities of the booths.”

“I’ll give park central a call to have them find smelteries to immediately begin working on the columns.”

“Oh right, what’s the specific dimensions you need for the steel?”

“Two meter tall, roughly eight centimeters wide and eight centimeters thick. The top needs to be flat and ready for welding. The bottom needs to be secured.....”

“It’s just that we have too little time, so the secured bottom is probably not going to make it, so we’re probably going to have to settle with welding it onto some plate steel then securing it to the ground with nuts and bolts.

Wen Xiaowei’s face became even paler. This kind of plan had him feel like he was in a small no name construction site.

He was just about to agree when he saw the nearby, sightseeing Ye Qing.

“Mr. Ye, Mr. Ye.” Wen Xiaowei hurriedly walked over to in front of Ye Qing: “Mr. Ye, you’re in the mechanical field, so do you know of any way to make the columns appear more beautiful?”

“At least..... At least not having a base plate that’s bolted to the ground.”

“In a day’s time, we can only do things in segments. Use a hollow pipe for the base, have one end completely welded shut, drill a screw into the ground and screw in the column when it’s ready.”

“The columns are going to get decorated, so you can easily hide the welding marks.”

“Um.....” Ye Qing thought: “You can use DN 80 galvanized pipes for the columns as its width and thickness should meet the requirements. These pipes are also very common in the market, and are very easy to make. If you can get a couple smelteries together then it’ll be pretty easy to reach the needed 300.”

As the matter stood, even if Wen Xiaowei didn’t want to no matter what, he still had to use the contingency plan put forth by Xiao Jun.

Truly, what could be done in only a day’s time?

No other plan existed. Time to call some decorators to come and give the columns a much needed makeover.

At least getting ridiculed was better than having an accident happen and having to stop the expo mid way.

“Mr. Ye, we’ll tally up everyone’s destroyed equipment up and give out compensations as a whole. Please forgive us, as we’re seriously too busy right now to do or think about anything else.”

“Yes yes, I understand. Us participating companies will naturally cooperate with the expo administration.”

Having confirmed an emergency plan, Wen Xiaowei, Xiao Jun, and the others immediately busied themselves in whatever they needed to do.

Everyone who was here for the fun had left. It was also approaching noon, with the heat non-stoppingly increasing, it had literally become like a sauna.

Ye Qing followed them out. Since it was lunch soon, he was prepared to bring Xiaohu and everyone else out for lunch as a reward.

Walking out of the giant gallery, Ye Qing took out the 3D camera from the car, and took a picture of the entire gallery.

This gallery’s outer appearance was full of modern and artistic values as its designs came from a group of world famous architects. Having taken this 3D picture, he could take it home and make a mini version of it to be his new office. [ED: Wow, so shameless...]

Since there was still a bit of time until lunch, Ye Qing, having taken this picture, was just like a pictureholic as he just couldn’t stop.

Because the expo park was filled with all kinds of special looking buildings.

Even the vegetation and the landscaping trees were tenderly taken care of by the park’s gardeners.

For example, the Huangshan Yingke pine that was on an artificial mountain in front of Ye Qing. The deeply green and straight pine looked as if it had grown out of the rocks with deeply entrenched roots.

The 3D camera could take pictures of anything physical and immediately produce a 3D version of it. After he finished photographing the buildings, Ye Qing then focused the camera lens directly at the pine.

The metal smelting center had the ability to produce vertical products. No matter if it was a ship hull, or any other kind of complex structure, as long as the product’s blueprints existed, then making it was literally a piece of cake.

These trees were definitely unique in their own way, so if the metal smelting center could make a couple, and place them outside of the front gates, then that was definitely some showing off.

Among the people of Anhui province, there existed a piece of world renowned, exotic art that had been passed down for more than 300 years.

A piece of steel art!

Where the hammer was the brush, and the steel was the canvas.

In the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, there existed a giant piece of steel art of the «Yingke pine». Many foreign official had photo shoots in front of the piece of artwork, which was also why the Yingke pine had become a symbol of friendship for China.

But!

Who had ever seen a Yingke pine made of pure titanium alloy?

Ye Qing wanted to ask the world, who had seen one?

No one right? But Monster Heavy Industry has one. [TI: well, at least soon.]

Ye Qing happily pressed the shutter button, and soon after a perfectly proportioned Yingke pine appeared in the inner memory of the 3D camera.

Then, Ye Qing, who had just taken the picture, immediately froze.

Just like having been struck by the wrath of the nine heavens.

The Yingke pine in front of Ye Qing suddenly reminded him of a very very important problem.

What if.....

What if a completely metal Yingke pine, on par with a God's work, was used to support the air conditioning units?

What kind of thought was this?

The main theme of exhibition were technical innovations and changes technologies could bring to everyday life.

Now look at the entire structure of the gallery. From the air conditioners, to the sky art, then to the light steel framework, they were all tailored around the theme of technical innovations.

If the steel tube pillars, which just looked like those rusty street pipes on the streets, were swapped out for these brand new, miraculous, and unheard of structures, then wouldn't it become the exhibition's most talked about, most sought after topic?

The 300 steel pillars needed in the contingency plan would most definitely need a lot of colored ribbons, flower bouquets, peace symbols, and be decorated like those marriage rooms, just to cover up its shamefulness.

Now what if they were swapped out for some powerful visually attracting trees like the Yingke pine, Buddhist pine, or Crepe myrtle trees?

The top portion of any tree was filled with forked branches like an umbrella. Those forked branches could totally become all kinds of supporting points, to support up those air conditioning pipelines.

If this plan was approved, then a single tree could totally replace dozens of supporting pillars. Not only would this reduce the number of pillars needed, it could even be placed as one pleases. It was practically like here's a good spot, boom, done.

Just think about it. When people first entered the gallery, the first thing they would see wouldn't be the welcoming messages, or all of those advertisements, but rather the ingenious replicas of scenic trees made out of pure metal.

Then how was this not the perfect combination of art and science?

How could this not promote our nation's traditional culture, to shock and awe all those foreigners into submission?

If aluminum alloy were to be used to make the branches and trunks of the trees, then with those much superior heat transfer properties, cold air from the air conditioners could be absorbed by those densely packed branches, and transmitted throughout the entire tree.

Then what kind of cool and refreshing experience would it be to walk under those trees in the blazing hot temperature of summer?

Chapter 118: Rush Job (1 of 2)

The amount of time left for Ye Qing was only 21 hours.

Right now Ye Qing needed to confirm exactly how many trees the entire gallery would need.

Running back into the massive gallery, workers were hurrying everywhere trying to utilize every available second they have.

Xiao Jun was currently beside a desk outside of the gallery planning out the pillars in accordance to the blueprint drawing of the sky art.

Wen Xiaowei was also not far, making calls. Ye Qing walked up and waited for him to finish.

Seeing Ye Qing, Wen Xiaowei nodded, quickly finished his call, and asked Ye Qing what was up.

Ye Qing pulled out his cell phone, and showed him the pictures he just took of the scenic trees.

Wen Xiaowei's face was full of 'huh?' as he really didn't know why Ye Qing was showing him pictures of plants.

Two minutes later!

Wen Xiaowei's two eyes were to the point of nearly popping out as he grabbed onto Ye Qing's arm and violently shook it: "Mr Ye, your your your ~ your company can really do this?"

"Do I look like a joke to you?" Ye Qing confidentiality continued: "Originally, for testing purposes, my factory made a couple of these out of metal and placed them in the yard for viewing purposes."

"But being outside and seeing the scenic trees here just now gave me an idea."

"If I were to do some slight tweaks to those steel trees, then add on some more branches as needed, then they can truly replace those 300 pillars."

"Old Xiao ~ Old Xiao!" Wen Xiaowei, unable to contain himself, roared out.

.....

Ten minutes later, Ye Qing finished taking pictures of the entire sky art structure, dove into the Lagonda, and roared off towards Zhongyun.

While on the road, to save time, Ye Qing made a call to the supervising master artisan, and had him immediately prepare the necessary metals for forging.

Apart from the sections of the highway which allowed no stops, to expand his pool of resources further, whenever Ye Qing saw a new or weird looking tree, he would immediately stop and take a picture of it with the 3D camera.

When Ye Qing actually got back to the Dragon Creek Beach factory, the 3D camera already contained the 3D blueprints of hundreds of trees.

Eight masters were already waiting for instructions in the smelting center. They needed to do small fixes to the drawings' ratios so that their sizes fit in the gallery and that their branches could actually support the pipelines above.

With the entire gallery's 3D drawing in hand, those soon to be metal tree modifications posed no problem for the master artisans.

Of course, that didn't mean that there wasn't any difficulty in making the trees. For example, the leaves were actually very difficult to make.

A single tree needed millions of individual leaves closely stuck together, so even with metal smelting center running on full power, it would still take a long period of time.

If the leaves were to be removed, then just the bare trunk and branches alone would really remove much of the excitement, so Ye Qing wouldn't give up on creating tree leaves whatsoever.

Producing the leaves.....

Was just too easy. It was so easy that no matter how Ye Qing thought, he still couldn't find any technical difficulties.

Have the smelting center make the mold for the leaves. Then have them pour liquid metals into the mold with a couple of peons, and harvest them once they cool in a couple of seconds.

Wanting to speed up the creation process, the molds could be fitted out with 50 leaf slots. A tree can each have ten of these molds. When all the leaves are connected to the trunk and branches, a blow from the air conditioner will cause many them to sway, and the scene will be just unimaginable.

That rare metal engraver was also put to use by Ye Qing. There were a couple of fruit trees in the 3D camera, so Ye Qing wanted to carve out some peaches, pears and the likes to hang.

The leaves and fruits would all be made out of aluminum alloy, while the trunks and branches needed a little bit of titanium to increase their structural strength and toughness.

Aluminum Titanium alloy was an already widely used type of titanium alloy. Its recipes weren't anything secretive either, as there were tons of them available in the market with all kinds of strengths and toughness.

As there were a bunch of publicly traded recipes available on market, Ye Qing had already bought a bunch.

As for those that couldn't be bought, those were ones that just couldn't be bought no matter the price, because those were people's rice bowls. Take Ye Qing's nickel-titanium memory alloy recipe for example, under no circumstances would he ever share this unique recipe and its associated market with anyone.

Molds for 30 some different species of trees were first created by the smelting center, then the peons immediately brought them over to the massive furnace, which had already begun the melting processes of aluminum alloy for leaf manufacturing.

5 PM, the first fully bloomed aluminum titanium Buddhist pine, leaves, branches, and all, was created from the smelting center.

10 minutes later, a breadfruit tree with a massive treetop and branch structure appeared.

20 minutes later, it was a dracaena that looked just like an umbrella.

6 hours later, a ginkgo appeared as the 35th.

The lines on the bark of these steel trees were all unique and special. When they were all placed standing up in front of Ye Qing, he felt like he had been transferred into a world of steel.

The entire gallery was originally planned to have 300 steel pillars, but now they could be replaced by 36 steel trees.

This was the result of careful calculations in accordance to the gallery's blueprints from five master artisans. Furthermore, every single tree's branches were all specially altered such that there existed the most reasonable biomechanical structure between them and the trunk.

Ye Qing held off completing the last tree, as he commanded the peons to move all the completed trees into the courtyard. Right now on the road to the factory, there were 37 flatbed trailer trucks ready and waiting.

For the last tree, Ye Qing wanted to make it this exhibition's super star. When it was placed in the center of the gallery, it had to and would shock out everyone's eyes.

The center of the gallery was originally planned to be the location of the exhibition's activity center. A majority of the activity area was suppose to be filled with large screen 3D displays from Changwei, but it had become the ground zero of the destruction. However, now Ye Qing could fill in that place with just one single massive tree.

The activity center was based in the dome, so the tree had to be really really wide, and it had to flourish as well.

There were many really large trees out there. California redwood could grow up to hundreds of meters. Don't mention propping up the sky, it was more like piercing the sky at that point.

Contrary to popular belief, Ye Qing ditched the idea of picking a large and expansive tree. Rather he picked one that was both representative and philosophical.

The Yingke Pine!

An enlarged, truly extreme Yingke Pine.

Moreover, the entire tree would be made from nickel-titanium memory alloy. Just like the new hulls for the Anti-Smuggling unit's chase boats, a watered down version of the alloy. Only this way could it be strong and tough enough to become the central support for the center and bear the weight of the majority of the pipings above.

2 Fast 2 Furious (2 of 2)

1 AM, all metal structures had been completely secured to the trucks. With Ye Qing's Lagonda leading the way, the long line of trucks began to roll out.

On the exhibition side, they had already called countless number of time, to anxiously inquire about the situation. Only when they had actually hit the road did they finally let out a sigh of relief.

Right now, at 1 AM, the road was basically devoid of cars. Under those conditions, they could basically speed all they wanted on the highway and be able to reach the exhibition halls in just over two hours.

Ye Qing followed along Huanhai Avenue at a cruising speed of 100 km/h. All the trucks behind him were either Dongfeng Sky Drake or Liberate J6, which could do 100 km/h fully loaded. Now, with a metal tree weighing in at only a couple hundred pounds each, they were obviously able to keep up easily.

Of course, for safety reasons, a gap of safety was kept between each truck.

Then.....

Just as they got onto the highway, without even passing the toll gates, Ye Qing found a temporary roadblock up ahead. A dozen or so police cruisers and an anti personnel vehicle was parked along the road.

Four temporary speed bumps were placed on the road. Five officers in light reflecting vests were waving their flashlights non stop, signalling the cars to stop for inspections.

Behind them were two SWAT members with SMGs in hand.

"Such a large check point....." Ye Qing hit the right turn signal, then hurriedly pulled out his phone and took several pictures for memory.

Temporary checkpoints were actually pretty common in the city. However, with this temporary checkpoint being in front of the highway toll gate, and even having live ammunition, was mostly likely caused by the city's culture and safety thing, hence the shock and awe values.

Just as Ye Qing parked the car and lowered the windows, a traffic officer immediately greeted him with a breathalyzer and asked for license and registration.

Ye Qing breathed out, handed over his license and registration, then took a look in the rear view mirror and found that the truck behind him had also been held back.

“Officer, the 30 some trucks are all with me.” Ye Qing pulled out his phone and explained: “We’re delivering a batch of important master pieces for the Shanghai exhibition. I can make a call to your boss and explain everything to him, so do you mind letting us slide?”

“Huh? What you say?” As soon as the officer heard that there were 30 some more trucks at the back, and calling his boss to let them slide, his anger immediately flared.

“Out out.” The officer called for help from his fellow colleagues, and said to Ye Qing: “I don’t care what your attending, but we’re going to inspect them one at a time.”

“Even if you drive a supercar, we’re still gonna examine it.”

The trucks at the back were held back one by one. The strange train of trucks immediately raised the police’s suspicions. They decided to examine the trucks carefully one at a time. The leader of the train, Ye Qing, was also brought over to their captain to explain everything.

The captain in charge of this temporary checkpoint sat inside of the anti personnel vehicle, and heard out Ye Qing’s explanation of what the train of trucks was for.

Beside the vehicle was ten some drivers in the same situation as Ye Qing. Some of them were completely dejected, while others were busy making phone calls.

The ones closest to Ye Qing was a pair of young male and female. The girl was in heavy makeup and party dress, while the man was yelling into his cell: “Dad ~ I don’t care! Just hurry up and have them release me!”

A black Porsche Cayenne was parked in front of the road block, in front of it was a row of luxury sedans, each of them valuing at at least 500 thousand.

“Which company are you from? You’re their boss? What are you doing making deliveries in the middle of the night?”

“Mind if I make a phone call?” Ye Qing unharmedly smiled.

“Sure ~ go ahead, make as many as you like, even if you call until sunrise I won’t care.” the captain pointed to that pair close by: “That one drove a Cayenne, and not only did he intentionally block the plate, he also didn’t bring a license.

“When he was getting inspected, he was saying how his dad was the owner of some listed company, and how that a single call would make me apologize.”

“Hehe ~” The captain sat back, stretched, and yawned: “I’ve already been here for an hour, my legs are already sore.”

”

Ye Qing also joined in the army of callers. Just as he pulled out the cell phone, a nearby driver cuts in: “Yo ~ don’t waste your time. For the city of culture and safety thing, these guys are basically on drugs. I know some people in the traffic bureau, yet when I called, their phones were all off.”

Ye Qing looked at him, smiled, and continued on with making his call.

All the other drivers nearby all encouraged Ye Qing to give up, otherwise the more calls he made, the more face he would lose.

The call was connecting, Ye Qing smiled at them: "I'm different from you guys."

"*Sigh* young people these days, why are they all so arrogant." a very well dressed business man who had his own personal driver butted in: "Young man, do you know who I just called?"

"I just called the Chief of the traffic bureau, so who are you going to call?"

"Maybe you could've left if you had called the Mayor." Ye Qing continued to ignore them all.

The call rang five times before Wen Xiaowei's nervous voice could be heard asking: "Mr. Ye what is the issue?"

"I'm held back at a checkpoint on the highway, so....."

"Ah!" Wen Xiaowei surprisingly yelled: "Inspections in the middle of the night! This is my fault, I should've arranged for some police to lead the way for you."

"Give me five minutes."

Hanging up the call, seeing that Ye Qing didn't even finish his sentence before putting down the phone, everyone burst out laughing.

"Haha ~ You didn't even get to finish before getting hung up on." That business man called out.

"Yeah, not much better." Ye Qing replied.

Over there, the police were stopping every single truck. The drivers were in utter confusion as they weren't hauling anything illegal at all, yet the police wanted them to drive into the service area for careful inspections.

Some of the truck drivers also came over, seeing Ye Qing waiting there, they immediately asked: "Boss, the police told us to move to the service area for inspection. What are we going to do?"

"Nothing. We'll be on the move again in five."

The drivers of all those luxury car were all shocked as everyone looked at each other, feeling as if they had just missed something.

"What is this lie, even my dad, being the owner of a publicly traded company, is helpless." The young man who drove the Cayenne retorted.

The captain who was inside the anti personnel vehicle also felt like he heard something wrong, so he was going to book him all the way until morning.

"Do you believe that even if I were to give you five....."

Before the captain could finish, his phone was already ringing.

When he decided to pull out his phone for a look, he first was stunned, then he immediately turned extremely polite as he answered the call.

“Yes Chief?”

Then, everyone nearby could all somewhat hear the loud angry roars that came from the other side.

The captain’s face slowly changed as he stared directly at Ye Qing, just like an alien.

Then he hurriedly got out of the vehicle, and treated Ye Qing like he would his boss: “Mr. Ye, I’m sorry, really truly sorry.”

“Xiao Liu!” The captain called out to one of the officers beside him: “Hurry hurry, release all of this one’s trucks. And tell the toll gates for green lights all the way, then have Xiao Zhang open the way for them!”

“Ah? Captain what did you say?”

“Release them! Green light all the way! And have a cruiser lead the way!” This captain nearly flipped.

“No problem, no problem, I’m not in a hurry anyways.” Ye Qing picked at his ear.

“Little..... little brother, who did you just call?” The business man was in complete shock, as even his call to the chief was useless. Yet this young man only made a single call, and didn’t even get to finish a single sentence.

“We’re here all getting booked and inspected, so.....”

Yet that half sentence was literally like a nuke.

Green light all the way, and even have police cruisers opening the way!

Clang

The Cayenne driver’s cell phone dropped onto the ground as his face was frozen in shock.

“I, I’m Fang Ruojun, the owner of Shuiyunxian.” A skinny middle aged man squeezed in as he tried to curry favours while handing off a business card: “Little brother, if you ever have the chance to visit Shuiyunxian, I’ll definitely have the chef use his namesake skills to give you our Shuiyunxian’s greatest experience.”

“Sure sure, I’ll definitely make a trip when I get the time.” Ye Qing accepted the card and put it into his pocket.

Everyone that was waiting around was immediately shocked awake as they tried to find their business cards. Sadly, Ye Qing simply turned around and walked away, leaving a trail of stomping feet and endless sighs of disappointment.

Ye Qing was seriously short in time. When the leading police cruiser got in place, he immediately pressed his horns signalling the trucks to keep up. Now with the police leading the way, the truck drivers were all like they got chicken blood injections, as they all swiftly had the hand shift at 8, and the pedal to the metal.

Luckily they were all driving cargo trucks. If they were driving Ye Qing’s car, then right now they probably would’ve already thrown the police to the wind.

When they got to the exit for the Shanghai expressway, the truckers, as well as the police at the front, all experienced what 'special treatment' truly meant.

Police officials were all ready and waiting at the toll gates, and the road blockers were as straight as an electric pole.

Passing the toll booths, four already waiting cruisers immediately split into two teams, one lead the train with lights and sirens blazing, while the other team waited for everyone to pass, before following along at the end.

"Old..... Old Zhang, who are these people?" The Zhongyun plated cruisers parked on the side of the road at a complete loss, as the the traffic officer who was sitting in the passenger seat blankly asked.

"How would I know. I can't see clearly this late into the night, but what they're hauling seems to look like trees."

"Even trees made out of gold wouldn't be treated like this right? So what kind of backing did that company have?"

"This is Shanghai! Shanghai ah, Old Zhang!"

Chapter 119: Gathering of crows

If Ye Qing had heard that, then he would have oh so definitely told him that the real value of those trees were way higher than gold.

Outside of the main gates of the exhibition gallery, Wen Xiaowei and Xiao Jun were both nervously pacing back and forth at the top of the stairs, just like how they were when their wives were delivering for the first time.

This night could be said to be the last struggle in the long, grueling war.

If it was successful, then there would be the reputation as well as all the profits.

If not, this would go down as an international joke. For the next several days, every piece of newspaper and reporting station would all be talking about this catastrophic failure.

No matter if it was during everyday living or during work, accidents were unavoidable. It was also these accidents that promoted individual creativity and ability.

To prevent any more accidents from happening, Wen Xiaowei was putting most of his expectations in Ye Qing, but had also prepared the needed 300 pillars just in case.

However, when Ye Qing's train of trucks arrived under the escort of police cruisers, Wen Xiaowei and Xiao Jun, from the top of the stairs, under the bright lighting of the park, clearly saw the metal trees on the truck beds.

Their hearts that had been misplaced for the past several hours suddenly returned to their original positions.

The metal trees in front of them were basically the finest and most unique metal constructions they had ever seen. With just one look, it was as if the metal trees were alive and would be able to bear mysterious fruits in the fall.

These godly, constructed metal trees were cleverly integrated with this year's exhibition.

Wasn't this for new innovations? For new technical advances?

This would now be one of the major features of this exhibition.

"Tomorrow at 9 AM, is when this year's annual international exhibition opens its doors to the public." Wen Xiaowei, just like making a morale raising speech, spoke to the 500 plus technicians from all the participating companies.

"Hence, by 9 AM tomorrow, we must and will welcome every guest from all over the world with an all brand new gallery."

.....

8 AM, when the last batch of construction workers left the gallery, the main passage to the exhibition park was also successfully cleared out.

Iveco vans and container trucks drove and parked into the parking lot one after another.

On those large vans were station signs of all kinds of TV stations. Some even had the roof of the van modified to contain all kinds of satellite antennas and receivers.

Cathay Television interview car, Phoenix Television interview car, Technology Channel interview car, Southeast Television Network, and many other familiar television stations appeared.

Apart from these, many internet news sites also sent over their interview teams. The interview teams sent by Tencent news, Iqiyi, Youku, A site, and other large scale news sites were also luxuriously matched.

Many foreign news stations also made an appearance. Due to Shanghai being one of the world's financial centers, almost all worldwide news services had reporters stationed here long term.

A van with the marks of Zhongyun Television station parked near the Lagonda. When the doors opened, two beautifully dressed girls with light makeup exited, each with a microphone.

Closely following were two cameramen with their cameras, and a professional photographer carrying all kinds of cameras.

When compared to all those other large news networks, the crew from Zhongyun Television station was clearly much poorer and weaker. They didn't even have satellite communication equipment installed. If they wanted to send back the news, then they must rely on the exhibition's public wireless network.

At 8:40, a press release would be held inside of exhibition gallery by the government and some of the major attending companies to quickly explain to the reporters and television watching guests the major theme of this year's exhibition as well as what everyone could expect in the coming three days.

Being the saviour of this year's exhibition, Ye Qing's Monster Heavy Industry was also invited to the press release.

Wen Xiaowei, wanting to curry as many favors as possible, wanted Ye Qing to make an appearance and help advertise his own company.

However, Ye Qing was seriously too sleep deprived, so despite wanting him speak in front of all these reporters, he wasn't even going to risk it without at least a prepared speech.

What if he were to misspeak, then he would definitely become famous for all the wrong reasons.

So Ye Qing ran off to his Lagonda for some catch up sleep. In addition, he set his alarm to go off at 10. By then all the visitors would have already entered, and his 'espionage' with the 3D camera would be even more successful.

The two reporters sent by Zhongyun Television station were the two most beautiful girls they could muster. One was called Yu Fei, and the other was Wu Xiaoya. When the two got out of the van, they immediately recognised the nearby Lagonda.

A zhongyun plate number, and the unique Lagonda.

Yu Fei who first found it, immediately called out to Wu Xiaoya: "Xiaoya look. Isn't that..... Isn't that....."

"That friend of Bai Dou's!" Wu Xiaoya immediately recalled the owner of that car. Being able to find some familiar face this far away from home naturally had them delighted. Although they weren't very familiar with Ye Qing, at least they were with Bai Dou's.

Seeing the slight gape in the window, and the shadow of someone inside, they hurriedly walked up for greetings.

When they got there for a look, they found that Ye Qing was in deep slumber with the seat going all the way back.

"Wow he can really sleep. Errr..... Let's not disturb him shall we?" Yu Fei whispered.

"En!" Wu Xiaoya nodded. Just as they were about to leave, she sudden remembered something, pulled out her cell phone, took a picture of Ye Qing from the finger thick gap in the window, then sent it to DouDou in WeChat saying ' DouDou, we met your boyfriend.'

Very quickly, DouDou replied: "We're BFFs! What you guys are doing is spying!" with a row of angry emoticons.

Wu Xiaoya and Yu Fei laughingly ran off.

8:40, inside the reception hall of the gallery, the pre opening press release was about to start.

Wu Xiaoya and Yu Fei sat in the last row. Although Zhongyun Television station was getting some good ratings in the past few years, they still couldn't compete with all the big international stations. Hence, they could only act like a bunch of newcomers from beginning to end, so being able to attend the press release was already a win, hence what more could they do?

15 minutes after the beginning of the press release was the time for questions from all the reporters.

As soon as the speaker finished speaking, the anxiously waiting reporters all immediately raised their hands as high as they can.

Wu Xiaoya and Yu Fei also raised their hands, however, everyone knew the underlying procedures with who does the asking, as they had already been prearranged. With only five short minutes for questions, naturally the opportunity goes to the influential international stations, as well as famous domestic stations.

The first picked to ask was a reporter from Japan's Nippon TV.

The reporter was a male who stood up and asked in fluent mandarin: "On the internet, we found that the gallery suffered a large scale accident yesterday."

"Can you clarify whether or not this rumor is true?"

The one responding to the question was park manager Song Feijun, who was well versed in answering televised questions.

"Yes, it's true." Song Feijun graciously admitted. Right now was the age of the interwebs. At the time there were tons of people from many participating companies around, so there was no way to contain this piece of news.

Any accident, after careful explanation, would no longer be an accident.

Hearing Song Feijun's admission, the reporters immediately started to take notes. Nippon TV's reporter continued to ask: "Since the exhibition is still following the schedule today, does that mean the damage has already been fixed?"

"Yes everything has been fixed. Although a day's time might seem short, but with the ever increasing advances in technologies, a day's time allows us to do a lot of stuff."

The next reporter to ask was from NBC.

"According to the provided information, due to time constraints, your side could only use several hundred metal pillars to reinforce the gallery. May I ask if this is true?"

"Yes, we did take reinforcement measures." Song Feijun smiled profoundly. Yes, they had prepared steel pillars, but whether or not they had used it was another matter altogether.

When the pillars got to the gallery it was already 3 in the morning. Adding on the fact that the construction works afterwards were all kept under wraps, hence who knew what happened after.

Continuing on with answering questions from a dozen or so reporters, the five minutes for questioning quickly came to an end.

All the reporters hurriedly got up and rushed out like a swarm of bees. The exhibition gallery suffered an accident yesterday, and could only helplessly employ steel pillars as temporary reinforcement measures.

Wasn't this the explosive kind of news that every reporter dreamt of reporting?

Immediately, they needed to film exclusive footage of the gallery as quick as they could, taking the opportunity before any guests had entered, then add on details describing the pillars as how abrupt and how ridiculous they were.

And change this China's science and technology exhibition into a ridiculous steel pillar exhibition.

Chapter 120: Oh. My. God.

Harbouring the thoughts that no story was too big, the reporters walked through the passage, followed the guide signs to the main gallery, and rushed in with cameras blazing.

Of course, not all reporters were as anxious as this.

For example, the reporter from Nippon TV left the press release calm and collected, as if he had everything he needed to make a detailed report already.

Walking to the guide signs in the hallway, instead of going further, they began to perform equipment checkups in preparation for a live broadcast stream on their official site.

The reporter from Nippon TV solemnly believed that as soon as the stream went live, there would be countless people tuning in.

The two countries were pretty close geospatially, and with the many similarities in their cultures, naturally there would be a lot of people curious about this year's science and technology exhibition in China, to see just how far they had come.

So naturally, the Nippon TV reporter who was there to create top stories, would bring everyone into the main gallery for a first hand look as soon as he was connected to the stream.

To let the audience take a first hand look at this year's ridiculous metal pillars.

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The other reporters, after entering the passage, completely ignored all those intricately designed advertising posters and the AI assisted sweeping robots, as well as the smart trash cans.

And headed straight for the sky work main gallery!

Because they needed to post pictures and videos of the gallery onto their associated sites as soon as possible.

Then, just as they left the passage, the giant irregular angular shaped sky work appeared in their eyes. All that was needed now was one more step, and all the ridiculous metal pillars would be there for them to bash and burn.

Every reporter, cameraman, and professional photographer, suddenly slammed into an invisible wall.

The people at the back all crashed into the people in front, yet the people at the front just wouldn't take that last step into this exhibition's main gallery.

Because on both sides of the main entrance were two lush, majestic, ancient looking evergreens.

The two were of a silvery white color, with clear grains, and had countless amounts of leaves and interweaved branches in its crown.

The two clearly weren't large, but they still had the the common umbrella like looks of all evergreens.

The reporters all had awestruck expressions upon seeing these trees, similar to having found an ancient tree after it had weathered the ages of stormy trials.

"Jesus, is this all made out of steel?" The NBC reporter cried marvelously: "Why, why is this clearly two meter tall tree giving me the feeling that it needs at least ten people to completely hug it?"

No one heard, or even bothered to answer his question, because every single cameraman and photographer were all jaw droppingly stunned. Their mouths were dropped open to the point where if bird droppings were to fall from the trees, then they would all land in their mouths.

En ~ that's if there are birds on the tree.

Their thoughts were as if they had been pulled into the nine heavens by an invisible hand, and then shoved into the chaos.

'This tree, why does it look so metallic?'

'This tree, why does it look so lively?'

'This tree, why's it not large, yet still looks so massive?'

Their original thoughts were to rush into the main gallery as quick as possible, then use the time frame where guests couldn't enter yet to photograph the entire gallery's ridiculous metal pillars. Yet now they just didn't want to give up their spots so that the ones behind them could clearly see and examine those two wonderful trees

Those two trees' eye attracting abilities far far exceeded that of the thought to be ridiculous metal pillars.

If Ye Qing was here, then he would definitely try to explain why those two evergreens seem to appear so massive, so lively, and so ancient.

Because those two were based off of two 800 year old buddhist pines growing somewhere in Shanghai, which had been categorised under critical protection by the State Administration of Cultural Heritage. [TI: This actually exists IRL in the Jinshan part of Shanghai, pic here.]

Although the smelting center had shrunk its size, its age old scars from weathering all those storms were all kept intact. Moreover, they were expressed in a never before seen, even more unimaginable way.

With aluminum titanium alloy!

Within the shocked crowd, a brave soul (reporter) slowly extended his trembling finger towards the buddhist pine's trunk.

The crowd suddenly held onto their breaths; just like the moment before a final judgment was delivered.

When his finger actually touched the trunk of the pine, the brave reporter cried out in marvel: "It's really metal! It's really made out of metal!"

"How is this possible? I have never seen anyone who's able to create such realistic metal creations. This is practically alchemy!"

"Can it be some new kind of genetically modified tree specimen that looks and feels exactly like steel?"

The other reporters beside this one immediately took a step back, and looked at him like he was a complete retard.

"Alright people. Only seeing, no touching please." Two suited up security guards popped out of somewhere, with expressions filled with rejoice and delight at those reporter reactions: "This is one of the main focal points of our exhibition. The leaves on these trees are all moveable, so what would happen if you guys were to stealthily pick one off?"

The reporters hated talking to them, but still complied with them by talking a couple of steps back.

Whir click ~

Whir click ~

Whir click ~

The photographers at the back finally had the chance to raise their professional cameras, and with great worship, began to take all kinds of photos from all angle of the two simple and unadorned metal pines.

As for the reporters at the back, no matter how anxious they were, they still weren't able to squeeze pass the blockage.

No way to get past the blockage, then might as well as get into the gallery first. Those two metal trees definitely weren't going to move, so why don't they get in first, get pictures of those laughable pillars, and seize the opportunity for release a top story.

What a blessing in disguise!

When those reporters that were unable to get tree picture got past the sky work filled passage, they felt the coolness of the air conditioners, and looked into the main display gallery. They were just like they had witnessed a real life Transformer transform, as from their mouths all kinds of exclamations of shock and surprise, and famous curses, came out in all kinds of different languages.

'Jesus christ!'

'What am I seeing in the gallery?'

'Trees! There are trees everywhere!'

Ingenious works, it was just like they were teleported into a world of trees, not a single duplicate tree, and not even a single duplicate kind of tree at that.

It was just like turning an extended umbrella upside down and fusing it together with the ceiling of the gallery.

Tree branches were placed in all kinds of postures, and the leaves moved just like wind chimes to the wind released by the air conditioners.

And most importantly, all of those trees were made out of pure metal.

‘What kind of exhibition is this! This is more like attending a grand banquet at an elven kingdom.’

‘I so want to take a bite out of those fruits on the fruit trees!’

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Outside of the gallery passage, Nippon TV reporting team’s cameramen had finally set up the necessary equipment and officially turned them on.

“Good afternoon everyone, and welcome all you wonderful guests to this year’s China Science and Technology Exhibition.” Nippon TV’s reporter, fully suited, started to report into his microphone while he leisurely walked towards the main gallery.

“Before I bring everyone into this year’s exhibition, I need to inform everyone on a little piece of important information.”

“According to our sources, there was an accident here at the exhibition center last night. This accident occurred within the gallery and caused serious damage to many of the attending companies’ display booths.”

“The exhibition safety crew, to prevent another similar accident from happening, could only ship in large amounts of steel pillars to reinforce the gallery.”

“Choosing to use several hundred steel pillars to support this exhibition’s sky works inside of Asia’s largest no support exhibition gallery, I think is a very ‘impressive’ idea.”

The cameramen followed closely as they filmed, and occasionally switched the camera to film the AI assisted sweeping robots and the smart trash cans that were in the hallway.

“Just before, at the pre-opening press release, the spokesmen even said that in a day’s time the might of science could allow us to do a lot of stuff, for example, use 300 pillars to support the building.”

“In that case, I will bring everyone along as we experience what it truly feels like to dodge steel pillars as we walk. To our gracious viewers, please kindly remind me to watch my back as we walk, so that I don’t actually slam into anyone of those poles!”

The Nippon TV reporter kept on talking as he walked. When he finally exited the passage, the camera’s field of view also widened up.

As the giant rhombus shaped sky work appeared on the screen of every single viewer!