

Scholar 31

Chapter 31

Chen Yushan was so angry she wanted to start stomping her feet.

She was always ridiculed for her mathematics questions, “this is too easy”, “another free marks question”, “it’ll be too late for your graduate entrance exams”. She wanted to earn some respect from playing checkers, but Lu Zhou did not give her any and even won 10 games in a row. He had even let her start first.

Maybe my IQ is just too low?

Chen Yushan had been called a genius student for the past three years, but now she suddenly had doubts about her life.

Chen Yushan stubbornly pushed the checkers’ board and still wanted to play. Lu Zhou could not help but ask.

“Can I ask a question?”

Chen Yushan answered irritably, “Ask.”

Lu Zhou asked seriously, “Why do you think you’re good at checkers?”

Chen Yushan heard him and blushed as she said awkwardly, “When I was young, I had never lost to my parents...”

“How young?”

Chen Yushan murmured softly, “I think it was in primary school.”

Oh my god!

You still remember stuff from primary school?!

Your parents were obviously letting you win. Have you not played against other people?

Lu Zhou did not know why, but he suddenly felt sorry for her.

They had a supreme seafood pizza for lunch. Mrs. Yang was right, the pizza at the coffee shop was very delicious.

Although it was a bit pricey, Lu Zhou did not have to pay for it. He had even left space in his stomach and ordered ice cream for dessert after.

Chen Yushan was eating a sandwich. As she watched Lu Zhou eating happily, she could not help but complain, "You sure eat a lot. You're gonna get fat if you're not careful."

Lu Zhou replied, "I hope I can get fat." He was eating high-calorie ice cream and chocolate mousse as he said nonchalantly, "I don't know why but no matter how much I eat I still can't get fat."

It was suddenly quiet as Chen Yushan did not speak.

Emm...

Was there some hatred buried in that joke?

There was a feeling of grievance...

Lu Zhou could not help but shudder.

...

It was already two o'clock in the afternoon, the hottest time of the day, when they went back to school,

Chen Yushan was scared of getting tanned by the sun so she did not stay outside for long. She said goodbye to Lu Zhou and went back to her dorm.

Lu Zhou noticed that it was still early and so, he went back to his dorm. He took his laptop and the textbook he borrowed before heading to the mathematics building. He found an empty seat in a classroom.

It was four hours until the drug resistance effect would wear off. He would take the pill at six o'clock and study until eleven, maybe even twelve o'clock. The library would be closed at that time, so he could not study there.

He planned on using the pill every other day but as he was busy tomorrow, he did not want to waste today. He decided to go full out today.

He opened his laptop and when he checked his email, he saw that Wang Xiaodong sent him the completed program.

He looked over the program and downloaded the code as a backup. He then started to write the thesis according to the mathematical model format.

He spent the afternoon finishing the thesis. He then attached the program and thesis into an email and sent it to Professor Liu.

"I'll work after I finish eating at the cafeteria," thought Lu Zhou. He stretched his back and stood up, then walked outside the classroom.

It was summer vacation so the cafeteria was deserted.

The upside was that he did not have to line up. The downside was that the cafeteria workers were also on holiday, so there was a smaller selection of food available.

However, this would not affect Lu Zhou as he always ate noodles for dinner.

Lu Zhou saw Professor Tang and went to greet him. He placed his bowl across Professor Tang's table.

Professor Tang saw Lu Zhou and laughed before asking, "How is the mathematical modeling preparation going?"

Lu Zhou laughed as well and responded, "It's going okay. I just sent the homework to Professor Liu."

"What are you researching these days?"

Lu Zhou knew that Professor Tang was not asking about mathematical modeling, so he answered, "I read a thesis recently, it was about this GIMPS research progress..."

Professor Tang was surprised. He smiled and asked, "The one from The Chinese Academy of Sciences?"

Lu Zhou nodded and responded, "Yeah, I read the 1992 thesis [Mersenne prime number distribution] and found the content to be very interesting. Sadly, the thesis process was too short and only had one conclusion, so I researched the topic further."

"Oh, I know that thesis," said Professor Tang. He felt nostalgic as he said, "That thesis by Mr. Zhou contributed significantly towards the Chinese mathematics community."

Unfortunately, the thesis was too short as it was only two pages long. Even though it proposed an exact formula for Mersenne prime numbers, it did not provide the proof. In the end, it could only be published as a conjecture.

Professor Tang paused for a bit, looked at Lu Zhou, and smiled: "Speaking of which, what happened to study linear functions? Why are you studying Mersenne primes?"

"Oh... Just out of interest?"

Lu Zhou did not even believe this himself as carried a tone of uncertainty in his voice.

Professor Tang did not believe him. He shook his head and said seriously, “Your talent in mathematics is insanely high, but you’re a bit too impetuous. You can’t achieve anything if you keep switching topics. You’re too utilitarian. Do you think that the Mersenne prime numbers are easy to solve? The GIMPS project you mentioned took a full eight years, and it didn’t even figure out if the 44th Mersenne prime number was actually the 44th one. You think that the prize money is easy to get?”

Although they found the 44th Mersenne prime number back in 2006, they still did not know if there was another one between the 43rd and 44th prime number.

This was because the number was too large and the amount of computation was beyond imagination.

According to the reward criteria of the GIMPS project, if one wanted to get the reward, one would have to solve the first 100 million Mersenne prime numbers. The reward was not proportional to the work done. After all, the reward for the 100 million numbers was only 150,000 US dollars. The cost was not worth the money.

It would be more profitable to mine bitcoin than to do mathematics research.

Professor Tang knew that Lu Zhou was after money.

Lu Zhou smiled apologetically and did not refute it.

It’d be too hard to explain to Professor Tang.

I guess he can misunderstand me if he wants.

Professor Tang saw that Lu Zhou did not respond. With a sigh, he said seriously, “Your thesis was excellent. I talked with a few physics professors, and they agreed with me that if you just continue to research towards this area, you’ll definitely become successful within two years. Even if you’re a utilitarian, you should still look towards long term gains.”

Lu Zhou asked softly, "Professor, does this mean that you don't recommend me to continue researching in this field?"

Professor Tang shook his head and said, "That's not what I meant. It's just that I don't like this field. First of all, it's too esoteric, and secondly, it's hard to produce results. Lastly, I haven't done much research in this field myself, so I can't help you. If you are actually interested in the research, then I won't bother you. You will only delay yourself if you are after money. I've said a lot, think about it yourself!"

Chapter 32

He shook his head and decided not to think about it. He would try his best to complete the system mission.

As for what would happen if the pills ran out?

He would have to worry about that question later.

Lu Zhou twisted open the pre-prepared water bottle and placed a pill in his mouth.

He quickly went into the focus state that he had experienced before.

...

A morning ray of sunlight shined through the window.

The wind blew through the curtains and bursts of bug humming sounds traveled through the windows. Lu Zhou's head was on his desk, his eyelashes moved, and he gradually opened his eyes.

"Ah..."

His entire body was sore, especially his neck.

He had spent all night studying to the point that he did not even remember when he fell asleep. He just remembered that he was really tired and used his phone to look at the time. Next thing he knew, his head was on the textbook and he was sound asleep.

The classroom did not turn off the electricity for the students that were preparing for the graduate entrance exam. The security was loose during the summer so no one woke him up and therefore, he slept all night.

What time is it?

Lu Zhou's phone was on low battery. When he turned it on, he yelled.

"It's already eleven o'clock... I still need to do tutoring in the afternoon."

He sat in his seat for a bit, shook his muddled brain, and went to the bathroom.

Lu Zhou splashed some cold water in his face and felt a lot better. He went back into the classroom to rest and memories of yesterday gradually came back to him.

His conclusion from last time was that even after five hours, the drug would have some residual effect.

In order to test the maximum duration of the capsule, Lu Zhou chose to try it in an environment without any interference.

The results were unexpected.

He found out that after he eliminated distracting objects, even after five hours, his brain would still be under the drug's effect. When there was no distractions and interruptions, he was able to maintain his state of concentration.

Only thing was that the constant state of being highly in focus would damage his brain. At first, it was light headaches. Then, it would trigger his body's self-protecting mechanism and he would fall unconscious.

"I guess the five hour effect time period wasn't absolute. I can increase the effect period by 50% if I tried to. If I was extremely tired and I pushed through my limits, my brain would become abnormally sharp. As for side effects, it was no different than staying up all night."

Lu Zhou talked to himself and could not help but yawn.

"It seems that after taking the drug I've got to grind to maximize the effect."

Lu Zhou moved his sore neck, closed his eyes, and went into the system space. He opened the mission column.

[Mission progress 2/30]

It seemed that the two textbooks "Linear Algebra" and "Analytic Geometry" had been passed by the system. Next up was ordinary differential equations.

If he carried on with this momentum, solving the "reward mission" with these 40 capsules would be of no problem!

...

Lu Zhou packed his stuff in his bag and went back to his dorm first. He took a shower, put on some clean clothes, and went outside the school to call a DiDi cab. He gave the driver the address on the business card.

It was extremely hot in the City of Jin Ling during summer.

Anyway, his transportation fees were covered. He did not want to get sweaty riding the bus so he took a cab.

Soon after, the cab stopped in front of a residential area called “Purple Garden”. Lu Zhou hopped out of the car and as he looked up and down, he felt nervous.

This community was worth the name of a “garden”. The trees looked like it was cut with sophistication.

This area was considered the prime location near the business district. It had a lot of greenery around the place and the style of apartments was luxurious. The cost of living here must have been unimaginably high. Only the so-called elite could live here.

Forget the first 100 million Mersenne prime numbers. Even if you solved Beal’s conjecture and got the million US dollar prize, you might still be unable to buy an apartment here.

Lu Zhou looked at the security guard and the security guard looked back at him. It was obvious that Lu Zhou did not live here so the guard did not plan on letting Lu Zhou go inside.

Lu Zhou was getting impatient so he called Mrs. Yang. She called the guard room and told the security to let him in.

He got off the elevator and pressed the doorbell. Suddenly, he faintly heard smashing and screaming sounds behind the door.

“... You don’t care about me at all, so stop pretending you’re doing everything for my good!”

Bong!

Lu Zhou could still hear the muffled sound through the door.

Oh no...

This job doesn't look good.

Lu Zhou hesitated in his heart as he was thinking if he should leave.

Suddenly, footstep sounds came through the door and the door was opened.

It was actually Mrs. Yang that opened the door.

Lu Zhou was surprised the instant he saw Mrs. Yang. From her cold facial expression, he knew that she just had a big fight with her daughter.

Mrs. Yang said calmly, "Teacher Lu, right. There are slippers right here. Please come in."

With a subtle smile, Lu Zhou said, "I'm not a teacher, just call me Lu Zhou."

"A tutor is still a teacher. Please come this way."

Lu Zhou went through the entrance and noticed a pile of broken glass. It seemed like an art piece.

There was a closed door and he thought it must be the room of Chen Yushan's calmly.

Mrs. Yang did not leave him in the living room. Instead, she brought him into the study room. She signaled him to sit down and smiled gently.

"Sorry that you had to see that."

It was slightly awkward...

Lu Zhou smiled and did not respond.

He was just here to work and he did not want to be involved in their family's business.

Mrs. Yang did not say anything and took out a box of cigarettes.

"Do you smoke?"

Lu Zhou declined, "I don't smoke."

Mrs. Yang nodded and did not say anything. She closed the cigarette box and looked at the clock on the wall before saying with a slightly tired voice.

"It's one o'clock right now. I get off work at six o'clock. You'll have to take care of Han Mengqi during this period. I put all her textbooks, practice exam papers, and other materials in the study room. You mainly just have to teach her mathematics."

"Her situation right now, is it okay?" asked Lu Zhou as he hesitated.

if she stayed in the room, he could not teach her.

"No problem," said Mrs. Yang. Without any expression, she pulled out a set of keys and gently placed it on the table. "This is her room key."

The f*ck?

You, you call yourself her mother?

This problem is serious!

"I think..."

“What do you think?”

“Nothing...” Lu Zhou shook his head.

He wanted to say that this would intensify the tension between them and that he was only an outsider. It was not his place to make remarks about other people’s families because it was a sensitive topic.

Besides, he believed that Mrs. Yang would not see it from his perspective.

Just what...

He did not know if she was desperate or she just did not care.

Mrs. Yang stood up and said, “Then I’ll give the keys to you. There’s an exam in July before her holidays. If her result is over 100 marks, then I’ll give you a bonus. If she didn’t even get 80, then I’ll think about changing tutors.”

She did not even wait for Lu Zhou’s reply and left the study room.

“Oh yeah, one more thing. To prevent my daughter from escaping, I’ll lock the door from outside, you have no problem with that right?”

“... No problem,” said Lu Zhou as he shook his head.

She would be back at six o’clock and anyway, he had nowhere else to go.

But...

Even though your niece recommended me, is it really okay to lock a stranger inside your house with your daughter?

However, her next words solved his doubts.

Also, there are a dozen or so security cameras around this house. There are no dead spots. If you think it interferes with your privacy, feel free to tell me.

Her expression did not change at all after saying this, but Lu Zhou felt a sense of warning coming from her.

As expected...

Are you even her real mom?

"I don't have any problems with it."

Anyway, Lu Zhou did not have any interests in doing naughty things. He was just here to work.

As for the cameras, there were cameras all around his library and classrooms, he was used to it.

However, after hearing that she had a dozen security cameras installed in her house, Lu Zhou slightly understood why there was so much tension between the daughter and mother.

Chapter 33

Lu Zhou shrugged. He was not angry at all. He said through the door, "I don't care. I get paid regardless. But is this what you want? I'll get a thousand yuan for the five hours."

Anyone who heard a thousand yuan must feel bad right?

Lu Zhou tried to change his approach, but he underestimated the attitude of rich people.

“Oh,” a cold voice traveled through the door. Han Mengqi said with a careless and loud voice, “Do what you want, that woman has a ton of money anyway. Who cares how she spends her money, you might as well be adopted by her.”

This girl...

From the tone, the hatred between the daughter and mother must have been deep.

Lu Zhou waited for a moment outside the door. He saw that this chick did not plan on opening the door. He did not want to waste his time so he went to the study room and carried all the study material into the living room.

He had not touched high school material in years, but when he looked through it, it all seemed pretty easy. After all, he was in one of the best universities in China. He had beaten thousands of soldiers, this was nothing to him.

He sat on the sofa and looked through the textbooks. He suddenly noticed the broken glass on the floor and could not help but frown.

His ADHD was acting up again.

He sighed, stood up, and went to the toilet to find a broom. He wanted to clean the mess up first.

However, just as he was about to put the broom down, a piercing scream came from the locked room.

“Ah!”

Lu Zhou was shocked. He thought that an accident had happened and he quickly threw the broom down before rushing towards the room.

He used the key to open the door and pushed it open. A black unknown object crawled towards him.

A cockroach?

Lu Zhou subconsciously trampled it to death. He continued to walk inside the room and asked quickly.

“What happened?”

The room was very dark because the curtains were closed.

It was hard to imagine that this was a female’s room. It was even harder to imagine that this was a room in a luxurious apartment.

Because the messiness of this room was comparable to his dorm.

Books and toys were piled up in the corner. Bags of junk food were on the ground. He could even see a few pieces of potato chips... No wonder the cockroach came in to eat food. It was attracted by the oily junk food.

A petite figure with long hair sat in the corner of a bed. Her hands were grabbing onto a pillow and her knees were shivering. She was wearing a set of loose pajamas. Her fair face was stiff and her lips started to turn blue. It was like she had just seen a ghost.

“Die, die...”

“Die?”

“Is it dead?” asked Han Mengqi as she bit her lips and bravely looked under the bed. She was afraid to touch the floor.

Lu Zhou paused for a bit and looked at the cockroach next to his feet.

“You’re talking about the... cockroach?”

Han Mengqi nervously nodded.

“It’s dead. It’s right here,” sighed Lu Zhou as he pointed with his finger.

He thought an accident had happened, but it was just a bug.

I already stomped it to death.

Why are you so scared?

When Han Mengqi heard that her enemy was dead, she finally calmed down and her tight body relaxed.

However, very quickly, she stared at Lu Zhou like he was her enemy. She waved her iPhone and warned, “Who, who let you in! Get out, or I’m going to call the police! Why did you turn on the light, you impolite asshole!”

The bright light pierced Han Mengqi’s eyes and she raised her arm to shield herself.

Lu Zhou did not respond to her. He went to the bathroom and picked up the broom.

He cleaned everywhere in her room, except under her bed and tight corners.

After cleaning, he was shocked.

When Lu Zhou saw the pile of rubbish he cleaned, he wiped the dust off his face and could not help but criticize, “Why is there so much junk food in your room? Are bugs your pets?!”

The girl on the bed blushed and replied angrily, “Mind your own business!”

Lu Zhou looked at her and the box of junk food before asking, "You ate this for lunch?"

"..."

The girl became quiet and did not speak.

Lu Zhou did not say anything and dragged the rubbish bag outside. He walked out and even closed the door behind him.

Han Mengqi saw the door being closed and was astonished. She stopped gripping the pillow. She was surprised that the tutor her mom got her had already "compromised". She had already made a long term confrontation plan, but now she felt like her preparation was unnecessary...

Lu Zhou went back into the living room and started to read the high school mathematics textbooks. He had the books spread out across the coffee table.

It was not only textbooks. There were also additional studying materials. Last month's exam papers were also left by Mrs. Yang. It was true that her daughter's grades in mathematics were pretty bad.

She could barely get 75 marks out of 150, and her highest was an 80.

It would be a problem getting into a university with these kinds of grades.

However, the grades for her Mandarin exams were pretty good. Lu Zhou read her essays and was surprised to see it written so literary. Her English was not bad either. It was usually above 120 marks. As for her science subjects, some were good, some were bad, so it was difficult to judge.

"Why does she want to get into science... Why doesn't she just do liberal arts?"

Lu Zhou shook his head and picked up a pen from the table. He started to write on a blank A4 paper.

High school mathematics was not difficult. It did not test your ability to transform knowledge. It simply judged your ability in remembering the knowledge.

The required topics were merely sets and elementary functions. It would take around 40 class hours to teach. One lecture of university advanced algebra contained more information than that.

This was also why many students who received stellar grades during high school struggled when they got to university. It was because the university lecturers did not teach at the speed of a train. They taught at the speed of a rocket.

The foundation of Han Mengqi's mathematics was horrible, but Lu Zhou still saw a chance of salvation.

After all, the exam was not a competition. It would only test for fundamentals.

Once she learned the fundamentals, she might be unable to get 140 but she could possibly get a 120.

The four textbooks looked scary, but the topics inside were the same... At least it seemed like that for Lu Zhou, who finished the entire [Analytic Geometry] textbook in one night.

First of all, he had to outline and summarize all of the topics in the textbooks. Then he had to refer to Han Mengqi's previous exam papers and point out the topics that she struggled in... Actually, she should have done this herself.

After all, it did not matter how bad the attitude of his "customer" was. Lu Zhou felt that since he accepted this job, he should try his best.

It was at least worth the 200 yuan per hour pay. Even though he had no knowledge of the tutoring market, he still knew that this pay was abnormally high.

Like this, time passed by.

It was around half past five when Lu Zhou stretched and moved his sore shoulders.

He looked at the tidy A4 paper that was full of his writing and could not help but smile.

Although it was a bit of a hassle in the beginning, it was quite rewarding to go back and look at what he accomplished.

It was almost six o'clock.

He could show this paper as a report of his work.

There was a slight noise coming from the door nearby. A petite figure came out.

Lu Zhou looked and saw that her pajamas had changed into jeans and a t-shirt, but her hair was still messy.

It might have been an illusion, but he felt like she looked even tinier than when she was crouching in bed.

Especially her washboard body, there were no curves at all. She was the exact opposite of her cousin.

"What... are you looking at? I'm gonna call the police!"

Lu Zhou sighed, "Stop threatening me with the police. I didn't even do anything and you need a reason for calling the police. Disrupting the law is also illegal, so think this through."

"..."

Han Mengqi was stunned by Lu Zhou's calmness. She did not say anything and went into the bathroom.

Lu Zhou saw the bathroom door closed and realized that she must have been bursting to pee.

I was wondering why she came out.

Soon after, a flushing sound came from the bathroom. Han Mengqi washed her face and walked out with a taut face.

She walked past the living room and when she noticed the items on the coffee table, she frowned and asked, "What is this?"

"You don't even remember your own textbooks? When was the last time you studied?"

Han Mengqi looked at the A4 paper and said, "None of your business." She turned around and went into the kitchen, "I'm hungry, eat whatever you want."

"Your mom is coming home soon. Shouldn't you wait for her?" asked Lu Zhou. He leaned against the sofa and put his legs up as he looked at Han Mengqi and said seriously, "I think it's better if a family eats together."

Han Mengqi turned around and laughed coldly.

That laugh wasn't a typical teenager's laugh.

"Wait for her? Didn't she message you?"

Chapter 34

"Is there a problem?" asked Han Mengqi. She did not care at all.

Of course there's a problem!

Lu Zhou sighed. He stood up from the sofa and walked towards the kitchen.

Han Mengqi asked suspiciously, "What are you doing?" She took a step back.

"I'll make some food."

"You can cook?" asked Han Mengqi. She stared at Lu Zhou with her eyes wide opened, like she did not believe him.

Lu Zhou rinsed the pot, smiled, and said, "Yeah, you think I'm the same as you?"

Han Mengqi raised her chin unhappily and asked, "What are you implying?"

"Nothing. If you don't have anything to do, go and read the thing that I wrote. It's in the living room. It'll help you," said Lu Zhou while rinsing the pot. He did not even turn his head around.

This family had not cooked for so long that there was a layer of dust on top of the pan. Lu Zhou had to wash it multiple times in order to clean it thoroughly.

Other than sandwiches, the fridge surprisingly also had some fresh food. As Han Mengqi would say, it was for "that woman" to make salads.

"I'll fry some cabbage and fry some chicken breast with chili. That's two dishes right there. I'll cook two cups of rice. If it's too much, I'll eat more."

Lu Zhou washed his hands and placed the chopping board on the kitchen countertop. He used his experienced hands and chopped up the food. The chicken breast was slightly cumbersome as he had to boil them in water first. Temperature could not be too high, otherwise the meat would become tough, making it difficult to chew.

However, for Lu Zhou, this was not a problem.

During the time when his mother was sick, he would cook for his family on an almost daily basis. Although he had not been in a kitchen for two years, he still had not forgotten what he learned.

Han Mengqi sat on the living room sofa and listened to the chopping sounds coming from the kitchen. She looked at the outline Lu Zhou wrote her and felt so annoyed that she could not focus.

After a while, the kitchen door opened. The aroma of the food plunged into the tip of her nose.

Han Mengqi's nose twitched. Her mouth started to water and her stomach rumbled.

Lu Zhou's voice called out to her.

"Come eat if you're hungry. Add the rice yourself."

Han Mengqi wanted to say some mean words. She looked at the revision textbooks on the coffee table and then at the food on the table. In the end, she decided not to say those inappropriate words. Instead, she murmured, "Ok" and went into the bathroom.

People generally knew the difference between good intentions and malicious intentions.

Han Mengqi washed her hands and served half a bowl of rice for herself. She sat across from Lu Zhou.

She looked at the home cooked dishes and hesitated. She grabbed a piece of cabbage with her chopsticks and suddenly looked at Lu Zhou with suspicion in her eyes, "You didn't put anything weird in here right?"

Lu Zhou heard her and nearly choked on his rice. He raised his head to stare angrily at this chick before saying, "Are you crazy? I'm literally eating it as well."

Han Mengqi blushed. She realized how stupid her question was. She did not want to admit her stupidity and said stubbornly, "Isn't there a drug where if you eat it first, you are immune to the poison..."

Lu Zhou said rudely, "You must be stupid from watching too much television. Don't eat it if you don't want to. Go and eat your sandwiches."

Han Mengqi stuck her tongue out and did not say anything as she continued to eat.

While eating, the two did not exchange a single word.

They ate slowly. Lu Zhou finished his rice and was about to stand up, but when he saw Han Mengqi went into the kitchen and served herself another bowl of rice, he was surprised.

Isn't this her third bowl?

Why did this chick eat so much?

Lu Zhou looked at her tiny body in disbelief. It did not look like she could eat much.

Maybe she only added a bit of rice each time?

Lu Zhou walked to the rice cooker, opened it, and was instantly shocked.

There's no more?

Lu Zhou looked back at Han Mengqi who was eating fiercely.

"What... Are you looking at me for?" asked Han Mengqi. She noticed Lu Zhou was staring at her and felt embarrassed. She swallowed the food in her mouth and asked, "How about I give you some?"

"No, thanks... You're still growing, you should eat more," said Lu Zhou as he nodded his head. He then placed the cutlery and bowls into the kitchen sink.

He was about to finish tidying up the kitchen when Han Mengqi walked in with her empty bowl and looked at Lu Zhou apologetically, "How about... I wash the dishes?"

This guy was too hard working to the point that even she felt embarrassed.

"It's fine. Just leave it there. Go use this time and study in the living room," said Lu Zhou. He was washing the dishes and did not even turn his head.

Studying again?!

Han Mengqi made a funny face behind Lu Zhou's back before she turned around and walked to the living room.

Lu Zhou finished cleaning the kitchen and walked back to the living room. When he saw the chick reading the material that he wrote, he smiled in his heart. He sat next to her and asked, "How is it? Can you understand?"

"Yeah... It's too easy."

"Easy? You messed up quite a lot of these easy questions," said Lu Zhou. He took out a past exam paper and said, "For example, this question. It asked you to determine the relationship between the line and the circle according to the equation. As I see it, it was free marks."

Han Mengqi pouted and argued, "You're already in university, of course this is easy for you."

"Really? I didn't learn this stuff in university. I haven't touched this type of question in a year. I just looked at it this afternoon," answered Lu Zhou with a smile.

"Well, this is my level of mathematics. Do what you want," said Han Mengqi. She gave up, leaned against the sofa, and crossed her legs.

"You're giving up? I think I can still help you," said Lu Zhou.

“You don’t have to comfort me. I know my own situation. I basically didn’t study last semester,” said Han Mengqi with an expressionless face as she crossed her arms.

Lu Zhou smiled and replied, “You don’t even have the courage to try?”

“Don’t try to bait me with that.”

Ah...

He had not expected her to see through his trick.

The atmosphere cooled down again. Han Mengqi was playing on her phone. She did not know why she did not lock herself in her room again. However, she did not say a single word to Lu Zhou.

The sky gradually became dark and Lu Zhou turned on the living room lights.

At this moment he realized that having a big house was not a good thing.

The more people the better. It was pretty empty if one were alone. The dark and empty house looked like it could suck away someone’s soul.

Lu Zhou took a book from the bookshelves and sat on the living room sofa as he quietly began to read.

Han Mengqi was playing on her phone when she secretly looked at him and quietly muttered.

“Thank you.”

“What?” asked Lu Zhou. He turned his face towards her slightly and looked at her with a confused expression.

"Your cooking... was very tasty," said Han Mengqi with a stiff tone as she kept looking at her phone.

"It's very simple stuff... Your mom has never cooked them for you?" asked Lu Zhou.

Han Mengqi's facial expression was cold as she scoffed, "Her? She doesn't cook... I barely even see her."

No wonder she ate so much. She probably hasn't eaten home cooked meals in a long time!

Lu Zhou thought his cooking skills had improved, but it turned out he misunderstood.

"What about your father?"

Lu Zhou instantly regretted asking this question because the answer was obvious.

"He's fighting a legal case with my mom, but it should be done soon," said Han Mengqi with a still expressionless face as she hugged her leg while sitting on the sofa..

Lu Zhou's throat choked up slightly. He did not know why, but seeing her like this made him felt sympathetic towards her.

Han Mengqi looked straight ahead and suddenly spoke.

"... In the future, can you still cook for me?"

Lu Zhou thought for a bit and said, "If you study hard, I'll think about it."

"... Wow, preconditions. lame," replied Han Mengqi before turning her head around.

Lu Zhou said, "After all, my job performance is going to be evaluated. If your mom thought that I was doing a bad job, she could fire me, alright?"

"There's no solution to that. That woman loves to force other people to do stuff," said Han Mengqi. She lowered her head and hugged her kneecaps tightly as she said, "I'll try to work hard, but no guarantees."

"Ok," Lu Zhou smiled, "then we'll settle at that."

The pair started to discuss school work. The tension was high at first but it quickly became relaxing.

It was around eleven o'clock when the sound of a car came from downstairs.

Soon after, the entrance door opened. Mrs. Yang finally came home.

Han Mengqi silently looked at her mother and did not say anything. She went back to her room.

The woman's face remained the same as usual. She looked at the textbooks and the summaries on the coffee table. Her eyebrows relaxed and she bowed slightly to Lu Zhou. Her tired voice sounded deeply apologetic as she said, "I'm very sorry for delaying your time. How about I send you home?"

"No need, I can just call a DiDi," said Lu Zhou as he waved his hand. He smiled and said, "Stay home with your daughter. She still needs a lot of work to build the foundation of her mathematics. I gave her a study outline. If she spends time studying it, I believe that she can catch up."

"Thank you, Teacher Lu. I'll remind her," said Mrs. Yang with a smile as she nodded her head.

"No problem. I'm leaving. Oh yeah, you guys should communicate more. I mean, regarding studying. After all, studying can't be rushed. It'll create an opposite effect if you pushed her too hard. It's better to let the child find her own problem solving rhythm."

Mrs. Yang offered to send Lu Zhou home again, but Lu Zhou still declined. He took the elevator down and called a DiDi cab.

After he got in the car, Mrs. Yang used WeChat pay and sent the money to Lu Zhou's phone.

The first five hours was 200 per hour, the last five was 400 per hour, that added up to 3000 yuan.

He looked at the 3000 yuan pay and could not help but think.

Rich people really don't value money...

He only had 3000 or so in his bank account and he had instantly doubled his bank account.

If it was not for the summer classes that he had to attend, he would work here every day...

Chapter 35

Is it even that spicy?

Lu Zhou ate a fish ball and was confused. He chewed and spoke at the same time, "Hope? Probably? I'll try my best."

"Then I'll have to rely on you. My cousin... In fact, her science scores during middle school were pretty good, but then... Ahh, it's so spicy!"

Lu Zhou gave her a cup of water and asked, "Then what?"

Chen Yushan drank the cup of water and stuck her tongue out cutely as she took in a breath before saying, "Then... My auntie and uncle had some relationship problems. They're fighting for Meng Qi's custody. I don't know the exact situation. In short, Meng Qi is living with my Auntie right now."

Lu Zhou nodded his head quietly and did not say anything.

He did not care about other people's personal business as he was a very private person.

After they finished eating the spicy hotpot, Lu Zhou sent Chen Yushan back to her dorm. He then walked back to the library.

While he was walking to the library, he received two emails.

The first email was from Professor Liu. It was feedback on the data modeling exercise.

The second email was a reply from the [Modern Communication and Geographic Information Technology] journal. It said that the payment for the theses had already been transferred to his bank card. 150 per thesis, 1350 yuan in total.

“ ... ”

Only 1350 for nine SCI theses, academics really don't earn any money...

Lu Zhou could not help but think.

1350 yuan was still quite a bit of money. If he added the 3000 he earned yesterday, he would have 7000 yuan in his bank account. It would be enough for his tuition fees.

He wanted to delay the payment and pay right before he graduated, but he did not have to do that anymore.

Over the next few days, Lu Zhou had a very structured lifestyle. He would grind books all night on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Tuesdays and Thursday were used as revision days. In addition, he kept up with his mathematical modeling practices.

Sometimes, he felt that if he could maintain these good studying habits, he could become a genius even without help from the system.

It was just that his progress increased with the system's help.

It was like he was traveling at the speed of a rocket...

It was finally Saturday. As usual, Lu Zhou went to Mrs. Yang's house to tutor Han Mengqi in mathematics.

It might have been due to the previous incident or that Mrs. Yang had reached an agreement with her daughter because when Mrs. Yang left for work, she did not lock the door. She only asked Lu Zhou to take care of her daughter.

The mother was expressionless when she left. Han Mengqi looked at Lu Zhou and said, "Let's start then."

She turned around and walked into her room.

Lu Zhou followed Han Mengqi footsteps into her bedroom. It was only a week since he last saw her, but he was surprised to see her room tidy and clean.

They did not have any unnecessary conversations. Han Mengqi opened the book and turned to the bookmarked page. She looked at Lu Zhou.

"I've already studied the topic [analytic geometry] from the outline you gave me, now what?"

"What?" said Lu Zhou with his eyebrows raised. He smiled and said, "Do you not understand something?"

"I understand everything. It feels pretty easy," said Han Mengqi. She raised her tiny head and said impatiently, "Now what?"

"I'll test you," said Lu Zhou. He took an A4 paper and started to write on it.

[In the Cartesian coordinate system x and y , the left and right focus of the ellipse $C1: x^2/a^2 + y^2/b^2 = 1$ ($a > b > 0$) are $F1$ and $F2$, respectively. Where $F2$ is also the focal point of parabola $C2: y^2 = 4x$, point M is the intersection of $C1$ and $C2$ in the first quadrant, and $|MF2| = 5/3$. Find the equation for $C1$.]

Lu Zhou finished writing the question and made a gesture of invitation.

Han Mengqi raised her eyebrows. She had not expected Lu Zhou to test her.

She clenched her teeth, picked up the pen, and stared at the draft paper for a long time.

Ten minutes had passed and she only solved the first step.

Which was:

[From $C2: y^2 = 4x$, $F1 = (1, 0)$.]

Lu Zhou waited for 10 minutes. He looked at his watch, smiled, and said, "In the exam, you'd have 10 minutes for this question at most. Looking at your answer, you'd only receive 3 marks."

"Well..." said Han Mengqi as she clenched her teeth. She did not want to give up. The more you force yourself to solve a problem, the harder it was to solve.

Lu Zhou smiled and took out an exam paper from the pile of study materials. He pointed at question number two and said, "The most important part is, you got this exact question wrong in your exam."

"... You're bullying me," said Han Mengqi. She threw her pen down angrily as she continued, "I know I'm stupid, okay?"

"I'm only teaching you. I didn't say you are stupid. Actually, I think that you are very smart. Don't put yourself down," said Lu Zhou. He picked up the pen she threw and finished the question on the A4 paper. "The key to this problem is to determine the value of M , so the second step is setting M as (x_1, y_1) , and according to $|MF2| = 5/3$, and M on the parabola $C2$..."

“Our second goal is to find the semi-focal length of the ellipse C1. Once you solve this step, the remaining parts are just understanding the equations.”

Lu Zhou wrote down the key steps on the A4 paper and clarified the problem-solving process.

Han Mengqi was annoyed at first, but she soon started to stare at the paper intently.

Finally, her face was enlightened.

Han Mengqi nodded and looked at the paper seriously. Her eyebrows tensed up and her tiny mouth moved, “So this is how you solve it...”

“Your teacher has definitely explained this to you. You just didn’t listen.”

Han Mengqi’s tone was argumentative, “My teacher... Didn’t explain it in so much detail.”

Lu Zhou replied, “Try telling that to your maths teacher. He’d be insanely pissed off.”

Han Mengqi was so angry that her teeth started to rattle. She did not have anything to say and just groaned.

“No wonder my sister said you were harsh...”

Lu Zhou: ? ? ?

Someone talked sh*t behind my back?

I can’t pretend that I didn’t hear this.

Lu Zhou coughed and diverted the conversation. He picked up a pen and said, "This question is a typical intersection to find an elliptic equation problem. I think that when you encounter this question next time, you can at least get half of the marks."

Han Mengqi tilted her head and asked, "What about the other half?"

"The other half of the marks are in question two. This type of high school exam question usually contained a vector problem in the second part..."

Lu Zhou talked and wrote on the back of the exam paper.

[The point N on a plane satisfies vector $\overrightarrow{MN} = \text{vector } \overrightarrow{MF_1} + \text{vector } \overrightarrow{MF_2}$. Straight line $L \parallel MN$, C_1 intersects A and B. $\overrightarrow{OA} \cdot \overrightarrow{OB} = 0$, find the equation of L.]

Han Mengqi saw the question and was instantly stuck. Helpless, she looked at Lu Zhou.

However, Lu Zhou did not look at her. He sat next to the bed, picked up an exercise book, and started to look for the next example.

"Try doing it yourself. I'll help you if you can't solve it. 15 minutes. Start now."

Han Mengqi did worse than the first question. She was only able to write one line that was correct and everything else was wrong.

It might have been because Lu Zhou had a younger sister who was similar in age to Han Mengqi. So, he was not impatient at all. He did not laugh at her or call this a "free marks question". Instead, he explained the solving steps to her patiently.

When Han Mengqi saw the steps on the paper, her eyes widened and she said quietly, "Wow you're so good..."

“My study technique is to constantly evaluate my mistakes and learn from them. I hope you can copy down the questions that you can’t solve into a book, then every week I can explain them to you,” said Lu Zhou. He gave Han Mengqi the pen back and continued, “Having a book full of your mistakes is how you learn any mathematics or science subject. If you want to learn science subjects well, you have to be prepared. It’s like an attack and damage carry buying a Doran’s blade or a support buying wards. It’s all basic preparation.”

Han Mengqi’s eyes lit up. She was suddenly interested and interrupted, “You play League of Legends as well? Which server? I’m good at support!”

“... Black rose server.”

“Let me add you as a friend! Give me your QQ number!”

Lu Zhou reached out and knocked her forehead. He looked at her and said impatiently, “Stop playing games and get 100 marks in your exam first!”

Chapter 36

Lu Zhou replied while pouring the oil into the pot, “This is my first time.”

Han Mengqi’s eyes widened. She had not expected his answer and said, “Really? I think you’re pretty good at teaching.”

“You think so? Probably because I used to occasionally tutor my little sister,” said Lu Zhou. He stir-fried the mincemeat, put in the tofu, added water, and covered the pot with a lid. He then turned the fire to a simmer and went to chop tomatoes.

He was making mapo tofu. As for the tomatoes, he was preparing it for fried eggs with tomatoes.

“You have a little sister?” asked Han Mengqi in surprise. She then added, “How old is she?”

“Same age as you. Grade 10 now and she’ll be Grade 11 after this summer.”

Han Mengqi twitched her nose. She was envious and sighed.

“I’m so jealous...”

“What are you jealous for? A little sister is very annoying.”

Han Mengqi tilted her head and asked, “Do you hate your sister?”

Lu Zhou thought for a bit and shook his head, “Of course not, she’s my family. Why would I hate her?”

He did not mention that one should love your family no matter what.

“I’m still jealous...” said Han Mengqi. She pouted, “I wish I have a brother.”

What? Maybe she wants to be the troublesome sibling?

Lu Zhou rolled his eyes.

Han Mengqi stood next to him as she looked at the boiling pot and did not say anything. Suddenly she asked curiously, “Would my parents still make me a brother if they divorced?”

Lu Zhou thought and replied, “I don’t know... Even if they did, it’d be a younger brother.”

Speaking of which, why are you so looking forward to your parents’ divorce?

Unexplainable.

Han Mengqi blushed and realized that she had asked a stupid question. She stuck her tongue out and did not say anything.

Lu Zhou placed the rice on the table. This time, he cooked three cups so that they did not have to worry about running out of rice to eat.

Han Mengqi sat on the dining table and started to eat the mapo tofu. Her fair forehead was full of sweat and her neck was moist from the steam but she did not complain as she ate happily.

Lu Zhou looked at this chick. He smiled and said, "You're like your cousin. You guys both like spicy food."

Han Mengqi opened her mouth and was about to eat when she put down the spoon and tilted her head, "What? My cousin doesn't like spicy food."

Lu Zhou: ? ? ?

Han Mengqi tilted her head and confused, she asked Lu Zhou, "What?"

"Nothing?" replied Lu Zhou with an awkward expression.

I'll apologize to her the next time I buy her food...

They finished eating and Lu Zhou tidied up the table. He warned Han Mengqi to stay safe when she was alone at home and left.

He called a DiDi cab outside the apartment and went back to school.

Just as Lu Zhou was getting off the car in front of the school, he received a WeChat message from Mrs. Yang.

[Transfer: 1000]

Also...

[Yang Danqi: Thank you.]

Lu Zhou saw the thank you message and paused. He smiled and typed, [You're welcome.]

He was going to put his phone back into his pocket when a call came through.

He saw that Liu Rui was calling. Lu Zhou laughed. He thought that Liu Rui must have forgotten his keys and picked up the call.

However, just as he was about to tease the kid, an eager voice came through.

"Brother Zhou, something bad happened!"

...

Liu Rui immediately notified Lu Zhou.

Liu Rui was pretty arrogant sometimes, but he was not malevolent. Therefore, Lu Zhou decided to put up with him.

The important thing was, what exactly happened?

Lu Zhou went back to the dorm, picked up Liu Rui's phone, and started to read the article.

[On the topic of modern Chinese university academics: Starting from an undergraduate student's thesis]

The article discussed the overall situation of Chinese academics, from mathematics to physics, from computer science to philosophy. The last sentence talked about why China did not produce great scientists like Einstein and Newton.

Anyone that had written an article would know that the broader a question was, the more one could bullsh*t about it. One did not even have to be an expert to answer the question.

Then the article criticized the academic value of posting nine SCI theses into one journal. It portrayed this undergraduate student as an “academic cancer” that did not know anything.

Correct, they actually used the word “academic cancer”.

Finally, it said that this undergraduate student came from the University of Jin Ling and the first name was Zhou.

The author was a scholar, commentator, scientific writer and a well known intellectual. He even had a “verified” check mark next to his profile picture.

This guy has millions of followers.

However...

Lu Zhou was muddled.

Who is this guy?

I don't even know you. What the hell are you doing?

I wrote the theses with my own abilities so why shouldn't I publish them? How did it affect you?

Liu Rui did not realize the seriousness of the situation and he laughed as he said, “When did you learn computer science? When did you submit to SCI?”

He had a thought but did not say it. It was: “I’ll try submitting as well.”

“I learned it while watching a movie! Why?” answered Lu Zhou angrily as he stared at him.

Liu Rui saw that Lu Zhou was angry so he shut his mouth up.

Lu Zhou took in a deep breath and once he calmed down, he asked, “Where did you see this?”

He did not believe that this kid would be bored enough to follow some so-called education commentator.

“A computer science student from my mathematical modeling training group posted it and I saw it... But I didn’t post it to my news feed!” clarified Liu Rui.

Jealousy was still jealousy. Just because he was competitive did not mean that he was malevolent. Lu Zhou knew that his own roommate would not stab him in the back.

Lu Zhou did not respond and continued to read Weibo.

Liu Rui saw that Liu Rui did not speak so he asked, “What are we going to do?”

Lu Zhou did not know either. He did not even have a Weibo account. He had heard of Weibo before but never signed up.

Lu Zhou, “Insult him for me.”

Liu Rui, “Insult for what? Wait, why don’t you insult him yourself?”

Lu Zhou, "I don't have a Weibo account."

Liu Rui: "..."

Finally, Liu Rui and Lu Zhou decided not to bother with this scum.

Who cares if you criticize me?

Little boy, I won't even respond to you. Go and play with yourself! Who cares about you!

Then, Lu Zhou carried his computer bag and went to the library.

However, his analysis of the situation was oversimplified.

He was not just Lu Zhou, but he was also a University of Jin Ling student...

Chapter 37

"Not realistic... This guy, Zhu Fangcai, knows what his level is at. Look at his titles. Education commentator, science writer. He's operating in a different field than us," said the secretary at the meeting table. He shook his head and said, "He's looking for a conflict. He won't negotiate with you."

This situation was difficult to deal with.

The student did not do anything wrong and the university obviously could not expel the student. The issue was that the public was one-sided and they condemned the university.

The whole situation was ridiculous. A non-academic pointing fingers by using his own status and influence.

The school management staff did not understand the motivation.

Thank god this did not happen during university application times. Otherwise, the people at this meeting would be furious.

Regardless, the situation had seriously damaged the university's reputation!

Principal Xu's facial expression was bad. He was silent for half a minute before he said slowly, "Right now, it's not important if the theses are of good quality. What's important is that the community has questioned our integrity. Our top priority is to remove those suspicions and clarify the situation. On the other hand, we also have to figure out what exactly happened!"

They discussed for the entire afternoon and finally came up with two decisions.

On one hand, the school had to save their public reputation and to explain the academic value of these theses. They also had to send a cease and desist letter and to ask for an apology. On the other hand, they had to ask the deans to find out who Lu was and to figure out the exact situation.

Nine SCI theses in one month with one more thesis off from double digits. It did sound fishy. These professors from various departments all submitted substandard theses for financial gain, but they never did something this crazy!

However, at this moment, the various deans did not know that Lu Zhou actually submitted 10 theses. Instead of computer science, the last one was in mathematics...

...

Weibo comments.

[F*ck me, an undergraduate student publishing 9 SCI theses, must be a scam. Is it really that easy to publish?]

[... I think I can do it as well. (dog emoji)]

[Support Teacher Zhou! Fight against academic cancer! Correct this fraud! (fist) (fist)]

[A student claiming to be from MIT said that this would never happen in America. The journal must have been exploited and the review process was fake...]

[Sad! What kind of students are my university producing! What's the use of writing theses? Can you turn the thesis into a nuclear bomb? Even an undergraduate student can publish so many, our country's academia is hopeless...]

[You try writing nine theses in a month, bunch of keyboard warriors.]

F*ck, what the hell is this?

Not even one person with a normal IQ is on my side?

Twenty thousand shares, ten thousand comments, countless views!

Lu Zhou sat in an empty classroom and scrolled through Weibo. He did not have a solution.

No one wants to figure out the truth. They only wanted to believe what is in front of them.

According to Mr. Zhu, the theses were worthless, but how many people actually read them?

Impossible.

Lu Zhou wanted to get revenge on these accusations and registered a Weibo account. He sent out a comment and no one even liked it.

Maybe this is the consequence of having an unpopular Weibo account...

Lu Zhou meditated and calmed himself down. He turned off his phone and scratched his head.

He thought he had selected the easier mission. Never had he thought that he would get in this much trouble.

This was due to his negligence as well. If he had used an alias to publish the theses, no one would notice. It was too late now.

Suddenly, his phone rang.

It was from Professor Tang.

Lu Zhou had a confused expression on his face. There was no reason for Professor Tang to call him.

Is it because of the theses? Hopefully not, right?

Lu Zhou had a feeling of uncertainty as he picked up the phone.

"Hello?"

"Little Zhou, what are you up to?"

Lu Zhou heard that his voice was calm and he relaxed as he replied, "I'm studying in the classroom, what's up?"

Professor Tang paused for a second before continuing, "Come to my office if you're free."

"Now?"

“Yeah, now.”

...

Lu Zhou tidied up his laptop and books before heading to Professor Tang’s office.

He walked in and saw that Dean Lu from the mathematics department and Dean Zhang from the computer science department were also there.

Lu Zhou walked in and the three professors smiled. They glanced at each other subtly and used their body language to communicate. Finally, it was Professor Tang that sighed and said, “Lu Zhou, I have to ask you something.”

Lu Zhou replied, “Professor, please ask.”

Professor Tang continued, “That time period... After you submitted the maths thesis, did you submit to SCI again?”

Lu Zhou knew that he could not hide and so, he replied honestly, “Yeah I did.”

Dean Zhang looked at Dean Lu before saying helplessly, “I knew it. There are not that many students in our department with the first name Lu. None of them know how to write a thesis, much less submitting one.”

Professor Tang was worried. He asked wistfully, “You submitted a mathematics thesis right?”

“Yeah...” said Lu Zhou honestly as he nodded his head. He then added softly, “And other theses... Ones about artificial intelligence and geography information systems.”

Professor Tang’s eyes nearly popped out, “You... Why did you jump to computer science! Weren’t you researching Mersenne prime numbers just a few days ago?”

"I saw that the submission paid money. 150 yuan per thesis," said Lu Zhou apologetically. He looked at Professor Tang and quietly said, "Then I separated my research into nine parts, and submitted it..."

Professor Tang: "..."

Dean Lu: "..."

Dean Zhang: "..."

Was there an issue?

There obviously was no issue. After all, the university encouraged students to submit theses. Submitting for money was a bit weird, but nothing bad...

However, this situation created an issue.

The office became dead silent. Dean Lu finally coughed and spoke in a kind tone, "Uh... Student Lu, did you write the thesis yourself?"

"Yeah, of course," said Lu Zhou. He nodded his head as he continued, "I wrote them inside the library."

He was not lying because buying knowledge from the system was not enough to write the theses. He still had to research the parts that he did not understand. At most, he just copied the calculation processes.

He read more than a hundred documents and countless books to write those theses.

They did not even have to look at the security cameras. They could just ask him some artificial intelligence or GIS system questions and Lu Zhou would be able to answer all of them.

Of course, if they asked him some difficult questions like the application of artificial intelligence in other fields, he might not have been able to answer it. However, he could still use general points to buy the answer on the spot. It just that it would be wasteful...

Dean Lu did not know what to say. It was Dean Zhang that stood up, smiled, and said, "Dean Lu didn't mean anything by that. He was just surprised that you were so proficient in information science. I've seen your C language exam. 95 is very good. I obviously believe that you wrote the theses yourself... But some people don't believe you and one even wrote an article about it. Have you been on Weibo?"

Actually, strictly speaking, most of the artificial intelligence was written in C++, which is quite different from C. The teacher only taught the basic syntax of C++ and did not dive deep in the language at all.

Dean Zhang knew that anyone that could write a thesis like that, would be proficient in C as well. A score of 95 satisfied his expectations.

"You're talking about that article?" asked Lu Zhou.

"Yes," said Dean Zhang. He stared at Lu Zhou and nodded, "You've read it?"

Lu Zhou replied, "I've read it." Even though he was furious, he still acted calm on the outside. He shook his head and carelessly said, "Those articles have no brains. I refuse to step down to their level."

In his heart, he actually wanted to stab the author.

"Student Lu, I have to correct you," said Dean Lu. He looked at Lu Zhou seriously, "You're not just one person. You're a student from our school. You represent our school's reputation! We'll not allow any immoral students but we also will not allow anyone to tarnish our student's reputation. I hope you can adjust your attitude and take this seriously."

"But Dean Lu, I can't do anything. I wrote to him and he did not reply," said Lu Zhou impatiently.

“Actually, Dean Lu just wanted you to have a more positive attitude,” said Dean Zhang with a soothing tone. “Regarding the public reputation, our school will do a press conference. We hope that you can cooperate with us and speak up for yourself and the school. Is that okay?”

You guys just want me to speak up?

Easy, why didn’t you tell me that earlier?

Lu Zhou relaxed and nodded his head.

“I agree!”

Chapter 38

However, Zhu Fangcai would call him a “high school student”, which annoyed Wang Wei. After all, no one liked to be exposed over and over again.

Wang Wei saw his name and lost interest. He did not even read the article as it was just trying to make mischief with big words.

Using an undergraduate student’s nine theses to discuss Chinese academia?

Who the hell are you?

At this moment, a knocking sound came from his office door.

“Come in.”

The person that came in was called Liang Shenghao. He was the technical director of the company’s drone logistics research and development center. Graduated from Caltech, he had a dual degree in logistics management and computer science and he was only thirty years old.

Due to the recent advancements in drone technology, the concept of drones was trending. Shunfeng was the leading enterprise in domestic private logistics, and naturally, it refused to fall behind in the field of drones. Therefore, it had established an unmanned aerial vehicle logistics project in cooperation with DJI and invested 500 million and built an R&D facility in Shenzhen.

Of course, due to hardware restrictions, it was very difficult to achieve drone distributions in the short term.

Wang Wei obviously knew this. Therefore, even though this R&D center was technically supposed to be a UAV logistics R&D center, there were not many researchers that engaged in UAV logistics R&D. The main R&D projects were concentrated in the direction of intelligent logistics.

What it meant was that it was using big data to predict warehouse location and merchant sales, as well as improving automatic sorting technology, etc.

Liang Shenghao walked to the office desk and placed a computer science magazine on the desk. He smiled and said, "CEO Wong, I found a genius for you."

"What?" Wang Wei put down his phone and looked at the magazine. He smiled and said, "Modern Communication and Geographic Information Technology? Didn't you tell me last time that there was a lot of substandard work in this journal? You finally ordered one?"

"I read all computer science journals, especially ones related to artificial intelligence. I don't really read domestic journals though," said Liang Shenghao. He pushed his glasses and continued, "Thank god I saw the article on trending, otherwise these theses would be in the trash."

"You're talking about?" Wang Wei's expression was slightly weird.

"That's right. That undergraduate student who submitted nine theses. I looked at them and the calculations mentioned in the theses were pretty interesting. It's just that..."

Oh?

An undergraduate student is able to get your attention?

Wang Wei was interested. He sat up straight and said, "Just what?"

"It's just that his research is a bit... Advanced," said Liang Shenghao. He thought about the words that he should use and continued, "UAV logistics delivery is still a concept. Not a single company in the world can achieve the hardware standards for delivery drones. Therefore, shipping companies around the world are still tied up on the hardware side."

Wang Wei nodded and asked, "I know this, what else?"

"But the content of his theses was based on the theoretical feasibility of drone delivery. For example, in his paper, he proposed to construct the concept of logistics 'honeycombs' in the city, docking with the sorting center, introducing the drone into the GIS system, automatically finding the way in the case of unmanned operations. It could identify the address through the camera, confirm the person receiving the object based on the face recognition technology, confirming the receipt by a gesture, and automatically uploading the alarm data when the drone is interfered with..."

Liang Shenghao spoke until here and stopped.

Wang Wei's fingers tapped lightly on the desk. He paused for a long time then said, "Okay, so he made a suggestion?"

If Lu Zhou had just made a suggestion, it would not have been anything special. Anyone could make a powerpoint on artificial intelligence and make some statements. Being able to mention those ideas just meant that he had some understanding of the topic.

However, if Lu Zhou's level was actually that low, he would not even get past the HR department.

"Not just a suggestion," said Liang Shenghao. He shooked his head, "It also mentioned a calculation method, mainly regarding facial recognition and GIS system. This is why I think this kid has skills. Especially the algorithms he wrote for facial recognition. Although I can spot some flaws in them, they could still be groundbreaking. Our research facility can even do additional research on his work."

It was not just an idea. Lu Zhou also realized his idea, which was a completely different story.

It was like a person saying, “I want to build an apartment”, then finding two people and placing down two bricks. The value that those people built was different than the value of an idea.

Even though this undergraduate student had only realized a tiny percentage of his research, Wang Wei did not care. Any research required a long process. The higher the value of the research project, the more money and time it would take.

Wang Wei did not say anything. Instead, he picked up the computer science magazine and flipped to Lu Zhou’s page.

[UAV logistics research and development prospects and framework discussion]

[A pixel analysis algorithm based on artificial intelligence]

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

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

[.....]

Even though the individual theses might be substandard, the total sum value of the theses was still substantial.

Liang Shenghao saw that his CEO did not speak, so he continued, “Publishing an algorithm like this on a journal is too wasteful, I recommend sending him a job offer and directly hiring him into our company. He can help us with research.”

“Not so fast,” said Wang Wei as he waved his hand.

Liang Shenghao frowned as he said, "Are you doubting his education? From his performance, even a graduate student in applied artificial intelligence wouldn't be as valuable as him. Also, even though we won't use UAV logistics in the short term, we will eventually have to enter this field! We should start preparing now. It's better now than later."

Computer science was a new subject. It was different than in other fields. Even though education was still important, it was not crucial for many successful tech entrepreneurs.

After all, those people with special talents would not be at job fairs. They would be on the list of famous companies' recruitment list.

"Haha, you don't have to teach me this. I only look at skills, you know that," said Wang Wei. He smiled and threw the magazine on the table, "Don't send the offer just yet, let's wait for a while. After all, we are the only Chinese company doing UAV delivery logistics so no one will steal him from us."

Liang Shenghao paused. He was about to say something but when realized the underlying meaning from the CEO, his eyes lit up.

I see...

My CEO is so smart!

An energetic young person being criticized like this, getting his research called worthless, must have built up a grievance in his heart.

Let that Zhu Fangcai clown attack him a bit more and wait till Lu Zhou can't handle the pressure anymore. Then Shunfung group will come out and offer a 500 thousand per year job to him, affirming his research value...

Then he would be loyal to Shunfeng forever!

A person with a high salary could always get a better position at another company. Therefore, many companies use employee benefits and stocks to retain their employees. The first key to employee

retainment was convincing that the company's future was bright. The other was placing the company in the employee's heart, making the company special to them.

In some sense, the latter was more important than the former.

Wang Wei leaned against his office chair, smiled, and said, "Put this magazine here, I'll remember this. Go and do your own stuff."

"Okay," nodded Liang Shenghao before he left the office.

Chapter 39

Who cares about your lawyer's letter!

This isn't my first time someone threatened to sue me.

This would continue to make him trending!

He had gained four hundred thousand followers over the past two days, making him passed 3 million followers! His ad revenue had increased substantially. He just had to roast this lawyer a bit and he could surpass 4 million followers!

Therefore, Zhu Fangcai did not respond to Lawyer Zhang's letter at all. Not only that, he immediately opened up Weibo on his computer and started to write his second blog post.

In other words, his words of battle!

[The Embarrassing Angry Hypocrite: Speaking From a Lawyer's Letter]

Zhu Fangcai looked at the title in satisfaction and continued to tap on the keyboard. He followed his template and started to fill in the words.

“University of Jin Ling gave a reply that there is no problem with the theses. They’re very bureaucratic and official.”

“I’ve thought about it. Even if the theses had no problems, what gives an undergraduate student the right to publish nine SCI theses in a month?! Who can even prove that he wrote them himself? He must have plagiarized or had a ghostwriter!”

“... The university found out about a fake student and did not even investigate the student. Instead, they tried to seal the mouth of the author through a lawyer’s letter. This type of approach disappointed every single citizen that cares about education! This student must have come from a privileged background!”

“I’ll say I’m sorry if I offended some big celebrity. But I’ll not apologize for this! Why should I apologize for something I’m incomparably correct on? I’m a science researcher. I think that writing nine theses within a month is impossible. I’m also an education commentator and I think I and the public have the right to remain suspicious!”

“I’ll apologize if I get to confront the person named Lu and make him answer all my suspicions, but is he going to do it?”

When Zhu Fangcai typed in “named Lu”, he paused for a second. His eyes turned and he had a sinister smile on his face. He pressed delete on the keyboard and typed in “a student named Zhou” instead.

Not only am I going to expose his last name, I’m exposing this Zhou’s first name as well!

Press send!

Zhu Fangcai pressed send, crossed his legs, and put his feet up.

Very soon after, likes and comments started to come through.

[Astonishing, he’s a first year!]

[I guess this nutty undergraduate student is named Lu Zhou! This story is finally solved.]

[I feel sorrow for our education system...]

[Support Teacher Zhu! Fight against academic fraud! (fist) (first)]

[If this was in country X, the police would arrest this kind of academic fraud...]

[What were the people thinking when they said that the theses had no problems. University of Jin Ling is obviously helping their own student for the sake of their reputation. But this student is in so much trouble, he's over. (smile)]

[...]

Hahahaha!

Zhu Fangcai looked at the increasing search numbers and was in ecstasy.

At this moment, the phone on his desk started to ring.

He cleared his throat and picked up the phone.

"Hello?"

"Hello, Mr. Zhu, this is University of Jin Ling's Academic Affairs Office..."

"Wow, impressive, you guys found my phone number? Let me tell you something, I'm not a student of yours. Skip the bullsh*t and get straight to the point," said Zhu Fangcai as he took out a cigarette, placed it in his mouth, and lighted it.

Zhu Fangcai's arrogant attitude shocked the teacher from the telephone. However, she restrained herself and said, "Then I'll get straight to the point. Your unwarranted accusation has caused problems for our student. I hope you can treat this situation seriously and issue an apology."

Zhu Fangcai laughed, flicked the ashes, and replied, "Problems? I don't think there are any problems. You can obviously question my words, but you guys cannot take away my freedom of speech!"

"You!" The teacher was furious at Zhu Fangcai's attitude, but she stopped after one word.

One could never overestimated the shamelessness of a scum. If he recorded the conversation and edited it, tomorrow's headline could be "university threatens a reporter."

The furious teacher did not speak, so Zhu Fangcai put his phone in his other hand and continued, "It's fine, let's not waste our time. I can apologize, but there are two things you have to prove to me. One, that the theses aren't fake and are of value! I'm warning you, I want proof from a higher authority and not from you guys. Second, that he actually wrote those theses! If you guys cannot prove these two points, then I'll continue to support my opinion! I'll fight for the integrity of the academic world!"

Once Zhu Fangcai finished speaking, he hung up the call instantly.

...

Lu Zhou felt like he became a panda. He did not know who leaked his WeChat but a lot of people had been adding him.

[Master, help write my thesis!]

[I want to ask about SCI, is it easy to pass?]

[Help write my theses, we can discuss the price.]

I guess some people can still recognize real talent.

Although their way of supporting me is pretty weird...

Of course, there were also a lot of people insulting him. They were probably Mr. Zhu's overly feverish fans.

Lu Zhou was used to it by this point. These people just used the same lines of insults repetitively. It was completely meaningless.

As for his family, they did not use weibo so they would never see this article. It did not affect his personal life much either and he still went to Han Meng Qi's place nonchalantly and tutored her in maths yesterday.

No one on the street knew that he was Lu Zhou. There were not that many people inside the school due to the school holidays.

At this moment, Lu Zhou suddenly noticed that Chen Yushan sent him a message.

[Chen Yushan: I haven't seen you in the library recently, are you okay?]

[Chen Yushan: That person is so evil! You worked so hard writing...]

[Chen Yushan: How about... I'll buy you dinner tonight?]

Lu Zhou felt warm that someone cared for him so much. His fingers touched his phone and typed:
[Another day. I still have to do an interview for Jin Ling Daily and I don't know when I'll finish.]

[Chen Yushan: You're going on the newspaper???]

[Lu Zhou: It's not because of something good though...]

Lu Zhou waited for a bit and Chen Yushan sent two messages.

[I believe in you!]

[You got this!]

What?

Lu Zhou laughed and then looked at the time on his phone.

It's about time!

Lu Zhou arrived in the classroom. In addition to Dean Lu, a couple of other leaders from the mathematical department were also present.

As they had seen Lu Zhou's theses, the professors' impression of him was good. Lu Zhou said hi to them and they even smiled at him.

Their own student was in the right, obviously they had to unite against the outside world.

The Jin Ling Daily reporter was preparing for the interview. Dean Lu took this time and dragged Lu Zhou aside to ask, "Are you ready? The reporter will tell you that you only have to answer the questions you know."

"I know," said Lu Zhou as he nodded.

Dean Lu did not say much. He patted his shoulders and said, "Then go ahead."

The interview began.

Lu Zhou sat on a chair in the classroom while he faced a camera and microphone. He was surprised to find himself calmer than expected.

The female reporter with a ponytail smiled at him. When she received the signal to begin, she said with the tone of a reporter, "Hello, I'm the reporter from Jin Ling Daily. Can I ask how you wrote nine SCI theses within a month?"

This question was expected.

Lu Zhou thought and said, "Actually, I didn't feel like it was too difficult. The nine theses were all related to the application of artificial intelligence, which is a relatively new field. I feel like my work wasn't very difficult. Also, I researched for quite a while before and I only started to write recently..."

The reporter chick nodded her head and looked at him in support. She continued to ask the second question, "Do you have anything to say regarding Mr. Zhu's question of your theses' value?"

"I think the proposition that my theses have no value is a false accusation. He doesn't know anything about computer science. Can he even understand my theses? Did he even check my calculations? He had probably never even read them or he can't even understand them..." said Lu Zhou impatiently.

"I think Mr. Zhu wouldn't be happy hearing this as he's a self proclaimed scientific writer," said the reporter as she laughed. She then continued to say, "But a first year... Or a soon to be second year student publishing in nine SCI theses within a month is a bit ridiculous. This is why the public is questioning you. Furthermore, Mr. Zhu brought up that the theses could be plagiarized or that it wasn't written by you..."

"Those are completely baseless accusations," shrugged Lu Zhou. He tried to maintain his cool, "I've written every single thesis in the library. I can ask the school for security tapes if you wish."

"There's no need for security tapes. You mentioned that you have also submitted a mathematics thesis, right?" The reporter sharply picked up on Lu Zhou's words and wanted to expand further on it.

Lu Zhou could not hide it. He would rather say it himself first before someone else digs it up and attacks him with it.

Lu Zhou nodded and admitted, "Yes, other than computer science theses, I have submitted two theses in the [International Journal of Theoretical and Applied Mathematics] journal. One of them was during the time I wrote the nine theses. So, actually I wrote ten theses within a month."

The reporter heard him and her eyes lit up. Dean Lu's face went blue. He looked at Lu Zhou intensely, hoping to convince him not to continue speaking about this topic.

However, Lu Zhou purposely did not look at Dean Lu.

Since others had chosen a high-key profile for Lu Zhou, there was no use for him staying low-key. He had to stay high-key in order to fight back.

After all, this isn't a simple debate. It is difficult for me to disprove the accusations. If I said that the academic reviewers can prove the value of my theses, they can jump out and doubt the authenticity of the academic reviewers. They will suspect that the journal and school are covering me for their own reputation.

Maybe the public can critically think for themselves...

Never mind, it's impossible.

The overwhelming public opinion would defeat him, regardless of the truth.

Therefore, Lu Zhou had already decided.

He could not be a normal person. A genius was abnormal.

If you want to paint me as an academic cancer, then I will paint myself as a genius!

The reporter nodded her head. She was about to ask the next question when loud knocking sounds suddenly came from outside the classroom.

The reporter was interrupted. Dean Lu frowned but the teacher that came in spoke with a joyful tone.

“Dean Lu! Our school received a “Thank You” letter from New York University. The recipient is Lu Zhou!”

Chapter 40

“Simply outrageous!”

The white-haired old man finished reading the newspaper, pushed his glasses, and shook his head. His finger on the table was shaking in anger.

A middle-aged man walked into the study room. When he saw the old man’s face, he asked, “Dad, what make you this angry?”

“Look at this yourself,” said the old man as he knocked on the newspaper with his finger.

The middle-aged man saw the newspaper’s cover page and suddenly realized.

He was different than his old retired father who would spend his day walking the dog and playing chess. He actually used the Internet frequently. He had obviously heard of this trending news. He was just talking about this with his colleague yesterday.

It did not matter if the theses actually had a problem. A self-proclaimed “expert” trying to catch an undergraduate student, was a greedy tactic for fame.

He’s just trying to stir up the pot, basically harassment.

You could even say that he’s destroying intellectuals, how devious!

The man smiled and asked, “You know about this as well?”

“An outsider pointing fingers, how outrageous! I can’t stand him! ...”

It was like his turbid pupils fell into the memories of the past.

The old man opened his mouth. He then sighed suddenly and shook his head.

“Never mind, I’m not saying it. It’s in the past.”

Then, he looked at the newspaper again. It cited a blog post about the blogger named Zhu Fangcai.

“... This article is well written, similar to the custom of the past.” said the old man. He supported himself on the chair armrests and stood up.

The middle-aged man asked, “Dad? You’re going out? We’re eating soon.”

The old man waved his hand and walked towards the door, “I’m not eating. I’m going to my old classmate’s house! I’m angry, my heart’s feeling uncomfortable!”

...

The Thank-You letter that [Jinling Daily] posted changed the public’s opinion.

A student acknowledged by New York University could not be academic cancer.

The people who were originally skeptical about Lu Zhou began to reflect on this new information.

New York University was ranked in Top 30 in the world. One could say that the University of Jin Ling was covering up their own reputation, but there was no reason for someone across the Pacific Ocean to do that, right? Furthermore, the Swiss research facility also sounded high-profile...

This report came out and Zhu Fangcai was outraged.

He could not sit still. He jumped out of his chair and published the third blog post.

He was no longer entangled in the academic value of the paper this time.

“Even though you can prove there’s nothing wrong with the thesis, you still can’t prove that you wrote it yourself!”

“How could an undergraduate student possibly write theses like this?”

“Who can prove it? The University of Jin Ling? Just because you went to the library a few times? I’ve been to the library countless times. How come I can’t write 10 theses in a month?”

“You said that you’re a genius. I don’t believe it!”

Lu Zhou looked at Zhu Fangcai’s blog post and thought, “It’s because you’re dumb...”

However, unfortunately, Lu Zhou’s opponent did not give him this chance.

The argument was getting ugly.

Just when Lu Zhou thought that this controversy would continue, [Huaguo Youth Daily] published a report, breaking the stalemate.

The article title was dominating.

[Ambitions of a young hero!]

The article did not mention the online fight some time ago. It only reported a normal university student publishing eleven SCI theses this year. Furthermore, two professors from Wudaokou university evaluated these papers and that thank-you letter from across the ocean.

And his name was Lu Zhou.

Not only was this article published in the magazine but it was also posted on [Huaguo Youth Daily] official Weibo.

Also, [Everyone Daily] and several other media outlets re-posted it.

Lu Zhou was once again on trending.

However, this time he was on for a completely different reason...

Zhu Fangcai stared at his phone screen in rage. He could not stop sweating.

He suddenly realized that he was playing out of his league.

No one used to care about him and he could say whatever he wanted. Anyone that responded was also around his level and there was no one that could destroy him.

However now...

The media was blatantly trying to set Lu Zhou as an example of a stellar student. Yet, his argument was exactly the opposite of the media's propaganda.

This is bad...

What do I do?

Surrender?

But my fans wouldn't like it and my hard earned fans could all disappear.

But if I don't surrender...

Zhu Fangcai was actually scared that he was going to get called out next.

No matter how many fans one had, one could still easily get destroyed by the media.

At the exact moment, his phone rang.

It was a call from another education commentator named Zhong Bowen.

The guy wrote similar blogs, but less harsh. His views were not as radical as "Big Mouth" either. The people called him Old Zhong. He was a kind and good person.

"Zhu, just stop this thing. It's still not too late. If you continue on, I'm afraid there will be problems," said Old Zhong with a heavy heart.

"Old Zhong, it's not that I don't want to stop. I can't stop!" sighed Zhu Fangcai.

Old Zhong was heartbroken, "You think those universities are easy to mess with? Do you think that they don't have followers? Is this about followers?! Why did you go after a university of all things when you don't have alumni friends?"

"I didn't want to anger the University of Jin Ling. I just wanted to criticize that little kid. Anyone that saw ten theses in a month would also think that it's not normal, right? Who knew that their reaction would be so big? I think there must be a problem!" argued Zhu Fangcai.

"I think there's a problem with your brain," said Old Zhong. He could not help but insult him, "Think with your brain, an undergraduate student publishing 10 theses in a month, obviously he's not a normal person!"

Now that you put it this way...

You're right...

But now it's too late for regrets.

"Then what do you suggest I do?" said Zhu Fangcai as he sighed.

"This thing is easy to solve. They just want you to apologize. If you apologize, admit your mistakes, this thing would be over," said Old Zhong through the telephone.

"No way, I'd much rather take the lawsuit. A lawsuit wouldn't be too expensive... If I admit defeat, I would lose more," said Zhu Fangcai. He was struggling to speak. Finally, he shook his head, "At most, I won't speak as much."

There's no way I'm apologizing. I'm not apologizing ever.

I'll give them the silent treatment or we can go to court!

He had seen bigger storms than this!

He wrote that Longjing tea cured cancer and was sued by the government for a measly sixty thousand yuan. The court could force him to pay, but they could not force him to apologize!

Old Zhong sighed, shook his head, and said, "Then I won't help you, I wish you the best."

He hung up the phone.