Scholar 321

Chapter 321

This kind of electron microscope was much more advanced than the tungsten filament kind, and the electron image resolution could reach 2nm, and the image was 5 to 10 times brighter than the tungsten filament kind. However, it was no match with the field emission electron gun.

Without a doubt, the image in the thesis was taken with a field emission electron scanning microscope.

This person is disgusting!

He must be bragging about his microscope!

Wang Haifeng had more than 20 years of experience in the chemistry field, and yet, he was being defeated by a kid. He couldn't take it anymore.

However, he continued to read the thesis and quickly calmed down.

Once Wang Haifeng finished reading, he slammed the journal on the table. He then threw it back to Liu Hong.

"This is only an in-progress result."

Wang Haifeng sighed in relief.

If this HCS-1 material was as valuable as the modified PDMS material, then Wang Haifeng would admit defeat. Other international chemistry giants would do the same.

However, it was clear that the HCS-1 material wasn't perfect.

Of course, even though it was only an in-progress result, it still showed the superior performance of the HCS-1 material. If someone could solve the production process, it might be used in industries that required high battery densities.

Like drones…

Liu Hong said, “What if they only published the in-progress result and didn’t release the important results…”

Wang Haifeng said, “Nonsense, why would they do that?”

Liu Hong was stunned, and he smiled and said, “… But can’t they just publish more papers?”

Wang Haifeng was amused by his student, and he laughed as he said, “Then tell me, is he doing a PhD? Or does he need the reputation? Why would he publish so many theses?”

Liu Hong realized that he had just asked a very stupid question and decided to shut his mouth.

He was right; normal researchers needed to accumulate their academic reputation.

Normal professors also needed to publish theses to show off their academic ability. This also allowed the professors to receive more academic grants.

But Lu Zhou obviously didn’t need to prove his academic ability.

Patents were the most important thing in research; it was the key to earning money from large companies.

No matter how much research someone did, if they couldn’t obtain the patent in the end, their work would only pave the way of success for others. If someone had a 90% chance that their research would succeed, they still wouldn’t publish their in-progress result.

Unless they really needed the money and needed to publish results to make their investors happy… Or it was to bait new investors and to make them feel like they could produce more results.

Obviously, Lu Zhou didn't need investors.

Most people didn't know how valuable the PDMS material was, but Wang Haifeng was in the field of materials science, and he knew that Umicore paid US$400 million for the patent rights.

Then there was only one possibility…

Wang Haifeng's eyes lit up and said, "This kid is smart, I'm afraid he has been researching this topic before his PDMS thesis publication. Everyone during the meeting was talking nonsense, but he was the only one who was able to put out a coherent idea. I'm guessing he already has some research results."

Most people began writing theses after receiving the patent number. Almost everyone would wait for the patent authorizations to go through first and the patent authorization could take up to twelve months.

That was to say, if a thesis was published in 2016, the real research results were probably made in 2015.

Wang Haifeng suspected that a year ago, Lu Zhou had already begun researching hollow carbon spheres.

Liu Hong thought of a possibility but he wasn't sure, so he asked, "You're saying?"

"His research has probably reached a bottleneck." Wang Haifeng smiled and said, "This young man is too impatient."

When research stagnated, releasing in-progress research to prevent others from releasing the same research first was a common tactic. Although it exposed one's own research progress, it gave the researcher fame and reputation.

After all, the longer the research results stayed hidden, the larger the risk. Especially in a popular research area, someone else could come up with the same results within two months.

Since many research institutes were researching hollow carbon spheres, this was possible. If someone else posted your result first, it would hinder your research results useless.

Wang Haifeng though that Lu Zhou couldn't handle the pressure.

"We will continue the research project." Wang Haifeng looked at Liu Hong and said, "Just in case, help me find out what Jinling Institute of Computational Materials is doing, and how their research progress is going…"

Liu Hong said, "But I don't know anyone from Jin Ling University, do you think they will tell me?"

Wang Haifeng said, "Are you dumb? Come up with an idea yourself!"

Liu Hong shut his mouth and stopped talking.

After a while, Wang Haifeng calmed down and said, "Also, we have to change our project goal."

When he came up with the project goal, he described hollow carbon spheres and the carbon-sulfur composite materials in a general way. Now that Lu Zhou released an in-progress result, he had to use a more specific description.

However, changing the project goal was easy.

It wasn't a big deal.

Chapter 322

If someone could understand his mathematical theory on computational materials and innovate using that theory, he wouldn't feel there was anything wrong with it. Rather, he would feel honored.

This was also the reason why he asked his student to study the Collatz conjecture by using his methods and ideas.

He could easily solve the Collatz conjecture himself.

He was at Level 6 in mathematics, and that was a completely different level than when he was at Level 5. Although the foundations set by predecessors on the Collatz conjecture wasn't as complete as the Goldbach's conjecture, unlike the Goldbach's conjecture, the Collatz conjecture didn't trouble the mathematics world for more than two centuries.

If he put his heart into it, it would take him at least six months and at most a year to solve it.

…

On an early morning in late March, Lu Zhou arrived at the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study on time.

But unlike the usual, he was holding two papers in his hand.

Lu Zhou gave the test papers to Jerick and Wei Wen and said, "There are only ten questions on the paper, go do the questions and return the test in two hours. You can use your phone if you want, but you're not going to find the answers online."

Like Qin Yue, at the beginning of the semester, Lu Zhou gave Jerick and Wei Wen a list of textbooks to study.

It had since been a month, Lu Zhou felt like it was about time to see how their progress was going.

After dividing the papers, the two immediately picked up a pen and started to write on a draft paper.

The test Lu Zhou wrote wasn't particularly difficult, but it wasn't that easy either.

Wei Wen frowned. After a long time, he finally solved question one.

Jerick saw Wei Wen struggling just like him and felt a sense of relief.

Time slowly passed by, and around 10 o'clock, Lu Zhou announced the end of the test. He took the papers and looked at the answers.

Both of them got seven correct, but their wrong answers were different.

Lu Zhou placed the test paper down and looked at the two people across his office desk.

"Wei Wen, your understanding of Hilbert space is good. I guess you should develop in the direction of mathematical physics."

Wei Wen asked, "Does mathematical physics count as applied mathematics?"

Lu Zhou smiled and said, "It depends on how you define it. The physics part is theory and the mathematics part is application. Of course, this is only my suggestion. You can choose any field you want."

Wei Wen went into deep thought after hearing his supervisor's advice.

Lu Zhou looked at the other student and said, "Jerick, you're good at Fourier inversion transformations, and this is a very promising direction. It has a wide range of applications in theory and in the industry. If you are interested in this field, I suggest you pay more attention to it and choose it as your topic of study."

Jerick immediately asked, "Professor, can I study computational materials?"

Lu Zhou said in a joking tone, "Of course you can, but don't expect to understand my theory. You'll have to read at least a dozen textbooks to do so."

The two students returned to their seats.

Lu Zhou stretched and was about to make a cup of coffee to wake himself up.

Suddenly, the office door opened and Connie walked in with a journal.

“Professor!”

Hardy, Qin Yue, and Vera were researching documents, and they raised their heads and looked unhappy about the disruption.

Lu Zhou could probably guess why Connie was so excited.

However, he had received a reply from the Science editorial department a long time ago. He wasn’t surprised that his theses were in the journal at all.

Lu Zhou looked at him and said, “I remember I told you to stay quiet in this office. Remember to knock before you come in.”

“Forgive me, I didn’t do it on purpose. I’m sure when you hear this news, you would be just as excited as me.” Connie lowered his voice and said, “Guess what happened? Nature quoted our thesis on their front page!”

Connie stopped talking proudly and looked at Lu Zhou as he waited for his reaction.

However…

Lu Zhou wasn’t amused.

Lu Zhou was obviously a lot less excited than Connie.

The office went quiet for a bit.

Connie felt awkward and calmed down.

Lu Zhou said, “It’s only a quote, there’s no need to be this excited.”

Vera was researching the Collatz conjecture, and she couldn’t help but chuckle. Hardy was more ruthless; he slammed his fist on the table and laughed out loud.

Wei Wen couldn’t help but smile as well.

Connie blushed and scratched his head as he said, “You’re not excited at all? This is Nature highlights!”

Lu Zhou sighed and said, “I know it’s Nature highlights, but half a year ago, I was highlighted by both Science and Nature. If you were me, you wouldn’t care about this trivial honor either.”

Most of the top journals had a “highlights” section where they quoted the best parts of the thesis and added a summarization.

Lu Zhou was pretty excited when he was first highlighted by the two journals.

But now, he wasn’t nearly as ecstatic.

Especially since not long ago, his modified PDMS film was rated one of the Top 10 scientific research theses in 2016.

A highlight was nothing for him.

Connie’s eyes were wide open; he was speechless.

Jesus, there's someone out there who thinks a Nature highlight is trivial?

A normal person would have to work for years just to publish one thesis.

Most people don't even dream of being on highlights.

If this doesn't make you excited, then what does?

A Nobel Prize?

Lu Zhou didn't care about what Connie was thinking. He took the latest issue of Nature from him and roughly flipped through the pages.

As expected, the HCS-1 thesis was the one on highlights.

As for the computational materials science thesis, it was briefly mentioned as a study on "the effect of surface area and pore size on the diffusion rate of polysulfide compounds".

Lu Zhou smiled and shook his head.

It seems that people can't recognize the real treasure.

Chapter 323

Astonished, Luo Wenxuan looked at Lu Zhou and asked, "It's in Florida… Do you really not know Fort Lauderdale? How?"

Lu Zhou made a helpless expression.

"I only worked on my PhD for a few months, and I finished before spring break."

Suddenly, there was an awkward tension in the air.

Luo Wenxuan said, “Can we not talk about PhD stuff?”

Lu Zhou: “… Oh yeah, sorry.”

Lu Zhou nearly forgot that while he was still studying his Bachelors, Luo Wenxuan was studying for his PhD under Edward Witten. Now that Lu Zhou was a PhD holder, Luo Wenxuan still hadn’t received his PhD…

Lu Zhou shouldn’t mention such a sad thing on a good day like this.

However, Luo Wenxuan actually had good mental health. After all, the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study was where the world’s most talented people were. They had both a strong mind and a strong brain.

This was the difference between geniuses and normal people.

Luo Wenxuan adjusted his mood and continued to talk about spring break.

“Spring break is a good mating option, or do you plan on staying single for the rest of your life? If you don’t know how to pick up hot chicks, I can teach you. This part is easy.”

Lu Zhou looked at Luo Wenxuan and asked, “You plan on dumping your girlfriend?”

“Actually, I already did.” Luo Wenxuan coughed and looked like he didn’t want to discuss this topic when he said, “It’s a bit complicated, don’t bother asking.”

Lu Zhou: “…”

If Lu Zhou recalled correctly, around February at the Adams Chemistry Prize party, this guy was still with his girlfriend.

Within two months, this guy became single.

This guy changed girlfriends faster than Lu Zhou could write theses.

“This is how life in America is, you should get used to it,” Luo Wenxuan said. He then added, “If you get to know some international students, you will find out that this is a very common thing.”

“This is the problem,” Lu Zhou said as he folded his sandwich wrapper and threw it on the tray table. He sighed and added, “I feel out of place because I’m too conservative.”

Luo Wenxuan wasn’t happy to hear this.

“You’re saying I’m not conservative.”

Lu Zhou: “Are you not?”

Luo Wenxuan: “…”

…

Actually, Lu Zhou was curious about Luo Wenxuan’s offer.

Was spring break in Fort Lauderdale really like the movies, where it was full of youth and alcohol?

If he had nothing else to do, he wouldn’t mind checking it out with Luo Wenxuan.

However, the premise would be that he didn’t have anything else to do…

The first Saturday in April, Lu Zhou gave his students a week-long vacation. They had been working for three months and needed some time off to adjust their minds.

However, Lu Zhou didn't get to enjoy this vacation.

The first day of spring break, he got on a plane and went to San Francisco to attend the Organic Chemistry Conference hosted by the American Chemical Society.

He would have an hour of speaking time there.

Although this conference wasn't as big as the MRS Conference, it still had a significant amount of influence. It was one of the top conferences in the field of organic synthesis.

After all, the American Chemical Society had more influence than the Materials Science Society. The former was older than the latter by a century, and it even had ties to politics.

After several hours of flight, the plane landed in San Francisco Airport.

Sarrot was the one picking Lu Zhou up at the airport. This once famous Cornell University professor was looking extra sharp today.

He was wearing a suit and had his hair waxed. His beard also looked a lot cleaner than last time.

This was without a doubt the energy that the thesis brought him.

Although one Science thesis couldn't change his status, it still somewhat restored his Cornell University reputation.

When he first sold his research institute, he would still ask himself questions like "Is it worth it?".

But now, he was sure that his decision was wise.

“Welcome, my dear friend, to San Francisco!” Sarrot greeted Lu Zhou with a smile and said, “Congratulations on the Adams Chemistry Prize, you’re one step closer to Stockholm!”

Lu Zhou shook Sarrot’s hand and said, “I’ve already been to Stockholm.”

“The next time you go there will be for the Nobel Prize!” Sarrot smiled and said, “A professor I know told me the committee has been discussing whether or not the modified PDMS material deserves a nomination.”

Lu Zhou smiled and didn’t say anything.

Sarrot’s optimism was as unreliable as his scientific intuition. It was even more difficult to tell if he was lying.

The Nobel Prize wouldn’t be the crown of science if it was so easy to get.

Even the father of lithium-ion batteries, the legendary Mr. John B. Goodenough, hadn’t received a Nobel Prize after waiting for thirty years. It would be difficult for Lu Zhou to receive this prize using his anode material technology.

However, Lu Zhou wasn’t in a hurry.

He was still young; he still had tons of time for scientific research.

Whether it was the modified PDMS material, the HCS-1 material, or the Adams Chemistry Prize, this was only the beginning…

Chapter 324

Lu Zhou was talking about the bigger, more formal dance party on the night of the conference.

It didn't matter if Lu Zhou attended these networking parties.

He had just gotten off from a long flight; he only wanted to sleep and prepare himself for the award and speech ceremony.

Sarrot said, "Then go sleep, I'm going to go to the lobby and chill for a bit. Do you want me to call room service for you?"

Lu Zhou waved his hand and said, "No need, you have fun. If I'm hungry, I can call the front desk myself."

Sarrot's room was on the third floor. He planned to dress himself up, like waxing his hair or something, before attending the dance party.

Lu Zhou's room was on the fifth floor.

Lu Zhou went through the hallway and passed a couple of couches. Two men in suits noticed him and immediately stopped talking. They got up from the couch and walked toward him.

Lu Zhou looked at them and thought that one of them looked familiar.

The old man that looked familiar reached out his hand and said, "Professor Lu, it's nice to see you."

"Hello… you are?"

The old man introduced himself in a polite manner, "I'm Stanley Whittingham from Binghamton University, New York."

When Lu Zhou heard his name, he suddenly remembered something.

Stanley Whittingham was a big name in the field of lithium batteries, no wonder Lu Zhou felt that he looked familiar.

In the early 70s, Stanley designed the first lithium battery using titanium sulfide as the anode material and lithium metal as the positive electrode material.

However, the lithium batteries were never industrialized due to the well-known lithium dendrites problem. It was only after Lu Zhou's modified PDMS had solved the problem that the lithium batteries managed to successfully escape from the laboratory.

"Nice to meet you." Lu Zhou shook Stanley's hand and looked at the other person before he asked, "This is?"

Professor Stanley said, "This is Darren Woods, CEO of ExxonMobil."

"Nice to meet you, Professor Lu," Darren Woods said with a smile as he reached out his right hand. He then added, "Your theses in Science and Nature are quite impressive. However, some things are too difficult to understand, so I'm afraid I have a lot of questions to ask of you."

Although Lu Zhou hadn't heard of Darren Woods before, he had certainly heard of ExxonMobil.

Two months ago, the CEO of ExxonMobil was still Rex Tillerson. However, in 2016, Rex was named "the world's most influential CEO" and became the Secretary of State.

Woods was the successor of Tillerson.

"Hello," Lu Zhou shook hands with this CEO and said, "Mr. Woods, you are also interested in lithium batteries?"

Woods smiled and said, "Of course, oil is a precious raw material, but it is too wasteful to burn. Actually, due to reasons such as global warming and climate change, we are committed to investing in new energy fields. Batteries are naturally a crucial part."

Although ExxonMobil was primarily an oil company, they were also involved in chemicals, automotive, and various other industries.

The earliest lithium battery was made in Stanley's laboratory, which was funded by Mobil Chemical.

Lu Zhou smiled and didn't say anything.

It was normal for ExxonMobil to be interested in new energy industries. However, to claim that it was because of global warming was a joke.

Woods looked at Lu Zhou and said, "Speaking of which, is there any progress on the synthesis of HCS-1?"

Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "Nope."

"That's unfortunate." Woods sighed and said, "It is a good material, but its price is a bit unacceptable."

It was obvious that Mobil Chemical was also using the method described by Lu Zhou in the thesis, which was to use the heated reaction with carbon nanotubes and fullerene materials to obtain a small amount of HCS-1 before mixing in 20% of sulfur.

Although this method was inefficient, it had an excellent energy density.

After all, the application of lithium-sulfur batteries in things like drones or underwater operating equipment was in demand.

Lu Zhou smiled and said, "Yeah, but I think there are many flaws with the material."

Woods shook his head and said, "No, no, no, you don't get it! Not all batteries require a high number of cycle efficiency. Sometimes we use disposable batteries for its high energy density."

Woods paused for a second before continuing, “Solving this problem would benefit the entire world. Do you need funding?”

Lu Zhou shook his head and said, “Unfortunately, I don’t, so maybe you can invest in some other laboratories that have potential.”

“That’s a shame; it looks to me that no one else has as much potential as you.”

Although Woods said it was “a shame”, he didn’t look unsatisfied at all.

Obviously, ExxonMobil was also doing similar research in their laboratories.

They might have even produced results already.

Lu Zhou looked at Professor Stanley and realized what was going on.

These two are here to check on my research progress.

Lu Zhou couldn’t help but shake his head.

You want to know my research progress?

Just buy a Science journal and read it.

Lu Zhou had never hidden his research.

They chatted for a while, and Lu Zhou got bored. He then said his goodbye and dragged his suitcase into his room.

As Woods looked at Lu Zhou walking away, he smiled and turned to Professor Stanley before he asked, “Where do you think his research is at?”

Professor Stanley frowned and said, “Hard to say, he’s a talented kid. If the Science theses are his complete results, then our chance of winning is still very high, but I’m not sure.”

Professor Stanley paused for a second before speaking again in a serious tone, “Haven’t you noticed? Although we were asking about his research progress, he didn’t care about our research at all…”

Chapter 325

Although it was still an hour until the official ceremony began, many people had already arrived, and they were all waiting patiently.

The opening ceremony of the biennial Adams Chemistry Prize was the highlight of the Organic Chemistry Conference. No one wanted to miss it.

Lu Zhou was the first Chinese scholar to receive the medal, and naturally, he was the center of attention.

When Lu Zhou was getting ready backstage, he bumped into a CTV reporter.

The young lady was holding a microphone, and Lu Zhou felt she looked familiar. He suddenly remembered that this was the reporter he met in Stockholm for the Crafoord Prize.

Fate really is a magical thing.

The reporter smiled and spoke in a pleasing voice, “Professor Lu, hello, can I borrow five minutes of your time?”

There was an hour until the opening ceremony began, and Lu Zhou had five minutes to spare.

He said, “Of course.”

The lady handed out the microphone and asked, “How are you feeling right now?”

Lu Zhou replied, “It’s a bit early to answer this question as the medal is still in the hands of Professor Berstein.”

The reporter smiled and said, “Then I’ll change my question. Since you are the first Chinese scholar to receive this medal, you must be full of excitement?”

Lu Zhou smiled as he replied, “I was excited, but that was two months ago when I first heard I was awarded this award.”

The lady asked, “Most people heard about you when you proved the Goldbach’s conjecture and when you won the Crafoord Prize. So, they must be surprised that a mathematician was able to win the Adams Chemistry Prize. May I ask then, what sparked your interest in chemistry?”

Lu Zhou didn’t answer this question directly. Instead, he smiled and said, “Remember what I said to you in Stockholm?”

The reporter lady smiled and said, “I remember you said that the purpose of mathematics is to change science.”

“Exactly, the purpose of mathematics is to change science,” Lu Zhou nodded and said, “and right now, I’m changing science.”

…

The interview only lasted for five minutes.

The opening ceremony began and it was soon the prize-giving time.

Lu Zhou walked on stage and received a gold medal and a silver watch from Professor Burstein, the president of the American Chemical Society.

Giving silver prizes was a tradition of the Adams Chemistry Prize, and every iteration of the prize was different.

This silver watch was very small; it had the emblem of the Adams Chemistry Prize engraved on the back. Due to the finely crafted patterns, this watch was worth a lot of money. However, the money was insignificant compared to the glory of the Adams Chemistry Prize.

Professor Burstein shook hands with Lu Zhou as he said, “The development of new energy concerns our future. I thank you for your contribution to the world and giving us more time for research.”

It seemed that this watch had a meaning behind it.

Lu Zhou took the watch from the professor’s hands and said, “Thank you.”

The crowd erupted in applause.

The prize-giving time finally ended.

However, the ceremony wasn’t finished.

For the Adams Chemistry Prive, there was a tradition that the prize winner had to give an hour-long speech during the ceremony.

This was the highlight of the award ceremony.

Lu Zhou adjusted the microphone and began to speak.

“Materials, energy, and information technology are the three pillars of modern technology. However, other than information technology, our research in the fields of materials and energy over the past century has been slow.

“However, the academic community has been misunderstood. Every day, there are new technologies being born in laboratories in the corners of the world. I believe that everyone here knows that we don’t lack new materials, we lack useful materials.

“I think one of the reasons is that we don’t have a theoretical system that can find useful materials for us. We’ve been relying solely on the scientific intuition of researchers.

“This is my motivation behind studying computational materials science.” Lu Zhou paused for a second and looked at the crowd before he said, “I believe that with rigorous calculations, we can calculate new potential materials and save a lot of money and time.”

The professors and scholars in the crowd were nervous.

Jesus, did this guy come up with another mathematics proof again?

“… My report will be semi-academic.”

The scholars sighed in relief, especially those chemistry professors that weren’t so good with mathematics.

There was no doubt that computational materials science was a promising research direction, and the academic community recognized its value. However, Professor Lu’s theory was too difficult to understand.

Although many professors in fields such as crystal chemistry and nanomaterials had an understanding of geometry and topology, their knowledge was rudimentary.

But now it seemed that they didn’t have to worry

Lu Zhou already said that this was going to be a semi-academic speech, therefore, he wouldn’t talk about anything too difficult.

"… I am studying the effect of the pore size and surface area of carbon nanospheres on the diffusion rate of polysulfide compounds. The copolymer of polyaniline fluorene polypyrrole is used as the precursor, and polydiallyldimethylammonium chloride is used as the postcursor."

While speaking, Lu Zhou picked up a piece of chalk from the podium and drew a simple molecular model on the blackboard behind him. He wrote down the surface area, aperture, and other data next to the model.

Up until now, everything was easy to understand.

Everyone had their guard down. However, Lu Zhou suddenly stopped writing and continued to speak, "When I studied these products, I found something interesting…"

Lu Zhou quickly wrote down the first line of the equation.

Then, he went out of control…

Woods sat in the back row of the lecture hall, and he looked around with a worried face.

Before becoming CEO of ExxonMobil, he was an engineer. Therefore, he had a certain understanding of the chemical industry. Although he had never done any research work, he could still read theses.

But now, he had no idea what was on the blackboard.

Woods took a deep breath and looked at Professor Stanley before he whispered, "Are all semi-academic reports this difficult?"

Professor Stanley hesitated for a moment before answering him.

"Normally, it's not like this…"

It was obvious… that this wasn't normal.

Chapter 326

The award ceremony of the Adams Chemistry Prize came to an end.

Lu Zhou put his celebratory thoughts aside and decided to focus on the academic side of the Organic Chemistry Conference.

Even though he was on the cutting edge of research, there were still many things for him to learn.

However, the learning that occurred at a conference was different from the type of learning one would receive from inside a classroom. A scholar that wanted to produce the knowledge needed to discuss with peers, read works of literature, and listen to talks.

And this was exactly what the Organic Chemistry Conference provided.

The next afternoon, Lu Zhou, who had just listened to an organic chemistry lecture, made himself a cup of coffee. He found a corner to sit down and quietly sort out the notes he had just written.

During the talk just now, a researcher presented a non-fullerene organic solar cell, a fluorinated binary heterojunction battery current-voltage curve, and the highest photoelectric conversion efficiency curve.

The data on the graphs were beautiful.

Although Lu Zhou wasn't researching photovoltaic materials, he still had some knowledge of fullerene materials. What interested him the most was the part of mathematical analysis. The author of the thesis had a good mathematical foundation.

Lu Zhou planned to spend some time studying it.

Suddenly, he heard the tapping sounds made by heels.

A beautiful blonde sat across from him.

Lu Zhou looked up at the beautiful woman and asked, “Who are you?”

The blonde woman smiled and said, “My name is Roy, it is a pleasure to meet you.”

“Nice to meet you,” Lu Zhou shook her hand and said, “are you a university student?”

“I’m a master’s student from Harvard, but not a chemistry major.”

I guess she’s not giving me her resume.

Lu Zhou asked, “Reporter from the journalism department?”

Roy blinked and said, “Not quite.”

Lu Zhou smiled and asked, “You’re a writer?”

“Correct!” Roy snapped her fingers and said, “I’m a science writer.”

You’re actually a writer?

I guess there’s a difference between novel writing and science writing.

Lu Zhou smiled and said, “I didn’t expect writers to be interested in my research. I’m curious, why did you come up to me?”

Roy: “Actually, I signed up for the Organic Chemistry Conference to find the inspiration for writing. I didn’t expect to bump into the award winner of the Adams Chemistry Prize.”

Lu Zhou smiled and said, “I guess you didn’t understand my speech.”

“I didn’t, but it didn’t prevent your speech from inspiring me. Especially your insights on energy and materials, it brought so much inspiration to my mind.” With a serious expression, Roy looked at Lu Zhou as she asked with a sincere tone, “I have a few questions I want to ask you. I don’t know if I can borrow some of your time?”

Lu Zhou looked at the steam coming from his coffee cup, and he thought about his itinerary for the day before he said, “… You have time until I finish drinking this cup of coffee.”

“No worries, it won’t take long,” said Roy. She then took out a pen and notebook before she asked, “Then, the first question…”

Roy asked some superficial and mainstream questions.

Lu Zhou tried to use simple words to explain his thoughts.

Time quickly passed by.

Lu Zhou finished his coffee, and since Roy finished asking her questions, she put her notebook and pen away.

“Thank you for taking the time to answer my question, I will send you a copy of my work.”

Lu Zhou smiled and asked, “Is your signature on it?”

Roy smiled and said, “I’ll sign it if you want.”

She then said in a joking tone, “This is my business card. I’m interested in you, maybe we can talk in depth next time.”

The gorgeous blonde looked at Lu Zhou in a flirting manner before she left.

Lu Zhou looked at her and smiled.

Talk in depth?

I’m good.

Even the professors from Cornell University don’t understand my theory; it’d be a waste of time to talk with you.

Suddenly, an unexpected acquaintance came over.

As Grynberg looked at Roy leaving, he said, “Your taste is good.”

Lu Zhou asked, “Do you want me to ask her phone number for you?”

“This does sound tempting,” Grynberg sat down on the sofa and said, “but I’m not here to talk about women.”

You’re the one that brought her up?

Lu Zhou looked at him as he put Roy’s business card away.

“So, what are you here to talk about?”

Grynberg said, “Nothing, I just want to tell you a piece of bad news.”

Lu Zhou asked, “Oh yeah?”

Grynberg looked serious as he said, “Mobil Chemical intends to join in on the production of lithium-sulfur battery materials. Not only that, but they have Professor Stanley as well!”

That’s it?

Lu Zhou thought it was something major.

He had a bored look as he said, “Oh, I already knew about that.”

Grynberg said, “Woods told you?”

Lu Zhou nodded and explained, “That’s right. The night before yesterday, he and Stanley came to visit me.”

Grynberg looked around and whispered, “Which step are they on?”

Lu Zhou asked, “What do you mean by step?”

Grynberg said, “I’m talking about research progress… Wait a minute, didn’t you ask them anything?”

Lu Zhou looked at him strangely and asked, “Why would I need to ask them anything?”

Grynberg: “…”

Grynberg was in disbelief while Lu Zhou sighed and said, “Honestly, I don’t understand why you’re being so cautious.”

“You don’t understand how insane the market prospects for sulfur batteries are,” said Grynberg. He then took a deep breath and restrained his anxious emotions before he continued, “Listen, Mobil is also researching positive electrode material for lithium-sulfur batteries. Their research and development direction is also carbon-sulfur composites and hollow carbon spheres! You just helped them in a major way! You shouldn’t have published the two theses!”

Grynberg wouldn’t be that scared if Nichia was ahead of him.

However, ExxonMobil was different.

This oil giant was in the upstream of their chemical industry chain, so they naturally had a unique advantage in the cost of raw materials.

If ExxonMobil became interested in the positive electrode material for lithium-sulfur batteries, it wouldn’t only hurt Umicore, it would hurt all chemical giants.

Just like there was a gap between geniuses, there was a gap between giant companies.

However…

What did this have to do with Lu Zhou?

He wasn’t a Umicore shareholder.

“I don’t agree, communication is needed to create academic value,” Lu Zhou said. He then frowned and asked, “Plus this is my own research result, why can’t I publish it?”

“No, that’s not what I meant.” Grynberg noticed that Lu Zhou was annoyed, and he quickly said, “I admire your confidence, but the problem is that ExxonMobil is our competitor! In order to fight us, they have invested US$50 million on Professor Stanley! Do you understand what this means?”

Lu Zhou looked at Grynberg and didn’t know how to comfort him.

Obviously, Umicore was also researching the positive electrode material for lithium-sulfur batteries and had invested a lot of money in this project. In a sense, Lu Zhou was competing against Umicore in the lithium-sulfur battery project, but the competition wasn't as strong as that between Umicore and Mobil.

If Lu Zhou came up with the invention first, Umicore would receive part of the profits. If Nichia came up with the invention, then Umicore would take a hit. However, if ExxonMobil were to take the lead, then it would be a lethal blow to Umicore.

Because of this, Lu Zhou's two theses made Umicore panic.

Especially because of the race with Mobil Chemical; no one knew how many meters away they were from the finish line. The two theses were like time bombs which caused Grynberg to lose his sleep.

Lu Zhou realized what he had done.

However, he would've done it again.

Lu Zhou paused for a second before he said with a gentle tone, "Relax, I've never viewed you as a worthy competitor."

Grynberg: "…"

Chapter 327

Luo Meng asked, "Speaking of which, he's the director of the computational materials research institute?"

Su Jiawen: "That's him. I heard from the leaders of the student union that he is very good. Every time he comes back to our school, the academicians would welcome him with open arms. Oh yeah, Meng Qi is an intern at the computational materials research institute, right?"

Li Fang looked at Meng Qi and said, "Meng Qi, have you seen Lu Zhou in person before?"

Two months ago, the Jinling Institute of Computational Materials recruited interns based on their academic grades.

There weren't many opportunities for undergrad students to be exposed to scientific research, so this was a good opportunity for students that wanted to stay in academia.

Meng Qi was one of the three students that got this internship opportunity.

Han Mengqi nodded subconsciously.

"Oh… Yeah, I've seen him before."

Not at the computational materials research institute though…

Li Fang asked curiously, "Then tell us, is he the same person in real life?"

Han Mengqi thought for a moment before she said, "Around the same… He's a bit more handsome than on TV."

"Speaking of which, doesn't he do mathematics?" Luo Meng asked while eating, "When did he start doing chemistry?"

Li Fang said, "Yeah… I really don't understand these geniuses. He's basically a legend."

Su Jiawen said, "Only a pretty girl like Mengqi can date a guy as talented as God Lu."

Su Jiawen was only just joking; she didn't expect Meng Qi to take it seriously.

Meng Qi instantly blushed.

“What are you talking about…”

Meng Qi became quiet.

She suddenly noticed that her three friends were all staring at her.

Han Mengqi asked nervously, “What… are you guys doing?”

Su Jiawen rubbed her chin and said, “I don’t know if you guys noticed, but this is the first time that Meng Qi has blushed over a guy.”

Luo Meng nodded and said, “Maybe…”

Li Fang said, “Did you…”

Han Mengqi was being questioned by her three roommates, and she panicked.

“No, it’s not what you guys think!”

“There’s nothing wrong with it, it’s just an idol.” Li Fang smiled and said, “Even a genius would admire other geniuses. I support you!”

Han Mengqi smiled unnaturally.

“… Thanks.”

Meng Qi sighed in relief but couldn’t help but feel a little sad.

Is he an idol?

It seemed that in other people's eyes, Lu Zhou had reached an unattainable level.

However, it wasn't like she had those dirty thoughts…

Li Fang patted her shoulder and said, "Which part of God Lu do you like?"

Li Fang wasn't the only one curious, even Luo Meng and Su Jiawen were curious as well.

"Don't get me wrong, it's not that kind of like…" Meng Qi said, "It's more like a brother kind of like."

Luo Meng said, "Brother? He is older than you."

Su Jiawen said, "Meng Qi is an only child, right? Siblings are annoying."

Han Mengqi smiled and said, "No way, I think siblings can't be that annoying…"

I don't really feel like I have a family, so maybe it would be better with a brother?

Ever since Han Mengqi met Xiao Tong in Philadelphia, she had been thinking about how nice her life would be if she switched places with Xiao Tong.

Deep down, Han Mengqi wished that Lu Zhou would date Chen Yushan. She had even tried on numerous occasions to set them up.

Through this way, she could call Lu Zhou her brother…

Girls always changed their topic of conversation quickly, and they soon started to talk about Su Jiawen's brother instead.

Normally, Han Mengqi would chime in.

However, the little girl was thinking about something else today.

Just now, Li Fang reminded her of something.

Is it a bad thing if Lu Zhou is my idol?

If he's my idol, I can fantasize about him.

Maybe I should say it…

"Bro, brothe…"

Han Mengqi shook her head and clenched her teeth as she stopped herself from saying those shameful words.

In the end, she gave up, and she slammed her forehead on the table.

As expected, this was too difficult for her…

…

After eating, Han Mengqi parted ways with her three roommates and went to the computational materials research institute.

Even though her work up until now was trivial, as she merely did stuff like sorting out documents, she had learned a lot of useful things from this job.

Han Mengqi worked hard every day.

Suddenly, someone stopped her.

“Hey, where is the Jinling Institute of Computational Materials?”

Han Mengqi paused for a second as she looked at this person.

She saw a guy in a plaid shirt and black glasses. There was nothing special about his appearance. He looked like a typical engineer. Although he didn’t look like a bad person, he looked a little dodgy.

“You’re not from here?”

Who doesn’t know where the Jinling Institute of Computational Materials is?

The news spread on campus when the chemistry department decided to loan the entire building to God Lu.

The guy panicked and said, “The thing is… I’m here to find Dr. Yang, I have some things to ask him. Can you please tell me where it is, thanks!”

His acting was very poor.

Han Mengqi became even more suspicious of him.

Who cares what you’re here to do, why are you telling me…

Han Mengqi pointed in a general direction.

“Just go down the road from here…”

Han Mengqi was going the same direction, but this guy was too suspicious, so she didn't want to walk with him.

The guy thanked her and went on his way.

Han Mengqi looked at him and frowned.

Why do I…

Why do I feel like…

This person is a bit strange?

Chapter 328

Although research funding could be used to pay researchers, having high salaries would be alarming to investors. Research funding was no joke.

No investor would want their money wasted on employees that were overpaid.

Also, it wasn't like anyone would be dumb enough to ditch Lu Zhou.

A scholar at the international "Nobel Prize" level was more attractive than Wang Haifeng. Therefore, Wang Haifeng didn't even consider this method at all. Instead, he asked Liu Hong to investigate.

Honestly, this was the most ineffective and dumb method.

Liu Hong was at the computational materials research institute. He was just thinking about how he would complete this impossible task when someone suddenly shouted at him.

"Hey, what are you doing here?"

Liu Hong was shocked by this voice, he turned around and saw a worker here.

“I’m…”

Liu Hong was trying to come up with an excuse when the worker asked, “You’re here for recruitment?”

Liu Hong immediately nodded and replied, “Yeah, yeah! I’m here to apply for a researcher role.”

The worker smiled and asked, “You’re actually here for a job? This place is not easy to get in, what are your qualifications? Did you bring your resume?”

Liu Hong smiled and made up an excuse. “I’ve got a PhD from Zhi University… I didn’t bring my resume. I’m only looking around, and I haven’t decided yet.”

“Zhi University, not bad, not bad. Zhi University’s material department is quite strong,” the worker nodded and said, “but still not as strong as ours.”

Liu Hong wanted to curse at the worker, but he remembered his mission, so he swallowed his words.

He quickly changed the topic.

“How are the benefits here?”

The worker looked at Liu Hong suspiciously and thought why didn’t Liu Hong look at the recruitment guide; the benefits were all written there.

However, the worker still answered the question.

“Different positions have different salaries. A PhD from Zhi University… probably 12,000 yuan per month, and as for research funding and patent rewards, that depends on your abilities.”

12,000 yuan?!

When Liu Hong heard this number, he cursed in his heart.

100,000 yuan per year wasn't high for programmers, but materials science was different.

Materials science students were always being told stuff like "Materials science graduates can't find a job" or "How about going into sales instead?"

"… Are the benefits that good?" Liu Hong was intrigued.

"It's okay, but the benefits aren't the main part," said the worker. The worker then added, "Us researchers have to look away from money. Our boss is God Lu, the guy that won the Adams Chemistry Prize. Our second in command is also nutty, he has a PhD from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Who wouldn't want to work for this lineup?"

This lineup really was nutty.

Liu Hong would be willing to work here for half the salary… Right now, his salary was only at 3,000 yuan per month.

Liu Hong gulped. He was suddenly envious as hell.

People loved to compare themselves to others.

He remembered that he was still a PhD student, so he had to provide cheap labor for his supervisor.

Liu Hong suddenly had a crazy thought.

He was still young; he should make some risky choices.

He said, “I… have a question.”

“Ask.”

Liu Hong asked, “Do you guys hire people with master’s degrees?”

The worker looked at him.

I thought this guy had a PhD?

…

Three days after the award ceremony, Lu Zhou was being tagged all over on Weibo.

His fans weren’t happy that Lu Zhou didn’t share his joy on Weibo. Therefore, they were all tagging him in related blogs.

Those titles of the blog posts were spicy.

[The First Chinese Adams Chemistry Prize Winner?!]

[Shocking! Top Award In Organic Chemistry Was Given To a Mathematician!]

[From “1+1” To “Li+S”, Look At This Guy!]

Lu Zhou looked at his notifications and was dumbfounded.

He was being tagged left and right.

[God Lu, you've changed, you've stopped bragging.]

[I've waited for two days for God Lu's Weibo post, I am disappointed.]

[I have been reading about God Lu on Weibo all night.]

[God Lu, you are amazing!]

[…]

Lu Zhou looked at these comments and was confused.

Honestly speaking, he didn't want to brag.

However, his fans were giving him a hard time.

Lu Zhou finally smiled and took a photo of his gold medal and watch. He wrote a caption and posted the photo, thus sharing his joy with his fans.

As usual, there was a prize for forwarding his post.

The prize was 10 Huawei phones; the brand was reliable and had good quality.

Even though he didn't care too much about other people's opinions, he still liked the brand.

Lu Zhou clicked "Send" and put his phone down. He planned to check the post in a minute.

The comment section was slowly growing.

Professor Sarrot sat across from Lu Zhou, and he drank his coffee before he asked, “Speaking of which, did you book your return flight?”

Lu Zhou replied, “Yeah, it’s in three days.”

Sarrot asked, “Do you not want to hang around in San Francisco? If I remember correctly, spring break isn’t over yet.”

“I’m a professor, not a student, what does spring break have to do with me?” Lu Zhou paused for a second before he said, “If I recall correctly, you’re a Cornell University professor, don’t you have to teach classes?”

“I have other teachers helping me, I only have to occasionally give a few lectures. It’s not uncommon for well-known professors to work in laboratories, and they don’t have to stay on the Cornell University campus.” Sarrot smiled and said, “Besides, I prefer San Francisco!”

Lu Zhou smiled and said, “Really? I prefer the quietness of Princeton.”

Sarrot heard his phone ringing.

“I have to take this call.”

Sarrot grabbed his phone from his pocket, stood up, and walked to the side.

He placed his phone to his ear and had a weird expression.

His veins were popping out of his face.

Five minutes after, Sarrot ended the call and came back.

Lu Zhou asked Sarrot, “What happened?”

Sarrot clenched his fists as he snapped, “Those bastards! I will sue them!”

Chapter 329

Sarrot sat next to the office desk and was full of anger.

Suddenly, the office door opened, and his research assistant walked in with a stack of documents.

The assistant whispered nervously, “Mr. Sarrot, the documents that you wanted…”

The research assistant looked away from Sarrot while speaking.

Lu Zhou shook his head, smiled, and reached out his hand.

“Give them to me.”

“Okay, professor…”

The assistant sighed in relief and quickly left the office.

The assistant diligently closed the door.

Lu Zhou sat down on the sofa and began to flip through the documents.

The documents were divided into two parts; one part was the original contracts of the employees that were leaving, and the other was the loss assessment report.

Mobil Chemical was very fast, and Professor Stanley was decisive.

The battle had just begun, and they already poached five researchers.

Since this was San Francisco, Lu Zhou could easily find replacements. However, the problem was that they had to train the new employees all over again.

Because of the resignation of the five employees, the research progress of Sarrot's laboratory had stagnated.

If this was the only thing, then it wouldn't be that bad.

In a middle-level research institute with a well-managed system, even researchers who were responsible for the same project could not access all the experimental data.

However, this was the problem.

One of the research assistants called Ricardo could leak out the information.

Mentioned in this loss assessment report, the data that the research assistant had contained the spatial structure of the carbon molecules and some mathematical models that had yet to be perfected…

Although there was no direct evidence that he would leak the information, this type of thing didn't require evidence at all.

However, Lu Zhou was relieved.

Sarrot couldn't help but ask, "Are you not worried at all?"

"It's only five assistants," Lu Zhou placed the document on the table and said, "it's not a big problem."

“Not a big problem?” Sarrot looked at Lu Zhou in disbelief and said, “This is bad! Not only do they know our research progress, they know exactly what we are researching!”

“Don’t be so scared, my dear Professor Sarrot.” Lu Zhou then said, “This is San Francisco, you should understand that jumping ship is normal.”

Professor Stanley Whittingham was also a big name in the field of lithium batteries and was the director of the Institute of Materials Research at Binghamton University in the State University of New York.

Thirty years ago, under ExxonMobil Chemical, he developed a TiS2/Li lithium battery system. Due to the lithium dendrite problem, it couldn’t be commercialized.

Lu Zhou was a newcomer in the field of materials science, therefore his reputation wasn’t as good as Professor Stanley’s.

Also, Stanley was not alone. The major shareholder behind his lab was the famous ExxonMobil; the real industry giant that even Umicore was afraid of.

Regardless, it was what it was, and there was no point dwelling over the past.

Lu Zhou thought for a moment before he made a decision.

“We have the non-compete agreement and the non-disclosure agreement, so we can just sue ExxonMobil and make them pay the price.”

“This doesn’t hurt ExxonMobil, and we have to hire expensive lawyers,” Sarrot said. He then cursed, “This group of a*sholes!”

Lu Zhou shrugged and said, “No worries, we have the upper hand. I will let Star Sky Technology handle the case and hire the best lawyers in New York.”

Although Lu Zhou was an easygoing person, he would never allow people to play outside of the rules.

If someone was willing to steal intellectual property from him, then they had to be prepared to be sued!

According to the previously signed non-compete agreement, researchers who left the job in abnormal procedures would be prohibited from doing work in related fields for five years. Otherwise, they would bear an additional penalty. Especially for Ricardo, Lu Zhou intended to sue him for commercial espionage, and depending on the seriousness of the circumstances, this crime might be subjected to criminal charges.

Lu Zhou said, “Also, we have to strengthen our confidentiality measures.”

Professor Sarrot said, “I will ask the legal team to rewrite our confidentiality contract and non-compete agreement.”

Lu Zhou nodded and said, “You also have to remember that you can’t always retain talent and that your opponent can always afford a higher price than you.”

For companies, the corporate culture mattered. For research institutions, what mattered was the scientific research environment created by well-known scholars, top of the line equipment, research results, and management system.

This was the price for research.

“I know, now is not the time to talk about these things. What next?” Sarrot looked at Lu Zhou and asked, “Should we continue to fight with Mobil Chemical on this?”

Lu Zhou nodded and said, “Of course, we shouldn’t change our research direction because of something so small.”

Sarrot said, “They have ten times our manpower, doing ten times the work. To put it bluntly, we have no chance at all.”

Lu Zhou looked at Sarrot and was helpless.

What should I say?

The HCS-1 material was accidentally obtained when he was studying the caged carbon molecule, and it was Sarrot's research institute that produced the two theses.

But neither the caged carbon molecule nor the research project by Sarrot had anything to do with lithium-sulfur batteries.

Sarrot's research was only to complete Lu Zhou's system mission.

Obviously, he couldn't say this to him.

Lu Zhou wasn't sure if telling Sarrot the truth would make him feel better…

Chapter 330

He was the director of the research institute, and as long as Mobil Chemical could afford the price, he would utilize all the researchers from the research institute to work on his project.

The Binghamton University Materials Research Institute was huge; it could very easily crush the small Sarrot Research Institute just by using scientific research labor alone.

His assistant was shocked as he said, "Unbelievable… Mathematics can calculate the spatial structure of a macromolecule? This is unheard of!"

Using mathematical models to perform computational analysis was nothing new. In fact, more than 80% of the theses produced by the supercomputer "Anton" were like this.

However, even "Anton" couldn't do a simulation like this.

Professor Stanley looked serious; he was speechless.

He didn’t want to believe it.

But the facts were in his face.

The HCS-1 material had shown its abilities to prevent diffusion of polysulfide compounds into the electrolyte.

Woods stared at the computer screen and asked, “What can we tell from this?”

Woods was an entrepreneur; he only cared about the patents.

ExxonMobil paid a huge price to poach five research assistants from Lu Zhou.

Although a few million USD was nothing for Mobil Chemical, they wanted their money to be put into good use.

Professor Stanley heard Woods and smiled.

“This is a caged carbon molecular model. The HCS-1 material is morphologically similar to it, except that it lacks several key π bonds, large π bonds, and carbon atoms. According to my speculation, the HCS- 1 materials are most likely the by-products from this caged carbon molecule.

“This should be the key to lithium-sulfur batteries!”

This finally made sense.

Previously, Professor Stanley couldn’t understand why in Lu Zhou’s thesis, he added expensive fullerene materials and carbon nanotubes to the reactor. Now he knew. It was because the HCS-1 material was screened from a pile of “useless” carbon garbage.

Stanley couldn’t help but smirk.

Who would have thought that the HCS-1 material proposed in that thesis was merely a by-product of the experimental waste. No wonder Lu Zhou published the in-progress results with such confidence and didn't care about our research progress.

If it wasn't for this data and carbon molecular model, just basing off the two theses in Science, we would have never figured out what they were researching.

Professor Stanley didn't hesitate. He looked at his assistant and said, "We are already behind them, thankfully not by much.

"Inform the research groups and immediately adjust the research direction. From now on, focus on the technical problem of caged carbon molecules and produce a physical and chemical properties analysis!

"Also, hire 20 research interns! We have to complete this project first!

"Hurry!"

The assistant immediately nodded and said, "Understood". He then left the conference room.

Looking at how enthusiastic Professor Stanley was, Woods couldn't help but smile.

"Mobil Chemical will support your research, I wish you guys success!"

Professor Stanley shook Woods' hand and smiled.

"Thank you! It's a pleasure working with you!"

…

Professor Stanley was strategic.

Through this limited data, he had already extracted 70% of Lu Zhou's research.

However, there was something that he missed out on.

The Sarrot Research Institute wasn't researching lithium-sulfur batteries. In fact, they were researching something completely different…

After the meeting ended, Woods came out of the conference room with his secretary.

Suddenly, a man sitting on the sofa outside the conference room stood up and walked toward him.

This man was Ricardo, the one that made Sarrot furious.

However, he didn't look as happy as when he first received the salary increment.

Because just now, he received a subpoena from the court.

Star Sky Technology, the parent company of Sarrot Research Institute, was preparing to sue him for the non-compete agreement and confidentiality contract he signed.

Not only that, but compared to his four colleagues that also jumped ship, he had another case waiting for him.

That was corporate espionage.

This was a lot worse than the other civil cases.

Although the federal labor laws tried to protect the rights of workers, if the company case was convincing enough, not only would he have to face high fines, but he could even go to prison.

Because of this, Ricardo was extremely afraid.

He walked up to Woods and asked, “You said that you will help me fight the lawsuit, right?”

“No worries, Mr. Ricardo, we will help you resolve the lawsuits. Your data was of great use to us.”

Woods had a bright smile on his face.

Ricardo being sued was the second-best news he heard today.

This meant that his opponent was pissed off, and Ricardo’s data was valuable.

It was only a lawsuit— a piece of cake for ExxonMobil…