The Billion-Value Lands Are Just For Farming

#Chapter 361 - Read The Billion-Value Lands Are Just For Farming Chapter 361

Chapter 361 - Guests Were as Numerous as Clouds

Evening arrived in the blink of an eye.

Su Ming had purchased a new outfit for Su Qiu and treated her to a fresh hairstyle. The medicine she'd taken earlier had revitalized her, bringing a healthy flush to her cheeks. Gone was her previously lifeless appearance; she looked youthful once more.

No sooner had they settled into the car than Su Qiu's phone chimed. She glanced at the screen to find a message from Ye Fenglong with the details of the gathering.

"Is that a message from Young Master Ye?" Su Ming inquired, a grin on his face.

"Yes, he's sent the location for the gathering," confirmed Su Qiu with a nod.

"And where might that be?" Su Ming asked, still smiling.

"The National Banquet Hotel," Su Qiu replied, after a quick look at the address.

"National Banquet Hotel?" Su Ming raised his eyebrows in recognition. Why did that name seem familiar? Was it one of the top 100 companies from before? Young Master Ye really had some bad luck—out of all the hotels in Eastsea, he had to pick the National Banquet Hotel. But it made sense; whether it was Young Master Faang or Young Master Ye, they were both intent on flaunting their status and stepping on others. Naturally, they'd opt for the finest hotel.

Su Ming drove directly to the National Banquet Hotel. Upon arrival, they spotted Ye Fenglong at the hotel entrance, greeting guests. He was the epitome of elegance, clad in a designer suit, a Louis Vuitton tie, Hermes shoes, and a Patek Philippe watch—undoubtedly the most dashing man at the event.

?"Welcome, Boss Sun."

"Please, President Chen, come inside!"

"Boss Wang, you've made it as well? I appreciate your effort."

Young Master Ye was in his element, basking in the adulation. Spotting a car pulling up, his eyes sparkled with interest. It was an impressive vehicle—a Bentley Mulsanne, worth no less than ten million. The other magnates had nice cars, but this was exceptional. Who could this boss be? He made a mental note to introduce himself later; this person might prove to be a valuable connection.

With that thought, Ye Fenglong straightened his attire and approached with a welcoming smile. Just then, the car door swung open, and Su Ming stepped out.

?How could he be so young?

Ye Fenglong was convinced the man must be a scion of some major family.

He hadn't realized their school's reputation had reached such heights that even scions from prestigious families were drawn to it.

He was determined to befriend this individual, seeing it as his ticket into high society.

"Sir, I am the host of this banquet. Welcome to our event. May I have the pleasure of knowing your name?" Ye Fenglong said, his face beaming with a respectful smile as he extended his hand.

?As he was smiling, the passenger door swung open.

Su Qiu stepped out of the car.

"It's you?" Ye Fenglong was taken aback.

He felt incredibly awkward.

Could it be that the person he was treating with such reverence was Su Qiu's boyfriend?

?"So, it's you two," Ye Fenglong said, withdrawing his hand slightly. "Not bad at all. How much does it cost to rent this car for a day?"

Su Ming smiled. "Quite a bit. It's over 2000 a day."

"Humph!" Ye Fenglong scoffed internally upon hearing Su Ming's admission.

Just as he suspected!

Those without money always try to look cool.

"Young man, we're not the same. We can easily rake in a few million a year, but for you, earning money must be tough. You can only make a few tens of thousands a year, and here you are, spending 2000 on a day's car rental. Such a waste."

"Young man, one must live within their means. You shouldn't spend so much just to look cool."

"Right?" Ye Fenglong said cheerfully, as if he were giving Su Ming friendly advice, though his smugness was barely concealed.

"Really?" Su Ming replied with a light smile. "Well, Young Master Ye, I appreciate your concern."

?"Good to know you understand," Ye Fenglong said, straightening up with a sense of satisfaction. "Now, let's go inside. There's food available at no cost: it's a buffet. Make sure to enjoy the feast."

"Sure." Su Ming nodded, still smiling, and walked in with Su Qiu.

Ye Fenglong's expression soured instantly.

They were utterly shameless.

Most people would have fled in embarrassment after hearing Ye Fenglong's remarks.

?Su Ming had actually gone inside to eat. Given that, Ye Fenglong was not about to extend any courtesies to them. He was looking forward to showing off in front of Su Ming and the others later, and he hoped they wouldn't feel too embarrassed.

Just then, a sports car roared in from the distance. Ye Fenglong's face broke into a smile, and he quickly approached the vehicle. "Brother Xiao! What brings you here? You're a distinguished young master from the capital. Your presence graces my humble abode." Ye Fenglong raised his voice intentionally, making sure Su Ming and Su Qiu could hear him. Such was the disparity.

?Su Qiu should hurry up and throw herself into his arms. Hanging around with a pauper was utterly dull. "Brother Xiao, please, come inside!" Ye Fenglong was elated.

Though he was the son of the principal, Eastsea University was only well-known locally. He had long aspired to mingle with the elite and join the circles of the capital's young masters, but lacked the means. Now, the opportunity had presented itself.

Ye Fenglong personally escorted Brother Xiao inside. No sooner had he stepped out than another car sped up to the entrance. An elderly gentleman alighted from the vehicle. "My goodness! Mr. Tang!" Ye Fenglong was astounded to see the old man. He hadn't anticipated such prestigious figures attending the school's banquet.

"Are you Ye Fenglong?" The old man scrutinized him.

"Yes!" Ye Fenglong replied, honored.

"I've heard that your medical college has produced some exceptional talents..."

"Don't worry. If you're interested, I can provide you with a detailed list right away. If they agree, I'll arrange for you to meet them immediately," Ye Fenglong offered eagerly.

"Very well." Mr. Tang nodded, said no more, and, with his entourage and cane, proceeded inside.

"Please, take your time, sir. I'll come by to offer a toast shortly," Ye Fenglong called after him, wiping the sweat from his brow. He could hardly believe the caliber of guests arriving. Tonight was an excellent opportunity to network, and he was determined not to miss it.

Before long, all the guests had arrived. Ye Fenglong checked the time; the gathering was about to start. He made his way inside, searching high and low until he finally spotted Su Ming and Su Qiu in a corner, lounging on a sofa and enjoying refreshments.

Then, with a hint of a smile, he made his way over.

Click to visit??NovelDragon & Start your reading trip??

OR download the app directly??

Chapter 362 - The Moment When My Brilliance Is at Its Peak

"Brother, this egg yolk pastry is so delicious."

"Brother, the flavor of this meat floss is really good. You should try some."

"The sushi tastes great too."

Su Qiu was walking alongside Su Ming.

Whether the gloom in her heart was concealed or had been cleared away was uncertain.

She had regained a bit of her girlish cheerfulness.

Ye Fenglong approached upon hearing Su Qiu speak.

He inwardly scoffed.

He thought to himself, 'These two really do seem like they're penniless.'

"To me, these crispy egg yolk pastries and sushi snacks are quite mundane."

"I notice you two are enjoying them immensely."

"You're quite pitiable, aren't you?"

?Although Su Qiu called Su Ming 'Brother,' it's not uncommon for some girls to refer to their boyfriends as 'brother' when in a relationship, so there was no cause for suspicion.

"You're in the middle of eating."

Ye Fenglong gave a slight smile and sat down next to them.

Su Qiu instinctively shifted away.

Su Ming smiled and said, "Yes, thanks, Young Master Ye. We haven't had dinner yet this evening."

"Then make sure you eat plenty."

Ye Fenglong returned the smile.

"I'll need to mingle and share drinks with some distinguished guests later, so I won't have the opportunity to chat with you."

"Let's talk a bit before the banquet gets underway."

"We have quite a few VIPs attending this event."

"I assure you, you've never encountered them before."

"Do you see that man over there? Wang Guohui is my uncle. He owns a multinational Trade Company with assets in the billions."

Ye Fenglong boasted with unmistakable pride.

Su Ming thought to himself, 'Wang Guohui?'

He paused for a moment.

"So it is him!"

The old fellow was glowing with a ruddy complexion.

Clutching a glass of red wine, he was flirting with a pretty waitress.

It looked like he was on the verge of success.

'Old lecher,' Su Ming mused.

?Ye Fenglong caught Su Ming's expression and mistook it for awe.

Ye Fenglong continued his monologue with increased vigor.

"See that guy? He's a prominent young master from the capital and he's my brother."

Ye Fenglong pointed out with a triumphant air.

Su Ming took another look.

He thought, 'Isn't that Xiao Chen?'

'What's he doing here?'

Ye Fenglong noticed Su Ming's bewildered look and stood a little taller.

?Ye Fenglong congratulated himself, 'My performance is flawless.'

"Every person in this room is a VIP."

"Each one is a tycoon."

"Wouldn't they intimidate you, a mere pauper?"

"You really think you can compete with me for a woman?"

"Take a good look and see clearly."

"Crossing me is the biggest mistake you'll ever make."

"See that guy over there? He's the owner of the National Banquet Hotel, a billionaire. That's my uncle," Ye Fenglong boasted with pride.

?His ego knew no bounds.

'My status is already quite high,' Ye Fenglong mused.

'After all, I'm the son of a university president.'

'And with all these wealthy individuals here...'

'Crushing Su Ming will be a breeze.'

"Alright, I'll leave you to it for now. I have people to meet," Ye Fenglong said cheerfully as he stood and straightened his attire.

?"Mixing with these high-profile individuals every day is exhausting," he declared with an air of self-importance.

?Ye Fenglong walked off with his head held high and his chest puffed out.

In his mind, he thought, 'You're envious, aren't you?'

'You're jealous, right?'

'This is just a typical day for me.'

'Yet, it's a pinnacle you'll never reach in your lifetimes.'

Ye Fenglong was eager to flaunt his status in front of Su Ming.

?He struck up a conversation with one person, then another.

?Even though several of them didn't recognize him, once they learned he was the president's son, they showed him a degree of respect.

This was, after all, an event at Eastsea University.

Soon it would be time for the autumn admissions.

Eastsea University is renowned and ranks among the top in the province.

?The credentials of its students carry significant weight.

Hiring students from Eastsea University benefits the company's growth.

?Moreover, it's an opportunity for the students to work in their home region.

The turnover and job-hopping rates among these students are notably low.

Another half hour ticked by.

Su Ming and Su Qiu had nearly finished their meal.

They relaxed on the sofa, observing Ye Fenglong as he mingled throughout the room.

Just then, a cough echoed through the speakers, and the music came to an abrupt halt.

Everyone turned their attention to the side, where a small stage stood. On it was a middle-aged man bearing a resemblance to Ye Fenglong. He was Ye Fenglong's father, Ye Guang. With a hearty laugh, Ye Guang expressed his gratitude, "Thank you all for joining us at our school's celebration."

"Our graduates this year have surpassed those of previous years in excellence," he continued. "I'm confident that you'll all find the talented individuals you're seeking."

?"However, I must confess I'm an old academic at heart and have a hard time remembering faces. I'll let my son do the introductions." Ye Guang's eyes then found Ye Fenglong.

Could Ye Guang truly not remember anyone? As the principal of a school, it seemed unlikely. Even if he struggled with names, it wouldn't be inappropriate for him to bring notes onstage, would it? Clearly, Ye Guang was creating an opportunity for his son to shine.

Ye Fenglong, aware of his father's intentions, beamed with pride. He straightened his attire and wore a self-assured grin he believed to be exceptionally charming. Approaching the podium, he offered a respectful bow.

"Thank you for attending Eastsea University's banquet," Ye Fenglong greeted the crowd. "Today, we are graced with a host of guests—some familiar faces and some esteemed newcomers."

?"Allow me to make some introductions." Ye Fenglong was clearly trying to look cool, aiming to flaunt his wide network and make a lasting impression on everyone present. The room was filled with various entrepreneurs, and although Ye Fenglong didn't usually mingle with them, he knew the importance of keeping up appearances.

How else would he assert his identity, his status, or ensure that the influential guests would remember him? Among the hundreds gathered, including Su Ming, Ye Fenglong sensed their anticipation for his performance.

Seeing the eager looks, Ye Fenglong's satisfaction grew. He was brimming with pride. "This is President Chen, the head of Tianhua Bank!" he announced, starting from the left with his introductions.

The crowd murmured in awe, "It's actually President Chen!" "He's the head of the largest bank in Eastsea—a truly formidable figure."

?Last time I sought a loan from Tianhua Bank, a junior employee there processed my application. He mentioned that a loan of five hundred thousand yuan was just pocket change."

"I've heard that the loans President Chen approves are at least a hundred million yuan."

"We definitely need to invite President Chen for a drink later."

The moment Ye Fenglong's words fell, the room erupted in excitement.

Many of the entrepreneurs present had never laid eyes on President Chen.

All they knew was that President Chen from Tianhua Bank in Eastsea was an influential figure.

Now that they had the chance to meet him, they were eager to ingratiate themselves.

"This gentleman is the chairman of Wang Group, Wang Guohui, Mr. Wang."

Ye Fenglong continued with the introductions.

"My goodness. The chairman of one of the top ten Trade Companies in the nation?"

"I've heard his net worth is nearing a hundred billion."

"He's truly a titan of industry."

"To stand in the same room and share the air with him is an absolute honor!"

The crowd was abuzz with admiration.

Chapter 363 - So I Am the Loser

"This gentleman is Xiao Chen, the young master of the Xiao family! The Xiao family is a prominent household in the capital."

Ye Fenglong's face beamed with pride as he witnessed the crowd's overwhelming excitement.

"Wow! Has the capital sent someone?"

"That's incredible!"

"Young Master Ye's network is expanding. He's even acquainted with nobility from the capital."

"Remarkable. I must make it a point to cultivate a good relationship with Young Master Ye."

Basking in the adulation, Ye Fenglong's pride swelled.

He deserved a trophy. He was the most successful at showing off in history!

With a smug glance at Su Ming, Ye Fenglong was eager to flaunt his connections and influence.

?Su Ming was nowhere close to his league.

"This is Mr. Tang, a titan of medicine."

"Here we have the chairman of the Ma Group, Mr. Mai."

"And this is..."

One by one, Ye Fenglong introduced the VIPs, relishing the gasps and flattery from the crowd.

With each introduction, his self-satisfaction grew.

Su Ming and Su Qiu sat on the couch, mirroring each other's posture.

This was far more entertaining than any television show.

As Ye Fenglong continued to introduce the heavyweights, the atmosphere hit a crescendo.

He had become the focal point of the event.

Ye Fenglong had expected Su Ming to look up to him.

He imagined Su Qiu would push Su Ming aside and rush into his embrace.

After all, who could resist the allure of wealth?

But when he turned to them, he saw that Su Ming and Su Qiu appeared to be as engrossed as if they were watching a drama series.

It seemed they were keen to see more of Ye Fenglong's performance.

Despite his successful display, Ye Fenglong couldn't shake off a sense of futility.

Surely, it was because their social standing was too low to appreciate the significance of these influential figures.

He resolved to explain it to them later, to make them see the vast social chasm.

"By the way! Besides my esteemed uncles, I also have a classmate here."

"My classmate excels academically, a brilliant economics student. She's only a sophomore, yet she outshines many seniors."

"Ladies and gentlemen, take note: she is an exceptional talent."

As Ye Fenglong spoke, his gaze landed squarely on the corner of the room.

Everyone simultaneously turned to look in that direction.

There, Su Ming and Su Qiu were seated on the couch, grinning and munching on melon seeds as they enjoyed the show.

The entire room was in shock!

Xiao Chen, Wang Guohui, President Chen, Old Master Tang, and a host of other influential figures were completely flabbergasted.

Holy smokes!

Were they seeing this correctly?

Mr. Su was here as well!?

"Alright, everyone, we've pretty much finished the introductions. The next step should be..."

As Ye Fenglong continued speaking, all the heavy hitters made a beeline for Su Ming and lined up in front of him.

"Mr. Su!" they greeted him with deep respect.

A wave of confusion swept over them as they exchanged bewildered glances.

It turned out they all knew Mr. Su!

Wang Guohui and President Chen were aware of each other's acquaintance with Mr. Su.

They both knew Su Ming was a big deal, but they had no idea the others were also in the know.

The leaders of various industries in Eastsea City were all familiar with Su Ming.

These titans of business held Su Ming in high regard.

They had thought Mr. Su was quite impressive.

They had believed they understood Mr. Su quite well.

But now, it seemed they had only scratched the surface.

Ye Fenglong was utterly baffled.

What was happening?

What was this all about?

Was this some kind of joke?

Wasn't Su Ming supposed to be destitute?

Why were they treating him with such reverence?

"Everyone..." Ye Fenglong ventured cautiously.

"Ye Fenglong, what's the matter with you?"

Wang Guohui turned around and fixed him with a stern look: "Mr. Su is here, and not only did you fail to introduce him, you put Mr. Su in the corner?"

"No, I..." Ye Fenglong was at a loss for words.

"You've got some nerve. To think you'd dare to treat Mr. Su with such disregard!"

President Chen scowled, visibly livid.

"You dare to overlook my brother-in-law?" Xiao Chen chimed in.

Hearing this, Ye Fenglong was completely taken aback.

What?

Xiao Chen was Su Qiu's brother?

Even though they didn't share a last name, they could very well be cousins.

That couldn't be right!

He had thoroughly researched Su Qiu's background and knew her family was far from affluent, certainly not a prominent one.

Could his investigation have been incorrect?

Who exactly had he managed to upset?

"What seems to be the problem?" Ye Guang approached from the sidelines.

With his son taking the stage, it was only natural for Ye Guang to step aside.

He had just taken a phone call and was unaware of the events unfolding in the room.

Upon his return, he sensed something amiss and made his way over.

President Chen let out a disdainful snort and gestured towards Su Ming, "Hmph! Do you see who your son has crossed?"

Ye Guang was taken aback: "Mr. Su? What brings you here?"

Ye Guang was acquainted with Su Ming after the latter had healed Old Master Xiao, prompting a visit.

Old Master Xiao was a respected elder, and as a younger member of the community, Ye Guang was obliged to pay his respects.

During their conversation, he learned about Su Ming.

He recognized Su Ming as an influential figure and had hoped to forge a friendship with him.

Yet, he had never anticipated encountering Mr. Su under such circumstances.

Ye Guang quickly realized the gravity of the situation. He pointed at his son's nose and berated him, "Fool, how could you show such disrespect to Mr. Su?"

In a flurry, Ye Guang grabbed a wine glass from nearby, filled it to the brim with red wine, and approached Su Ming with utmost reverence. "Mr. Su, my son is inexperienced. Please don't stoop to his level. Accept my sincerest apologies. I implore you to forgive him, considering the little regard you may have for me."

With that, Ye Guang downed the wine in one swift motion.

After finishing his drink, Ye Guang bowed deeply, his body shaking.

This was, after all, his son.

His heart ached for Ye Fenglong.

If he had truly angered Su Ming, his son's prospects in Eastsea would be bleak.

And his chances elsewhere would be even slimmer.

Ye Fenglong was completely stunned.

Seeing his father's deferential demeanor, he was at a loss.

What in the world was happening?

Wasn't this supposed to be his moment to shine?

He had just been basking in his cool demeanor.

But how had everything taken such an unexpected turn?

Chapter 364 - Banquet

Ye Fenglong wasn't the only one feeling bewildered; the venue was filled with many individuals, including those unfamiliar with Su Ming, who were equally puzzled by the unfolding events. A group of onlookers stood at the back, absorbing the astonishing scene before them. The individuals facing Su Ming were the most esteemed attendees of the event. It was quite telling that these high-status individuals addressed Su Ming with such reverence, referring to him as Mr. Su, a testament to his influence.

At that moment, Ye Guang's heart was racing. He had stepped away to take a phone call, only to return and find his son had stirred up significant trouble. The formidable Xiao family wouldn't dare cross the man in question, so what made him think he could provoke Su Ming? After all, he was merely a university principal. Even Old Master Tang, a giant in the medical field with an extensive network, treated Su Ming with the utmost respect. A single word of dissatisfaction from Su Ming could cost him his position.

With a slight smile, Su Ming reassured, "Mr. Ye, you're overthinking it. I had a pleasant conversation with your son." Upon hearing this, Ye Guang felt a chill as sweat instantly coated his back, well aware that Su Ming's actual implication was the exact opposite of his words. Enraged, Ye Guang spun around and delivered another slap to his son. "I've been too lenient with you, and you've taken it as license to behave recklessly. Once today's banquet is over, you're to stay home and reflect on your actions. You're grounded for three years!"

Ye Fenglong's face went pale. He knew all too well that his father was not one for jests. He was facing a three-year confinement.

"Please, everyone, enjoy the banquet," Su Ming said with a light smile. The guests exchanged glances and nodded in agreement. Old Master Tang took his place next to Su Ming, while Xiao Chen sat alongside Su Qiu. Wang Guohui and President Chen positioned themselves on opposite ends of the sofa. Behind them, the rest of the attendees stood with ramrod-straight postures, eyes fixed ahead in silence. They

appeared less like banquet guests and more like candidates auditioning for a bodyguard role.

Su Ming glanced over his shoulder at the group, his expression one of mild exasperation. Was it too much to ask for them to relax a little? "Please, take your seats," he said with a smile. "Yes!" came the resounding response. The group then took their places at the banquet tables, maintaining their upright postures and solemn demeanors.

The people around were so tense they scarcely dared to breathe loudly.

Were they actually here just to eat?

"Everyone, feel free to chat."

"Yes!" came the unanimous response.

Then, someone stood up.

"Mr. Su is our guiding light, the lighthouse for our journey!"

Su Ming quickly intervened, "Please, just have a normal conversation."

Had they practiced a recitation before coming here?

It was only at this moment that Ye Fenglong realized he had crossed paths with someone of great influence.

He was now profoundly thankful for Ye Guang's slap.

He had fancied showing off in front of Su Ming, not anticipating Su Ming's esteemed standing.

He had hoped to win Su Qiu's affection during this encounter, but his plans had fallen through.

He wouldn't dare to harass Su Qiu ever again.

Who would risk antagonizing a VIP's partner?

Noticing that he was being ignored, Ye Fenglong made a very prudent decision.

He needed to slip away quickly.

If he lingered, he risked becoming the focal point of collective ire.

Old Master Tang chuckled, "You've become the top figure in Eastsea now."

?"Old Master Tang, you're too kind," Su Ming replied with a smile, shaking his head.

Truth be told, I'd prefer to be just an ordinary person, but that's not an option for me.

?"Brother-in-law," Xiao Chen began, recalling something, "My sister will be back home in two days, and she'd like to invite you to a meal, just the two of you."

Their last meal hadn't been enjoyable due to interruptions.

This time, Xiao Ke'er was looking for a quiet place to have a good meal and a chat with Su Ming.

To secure the purchase of that building, Xiao Ke'er had agreed to a year-long consultancy role with the seller.

She was due to start in just two days.

Xiao Chen had wanted to discuss this with Su Ming, but his sister had stopped him.

Xiao Ke'er wanted to do something for Su Ming, feeling it was the right thing to do, without making a fuss about it.

Su Ming nodded in agreement; the previous meal had indeed been less than satisfactory.

"However, I insist on being the host this time. It's my treat."

Xiao Chen nodded in acceptance, not objecting.

It was only fitting for him to offer, given his status as the brother-in-law.

"And who might this be?"

Xiao Chen's gaze settled on Su Qiu, prompting a chuckle from Su Ming. He knew Xiao Chen was inquiring on behalf of his sister. "Her name is Su Qiu, my sister. We've grown up together. She's currently studying at Eastsea University and has been constantly bullied by Ye Fenglong. I'm here to sort this out for her," Su Ming explained with a smile.

Xiao Chen had an epiphany, reached out his hand with a grin, and said, "So, we're practically family." Su Ming playfully smacked Xiao Chen on the head, and Xiao Chen withdrew his hand, feigning hurt. Su Ming couldn't help but admire Xiao Chen's acting prowess.

Ye Fenglong had planned to use the gathering to boast about himself, but it was Su Ming who ended up stealing the show. That evening, all the bigwigs came to toast to Su

Ming, insisting that he stay seated while they drank in his honor. "Mr. Su, let us handle the drinking. You just relax," they said, and continued toasting.

Wang Guohui and President Chen stood by Su Ming like two loyal bodyguards, beaming with pride. "We recognized Mr. Su's capabilities long ago! We're proud to be on Mr. Su's team!" they declared. Throughout the night, Su Ming was showered with praise.

Su Qiu, seated beside Su Ming, caught the attention of many companies. Numerous prestigious firms extended job offers to her, promising positions without the need for interviews upon her graduation. She could become a director, a general manager, or even receive a salary in the millions. They were ready to offer her the world, all out of respect for Mr. Su.

?Hours later, noticing Su Qiu's fatigue, Su Ming decided it was time to leave. The crowd behind him bid farewell with teary eyes, and after Su Ming's departure, some even broke down in sobs. Su Ming was baffled by their reaction—did they really think he was never coming back?

Chapter 365 - Leaders

Their journey was uneventful.

Su Ming drove Su Qiu back to Eastsea University, parking the car in the off-campus lot.

They walked onto the familiar grounds together. It had been some time since Su Ming had visited his alma mater since graduating.

The unchanged campus stirred a sense of nostalgia within him.

It was now 10:30 PM, and the dormitory would close at 11 PM, but he wasn't worried about the time.

"Ye Fenglong won't bother you again. You can concentrate on your studies now," Su Ming said, smiling reassuringly.

"Thank you, brother," Su Qiu replied, her demeanor noticeably brighter and more spirited.

?The events of the banquet were somewhat of a blur to her, but she was certain of one thing: her brother was formidable, a protector who could alleviate her troubles.

"This card has 100,000 yuan in it, and the PIN is your birthday," Su Ming said as he handed her a bank card.

?"I can't accept this!" Su Qiu protested, shaking her head vehemently.

"Take it," Su Ming insisted, his voice firm.

?It wasn't that he couldn't afford to give more; he knew that offering too much would only lead to her refusal.

"I have plenty of friends and money isn't an issue for me. Consider this a loan for your education," he explained.

?"Return it to me in ten years, okay?" he added with a smile.

"Okay!" Su Qiu agreed, biting her lip and nodding determinedly as she carefully accepted the card.

?Su Ming smiled again. "Now, go back and focus on your studies. Don't overthink things."

At the dormitory entrance, he gave her one last piece of advice before she nodded and hurried back inside.

Su Ming had considered renting an apartment for her off-campus, but she had declined.

Regardless of his wealth, she didn't want to be reckless with money that wasn't hers. Besides, she saw no need to live off-campus.

Thinking about how Young Master Ye would no longer trouble her and that she could graduate without further incident, Su Qiu felt a wave of relief.

Upon opening the dormitory door, all eyes turned to her.

"You look stunning. Are those gifts from Young Master Ye?" her roommates asked curiously.

"Su Qiu has become a woman now!"

Her three roommates burst into laughter.

Su Qiu's smile vanished in an instant.

She bowed her head and silently returned to her bed.

"She's still playing the innocent!"

Su Qiu nestled under her covers, biting her lip.

Being naturally shy, she was at a loss for words against her roommates' mockery and could only suffer in silence.

Soon after, the dormitory door shut.

The dormitory manager was also settling down for the night.

Suddenly, a frantic knocking sounded at the door.

"Who's there?!"

An irritated dorm supervisor climbed out of bed, grumbling, "Which class are you from? I'll make sure to speak to your teacher tomorrow!"

Dressed in her nightgown and wielding a flashlight, the supervisor stepped out, visibly annoyed.

But when the flashlight illuminated the visitors' faces, she nearly leaped with shock!

There stood the leadership of the college, including the dean, vice dean, and secretary of the School of Economics!

What was happening?

"Open the door!"

The dean demanded, knocking urgently and speaking with a stern voice.

The supervisor, not daring to waste time, struggled to open the door.

"Which dormitory is Su Qiu in?"

The dean asked, his brow furrowed.

"305."

The supervisor stammered, blinking rapidly.

"Lead the way!"

"Yes. sir!"

The supervisor realized in a flash.

Su Qiu was rumored to be promiscuous.

She'd heard from Su Qiu's roommates that Su Qiu was always out with the son of the university's president, and yet she acted so innocently upon her return.

?Su Qiu's roommates had spread such rumors widely, causing many to shun her, which had led to her severe depression.

"Leader, she's just a college girl who likes to socialize. It's nothing serious."

The supervisor said, leading the way and looking back.

"Be quiet!"

The dean glared, pointing at the supervisor's nose and shouting, "Leave now!"

The supervisor stood there, stunned, insisting, "But I'm telling the truth."

The dean, hands on his hips and seething with anger, retorted, "It's people like you who have tormented Su Qiu to this point. You should know, Su Qiu comes from a very influential family; even the president wouldn't dare cross her! How dare you spread such lies?"

The aunt was utterly bewildered.

In her eyes, the president of Eastsea University was an incredibly influential person.

Yet, even he wouldn't dare cross Su Qiu.

How influential must Su Qiu be?

But if she was that influential, why did she constantly bite her tongue?

She never spoke up in her own defense.

If Su Qiu was so formidable that even the president wouldn't dare offend her, then everything her roommate had said must be a lie!

"Lead the way, now!"

The dean bellowed.

It was the middle of the night in the girls' dormitory, and many were asleep.

Startled by the bellowing, numerous girls quickly dressed and came out to see what was happening.

What in the world was going on?

As they opened their doors, they saw the aunt, drenched in sweat and panic-stricken, hurriedly leading the way. Trailing behind her was a procession of university officials, including the president, the vice president, the secretary, and the director.

Chapter 366 - Shock

Inside the dormitory building, an anxious-looking woman led the way at the front.

A group of school administrators followed closely, sweating profusely and wiping their brows in a state of panic.

Trailing behind them was a cluster of girls, their faces alight with curiosity.

?Soon, the group reached their destination.

"Leaders, this is Su Qiu's dorm," the woman said, her voice quivering.

?The girls behind them had an epiphany.

"Oh, it's Su Qiu. We've heard from her roommates that she gets a new boyfriend every three days. She's quite promiscuous."

"And she has the nerve to act all innocent. She's truly vile."

"With all these administrators here for her, she must be in deep trouble."

"She could be expelled."

"She might even end up in jail."

The girls whispered among themselves.

?"Quiet down, all of you!" The dean, having overheard the girls' gossip, was livid. He whirled around, glaring at them, and bellowed.

Instantly, the girls fell silent.

Though they stopped talking, they all suspected that Su Qiu had stirred up some serious trouble.

Could she have done something to disgrace the school?

It seemed quite likely.

Why else would so many administrators visit her dorm?

They might even prohibit the other students from discussing it!

?Unaware of the girls' inner thoughts, the dean stood at the dormitory door, took a deep breath, and slowly let it out.

He exchanged knowing looks with the other administrators behind him.

Then, with a smile on his face—a smile that radiated kindness—he bent forward slightly and gently tapped on the door.

?The knock wasn't loud, but in the quiet of the night, the sound carried through the wooden door and into the dorm.

?"Who's knocking?"

"Is it Young Master Ye?"

"It's very likely!"

"Qiu, you're amazing. You've won Young Master Ye's heart with such ease."

"When you're rich, don't forget us. We've put in a lot of effort for you."

Her three roommates chimed in together.

Su Qiu's complexion was ashen.

Yet, she was certain that the person outside wasn't Ye Fenglong.

Could it be a classmate from the next dorm over?

The individuals living in the neighboring dorm room hailed from different classes, and they weren't well-acquainted with them.

Su Qiu had barely sat up when one of her roommates flung the door open.

"Young Master Ye."

Her roommate's face beamed with a smile, but after uttering those words, she froze in place.

"Dean Lee, Secretary Chen, Director Wang?"

The girl retreated several steps in astonishment.

What could have brought the School of Economics' leadership to their doorstep at this late hour?

"Is Su Qiu here?"

Dean Lee inquired, a warm smile gracing his features.

"She's in the dorm," the roommate replied, still visibly stunned.

Dean Lee peered inside and spotted Su Qiu sitting on her bed, looking bewildered.

He rubbed his hands together and cautiously approached.

Secretary Chen and Director Wang trailed behind him, both wearing pleasant smiles.

?"Su Qiu, we had no idea someone of your esteemed status was studying at Eastsea University. We sincerely apologize for not providing the care you deserved earlier," Dean Lee began.

"We've reviewed your academic performance and found that your scores in the previous two subjects were outstanding. Your failing grades were due to collusion between Ye Fenglong and the teacher."

"We've corrected those grades to 99 points for you, and the teacher involved has been dismissed."

"We've also arranged a luxurious single apartment for you, complete with a private bedroom, study, living room, bathroom, and a small kitchen. It's fully equipped with air conditioning, geothermal heating, a refrigerator, washing machine, and all the necessary amenities."

"We hope you'll speak kindly of us to your brother and not hold any grudges."

Dean Lee watched Su Qiu's reaction intently as he spoke.

Sweat began to bead on his forehead.

?Though autumn had brought cooler nights that warranted the use of blankets, Dean Lee felt an intense heat, as if he were next to a blazing furnace. As the dean of the School of Economics, he was aware that Su Qiu had been unfairly targeted because of Ye Fenglong.

But his hands were tied; he couldn't risk offending the principal's son.

Yet, Su Qiu's brother wielded even greater influence, someone not even the principal would dare cross.

Dean Lee had been nestled in bed, nearly asleep, but the news jolted him awake. He dressed swiftly and made his way to the university with utmost urgency.

He was terrified that Su Qiu would become furious.

If Su Qiu decided to seek retribution for past events,

They would be doomed.

The academy's leadership would be dismissed. They would all be forced into retirement, or worse, outright fired.

Su Qiu was dumbfounded for quite some time after hearing Dean Lee's proposition.

"If you feel this offer isn't satisfactory, we're prepared to cover all your university expenses, and the school will provide you with an annual scholarship of 40,000 yuan."

"Furthermore, the School of Economics will offer you a spot in the PhD program. If you agree, I assure you that you can obtain your doctorate within six years!"

Dean Lee added.

The students around were shocked upon hearing this.

They had thought Dean Lee was coming to confront Su Qiu, but now it seemed he was actually apprehensive about her settling scores with them.

Eastsea University ranks among the top ten institutions in the country.

Admission requires a minimum score of 660.

PhD positions are exceedingly rare. The prestigious School of Economics at Eastsea University only offers two PhD spots annually.

Any student securing one of these spots can earn their PhD, provided they don't fail any courses and their thesis is approved.

With the significant prestige attached to an economics PhD and fewer than 100 individuals in the country holding one, each becomes a highly sought-after asset for major corporations. They can command multimillion-dollar salaries right at the start of their careers. A few years with a company can lead to even greater earnings.

The company would provide them with housing and cars, shares in the business, and year-end bonuses. In a few years, they could become billionaires.

This is a highly coveted and hard-to-attain opportunity.

Yet, while others must diligently study and excel academically to earn such a spot, Dean Lee had just offered it to Su Qiu, implying she could secure her PhD simply by agreeing to remain at the university.

They had personally extended this valuable PhD opportunity to Su Qiu.

Chapter 367 - You Are Trying to Win Him over

Su Qiu was somewhat bewildered.

Yet, as she pieced things together, it became clear that it must be related to her brother, Su Ming.

Apparently, the events of the party had gotten around, prompting these leaders to seek her out.

"Dean Lee, thank you. However, I would prefer to earn this opportunity on my own merits," Su Qiu said with a smile.

Upon hearing this, Dean Lee quickly nodded, wiping the sweat from his brow. "Su, you exemplify both character and scholarship. I have no doubt that with your academic prowess, you'll secure this position. If you're open to it, I would be honored to serve as your mentor for both your master's and PhD."

The students behind Dean Lee gasped in astonishment.

Dean Lee was not only a renowned scholar nationally but also a towering figure in the field of economics.

He was qualified to mentor PhD students, yet he hadn't taken on any for many years.

Deeply immersed in his research, he had turned down many hopefuls.

And yet, today, he had extended an invitation personally.

Everyone envied Su Qiu.

"Thank you very much," Su Qiu replied, her heart swelling with joy.

"Not at all!" Dean Lee was thrilled by her response.

?Becoming Su Qiu's mentor could open doors: perhaps even pave the way to a friendship with Su Ming. What a fortuitous prospect!

"But let's set that aside for now and focus on moving your dormitory."

"My clothes, though..."

"We can sort out the clothes tomorrow. For now, let's check out the single apartment."

Dean Lee took the lead.

Su Qiu initially wanted to decline, but after considering her roommates and the state of the dormitory, she opted for the move.

A change of scenery would likely do her good.

Nodding, Su Qiu donned a jacket. As she rose from her bed and made for the door, a figure burst in, drenched in sweat and out of breath.

?The onlookers were initially unable to recognize him, but upon closer inspection, their surprise was palpable.

It wasn't just Dean Lee who had arrived: the principal himself had made a personal appearance!

Indeed, the man who had barged in was none other than Ye Guang.

Ignoring the rest, Ye Guang's gaze fixed on Su Qiu. "Miss Su, my son has caused you considerable inconvenience previously. I take full responsibility and offer you my sincerest apologies here and now."

"We're ready to offer you both a scholarship and a grant, and you'll have the opportunity to continue with your master's degree right here at our university," Principal Ye began. But before he could finish, Dean Lee cut in, "Principal Ye, I've already outlined those terms."

?Ye Guang shot him a glare and retorted, "You may be a dean, but I'm the principal. I outrank you by several levels, so I must reiterate."

"That's unacceptable!" Dean Lee stood his ground. "Su has already agreed to have me as her mentor through her master's and PhD studies."

"No!" Ye Guang insisted firmly, "Miss Su, don't listen to him. He may have some accomplishments in economics, but he's no match for me."

"Principal Ye, if you're going to play that game, I won't hold back. Your son's thesis was ghostwritten, so what does that say about your scholarly achievements?" Dean Lee said with a dismissive roll of his eyes.

"I've retracted all his papers and even had him take a leave of absence to repeat his senior year of high school. Miss Su, I've come to a profound realization of my error. Please, give me another chance," Ye Guang pleaded.

"Ye, this is crossing the line. You're poaching talent right in front of me, and Miss Su is a student from our School of Economics!"

"Let me remind you, this is Eastsea University. Your School of Economics is part of Eastsea University!"

"That changes nothing. Su can only be my student!"

"Then let's put it to the test."

"Fine by me!"

Both men, nearing their sixties, stood their ground, their demeanor suggesting they were ready to come to blows.

The students watching were completely taken aback.

Who was Su Qiu, to warrant such attention?

It was one thing for the dean to personally apologize to her, but now the principal was involved as well.

And to top it off, they were actually fighting over the right to mentor Su Qiu.

Neither had taken on new students for years, but if they did, there would surely be a flood of applicants.

Just as the two seemed ready to clash, Director Wang cleared his throat: "Dean Lee, Principal Ye, please be mindful of your conduct."

Caught off guard, both men paused, suddenly aware that they were in the women's dormitory.

As leaders of the institution, they knew they had to behave appropriately.

"I'll deal with you later. Miss Su, let's go. I've just arranged a single apartment for you."

"Were you eavesdropping on my conversation just outside the door?"

"I've known Miss Su since six this evening. I had everything planned out by then. But at that time, you were clueless!"

At this, the students around them coughed in unison.

Dean Lee and Principal Ye exchanged an awkward glance, then offered a smile and a welcoming gesture.

?Su Qiu, caught between laughter and tears, walked out.

Dean Lee and Principal Ye trailed behind her.

Director Wang breathed a sigh of relief once the trio had departed.

Secretary Chen, meanwhile, turned to face the three girls in the dormitory with a stern look. "You have been spreading rumors and defaming others at school. As punishment, you will be placed on probation. All the subjects you passed with the help of Ye Fenglong will now be marked as zero!"

Upon hearing Secretary Chen's declaration, the three girls were devastated.

Su Qiu was just a very poor girl from the countryside. Why did the school leaders treat her with such respect?

If they had realized Su Qiu's influence earlier, they would have made sure to ingratiate themselves with her.

"Furthermore, stop discussing this matter. While Su is kind-hearted and doesn't wish to hold a grudge, it doesn't mean the school's administration will overlook your actions. Now, head back to your dorms and get some sleep!"

With that, all the girls obediently returned to their rooms.

The leaders had welcomed Su Qiu with beaming smiles, but they faced the others with stern expressions and sharp reprimands.

Was this the disparity they were witnessing?

Chapter 368 - Heart of Wisdom

?Su Ming was unaware of the events unfolding at his school. The school's administration wanted to inform him, but they couldn't broach the subject on their own initiative. Once he returned home, Su Ming promptly called his parents to confirm that the issue had been resolved. He also instructed them to deliver 100,000 yuan to Su Qiu's residence. With everything in order, Su Ming finally relaxed.

?Leaving the villa, he made his way to the fields bathed in moonlight. The melons were thriving. Su Ming watered them and fetched some fertilizer from the storehouse to spread over the soil. Next, he headed to the adjacent banana plantation where the

plants had begun to sprout. He fetched a hose from a nearby thatched hut and began watering the bananas, which were Level Two crops.

Su Ming then turned his attention to a mysterious plant. To his delight, he discovered it had blossomed. The enigmatic plant swayed gently with the breeze. Its broad leaves featured a striking golden stripe that connected to other veins, shining brilliantly and looking quite stunning. At its center was a large red flower, about the size of a hand, which had unfurled into a beautiful bloom. At the heart of the flower was a multicolored orb of light. Despite his scrutiny, he couldn't discern what lay within the flower. After waiting an entire half-month, the time to harvest had finally arrived. Checking the time, he realized he could reap the rewards the following morning.

When Su Ming activated the scanner, it returned only question marks. "Yuvyuv, do you know what this is?" he inquired mentally.

"Master, I am not sure. My level is too low," Yuvyuv responded.

Su Ming blinked, suddenly aware of a potential solution. "Yuvyuv, is it possible for you to level up?"

?"Of course!"

"And how can you level up?"

"My permissions are insufficient to provide an answer. However, once you level up, you'll soon find out," Yuvyuv explained.

Su Ming nodded, taking in Yuvyuv's words. Yuvyuv had the capability to level up. She functioned as a smartwatch, enabling him to converse with her and keep track of time and his interactions with the System. Although her capabilities were elementary, she had already surpassed the artificial intelligence of contemporary society in her ability to engage in fluid conversation—a feat many AI systems had yet to achieve.

What will she become after the upgrade?

Su Ming struggled to contain his inner excitement.

He visited the breeding zone, aquatic product area, and herding area.

After busying himself for quite some time, he didn't head to bed until well past midnight, where he quickly fell into a deep sleep.

Early the next morning.

"Master, the mysterious crop has matured!"

Su Ming was momentarily stunned, then snapped to full alertness. He scrambled out of bed and rushed downstairs.

Opening the door, Su Ming was taken aback.

There he stood at the villa's entrance, a good fifty to sixty meters from the enigmatic crop.

Yet, even from this distance, he could see the entire plant radiating a rainbow glow.

The multicolored peach blossoms gently drifted to the ground, vanishing upon contact.

The scene was enchantingly beautiful!

Su Ming's mouth hung open in awe.

Typically, when ordinary crops ripened, they might gain an extra sheen.

But this mysterious plant was like a giant light bulb.

The two-acre plot was bathed in a spectrum of colors, even the lofty banana trees shimmered with a rainbow luminescence.

Thankfully, the System concealed all this, making it invisible to the outside world.

Otherwise, Su Ming was certain the place would be swarming with crowds.

Su Ming dashed over and crouched before the wondrous plant.

The flower was in full bloom, emitting beams of rainbow light from its core, and at the heart of the blossom floated a crystal resembling a water droplet, shimmering with all the colors of the rainbow.

?Su Ming, puzzled, reached out to grasp the object.

"Congratulations, Host, you have obtained the Heart of Wisdom!"

Su Ming paused, taken aback.

He initiated a scan, only to be met with a series of question marks: clearly, the item was of an exceptionally high level.

This was, after all, a Level Four crop.

"Yuvyuv, what's the Heart of Wisdom for?" Su Ming inquired mentally.

?"Master, if you place the Heart of Wisdom on some basic robots, it can induce their evolution, eventually granting them human emotions. The more advanced the robot's intelligence, the more effective the evolution," Yuvyuv explained in his mind.

Su Ming nearly leapt with excitement.

"Master, rest assured, even after the robots evolve, they will remain obedient to you!" Yuvyuv assured him telepathically.

Su Ming breathed a sigh of relief, the crystal radiating brilliant colors in his hand. He mulled over the idea of purchasing a robot to test out. Yuvyuv's voice echoed in his mind, "I recommend that you refrain from using the Heart of Wisdom for now, Master. The artificial intelligence of the market's robots is currently too rudimentary. Please be patient and wait a while longer."

Su Ming paused, a spark of joy igniting within him as he grasped Yuvyuv's implication. The robots available on the market were quite basic, capable only of running simple programs. To use the Heart of Wisdom on them would indeed be squandering its potential. Yuvyuv's advice suggested that more sophisticated robots were on the horizon.

After some deliberation, Su Ming identified three potential avenues to acquire such intelligent robots. One was the advancement of modern human technology to create more complex robots. However, Yuvyuv was not able to foresee the future; she could only make predictions based on the System's pre-set parameters. Therefore, her hint likely didn't pertain to this scenario.

?Another possibility was the emergence of robots in the shop, though this seemed to be a long shot. The final, and most curious possibility, was that robots might one day spring forth from the earth itself!

Chapter 369 - Robot Fragment

Su Ming cradled the Heart of Wisdom and gingerly set it into a wooden box.

His home had plenty of storage options.

Yet, he trusted the wooden box, spawned by the System, to be the most secure.

With everything stowed away, Su Ming breathed a sigh of relief.

"The Host cannot earn experience points as the crop level is too high!"

"The Host has triggered a surprise reward. You have received an Upgrade Card!"

"Upgrade Card: Allows the Host to level up immediately!"

"Note: Valid for 24 hours!"

Right after securing the item, a notification chimed in Su Ming's mind.

He accessed his data panel.

Farmer: Su Ming

Level: LV10

Experience: 389,927 / 500,000

He was just over 110,000 experience points shy of leveling up.

?Surveying his fields, Su Ming knew harvesting the crops would surely grant him a level up.

But the Upgrade Card was only good for 24 hours.

Without hesitation, Su Ming opted to use the Upgrade Card.

"The Host has utilized the Upgrade Card!"

"Host level up complete!"

"Congratulations, you've earned one lottery draw!"

Su Ming revisited his data panel.

Farmer: Su Ming

Level: LV11

Experience: 500,000 / 1,000,000

Farm: Level Three

Breeding: Level Two

Ranch: Level One

Aquaculture: Level One

Skills: Blessing from Plants, Initial Scanning Ability, Stamina Talent, Mosquito Immune

System, Experience Buff 20

Planting Points: 1

Breeding Points: 300

Grazing Points: 0

Aquatic Points: 0

The experience needed to advance had grown, but so had the expanse of his farming operations.

He still had a chance to spin the lottery wheel.

But before taking that chance, Su Ming paused to consider, then dashed to the side and took a swig of Blessing Potion.

"Congratulations to the Host for acquiring 1 Beginner Smart Robot Fragment!"

The alert in his mind nearly made Su Ming leap for joy.

He'd harvested the Heart of Wisdom just this morning, and now he'd snagged a Beginner Smart Robot Fragment!

It was merely a piece, yet it filled Su Ming with hope!

He hastily pulled out his phone, launched the app, and there it was—a robot fragment in his inventory.

The robot was pristine white.

As Su Ming touched it, a prompt box appeared beside it.

A Beginner Smart Robot can assist its Host with work. It never needs a break and can recharge itself using solar energy! It possesses combat capabilities and can engage in basic communication with the Host.

Should the Host acquire the Heart of Wisdom, they can integrate it with the smart robot, enhancing its performance and combat abilities, and it will begin to exhibit human-like emotions and self-awareness. It will be able to communicate seamlessly with the Host!

Robots created by the System are eternally loyal to their master and are automatically immune to any attacks from the System itself.

This means that once he unlocks this smart robot, he won't have to lift a finger to work again.

While Su Ming was reveling in this thought, his phone abruptly rang.

Caught off guard, Su Ming shook his head and chuckled at himself.

He was quite a ways from leveling up; he had gotten ahead of himself.

He checked his phone and saw it was a call from Su Qiu.

Su Ming smiled.

"What's up, sis?"

He greeted her warmly as he answered the call.

"Thank you, brother!"

Su Qiu's voice bubbled with excitement from the other end.

?"For what?" Su Ming asked, puzzled.

"Brother, wasn't it you who arranged for them to switch my dorm? I've got a single apartment now. Principal Ye said as long as I'm at the school, the apartment is mine. We've signed the contract. Even if Principal Ye is replaced, the apartment will still belong to me. He even secured a PhD spot for me!"

Su Ming was taken aback.

He hadn't arranged any of this; it seemed they had taken care of it themselves.

"That wasn't my doing; it must have been Principal Ye's arrangement. Did you thank him for his generosity?"

"I did thank him, and they even awarded me a scholarship! Brother, I want to buy a new computer, but I'm not sure how and I'm worried about getting scammed. Could you come with me?" Su Qiu asked.

?Hearing this, Su Ming slapped his forehead in realization.

He had explicitly promised to buy her a phone and a computer.

But after taking her shopping for clothes because of a party that evening, he had completely forgotten about it as night fell.

?"I promised you yesterday I would buy them for you, and I totally forgot. I'll take care of it today."

"Bro, I've got enough money; I'm not hitting you up for cash!"

Su Qiu was so frantic upon hearing this that she was on the verge of tears.

Su Ming understood Su Qiu's temperament well, so he didn't overthink it.

"I'm aware you're not hinting at anything. Your money is your own. I already promised you yesterday, consider it a gift for your college acceptance. Just wait at school, I'll drive over to meet you."

"Okay."

Su Qiu could do nothing but nod in agreement.

After ending the call, Su Ming changed into a fresh set of clothes, tidied up a bit, and set off for the school in his car.

Soon, he reached the entrance of Eastsea University.

He noticed a crowd gathered around the entrance.

Su Ming was bewildered.

Was there some kind of holiday today?

Despite his confusion, with the crowd being so large, he discreetly parked his car in a lot a fair distance from the school's entrance.

With his hands in his pockets and music in his ears, he made his way toward the school.

Chapter 370 - Principal You Are too Shameless

As Su Ming approached the school gate, he couldn't shake the feeling that something was amiss.

Why were they staring at him?

He stepped to the left, and every gaze followed suit.

He moved to the right, and again, the eyes tracked his every move.

Pausing, Su Ming glanced over his shoulder.

Besides an old man sweeping the street, there was no one else.

Could this sweeper be some sort of undercover boss?

He certainly didn't look the part.

"Brother!"

At the height of Su Ming's indecision about whether to move forward, a crisp voice rang out.

Su Qiu was standing at the front, caught between laughter and tears.

In an instant, Su Ming got it.

He had no choice but to advance.

He hadn't gone far when the school's leaders converged on him.

"Good morning, Mr. Su!"

"Have you had breakfast, Mr. Su?"

"Don't mind him, Mr. Su. He's the one who failed you before!"

The group swarmed around Su Ming with overwhelming warmth.

Su Ming gestured frantically: "Sister, what's all this about?"

Su Qiu looked equally bemused: "I was just waiting for you here. I ran into one of the academy's leaders, and then everyone just showed up."

As the crowd pressed in, Su Ming urged, "Please, go about your business."

"We're not busy at all!"

They shook their heads vehemently.

The news from the previous night had spread like wildfire across the school.

The principal had crossed someone untouchable, compelling his son to rejoin the senior year of high school.

The implications of that person's influence were clear.

And, crucially, Su Ming's sister was a student at Eastsea University.

This morning, upon his arrival, the vice principal was delighted to see Su Qiu.

Learning she was waiting for Su Ming, he decided to join the wait.

?And so the news proliferated.

Su Ming felt a twitch in his eyelid and a tingling on his scalp.

As he was about to lead Su Qiu away, a thunderous voice erupted from behind.

"What are you doing?"

Ye Loong, hands clasped behind him and brow furrowed, strode forward. "What's this commotion at the school gate? Are you looking to get fired?"

The principal had arrived!

With a collective sigh and reluctant shakes of their heads, they stepped back a few paces.

Once the crowd had cleared, Ye Loong's stern expression vanished, replaced by a beaming smile. "Mr. Su, what brings you here?"

?"I remember you're an alumnus of Eastsea University; my signature is even on your diploma. How about a campus tour? I could show you around personally. We've added several new labs and a park recently," Ye Loong said, still smiling warmly.

?The teachers behind him were visibly displeased by the sudden change in demeanor.

They cast disapproving glances at the principal.

Scratching his head and blinking, Su Ming replied, "Maybe some other time. I'm here to take Su Qiu out for an errand today."

?"Alright!" Ye Loong agreed without hesitation.

Su Ming was startled by the swift response.

"Mr. Su, here's a special pass for the school. With this, you can go anywhere you like, no need to knock, even if it's my office," Ye Loong offered.

?Su Ming blinked and accepted the pass, realizing that refusing it would only waste more time.

He quickly grabbed the pass and hurried off with Su Qiu.

Su Qiu had to stifle her laughter at Su Ming's hasty departure.

"Laugh again, and I'll sell you off to the mountains!" Su Ming threatened, turning to her with a mock fierce look.

?"I won't laugh anymore!" Su Qiu promptly straightened up.

?Left without a comeback, Su Ming rolled his eyes, got into the car with Su Qiu, and they headed straight for Appliances City.

?Driving leisurely down a street, they were suddenly interrupted by an elderly lady darting out from a side alley.

She appeared to be in her sixties or seventies, her hair white, and she was unsteady on her feet, leaning heavily on a cane.

Su Ming hit the brakes, bringing the car to a standstill.

The old lady made a beeline for Su Ming's car and then stumbled and fell.

?Both Su Ming and Su Qiu were stunned.

Su Ming had bought so many cars that he hadn't yet installed a dashcam in this one.

After a moment's hesitation, Su Qiu was the first to exit the car.

?Su Ming followed suit, and Su Qiu approached the old lady to offer assistance.

The elderly woman, clearly advanced in years, exerted considerable effort trying to rise from the ground.

Despite her prolonged struggle, she remained unable to stand.

Su Qiu inquired, "Grandma, does your family live nearby? Could you provide me with a family member's phone number? I can call them and ask for assistance."