

The Billion-Value Lands Are Just For Farming

#Chapter 601 - Read The Billion-Value Lands Are Just For Farming Chapter 601

C601 – I Am so Handsome That No One Can Compare to Me

Why charter a private jet this time? The answer is quite simple.

I'm a hotshot celebrity, after all.

How could I possibly travel without an entourage?

Just my assistants number ten.

One to pour water, one to carry cups, one to wash my face, one to dress me, and one for... well, nighttime companionship.

And that's not all. There's a team of seven makeup artists.

One for eyebrows, one for eyes, and one for hair...

The specialization is meticulous.

With so many people, you might think chartering a plane is overkill, but there's more. The rear of the aircraft is filled with men in black, sporting sunglasses and uniforms, exuding a cool, intimidating aura.

What are they for?

Bodyguards, of course!

It's laughable to think a star like me would step out without protection. How else to show off my status and popularity?

I must venture out incognito, face hidden, flanked by a circle of staff, with a throng of celebrities in tow. That's the definition of a grand entrance!

Park Jiji sat on the plane, legs crossed, flanked by two beauties—one massaging his waist, the other his shoulders. Looking down through the window, he sneered.

"The economy of the imperial court is so behind. Their airport can't hold a candle to ours..."

Park Jiji remarked with a sneer.

Some passengers on the plane couldn't help but twitch at his words.

Are you sure, K People?

Our airport is no better than one built in a village, while theirs is large, advanced, and international.

Is there really a comparison?

Just then, a woman in a skimpy skirt and blouse approached with a beaming smile. "Dear K People, you're incredibly popular in the imperial court right now. Countless fans are cheering for you. Even though the imperial court's economy isn't great and the people leave much to be desired, you must hold back, K People. Be extra polite, show love for your fans. That's how you'll rake in the cash."

"K People, after your day of rest today, you've got three interviews lined up for tomorrow, plus two commercial gigs. The pay is substantial," the agent rattled on.

"Don't worry, I know how to handle these backward folks at the imperial court," Park Jiji boasted arrogantly, convinced of his noble birth and looking down on the people of the imperial court.

Yet, he couldn't deny that his primary goal was to rake in the cash. The imperial court's citizens were wealthy and, in his opinion, foolishly easy to earn from—just showing up for an appearance could net him a hefty sum.

In the midst of K People's elation, the plane abruptly touched down.

"Bang!"

With a gentle thud, K People, who hadn't buckled his seatbelt, lurched forward, his face colliding intimately with the back of the seat in front of him.

"Splash!"

K People slowly peeled his face away from the seat, emitting a squelching sound.

Yes, it sounded like water.

The makeup from K People's face was firmly imprinted on the seat, revealing his true visage.

Looking at K People now, one would see a sallow complexion, a pallor that hinted at frailty.

Moments ago, he was the picture of a dashing celebrity; now, he resembled a gravely ill patient.

“Damn it!”

K People couldn’t help but swear out loud, frantically grabbing tissues to wipe his face. He wiped off one layer only to find another beneath it.

It was clear that K People’s face had been a construction of makeup.

“What are you all gawking at? Get over here and fix this mess!” K People snapped, turning to the makeup artists beside him, inwardly cursing them.

They had warned him to fasten his seatbelt, but he hadn’t listened. Now, in the aftermath of the incident, he was demanding their help. The thick plaster of makeup they had meticulously applied over the course of an hour now needed urgent repair.

Reluctantly suppressing their irritation, the makeup artists set to work. With the plane already on the ground and time running short, they could only do a rushed touch-up. Thankfully, they managed to restore a semblance of color to K People’s face, who had no choice but to don sunglasses to conceal the still unfinished eyes.

He rose to his feet, standing tall and proud, and took a quick glance in the mirror. Yes, my charm is truly unrivaled!

“Let’s roll out. Those mindless fans have been eagerly awaiting my arrival. I’m all set to bask in their adulation!” K People declared as he disembarked from the plane. His bodyguards swiftly took their positions, forming a protective ring, while a retinue of assistants trailed behind, lugging suitcases, makeup kits, and cameras.

Bystanders gawked at the spectacle.

“Who’s that lady?”

“That’s not a lady; it’s a guy.”

“Oh, well, that figures. Must be one of the K People.”

“He doesn’t have a single fan, yet he’s surrounded by bodyguards?”

“You just don’t get it. He’s worried about getting roughed up.”

“Ah, that explains it...”

K People’s eyelids twitched with irritation at the comments, struggling to keep his composure.

No, I must remember who I am—an idol, a star. I have to keep my cool!

Meanwhile, at the airport exit.

The plane's security and local police had already taken action, setting up a barrier, beyond which a throng of beautiful young women gathered, most of them no older than fifteen or sixteen.

Truth be told, the turnout of genuine fans was meager; the majority were paid to be there. Who they were didn't matter; they were just there to cheer.

And among them were a few paparazzi, sneaking their shots.

"They must be arriving any moment now. Oh my gosh, I can hardly contain my excitement!"

"Park Jinyi's most dashing icon is our heartthrob!"

"There's no man on earth more handsome than him!"

"Absolutely, no question about it..."

A group of devoted fans shouted their praises from outside.

As the cheers continued, two figures emerged at the exit.

He was strikingly handsome, with a tall, noble presence and an overwhelming charisma that captured the girl's heart, making it impossible for her to look away.

The girl was stunningly beautiful, with an air of purity and elegance that radiated a noble grace. Her long dress accentuated her flawless figure, and standing beside the boy, they were the epitome of a golden couple.

Everyone around fell silent, their cheers and screams subsiding, completely mesmerized by the pair.

"Oh my god, aren't they just too handsome?"

"Is that Oppa?"

"It must be K People!"

"Wow, he's even more handsome than his pictures!"

"Even with a mask and sunglasses on, you can tell it's definitely him!"

When Su Ming and Xiao Ke'er disembarked from the plane, they were immediately met with a crowd of people clamoring for autographs and pictures. Overwhelmed by the attention, they reluctantly resorted to wearing masks and sunglasses to cope with the frenzy.

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C602 – I Can Smell the Awkwardness in the Air

To his utter surprise, upon reaching the door and seeing the throng of people, he was completely dumbfounded. What in the world was happening?

“K People, I love you!”

“K People, you are the light of my heart!”

A sea of adoring fans surged forward.

Among them was a group who had been paid to be there. They threw caution to the wind and joined in the frenzy!

At the back, another group's view was obstructed, but they caught on to the shouts from the front and chimed in.

And so, the fans of K People converged en masse!

Su Ming and Xiao Ke'er were frozen in shock.

What was happening? What was this all about?

K People?

Who were they referring to?

How could I, a proud citizen of the imperial court, be mistaken for K People?

Su Ming and Xiao Ke'er exchanged a glance, realizing it was far too late for explanations.

There's nothing more fearsome than a star-chasing woman!

Better to make a run for it!

Without a second thought, Su Ming scooped Xiao Ke'er into his arms and bolted.

They were off like a shot!

“K People!”

“Wait for us! We’re your most devoted fans!”

“You can’t just leave us behind!”

The fans weren’t about to let them get away that easily.

Not on their watch!

A young man, his identity concealed by sunglasses and a mask, sprinted with a girl in his arms, occasionally adjusting her skirt.

The girl nestled against him, her face hidden, appeared both bashful and thrilled – such an experience was entirely new to her!

Trailing them was a procession of girls, brandishing signs and shouting at the top of their lungs, “K People, I love you!”

Xiao Chen had come to pick someone up and nearly lost his mind at the sight of the crowd.

“Damn, what’s the deal? Is it always this chaotic when my sister and brother-in-law step out?”

“This can’t be normal, right?”

Though bewildered, he wasn’t foolish. He quickly opened the door, ushered Su Ming and Xiao Ke’er inside, then slammed it shut!

“Phew!”

Only then did Su Ming let out a deep sigh of relief.

“What’s the situation, brother-in-law? What’s all this about?”

Seated in the car, Xiao Chen turned with a look of utter bewilderment and asked.

“I have no idea, but I think there might be a celebrity around today. They’ve mistaken me for someone else.”

Su Ming removed his mask and sunglasses, unveiling a face of striking handsomeness.

“Ah!!! So handsome!!!”

Just then, someone poked their head in from the passenger seat. Catching sight of Su Ming, they froze for a few seconds before letting out a piercing scream!

Many girls were taken aback, then crowded around. Upon seeing Su Ming's face, they began to scream wildly!

"He's not from K People, but he's incredibly handsome!"

"His eyes sparkle like stars. I think I'm falling for him!"

"That's it, I'm done. From today on, I'm no longer a fan of K People. This guy is my idol forever!"

"Move over, move over! I need to get a picture with my idol!"

"Oh my goodness, isn't he way more handsome than K People?"

This band of devoted fans had completely switched allegiances after laying eyes on Su Ming.

There was no helping it; he was just too good-looking, with an air of nobility and a magnetic charm that captivated the hearts of countless young girls.

Sure, K People was handsome, but comparisons can be cruel.

Next to a short, stocky fellow, K People would shine, but standing beside Su Ming, K People seemed lacking.

It was an insurmountable chasm that no one could bridge!

"Uh..."

Xiao Chen was dumbfounded, yet a part of him felt flattered. Honestly, I've never been surrounded by so many girls before. Even though they were all there for my brother-in-law, it still felt pretty amazing!

"Ladies, I need to head home. I already have a girlfriend. Why don't you go chase after your own celebrities?"

Su Ming was at a loss for words.

"Wow! He's so adorable and handsome even when he's speechless. I just want to pinch his cheeks!"

"It's okay if he has a girlfriend. I could be the other woman!"

“I could have your baby, no strings attached. You wouldn’t have to worry about a thing!”

“Exactly, handsome. I want to have your baby. I’ll raise our little cutie, and you won’t have to do anything!”

“It’s over, I’m completely done for, I feel like I’m going to pass out!”

Su Ming and Xiao Ke’er exchanged glances, both sporting metaphorical black lines on their foreheads. What in the world was going on?

The person snapping photos nearby certainly wasn’t going to miss this chance.

As Xiao Chen prepared to roll up his car window, one of the girls suddenly shot him a menacing look. “I’ve got your face memorized. If you dare roll up that window, I’ll track you down and harass you every single day!”

“What the hell...”

Xiao Chen was on the verge of tears. Was the disparity really that vast? He was quite handsome too, wasn’t he?

And those capturing the moment with their cameras realized, oh my, he was astonishingly photogenic; there was no need to adjust any settings. Any angle, any profile shot was breathtakingly stunning!

They frantically snapped away!

While Su Ming and the others were feeling utterly helpless, the celebrity K People emerged, leading a formidable entourage.

K People adjusted his glasses, straightened his clothes, and walked with a confident, broad stride.

He wore a self-assured smile that he believed to be both dashing and approachable.

He subtly sucked in his stomach, revealing a set of abs that were the epitome of vague!

He also flashed his gleaming wristwatch, convinced he was the epitome of cool.

The exit was just ahead. Surely, a throng of fans awaited him outside. “Come on, fans, cheer and scream for me!” he thought.

K People strode out of the exit with his head held high.

And then...

Whoosh...

It was as if a breeze had swept through a pile of leaves, leaving not a soul in sight.

No one was there.

Not a single person.

Even the usual crowd of passengers boarding and disembarking had vanished!

Where was everyone? Where the hell was everyone?

Something wasn't right. Weren't there supposed to be countless fans?

Hadn't they arranged with several agencies beforehand? They had paid good money for a crowd of fans!

Where the hell were they?

Could they have gotten the time wrong?

Impossible. He had confirmed the time with them before departure. Such a basic error was unthinkable.

K People was baffled. The people behind K People were equally perplexed, as were the surrounding bodyguards.

Why such a massive setup? Who are we even guarding against? The air?

Are we scared that we'll be suffocated by an excess of carbon dioxide?

"Who's that?"

"With so many people crowding around one person, it couldn't possibly be Zhang XX, could it?"

"The spectacle is impressive, yet there's not a single fan in sight. How awkward is that?"

"I'm cringing on his behalf."

"As the news editor, I've already got the perfect headline: 'Star Believes He's Skyrocketed to Fame, Surrounded by a Circle of Bodyguards, Yet Only Defending Against Thin Air!'"

"Quick, get those photos!"

The folks lounging on the sofas nearby couldn't resist moving in for a closer shot.

But this time, it wasn't about chasing celebrities. They saw it as a newsworthy event, a hot topic. Why wait? Snap it up and upload the video to make some quick cash!

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C603 – The Gourd Children Are Cooked

K People's face turned a shade of green.

What a classic case of arriving elated and leaving deflated.

The manager, witnessing the scene, grimaced with displeasure. "K People, we should really get going. It'd be mortifying if this video got out online."

"Alright."

K People, not daring to utter another word, bowed its head and made a beeline for the exit. To its astonishment, there was a large crowd at the door, brandishing signs.

"Park Ji, we love you!"

"Park Ji, you're our idol!"

At the sight, K People straightened up, its heart swelling with pride.

Ah, just as I thought, how could I be without fans? Here they all are, waiting at the door!

K People straightened its attire, a warm, welcoming smile on its face. With a light cough and a wave, it approached the fans: "Hello, everyone!"

And with that, it began to speak in a terribly broken Imperial Court language.

A few fans at the back turned around and gasped in recognition. Wasn't this the K People oppa they had been eagerly awaiting?

"Look, isn't that our K People... Uh..."

"Oh my goodness, I didn't remember my K People being this unattractive."

"Who is this ugly jerk?"

"Damn! My eyes! I need to wash them out! This is an eyesore!"

“How can someone so unattractive dare to be a celebrity?”

The fans started to mock K People one by one, with several covering their eyes in disbelief.

There’s no escaping it; comparisons can be cruel. Next to the average person, K People might be considered quite handsome.

But standing next to Su Ming, the gap was enormous, not just big, but a chasm as wide as the heavens are from the earth.

Most of these fans were the die-hard type, all fervor and fleeting enthusiasm. Seeing the object of their adoration looking so unappealing, they discarded their signs in disgust.

Trampling them underfoot, they lamented their previous blindness in following someone so unattractive!

Seeing their reaction, K People’s face turned an even deeper green. Suddenly, a wave of heat surged in its chest, and it spat out a mouthful of blood in shock!

“Foundation!”

“Foundation?!”

“Foundation, what’s wrong?!”

Nearby makeup artists and managers hurriedly rushed over to help.

Soon after, a flurry of short videos hit the internet, each with eye-catching titles.

”Another Zhang So-and-So? Hired countless security guards, only to find they’re outnumbered by fans twentyfold!”

“K People from K People Country turn into an ugly mess?!”

“Loyal female fans of K People weep, revealing K People’s true, unattractive face!”

“K People’s partners unilaterally tear up contracts, refusing to work with the unattractive!”

“Why is this random guy at the airport ridiculously handsome?!”

The videos featured not only K People spitting blood but also Su Ming.

Comparing the two, the difference was stark: one was unmade-up, exuding natural masculinity and an air of affluence, while the other's makeup was caked on thicker than a city wall!

Many of K People's collaborations were instantly canceled, and for those that couldn't be, the prices were slashed dramatically.

To be honest, the trip to the imperial court was supposed to be a money-making venture, but it didn't even cover the plane's fuel costs.

Moreover, K People's domestic fans all jumped ship!

They're now all set on coming to the imperial court to find that mysterious handsome guy from the airport – he's just too handsome, beyond comparison!

"Find out who that guy is!"

"I want him gone!"

K People woke up from a nightmare in the hospital.

In the dream, he saw a world where every man, except for him, was as handsome as the guy from the airport.

What a nightmare, truly a nightmare!

Because in that dream world, he was the ugliest of them all!

.....

Xiao Ke'er returned home safely.

Old Master Xiao was overjoyed.

After escorting Xiao Ke'er home and chatting with her for a bit, Su Ming hurried back to his own place.

"Brother's back."

As Su Ming was about to open the door, it swung open, and Little Qing greeted him with a sweet smile.

"Eh... How did you know I was back?"

Su Ming asked, curious.

“Because I heard my brother’s voice.”

Little Qing replied with a sweet smile.

“Alright, has anything happened at home these last couple of days?”

Su Ming stepped into the yard, closing the door behind him, with Little Qing following closely. “Nothing, brother, everything at home has been normal.”

“By the way, brother, your crops are ready for harvest.”

Little Qing’s sudden recollection prompted Su Ming to nod in agreement. He had hurried back for this very reason.

The Calabash Brothers, once wailing, were now ripe.

In the yard, a succession of Calabash Vines twined around the framework provided by the System.

Typically, a Calabash Vine would sprout numerous gourds.

But Su Ming’s vine was extraordinary, stretching across a vast expanse of land, and on this particular seedling, there was only one gourd.

Su Ming warmed his hands and strode over to the base of the vine, scrutinizing the gourd with great care.

Hmm?

Something about this gourd seems off...

Despite a thorough inspection, nothing seemed amiss, yet something didn’t feel right.

Holy smokes!

This...

How can this gourd be so enormous?

Su Ming was astounded.

The vines had grown so extensively, blanketing the entire trellis and half an acre, that the true size was obscured. But upon closer examination, the gourd was nearly as big as half a person.

To put it bluntly,

if a child were to sneak inside, you wouldn't even notice. It was ridiculously large!

Moreover, the gourd's surface was a dazzling golden hue, gleaming brilliantly.

This was truly a curious item.

Could it be a magical gourd?

Imagine standing in the street, holding the gourd aloft, and shouting, "I call your name; do you dare respond?"

Then, one by one, the villains would be sucked inside.

Incredible!

Su Ming chuckled, extending his hands to grasp the gourd firmly.

It felt icy cold, almost chilling to the bone. He took the gourd down and examined it meticulously.

"Ding! Congratulations, Host, you've obtained the Perfect Water Cleansing Pill. This pill is highly potent; just one can instantly purify any water into drinkable water, free from impurities and viruses, safe for consumption!"

"Ding! A single pill can purify a vast quantity of water!"

.....

Upon hearing the mental prompt, Su Ming felt a tinge of disappointment.

Sigh...

I had hoped it would be a magical gourd.

Turns out this gourd is nothing more than a vessel.

Well, fine, I'll begrudgingly accept it.

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C604 – The Matter Between You and Your Mother Has Been Exposed

Su Ming grasped the gourd and swiftly removed the stopper.

Whoa!

Holy smokes!

Inside, the bottle was crammed with pills, none of which were particularly large, roughly the size of soybeans.

He tipped one out; it was round and pitch-black.

Then, an indescribable stench hit him like a wave.

Not only that, but it also released a dense black smoke visible to the naked eye.

“System, get out here! Are you telling me this thing can actually purify water?”

Su Ming was dumbfounded, his eyes bulging as he stared at the object in his hand, struggling to believe it.

Are you certain this can actually clean water?

It’s not going to make the water even more toxic, is it?

Damn!

It’s unbearably stinky!

Su Ming hastily returned the item to the bottle, sealed it, and ran a good distance away, taking deep breaths to recover.

Whew...

My goodness...

He had never encountered anything so foul-smelling.

It was exponentially more pungent than any stinky tofu he’d come across.

Taking a deep breath and exhaling slowly, Su Ming returned to the field to collect the remaining gourds.

Predictably, they all contained water purification pills.

“Ding! Crop harvesting successful. Experience gained: 1,000,000! Bonus reward: 300,000!”

“Ding! Item recycled. Congratulations, Host, you’ve earned 200,000 experience points! Bonus reward: 60,000!”

Su Ming pondered for a moment. Despite its odd appearance, anything produced by the System was bound to be of quality and might prove useful later on.

Best to keep them all.

The farm hadn’t been upgraded yet, and the land couldn’t reach Level Four, so hoarding points was pointless. Besides, he still had his Vigorous Sailor spinach!

Now, aside from the two idle acres and the freshly harvested five acres, Su Ming also had a Celestial Peach that would ripen by tomorrow!

Su Ming planned to harvest the Celestial Peach and then let the land rest for a while before replanting. Heeding Yuvyuv’s advice was never a mistake, especially since Yuvyuv was an embodiment of the System.

With everything squared away, Su Ming stretched languidly. The past few days of bustling about had indeed taken their toll, and he felt quite weary.

Go get some rest!

Su Ming returned home, took a soothing bath, slipped into his pajamas, and nestled comfortably on the sofa, thoroughly enjoying his TV time.

Meanwhile, at the Eastsea City Reservoir, an elderly man clad in a tank top and shorts, with slippers on his feet, was patrolling the dam, flashlight in hand.

“Old Liu, where did you wander off to?!” bellowed a voice not too far away.

Startled, the old man’s leisurely demeanor vanished. He scurried back to his duty room, slippers flapping against the ground.

Upon entering the duty room, he was taken aback. What in the world was happening? The senior officials of the Water Conservancy Bureau were all there, looking deeply troubled.

“Leaders, what brings you all here?” he quivered, wondering if he had done something wrong. It was just a few old ladies he had been involved with... Surely that wouldn’t warrant such a gathering?

Oh no!!!

Could they have found out about his affair with the elderly mother of a minor department head?

This was a disaster. He had kept it so well hidden; how could they possibly know?

In a state of panic, the old man collapsed to his knees. "Manager Liu, I'm so sorry, truly sorry. I shouldn't have been involved with your mother... But it was consensual. Your father passed away early, and your mother longed for companionship. We were both willing..."

The room fell silent, everyone's gaze fixed on one individual.

Manager Liu wasn't part of the Water Conservancy Bureau; he was a businessman who had leased the reservoir. His business was simple: stock it with fish, sell tickets, and let people come to fish for leisure.

The reservoir was the city's lifeline, supplying water to the majority of its residents. Raising a few fish there was no big deal.

But now, Manager Liu's face was ashen with shock.

This whole situation was supposed to have nothing to do with him. He had just come to see what the commotion was about, and now, out of nowhere, he was being implicated?

No wonder his mother had been looking so radiant lately. It was this old man who had been up to mischief behind his back!

"You've got some nerve, old man! How dare you hit on my mother?"

"And to think you called me 'Brother Liu' earlier today!"

"Listen here, Old Liu, you're in big trouble!"

Manager Liu was seething with anger. What were the odds that they shared the same last name?

Misunderstandings were inevitable.

As expected, the expressions on the faces of the other leaders grew increasingly peculiar. There was Manager Liu, and then there was Old Man Liu, who had some kind of connection with Manager Liu's mother...

Tsk, tsk, tsk!

He hadn't anticipated such an unexpected turn of events.

"Manager Liu, I truly apologize. But rest assured, the fact that you're your father's biological child has nothing to do with me," Old Man Liu said, trying to clear the air.

"Just shut up already!"

Manager Liu felt like he was going to be sick. The less said, the better, but the more Old Man Liu tried to explain, the worse it got!

"Manager Liu, please, don't be mad. From now on, I'll still call you 'brother,' and you can call me 'dad.' We'll mind our own business and not interfere with each other..."

"To hell with that!"

"Calling me 'grandpa' just puts a strain on things..."

"Get out!"

Manager Liu bellowed, unable to contain his rage any longer, his face nearly steaming with fury.

Manager Liu was close to breaking down in tears. Today, I was just a bit player, a contractor here to take a look around, since this whole mess had nothing to do with me, and I was actually the one being victimized.

But now...

I've become the ultimate victim, the kind that can't possibly be victimized any further!

Damn it...

You old coot, just wait—I'm going to make you pay!

"Alright, alright, let's calm down," the director of the Water Conservancy Bureau interjected, trying to suppress a chuckle.

"As you're all aware, the reservoir has been contaminated."

"The city's demand for water is enormous, and although there's a smaller reservoir nearby, it won't hold us over for long. We need to address this contamination issue promptly to avoid a citywide water crisis," he said with a sigh, clearly troubled by the situation.

The other leaders present also frowned, contemplating the gravity of the problem.

It sounds straightforward, but the solution is far from simple.

Nearby the reservoir stood a chemical plant.


Given that the chemical plant also required substantial water usage, its location next to the reservoir was both safe and convenient.

Everything had been running smoothly at the chemical plant, which was in compliance with national standards. The facility was equipped to treat wastewater, and the effluent met all regulatory requirements, posing no threat to health.

However, just three hours ago, a mishap occurred. Due to an operator's error, a moderate explosion took place at the plant. Thankfully, the situation was quickly brought under control with minimal damage. Unfortunately, the blast punctured a tank holding untreated wastewater.

The contents of the tank swiftly leaked into the nearby reservoir. The toxicity of the water hardly needed confirmation; the sight of fish floating on the surface was evidence enough of the contamination.

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C605 – I will Go and Take a Look

"I'm afraid this issue won't be easy to handle," a nearby leader said, unable to contain his concern.

"We have to handle it no matter how difficult it is!" Director-general Zhang slammed his hand on the table. "The entire water supply of Eastsea City depends on us. The safety of our citizens is our top priority. Contact the authorities immediately and have them send technicians over!"

"Yes, sir!"

"Have our people arrived yet?"

"They have!"

"Let's start with our technicians conducting water tests to see if there's a solution. Meanwhile, all leaders must remain at the reservoir, taking turns to rest and stand watch. No one is allowed to go home!"

"Understood!"

Water and food are the most basic necessities for human survival and the pillars of national stability. The head of the Water Conservancy Bureau was a man of integrity, known for his strong character. Since arriving in Eastsea, he had accomplished many significant deeds for the city.

When the reservoir's water quality became compromised, Director-general Zhang was the first to face the crisis. The stress was so intense that it turned his hair white overnight.

Shortly after, local technicians arrived at the scene to collect water samples and perform immediate tests. Some samples were sent to the lab for more thorough analysis.

"This..." An old professor from Eastsea University, with graying hair and an expertise in water conservancy, examined the preliminary results with a deep frown.

"How does it look, Professor Chen? What's the situation?" Director-general Zhang asked tentatively.

"Director-general Zhang..." The professor stood up and sighed heavily. "The contamination in the water is severe. To put it bluntly, the levels of inorganic and heavy metal impurities are alarmingly high."

"Is there any way to treat it?" asked Director-general Zhang, his heart heavy with the gravity of the situation.

"To be honest, there are very few options. We would need specialized equipment to purify the entire reservoir's water. But as you've seen, the volume is so vast that it would take months to complete..."

"Moreover, there are three large natural mouths of springs beneath the reservoir, continuously feeding fresh water into it, which will significantly extend the time needed for treatment."

"Even if we were to drain all the water, it would not only pollute the environment, but the sediment left behind would still be heavily contaminated. Cleaning it up completely is virtually impossible."

The old professor found himself in quite a predicament.

"This..."

Director-general Zhang's hand trembled. They were now facing a major crisis.

The restoration process could take several months, even half a year. Although there was a small reservoir nearby, it was likely to only provide a week's worth of water.

"We must confront the issue head-on, regardless of the circumstances."

Director-general Zhang quickly steadied himself and began issuing instructions: "Immediately notify the media to disclose the situation and reassure the public not to

panic or hoard water. We will do everything in our power to restore the water supply as quickly as possible!”

“Yes, sir!”

“Additionally, have the leadership team consider intermittent water supply for areas like residential neighborhoods, aside from essential locations that require a continuous supply.”

“Got it!”

With the command issued, many sprang into action to address the situation.

Meanwhile, Su Ming was fast asleep in his bed.

By the time he woke up, daylight had already filled the room.

“Ah, that was a good sleep...”

Stretching and smiling, Su Ming stood up to take a shower, only to find no water when he turned on the faucet.

“Hmm?”

Su Ming was momentarily baffled. What was happening? Why was there no water?

“Brother, the Eastsea Reservoir was contaminated last night, so we’re on an intermittent water supply schedule. You’ve overslept, brother; water is only available in the morning, at noon, and in the evening...”

“Okay.”

Su Ming nodded in acknowledgment.

He went to the kitchen, grabbed a bottle of mineral water, and made do with a quick face wash and teeth brushing.

As he settled onto the sofa, something suddenly dawned on him.

Hmm?

Water contamination?

Hey!

Isn’t this the perfect opportunity to make a difference?!

Su Ming wouldn't usually interfere with other matters; the world had its share of daily events, and he was no saint to address each one.

But this was different.

Access to clean water was crucial for everyone.

This was an excellent opportunity!

Besides, Su Ming knew the importance of water for his own farming and livestock.

"This is the perfect chance to test the effectiveness of this thing."

Su Ming said to himself, standing up and swiftly heading downstairs to a separate room where a large gourd was prominently displayed.

How much should he take?

He had seen the reservoir before; it was vast.

The water was a murky dark green, impenetrable to the eye.

Eastsea City, being a coastal city, typically wouldn't face water shortages. However, it wouldn't make sense for the city's water supply to come from a well in the city center, would it?

The pollution in the reservoir wouldn't affect the rural folks; without tap water, they could still rely on the old wells. But for the city dwellers, the impact was severe, particularly for those in the food and beverage sector.

To be safe, it's better to bring extra.

Su Ming grabbed an extra bag without hesitation.

After pondering for a while.

He reluctantly picked up the gourd, pinched his nose due to the stench, and poured the contents in.

Half a bag went in!

Hmm!

That should be sufficient.

Time to head out!

As Su Ming reached the door and swung it open, he was greeted by a graceful silhouette.

“Kemeng?”

He paused, surprised. “What brings you here?”

“Why can’t I visit my boyfriend? If you’d rather I didn’t, I can just leave...”

Xiao Ke’er’s delicate brows knitted together in a playful pout as she turned to walk away.

It seemed Su Ming was the only one who could provoke such a petulant display from Xiao Ke’er, a young lady of refined upbringing.

Indeed, the only person Xiao Ke’er would act so affectionately with was the one she held dear.

“Wait, wait!” Su Ming quickly reached for Xiao Ke’er’s hand. “I was just about to head out. Why don’t you join me?”

“Sure!”

Xiao Ke’er agreed with a nod.

The surrounding office workers, both in white and black collars, witnessed the exchange with indifference.

Wasn’t it just typical for Mr. Su to be accompanied by a beautiful woman?

They were all too accustomed to the sight.

“Just wait here for a moment; I’ll bring the car around.”

With that, Su Ming dashed to the garage and soon emerged with a sports car, Xiao Ke’er by his side, as they sped off.

Meanwhile, on a bus nearby, a group of leaders eagerly rubbed their hands together, craning their necks in anticipation.

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C606 – The Pretentious Technician Is on the Stage

Inside a hotel, a young man with an air of arrogance sat in a chair, his face contorted with disdain as he eyed the meal before him. "Director-general Zhang, this meal doesn't suit my palate. I made it clear before my arrival that I prefer sweet dishes. These are too greasy; let's get something else..."

Director-general Zhang was visibly agitated, his veins nearly bulging at his temple. The young man in question was a technician dispatched by the higher-ups, a prodigy who had published several papers and made a name for himself in the academic world.

Given Director-general Zhang's character and temperament, he wouldn't have bothered with food at all. He would have been out at the reservoir, hard at work, without a second thought for eating. But this young technician was different.

From the moment he stepped out of the car, he was full of pretense and aloofness, his pace and speech deliberately slow, insisting on a meal first.

Left with no other option—since the technician was a specialist sent from above—Director-general Zhang had to forcefully curb his impatience and invite him to dine.

Yet, dish after dish failed to please the young man. One moment he demanded sweet flavors, the next he asked for sour.

Director-general Zhang, who was deeply committed to serving the public, had little patience for such posturing. It grated on him to the point of physical discomfort.

"Technician Zhao, if you're not inclined to eat, perhaps we should visit the reservoir instead. The local people are eagerly awaiting their water supply," Director-general Zhang suggested, barely concealing his frustration. "We all depend on the people for our livelihood. They are our foundation, the very core of our work."

Taking a deep breath to quell his rising anger, Director-general Zhang continued, "Director-general Zhang, I must disagree with you," the technician countered, smiling amiably. "You're correct that we must prioritize the people, but don't we technicians need to eat as well? How can we work or analyze anything on an empty stomach?"

"If I'm not well-fed, I'm not happy, and if I'm not happy, I'm prone to making errors. In the end, it's the people who will bear the consequences. Wouldn't you agree, Director-general Zhang?"

Director-general Zhang clenched his jaw so tightly it felt as though his teeth might shatter. What kind of oddball had they sent him?

In reality, the research institute couldn't be blamed. The guy in question had a knack for impressing the higher-ups with his good behavior and cleverness, which is precisely why they had sent him down.

Unexpectedly, he seemed to think he was still part of a prestigious institute in the capital, showing little respect for the local area and immediately started throwing his weight around upon arrival.

Meanwhile, the leaders at the dam had been waiting since morning, standing for hours on end, barely able to keep on their feet.

It's not just the leaders who would struggle; anyone would find it tough to stand for so long under the harsh sun.

Several older leaders were visibly struggling to maintain their composure, swaying slightly but reluctant to sit, lest they be caught off guard by an arrival and appear unprofessional.

Just then, the roar of a sports car engine echoed in the distance. A sleek sports car sped closer, drawing everyone's attention.

"Ah, here it comes!" shouted one individual, causing a ripple of excitement among the leaders. "Finally!"

But as the car pulled up, there was a moment of confusion. It was a two-seater convertible, with a young man and woman seated inside, both exuding an air of unmistakable nobility – clearly not from ordinary stock.

Yet, what did they have to do with the technician?

"Isn't that Mr. Su?" Professor Chen, who had been waiting for some time, recognized him immediately. It was almost laughable – who at Eastsea University didn't know Mr. Su?

After all, the last time Ann Chuxia had accompanied Su Ming to the university, it had caused quite the stir across the entire campus.

"Mr. Su?!"

"The Mr. Su who discovered that national treasure in Eastsea?"

"The same Mr. Su who helped Eastsea University secure a multitude of job placements?"

"Yes, it's indeed Mr. Su!"

The surrounding leaders, who kept up with the news online, recognized him instantly. Su Ming's fame in Eastsea was, after all, quite formidable.

"Mr. Su, what brings you here?"

Professor Chen quickly approached.

"I've heard about the pollution in the reservoir and wanted to check it out. I have a potential solution, though I'm not sure if it'll work," Su Ming said with a grin.

"Really?!" The people around him couldn't contain their excitement. After all, Mr. Su was not someone who would lie.

"Mr. Su, that would be incredible. We've been at our wits' end trying to find a solution. If you have one, it would be a godsend."

Professor Chen was clearly elated.

"Let's not stand around, Mr. Su. We should head to the reservoir and see if your method is viable," suggested some of the leaders nearby.

"Alright."

Without further ado, Su Ming, accompanied by Xiao Ke'er, headed toward the reservoir's dam.

The reservoir was vast, its surface rippling with green waves in the wind.

The water was typically a deep, dark green, bordering on black, but now it was marred by a slick of oil and a foul stench.

"An explosion at the neighboring chemical plant caused untreated wastewater to spill into the reservoir," someone explained.

"Mr. Su, here's our test report."

Professor Chen quickly handed over a document.

"No need to look at that," Su Ming said as he reached into his backpack and pulled out a pouch filled with spherical pellets.

"What is this...?" The onlookers were puzzled.

"It reeks!"

"What in the world... Mr. Su, what is this stuff? It smells terrible!"

"Is Mr. Su trying to fight poison with poison?"

"Can you really use that method to treat water quality?"

The crowd recoiled, covering their noses and stepping back in disbelief.

They stared at Su Ming's pouch, baffled by the stench and the green smoke wafting from it.

This was insane...

It couldn't possibly be safe to consume, right?

The reservoir's water, though polluted, was expected to recover in about half a year.

But if this substance were to be introduced...

Surely not everyone can turn into a zombie, can they?

Please, Mr. Su, don't kid around...

I'm serious, this is no laughing matter.

Su Ming chuckled as he saw people around him scurrying away to hide. "Come on, there's no need to be so scared. This is actually something great."

"Mr. Su, please stop joking."

"I'm not implying anything else, it's just that your item..."

"It's kind of frightening."

Professor Chen, standing nearby, blinked and said earnestly.

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C607 – There Is Such an Effect!

Kemeng stood to the side, a hint of worry in her eyes.

She had boundless faith in her boyfriend, Su Ming, but the object in question did seem a bit...

It gave off the vibe of a last-ditch effort, didn't it?

"Su Ming, I don't mean to criticize, but this thing of yours..."

Kemeng blinked earnestly as she spoke.

A few lines of frustration appeared on Su Ming's forehead.

It's all the System's fault!

Why must it always create such chaos, leading to these misunderstandings?

Why couldn't it produce something straightforward?

Imagine a gleaming crystal sphere radiating pure light.

That would be convincing at first glance!

Even I'm feeling uneasy about this...

"Uh..."

Su Ming scratched his head. "Truth be told, this is my first time experimenting with this. I'm not sure about the results yet..."

Silence fell over the group.

Professor Chen was the first to break it, "Thank goodness you're Mr. Su. If it were anyone else, they'd be soaking in the reservoir by now, you believe me?"

"Let's just give it a shot. It's like treating a dead horse as if it's still alive."

"At worst, it's just some added farm fertilizer. It certainly can't be worse than heavy metals..."

Su Ming blinked.

Hearing this, and with no senior leader present, who would dare to object to Mr. Su?

Alright, let's give it a try.

Seeing no opposition, Su Ming took a deep breath, exhaled slowly, and then tossed a greenish-purple, foul-smelling water purification pill into the water.

"Splash!"

A crisp sound echoed as the black pill slowly sank.

Silence ensued. Everyone craned their necks, eyes glued to the water, but minutes passed with no sign of activity.

Several more minutes went by, and still nothing...

"Mr. Su..."

Professor Chen, growing impatient, blinked and turned to Su Ming.

"It's okay. Let's just wait a bit longer."

Truth be told, Su Ming was starting to doubt himself.

What was the System playing at?

"Damn!"

Suddenly, someone yelled out, startling everyone. They all turned to the water, which was now bubbling furiously, as if it were boiling.

"What is that smell?!"

It came with an unimaginably strong and offensive odor.

"Governor Wang, Governor Wang?"

"Manager Liu, are you okay?"

"Mr. Song, are you doing alright?"

"Professor Chen, Professor Chen!"

The stench was overwhelming. The leaders around, all well into their 50s or 60s, had reached their positions through years of experience. Overcome by the smell, they collapsed.

Everyone was completely baffled. Good heavens.

Mr. Su, what have you done? You've nearly caused a total disaster.

People are treasures. The nation has invested so much in nurturing these individuals into talents.

All gone...

Just as everyone stood there, dumbfounded, the water's surface became eerily still. Then, as if by magic, the heavily polluted water that was slick with oil and the pungent odor instantly disappeared.

In the next second, the water became crystal clear!

“Holy sh*t!!!”

Everyone was astounded.

What the hell is happening? Is this some sort of magic trick?

“Huh?”

At that moment, several of the older men who had been overcome by the fumes slowly opened their eyes, looking confused.

“What happened?”

“Why do I feel so much stronger?”

“Being near the water source, my rheumatism was always nagging me. Why doesn’t it hurt anymore? In fact, it feels quite relieved...”

“What’s going on here?”

The old men, who had been rolling their eyes and frothing at the mouth, were now in awe as they turned their gaze back to the water, and once again, they were taken aback.

“Holy smokes! The pollution in the water is gone?”

“Oh my goodness! Hey, you guys, come over here and collect some water samples for analysis!”

“Quick, quick, quick!”

The site erupted into activity as several young researchers scrambled to collect water samples.

The findings left them flabbergasted.

“Professor Chen, this is unbelievable, truly unbelievable. Not only has all the pollution in the water disappeared, but it also meets drinking standards. The levels of microorganisms and minerals are perfectly suited for human consumption!”

“We could say this is the healthiest water on the planet!”

One researcher was shaking as if he were holding the holy water of Jesus!

“This, this, this...”

Professor Chen was shaking with excitement.

“Mr. Su, how did you manage this? It’s utterly miraculous, absolutely miraculous...”

Professor Chen, with tears streaming down his face, looked at Su Ming: “With the severe international pollution affecting rivers, lakes, and oceans, if this solution could be produced on a large scale, it could significantly address the pollution issue...”

“That’s right, with this device, there’s absolutely no need for a water treatment plant anymore. By taking this step, we’re not only saving money but also reducing the cost of water.”

“And it completely addresses the issues of hard water and limescale.”

The leadership at the Water Conservancy Bureau, though not experts in this field, understood the profound impact that Su Ming’s invention could have on society. It was truly astounding and awe-inspiring – nothing short of a marvel!

“The most remarkable thing is that despite its small size, it can purify such an extensive body of water.”

Everyone around could see that the water before them had become crystal clear, while the water outside remained polluted, seeping in slowly. The substance’s effects were still at play.

“Mr. Su, I’m not sure how much you have left, but I guess around 100 units should suffice...”

Professor Chen’s hands shook with excitement. If this were true, it could solve a significant issue for them. Water pollution had plagued them for years.

If we could resolve the pollution today, it would be an immeasurable act of service!

“Uh...”

Su Ming looked down at his pocket, “I’m not sure if I have enough...”

“It should be enough, it should be. Deputy Director Ding, send someone to dispatch all the helicopters from the Water Conservancy Bureau immediately.”

“We’ll release them all at once!”

Professor Chen instructed urgently.

“Right away!” Deputy Director Ding scrambled out in a flurry.

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C608 – I Want to Stand in the C Position

Because they had been hard at work, they hadn't brought their cell phones with them. However, there were some available in the on-call room.

"Remember, just doing this isn't enough. You two need to send someone to the source right away."

"Drop these three items into the source to eliminate all the pollution," Professor Chen instructed urgently.

"Understood!"

The two students snatched the items and sprinted to a nearby jeep. Flooring the accelerator, they sped off, kicking up a cloud of dust behind them.

Everyone was ecstatic!

Meanwhile, at the hotel, Director-general Zhang stood at the entrance, his face ashen with rage, barely able to contain himself.

This kid was insufferably arrogant!

What was he thinking?!

A technician, no matter how skilled, must be grounded in serving the people. What good is arrogance when it's the people who suffer?

"Loong, what's the situation? What kind of technician have you sent me? He's just showing off. He's been at Eastsea for three hours now and still hasn't left the hotel..."

"The people of Eastsea are waiting!"

Unable to hold back, Director-general Zhang called a minister from the technical department back in the capital.

"What? This is happening? Hold on, I'll make a call!"

The minister was equally furious and anxious. Shortly after, the young man in the room received a scathing phone call, leaving him with a pallid, steely complexion.

“Director-general Zhang, what do you mean by this? Are you complaining about me behind my back?”

“Listen here!”

“I intended to leave right after finishing my meal, but given your attitude, I’m sorry, I’m sick, I’m tired, and I won’t make it to the site until tomorrow. Find someone else if you can!”

The young man was livid.

“This...”

Director-general Zhang’s face turned a sickly shade of green.

He had assumed that a call from the higher-ups would ensure compliance, but despite agreeable words, the young man’s demeanor had shifted instantly upon leaving.

With everyone in the technical department back in the capital engrossed in a major project, spare hands were scarce. Getting someone to Eastsea had been a challenge; finding a replacement would be even more troublesome.

“So, Director-general Zhang, now you understand what it’s like to feel anger and urgency?”

“I’m not petty. Just offer me an apology, say something conciliatory, and we can put this matter to rest.”

“We’re all on the same team, aren’t we?”

The young man quickly clasped his hands behind his back, posturing once more.

“Well...”

Director-general Zhang, well into his fifties and nearing retirement, found it hard to bow to someone in their twenties, especially given his high-ranking position. Yet, considering the well-being of the millions in Eastsea, he wrestled with his pride. Finally, with no other choice, he took a deep breath and prepared to offer an apology.

Just then, his cell phone rang.

“Director-general Zhang, what are you waiting for? The issue has been resolved!”

The voice of Deputy Director Ding, brimming with joy, came through the phone. He had contacted the Water Conservancy Department and secured a few helicopters.

Worried they wouldn't suffice, he also mobilized a few from the civilian sector before calling Director-general Zhang.

"What did you say? Can you repeat that?!"

Director-general Zhang was taken aback, questioning if his hearing was failing him. How could such a complex problem be resolved so swiftly?

"Director-general Zhang, you might not be aware, but Mr. Su has arrived. Yes, that Mr. Su. He brought a miraculous water purification pill. As soon as it's deployed, the water instantly becomes clean. It's truly incredible. We're not sure how it works yet, but our calculations show that just 100 of these pills can completely address the water pollution issue!"

"Mr. Su has brought more than 200 with him, more than enough!"

Deputy Director Ding's voice shook with excitement.

"Really? That's fantastic news!"

Director-general Zhang was elated, his patience finally rewarded.

"Director-general Zhang, what's got you so thrilled? Weren't you just emphasizing the importance of the people? Why such joy over a phone call? Did your wife have a baby or something?"

The young man's arrogance was palpable.

"Smack!"

Unable to tolerate it any longer, Director-general Zhang delivered a firm slap: "You're young, but you should be learning how to serve the people, not strutting around like this!"

"You!"

The young man was dumbfounded. Wasn't he supposed to be groveling for help? Expecting an apology? Why was he being struck?

"I'll have you know, you've thoroughly angered me. Even if you beg, I won't lift a finger for you!"

"Hehe!"

Upon hearing the young man's words, Director-general Zhang let out a cold chuckle, "If you're truly sorry, then there's no need for your presence. The problem has already been resolved!"

Director-general Zhang had no desire to spend another minute with this individual. With a dismissive wave of his sleeve, he marched off, got into his car, and headed straight for the reservoir. The young man, hand over his mouth, was utterly bewildered. How could this be?

He hadn't been to the site, but he had dealt with similar issues before. It was a lengthy and arduous process, requiring a substantial amount of chemicals to be mixed into the water.

How could the issue from last night be resolved by noon today?

He had pleaded with Ye Xiao not to go, and after a metaphorical slap in the face, his curiosity got the better of him, and he followed along.

Director-general Zhang was flabbergasted upon arriving at the scene. What in the world was happening?

"Why does it smell so awful?"

Director-general Zhang sniffed the air, but the odor was indistinct.

Looking more closely, he noticed his old friends standing by the reservoir, noses in the air, seemingly enraptured by the scent!

"What the heck is wrong with you all? How can you stand this stench?"

Director-general Zhang was astounded. What on earth was this?

"Zhang, you've made it! Take a whiff, it's good for you!"

"Exactly, it's particularly beneficial for your health!"

"Come on, give it a try!"

The crowd gestured for him to join in.

Director-general Zhang was completely baffled.

Are you guys pulling my leg?

Why does this seem so implausible...

Do you think I'm nose-blind? That I can't smell how foul this is? That it's somehow good for your health?

"Seriously, what's gotten into you all?"

"Huh? What's happening? Why do I suddenly feel so much better..."

"Could it be because of this odor?"

"Move aside, I want to be front and center!"

Director-general Zhang bellowed, scrambling toward the source. He elbowed his way through the crowd to the very front, deeply inhaling the pungent aroma.

Ah, the stench!

Ah, but the relief!

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C609 – I Am Not Convinced

While they were conversing, the young man arrived on the scene.

To be completely frank, he harbored not a shred of belief.

The more he drove, the more incredulous he became.

[Are you kidding me? Taking me for a fool, or treating me like a toddler you can easily deceive?]

I'm a researcher from the nation's most elite technical department!

[I've encountered this issue numerous times in my research.]

Dealing with pollution that has seeped into the local water supply can be a nightmare.

How could such a problem be resolved with ease?

Perhaps this old timer concocted some excuse on purpose!

Hmph!

Think you can fool me? Not a chance!

The young man mulled over this as he stepped out of his car and approached the reservoir, only to be completely taken aback.

“Huh?”

What in the world was happening here?

A group of senior officials from the Water Conservancy Bureau were huddled by the water, sniffing the air with apparent glee.

This was beyond him...

He had never witnessed anything like it.

He had been on numerous field visits with the bureau’s leaders and elders, but he had never encountered a situation quite like this.

Someone online, please advise—how should I handle this?

What are these old guys up to?

Are they really that entranced?

Seeing everyone else doing it, the young man’s curiosity got the better of him, and he went over for a whiff.

[Good Lord!]

[It reeks!]

[Gag!]

He nearly retched his guts out!

“Director-general Zhang, is this the solution you were talking about?”

“I’m warning you, if you dare to endanger the citizens of Eastsea with your recklessness, I’ll be the first to report you!”

“To be honest, the only reason I’m not panicking is that I have a well-thought-out solution. If you don’t follow my approach, you’re bound to fail!”

The young man stood with his hands on his hips, yelling at the top of his lungs.

He expected the directors to at least glance back and engage with him, but they continued to sniff without so much as opening their eyes, completely ignoring him.

The young man's embarrassment grew...

"Are you even listening to me?"

"Fine, just fine. You just wait—I'm going to record a video and send it straight to the authorities!"

The young man was livid.

"Would you mind keeping it down?"

Director-general Zhang turned and shot him a stern look. "Don't assume I'm unaware of your 'method.' By the time it takes effect, it'll be too late—the heavy metals will have already dispersed."

"Compared to Mr. Su, you're insignificant."

"Mr. Su's approach is truly superior."

"Absolutely, the aroma even seems to have health benefits!"

"It's becoming more fragrant the more I smell it!"

"Well, I feel the same way."

The leaders blatantly disregarded the young man. There he stood, the awkwardness palpable, his face a portrait of discomfort.

[I am a person, after all, a living, breathing human being, standing right here!]

[Isn't it a bit excessive to completely ignore me like this?]

[Hold on!]

Who is this Mr. Su you speak of?

Who?!

Who dares to usurp my role!

Which wretched soul?

Show yourself!

"Oh, Mr. Su has arrived!"

“Mr. Su, thank you for your hard work.”

“Mr. Su, please, have a seat.”

As the young man seethed with anger, two figures approached from afar. One was a young man, tall and handsome, with a gentle smile gracing his features.

Accompanying him was a girl in a white dress.

Upon seeing the girl, the young man’s eyes nearly popped out of his head.

My goodness, she’s breathtaking!

Is this... is this even a human visage? She looks like a celestial being!

While the young man was transfixed, the elders eagerly approached Su Ming, showering him with the honorific “Mr. Su!”

Damn it!

The young man’s temper flared anew. So this is Su Ming.

Fine!

Dare to overshadow me?

I should be the one at the center of attention!

And that beauty should be mine!

“Cough cough!”

With that thought, the young man adjusted his attire, coughed to announce his presence, and strode forward confidently: “I hail from a renowned laboratory in the capital...”

He was interrupted mid-sentence.

Su Ming and his companion had already reached the young man’s side.

Director-general Zhang acted swiftly, shoving the young man aside.

“Damn...”

Hands on hips, the young man was just getting worked up when Director-general Zhang’s push sent him off balance.

He tumbled down the dam's slope.

"Ah... Ugh..."

He let out a brief cry as he started to roll, but within a second, his mouth was muffled by the dam's grassy surface and dust.

"What was that?"

Su Ming paused for a moment, certain he had just heard something odd, emitting an inexplicable sound.

"No need to worry, Mr. Su."

"It's probably just a fly."

Director-general Zhang said, his smile beaming.

"Oh, okay."

Su Ming didn't dwell on it. Xiao Ke'er couldn't help but stifle her giggles behind her hand. While Su Ming was absorbed in watching the water's surface, he failed to notice the path ahead. She, on the other hand, had seen everything quite clearly.

Of all people to annoy, you had to pick my boyfriend.

Sigh...

I should check the almanac before I go out next time.

"Mr. Su, the helicopter is on its way. The supplies have been distributed. At your command, we can purify the entire reservoir."

"Mr. Su, the higher-ups have called inquiring about the formula for this product..."

Director-general Zhang rubbed his hands together, looking anxious.

"Well..."

Su Ming felt a bit of a dilemma upon hearing this.

He was certainly not keen on giving the formula to a businessman, as they are known for their profit-driven motives.

Yet, he felt more comfortable entrusting it to government officials.

The nation's care for its citizens was commendable, after all!

Handing this over for the country to produce on a large scale could be a boon for the people, and a virtuous act for himself.

The key issue was that he didn't have the formula.

"Yuvyuv, do we have a formula for this?"

Su Ming inquired internally.

"Yes, Master. However, some of the ingredients are scarce and hard to find, and the production process is quite elaborate."

Yuvyuv communicated within his mind.

"Alright."

Su Ming now understood.

That is to say, the System was incredibly potent, capable of generating this item.

But actual production would require considerable effort since the raw materials were challenging to procure, making mass production unfeasible.

"Director-general Zhang, I'm going to be honest with you," Su Ming began earnestly.


"The discovery was purely accidental, and I can't disclose how I came across it. I do indeed possess the formula, but I'm unable to share it with you. It's not that I'm greedy or looking to profit from it."

After a moment of contemplation, Su Ming spoke with genuine sincerity.

The onlookers nodded in agreement, chuckling among themselves. Could Mr. Su possibly be in need of money?

With a vast expanse of prime real estate in the city center and tens of billions in his bank account, would he really be concerned about such trivial gains?

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C610 – They Were Saving Their Face

"Why did Mr. Su..."

Director-general Zhang inquired cautiously.

"To be honest, there are two main reasons. The first is that the raw materials are incredibly hard to come by."

"The second is that the production process is exceedingly complex, making mass production unfeasible," Su Ming explained.

"Alright," Director-general Zhang sighed, a touch of disappointment in his voice. Yet, it was a minor setback considering the success in resolving the reservoir issue, which was quite an achievement.

"But..." Su Ming said with a slight smile, "I do have some left. Have someone come by later to pick them up."

"Of course, of course, Mr. Su, rest assured, we will definitely give you..."

"No need for payment," Su Ming interrupted, gesturing dismissively. It's best not to charge for services that benefit the country and its people.

"This..." Director-general Zhang and his colleagues were taken aback, exchanging glances, unsure of what to say next.

"You... you stop right there!" A voice, filled with rage yet shaky, called out from behind.

Su Ming turned around to see who it was.

Oh, who might this be?

"Are you calling me?" Su Ming asked, blinking in surprise.

"Yes, it was me. Who are you to overshadow me? The higher-ups had clearly assigned me to handle this situation. What gives you the right to take my place?!" The young man was fuming.

[Is it really okay for you to just take my spotlight?]

"Did you manage to handle it?"

"No..."

"Did you head straight here after disembarking the plane?"

"No..."

“So you were the one who delayed things by indulging at the hotel. How is that my concern?”

“It has nothing to do with you... No, if it weren't for you... No, that's not right. Regardless, you owe me an explanation!” The young man was livid.

This was supposed to be a valuable experience, one that would have added prestige to his resume. Instead, his opportunity had been snatched away.

Now he was at a complete loss!

“If you're looking for an explanation, that's fine. What kind do you want?” Su Ming asked with a calm smile.

“No problem. Let's have a challenge. I brought the most advanced techniques, while you must be resorting to shortcuts.”

“How about it? Are you brave enough?”

The young man looked rather pitiful, his clothes covered in straw and dust.

Su Ming couldn't help but chuckle at the sight. Alright then, since you've come to me, I agree.

“Sure, no problem!”

“But I'd like to add one condition. After we treat the water, let's each fill a cup and drink it. How does that sound?”

Su Ming gave a slow smile.

“This...”

The young man paused, taken aback.

Truth be told, the water would still need further treatment before it was safe to drink.

“What's the matter, don't you have the guts?”

Su Ming had seen it all before. He could easily read people, and it was clear this young man was out of his depth. Could he really back down in front of a beautiful woman?

Would he even be considered a man if he did?

“Fine!”

The young man said, and then he strode off to the side, prompting the onlookers to facepalm. If only he hadn't shown off...

The two approached an area where the water was still filthy, now even more polluted and nearly black. The young man gulped at the sight.

"You first."

Su Ming offered with a slow smile.

"If I must!" the young man replied.

He took off his backpack and pulled out a jumble of chemicals. After a hasty mix, he dumped them into the water. To his surprise, the patch of water in front of him cleared up a bit, the color improved, and it seemed the stench was gone.

The young man was thrilled to have succeeded on his first attempt, feeling quite proud of himself!

He then scooped up a cup of water and inspected it. The water was clear, with just a few flecks of dust floating in it.

But that was no big deal. What was the worst that could happen from drinking it? Maybe just a few days of stomach trouble!

"Now it's your turn."

The young man gave Su Ming a challenging look. Su Ming just grinned and pulled out a Cleansing Water Pill from his pocket.

He tossed it into the water nonchalantly.

After a few minutes of quiet, followed by a bubbling sound, a foul odor wafted through the air!

"Quick, quick, quick!"

"Nobody better compete with me for a spot this time!"

"I'm older than you!"

"Buzz off!"

Before Su Ming could even respond, a throng of older officials rushed past him, clamoring to get close to the water.

The young man was left in shock.

Can someone please explain what the hell is happening here? Can anyone make sense of this for me?

Is this thing really that entertaining? Are you all having that much fun?

Each of them craned their necks in anticipation.

They seemed overjoyed.

What are you all up to? What's going on here?

In the next instant, the water's surface became crystal clear, the entire area before him was suddenly transparent!

Su Ming grinned as he reached for the cup beside him, filled it with water, and downed it in one go.

"Mmm! It's even a bit sweet. Your turn!"

The young man's face turned a sickly shade of green.

Would you dare to drink this?

If you drink it, you might disappear.

But you can't back down now, can you? After talking tough, how could you not drink?

Drink up!

Without another word, the young man clenched his jaw and stamped his foot in determination.

He gulped it down in one go!

"Uh..."

After taking a drink, the young man seemed to petrify, his body rigid. The taste of the water was indescribable, foul and sticky, like swallowing a mouthful of oil. It was utterly revolting.

"Ugh..."

Seconds later, he was violently throwing up, and then his body went limp.

He collapsed to the ground, unable to move.

Everyone was dumbfounded.

“What do we do now?”

“He’s a technician sent from above, just young and inexperienced.”

“Right, right.”

“Someone take him under that tree, open up his shirt to let him breathe. It might help him catch his breath.”

“Okay.”

The young man felt a surge of gratitude. Despite his earlier arrogance, his seniors were still looking out for him.

But then, something unexpected happened.

They dragged him under the tree and just left him there.

“Is that it? Are we done here?”

“What about calling an ambulance? Aren’t you going to take me to the hospital?”

The young man asked, bewildered.

“What ambulance? What hospital? We left you here because we didn’t want your potential stench to bother us if you died.”

“Don’t you have a phone? You call the ambulance.”

“Goodbye, and good luck!”

Professor Chen’s students blinked in surprise and then walked away briskly.

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