

Chapter 6901

Then, Ma Kui acted out a play in public,

Holding a submachine gun and saying to Bertnard:

"Mr. Arno, we have received your cryptocurrency."

"Thank you for your generosity."

"We will evacuate first!"

After that, he winked at the few surviving men,

And they quickly followed him and walked to the gate with guns.

Ma Kui looked around and said to all the tourists in the bar:

"If the Maldivian military is fast,"

"It will arrive in 40 minutes."

"I don't know if my men outside are dead."

"I advise you not to move around casually and wait for the Maldivian military to come."

After that, without waiting for everyone to respond,

He turned around and walked out with his men.

Because he was the highest commander of Black Water to carry out this terrorist attack,

He had seriously violated the laws of the Maldives.

If he stayed here, the Maldivian military would definitely arrest them as soon as they arrived.

Therefore, the plan that Charlie planned for them was that after Ma Kui publicly betrayed Black Water,

He would immediately take his people to evacuate in the speedboat they came in.

And he would arrange for the merchant ship escorted by the Cataclysmic Front to pick them up on the high seas.

With the level of the Maldives Navy,

None of their ships could catch up with the speedboat that Ma Kui and his men drove when they came.

And Charlie was not worried that Ma Kui would get out of control.

After he beat Black Water, with his personal ability,

There was no place for him in the world.

Hamid was the only choice.

If he dared to escape, he would not only offend Black Water,

But also offend himself, and then he would be even more difficult to move forward.

Ma Kui himself knew very well that at this time, what bicycles were needed,

Just go to Syria, honestly, follow Hamid, and help him eliminate potential traitors inside.

If he made some military merits, he might have a chance to stand out in the future,

Which was much better than being on the run for a lifetime.

So, he took everyone back to the dock,

And after destroying other speedboats, several people drove the last speedboat away from White Horse Island.

The people in the bar didn't dare to go out.

They didn't know what was going on outside.

They only knew that Ma Kui said that there might be some terrorists who were not dead yet.

If they were targeted and shot to death,

They wouldn't even have a chance to cry.

So everyone stayed in the bar, honestly,

While Tawana kept broadcasting live, accusing Black Water of its actions.

Black Water's reputation has fallen to the bottom.

Many netizens even called on their countries to define it as a terrorist organization,

Half an hour later, as the sound of the helicopter got closer and closer,

The Maldives Marines finally arrived at White Horse Island.

When Tawana heard the sound of the helicopter, she immediately came to the window and live-broadcasted it with her mobile phone.

The senior officers of the Maldivian Marine Corps were watching the live broadcast in the capital, Male, at this time.

When they saw Tawana pointing the camera at the military helicopter,

They immediately notified the commander on the scene:

"Tawana Sweet is live-broadcasting, let our soldiers rappel down!"

His original intention was to let the Marines rappel down to show off.

After all, those special forces and marines rappel directly from helicopters when performing emergency tasks.

It's very handsome and cool, and it can give the Maldivian military some face.

After all, it's embarrassing to let people come in to carry out terrorist attacks this time.

It would be nice if they could regain some face in the later stage.

But the commander said awkwardly:

"Sir, our soldiers haven't practiced rappelling for too long."

"I still suggest not taking risks and letting the helicopter land smoothly on flat terrain!"

The senior officers angrily scolded:

"Such an urgent task, of course, we have to show a little urgency."

"What will it look like if the netizens around the world see the slow landing?"

"You must give us some face!"

The commander was also embarrassed and said helplessly:

"Sir, our soldiers don't have as much daily training."

"If we fail to show off at a time like this, we will probably be laughed at and ridiculed by people all over the world!"

The senior officials angrily rebuked:

"We asked you to defend our country, but you neglected your training."

"I will investigate this matter thoroughly and give you the most severe punishment!"

Chapter 6902

The commander said depressedly: "Sir, we have applied for relevant budgets long ago."

"Including but not limited to the purchase of new helicopters and increased helicopter training funds,"

"But the higher-ups have not approved it!"

"Our helicopters lack even basic maintenance."

"So, how can we afford to do rope descent training?"

The senior management was also a little impatient and said irritably:

"Okay, I will find a way to deal with this matter."

"In this case, don't use rope descent."

"Just find a suitable landing place!"

Everyone in the bar, as well as netizens around the world who watched Tawana's live broadcast, were waiting for the soldiers to rappel down,

But they didn't expect the helicopter to hover for a long time, and finally chose a flat open area to slowly land.

This slow behavior made netizens around the world very dissatisfied,

And even more bizarre was to come.

When these soldiers saw the bodies with bullets in their heads,

Many soldiers even held their legs and vomited.

Fortunately, Tawana's camera could only blur the bodies on the ground,

But could not capture the miserable state of the bodies,

Otherwise, it is estimated that the video live broadcast platform would have to censor the pictures.

The commander, while resisting the urge to vomit, led the soldiers who could barely hold on to the bar.

As soon as he entered the door, he immediately said:

"All terrorists, raise your hands and surrender immediately."

"Otherwise, we will shoot directly!"

Bertnard stepped forward and said:

"The terrorists have left."

"I don't know if you can catch up with them."

"What? Gone?!"

The commander was immediately anxious and blurted out:

"Why did you let him go?"

Bertnard pointed at his nose and asked with wide eyes:

"You ask me? If I have that ability, what do I need you for?"

"I might as well form a troop to protect you!"

The commander was also a little embarrassed for a moment.

He touched his nose and quickly asked:

"How are the people at the scene? Is anyone injured?"

"No." Bertnard Arno said unhappily,

"I really don't know what your army does."

"You didn't know so many militants sneaked in."

"It's too much!"

He wanted to flatter, so he said coldly,

"Thanks to my money offensive at the critical moment to make these terrorists collapse internally,"

"Otherwise, Miss Sweet and I, as well as so many guests here, would probably become cold corpses!"

For Bertnard, if you spend money, you have to maximize the benefits as much as possible.

Although he didn't really give Ma Kui 100 million dollars,

He gave the Island to Charlie,

And he also bought JD Island from the Dubai consortium and gave it to Charlie.

This time, with losses and expenses, more than 1 billion US dollars were gone.

However, Charlie was kind and gave him a chance to be a hero this time,

And he was a hero who saved hundreds of people and the big star Tawana Sweet.

As long as he seizes this opportunity, the benefits this incident brings to him will definitely be much greater than the loss of more than 1 billion dollars.

So from now on, he must mention this credit.

The commander was also embarrassed and could only compliment:

"Mr. Arno, it is indeed all thanks to you today."

"Don't worry, we will definitely strengthen national defense and security in the future and will not let this happen again!"

Bertnard accidentally glanced at Tawana, who had pointed the live broadcast camera on her mobile phone at him,

So he immediately cleared his throat and said loudly:

"These are all our distinguished guests of White Horse Island."

"For them, I am willing to spend as much money as possible,"

"And I don't feel bad about spending this money."

"It's just that my bodyguards and Miss Sweet's bodyguards were killed in this attack."

"It is my biggest regret that I failed to save them!"

After that, he accused, "The main reason is that you are really terrible, you know?"

"With so many tourists from all over the world coming here to vacation and spend money,"

"It is your most basic responsibility to ensure everyone's safety."

"I hope you can take it seriously from now on!"

The commander nodded immediately and said,

"Mr. Arno, you are right."

"I will report to the top leaders and apply for increased defense funding to ensure the safety of all tourists."

Bertnard waved his hand and said,

"How about this, after this matter is dealt with,"

"I will donate 50 million US dollars to strengthen your maritime defense capabilities."

"I hope this will never happen again!"

Chapter 6903

Bertnard is usually as stingy as Grandet.

However, he is not stingy with himself, but with others.

The money that should be earned should not only be earned,

But earn as much as possible.

It is a foolish dream to ask him to spend money for no reason.

The reason he suddenly donated 50 million dollars today is entirely because Tawana is broadcasting live around the world at this time,

And he just happened to catch this ride and found the highlight of his life.

Bertnard, who was limping, was dragging a crippled leg and standing in front of the commander of the Maldives military.

The blood on his trouser legs had seeped out and dried and solidified,

Giving a feeling of being disabled but strong-willed.

People seeing this scene admired him very much.

They felt that Bertnard at this moment was quite like the demeanor of a good king.

At this moment, Bertnard really became a contemporary hero.

A disabled but strong-willed tycoon who saved hundreds of people from the terrorist attack of Black Water.

The most important thing is that he saved the queen of the singing world,

Tawanna Sweet!

For this credit, it is not an exaggeration to erect a statue for him next to the Eiffel Tower.

At this time, Tawana thought about it,

Took the phone and came to Arno, and said with concern:

"Mr. Arno, you're shot in the leg,

Let them send you to Male for treatment!"

As she said that, she also pointed the camera at his stump.

Bertnard was so excited that he almost cried,

Thinking, damn, someone finally mentioned my injury,

I was beaten by the gangsters,

This is also a credit!

If you didn't notice it, how embarrassing it would be for me to say it myself?

It has to be Tawana, you are so smart!

He suppressed his inner excitement, waved his hand, and said righteously:

"My injury is nothing,"

"It doesn't matter; my safety is not important."

"The main thing is to ensure the safety of all tourists."

Tawana thought, You old man are still addicted to pretending,

If it weren't for Mr. Wade's face,

I wouldn't give you the opportunity to pretend.

The Maldivian commander at the side hurriedly said:

"Don't worry, Mr. Arno, we will take over the security work here now."

"And our navy is also on the way."

"It should be here in less than an hour."

"And the entire Island will be on high alert by then."

"You can rest assured to take our helicopter back to Male for treatment!"

Bertnard shook his head again:

"It doesn't matter,"

"I will let the medical staff on the island deal with it briefly,"

"And I will go back to France after things are settled."

In fact, what he was thinking in his heart was that:

"I am not confident about the helicopter and the medical treatment."

"It is more reliable to go to a Western city."

The commander of the Maldives didn't know much about Bertnard.

He didn't know that he was pretending,

And thought that this man was really upright and heroic.

He couldn't help but say with emotion:

"Mr. Arno, I admire your character and behavior very much!"

"On behalf of myself and the entire Maldives, thank you for all your efforts and dedication."

"I believe that our government will award you the highest medal of honor!"

Bertnard smiled and nodded, and said seriously:

"Don't thank me, this is what I should do."

"After all, I am an international investor in the Maldives."

"I will naturally spare no effort to help the country,"

"And I will also spare no effort to protect the tourists here."

"As for the medal, I personally think it is just an empty name,"

"And it is better not to waste people's money and time."

Although Bertnard was not interested in the medals of a small country,

After all, it was being broadcast live around the world.

Anything that could add icing on the cake was a good thing.

And he was glad to accept it.

However, he also knew that the other party was just a military commander,

And he might not have the right to fulfill such a thing,

So he was polite on the surface to show his grace.

Afterwards, the Maldives Marines began to count the scene.

Some people were responsible for registering the information of tourists on the scene,

And others were asked to go out to deal with the bodies that were shot in the head.

This country has not had any serious wars in recent decades.

The last war was when an opposition hired 80 Sri Lankan mercenaries to land in Male to launch a rebellion.

Although there were only 80 mercenaries,

The Maldivian president was unable to resist.

In the end, he asked India for help.

Having no combat experience, these soldiers were almost vomiting while barely gathering the corpses together,

And then covering them with the linens.

In the bar, soldiers registered tourists' information one by one with the help of an interpreter.

When it came to Elaine, she reported her name and nationality,

And then asked the other party:

"Hey, we encountered danger on your territory and almost lost our lives."

"Won't you give us some compensation?"

The soldier shook his head and said through the interpreter:

"I'm sorry, we are only responsible for registering information."

"We don't know about compensation."

Elaine was a little annoyed and said:

"Then let your person in charge come over and talk."

"We spent so much money to come here."

"And we haven't enjoyed it much,"

"And we almost died here."

"You must compensate us no matter what!"

Chapter 6904

Jacob said, "Yes!"

"This experience is extremely bad."

"It is unreasonable not to come up with some compensation plan."

Many tourists around also echoed.

After all, everyone spent a lot of money to come here.

They deserved some compensation for encountering a disaster for no reason.

At this time, Bertnard hurriedly hobbled to the front of the crowd and said loudly,

"Don't worry, don't worry about the compensation."

"White Horse Island will definitely give you a satisfactory answer."

"I can promise you that we will bear all the accommodation expenses."

"Seaplanes and air tickets to and from the Maldives for your visit to White Horse Island this time!"

Elaine looked depressed and muttered to Jacob beside him,

"This has nothing to do with us."

"Aren't all our expenses on the island charged to the good son-in-law's friend?"

"We don't have to spend money in the first place."

"That's right."

Jacob was also a little unhappy and whispered:

"This boss looks quite rich."

"He donated 50 million dollars to the Maldives military alone."

"We should ask him to give us some mental damage compensation, right?"

While the two were muttering, Bertnard had already seen the dissatisfaction on their faces.

He whispered to the service staff around him,

And learned that the two people came to the island with Charlie,

So he immediately said:

"In addition, we have initially decided to provide each tourist with a compensation of 100,000 dollars."

"Minor tourists can also get compensation of 100,000 dollars."

"Before everyone leaves the island,"

"This compensation will be transferred to everyone's account!"

As soon as this was said,

There was cheering and applause at the scene.

100,000 dollars is not a small amount.

The per capita consumption of everyone on the island is only about 30,000 or 40,000 dollars.

Now it is a compensation of 100,000 dollars per person,

Which is indeed a good deal.

The main thing is that no one is actually injured,

But it is just a simple mental damage compensation.

This is really very generous.

Bernard was addicted to acting at this time.

He not only wanted to satisfy Charlie's father-in-law and mother-in-law,

But also the majority of netizens.

One hundred thousand dollars per person was a compensation of tens of millions for the whole Island.

But he felt that it didn't matter.

It was rare to be generous once,

So he might as well be generous to the end.

It felt like a stingy but spending person came to a high-end restaurant.

When he looked at the menu and ordered one or two dishes,

He felt quite painful.

After ordering more, he gradually had a heroic feeling of

"Fck you, life is unbearable,"

"Today's meal will be as much as you want."

...

When Bertnard took the opportunity to establish his personality crazily,

The Internet praised him generously while scolding Black Water as stinking dog shit.

More than three million people have voted in favor of the petition for a thorough investigation of Black Water.

At this point, the government must give the people an answer on this matter.

The officials are also overwhelmed.

Every war they fought in the Middle East had the shadow of Black Water.

Black Water helped them do all the dirty work.

Most of the oil stolen and sold in Syria was also secretly helped by Black Water.

Although it is not very public,

It has a very good relationship with the bosses in private.

Now, the people and even the world are calling for severe punishment of this younger brother,

And the officials don't know what to do.

If they really want to deal with it strictly,

At least all the senior executives involved should be arrested,

And then a comprehensive investigation of the entire company should be conducted to give the public an explanation.

However, this matter itself also involved the participation of the senior executives.

All they can do now is to pass the buck and find scapegoats.

So, after an emergency meeting of the internal senior executives,

Black Water decided to push out a poor guy to take all the blame.

The unlucky guy who was pushed out was a vice president of Black Water,

And the one with the smallest share in its board of directors.

Thier plan was to let this person take the blame and confess that all this was a conspiracy between him and the Syrian opposition,

And had nothing to do with the highest decision-making level.

In order to make a complete show,

They even asked this unlucky guy to surrender to the police.

According to relevant laws, the final result of this person must be life imprisonment without parole.

In order to compensate him,

Other shareholders jointly took out 200 million dollars for his family.

Although the shareholder was not happy, he had no choice.

These shareholders had served in the army and worked as mercenaries in their early years.

When they discussed it well, if they agreed, they could give some compensation.

If they didn't agree, they might die at home tonight and be accused of committing suicide tomorrow,

And finally they would have to take the blame anyway.

So the government immediately announced to the world that the White Horse Island terrorist attack case had been solved,

The planner had surrendered to the police,

And the police were conducting an in-depth investigation into the matter.

This is just a trick to fool the public.

They think that they should first show a severe punishment,

And then stop the follow-up investigation after the public's attention and anger gradually subside.

In two months, most people will definitely not pay attention to this matter.

At that time, they will directly announce that this matter is the personal behavior of the vice president.

And has nothing to do with Black Water,

And basically get away with it.

However, Charlie does not intend to let Black Water go.

He wants them to pay a heavy price.

At the moment, Bertnard is still strong and full of momentum.

If he bites Black Water and does not let go,

It will definitely bring great trouble to them!

Chapter 6905

An hour later, the Maldivian naval vessels finally arrived.

There was nothing left for them to deal with except the bodies,

So the soldiers prepared to transport the bodies on board and take them back to the capital, Male.

Charlie sent a WeChat message to Tawana,

Asking her to remind Bertnard.

After seeing this, Bertnard immediately said to Tawana,

"Ms. Sweet, please help me reply to Mr. Wade and tell him that it is rare for me to be of any use to him."

"I will do my best in this matter!"

After that, he said to the commander with his head held high like a rooster,

"These bodies are all mercenaries of Black Water."

"In the presence of netizens all over the world, I will not allow you to handle the bodies in any way that is not in accordance with the procedures."

"The identity of each body must be investigated clearly."

"In addition, I also ask the governments to take responsibility for this matter."

"If these mercenaries are really mercenaries of Black Water,"

"Then Black Water must give the public an explanation!"

As soon as these words came out,

The person in charge of Black Water, who was watching the live broadcast, almost vomited blood on the spot.

Originally, they wanted the diplomatic department to mediate with the Maldives,

Either to ship all the bodies back for disposal,

Or to simply send people to deal with them.

In short, the bodies must not be caught and used as a fuss.

Most of the mercenaries of Black Water are publicly identified.

After all, Black Water itself is also a mercenary company exposed to the public.

The whole world knows about its existence,

And its people must register their professional information.

These mercenaries were originally living individuals in reality,

With their own family circles, social circles, and social activity circles from childhood to adulthood.

Each person has at least thousands of direct contacts and hundreds of thousands or even millions of indirect contacts.

Once the identities of these bodies are verified and made public,

Each identity circle will trigger a discussion,

And people will share on social media that someone is his classmate or his neighbor or his neighbor's brother's brother.

Moreover, once the gossip on the Internet is involved by "insiders",

The melon-eating crowd will often show more attention.

Black Water wanted to reduce the heat quickly,

But once a few dozen people started discussing it,

The heat about Black Water would remain high...

At this moment, the senior executives of Black Water hated Bertnard very much.

However, they hated him but had no way to deal with him.

After all, he was once the richest man in the world,

With extraordinary influence, and he was French.

No one dared to take action against such a person.

The people they sent out were unlucky to meet him today.

The commander of the Maldivian military saw that Bertnard was very tough and resolute, so he said to him:

"Don't worry, Mr. Arno, we will handle this matter according to the regular procedures."

"And there will be no mistakes."

Bertnard nodded and said loudly:

"This matter is not only of concern to me, but also to every victim present and every enthusiastic netizen watching the live broadcast."

"You must disclose the specific progress of the matter within the specified time."

"Otherwise, you will face accountability from people all over the world."

At this point, Bertnard Arno continued very seriously:

"And you must not forget that this matter is related to the reputation of the Maldives."

"Will there be tourists willing to come here in the future?"

"It depends on whether you handle this matter well or not."

"If you handle it well, this matter will be an accident and will not deepen people's doubts about you."

"But if you don't handle it well, the public will definitely have strong doubts about your credibility."

"And then it is very likely to cause your country's tourism market to plummet!"

Tavanna also said at this time: "I will continue to pay attention to this matter."

"And from today on, I will take at least 30 minutes every day to broadcast live on my personal account to synchronize the progress of this matter with fans all over the world."

"I hope you will not let us down!"

If Bertnard represents the world's top aristocratic class,

Then Tawanna represents the world's people.

The influence of the rich lies in their money, not themselves.

Many wealthy people, when they are rich, can call the shots in the local area, and no one knows them.

But if they go bankrupt, people will not even look at them on the street.

The influence of stars lies in themselves.

Through their works, professionalism, and personal charm, the public will like them from the bottom of their hearts.

Even if such stars retire from the entertainment industry one day,

They will still be admired by many people when they walk on the street.

Bertnard and Tawana spoke out on this matter at the same time,

Which is equivalent to complementing each other's advantages.

One is rich and can call the wind and rain.

The other is talented and can get a lot of responses.

They both expressed their willingness to pay close attention to the follow-up of this matter.

Not to mention Alexander of Black Water,

Even the senior officials of the Maldives were nervous and sweating.

They knew that this matter could attract such a large amount of attention from the world in a short period of time.

If they did not handle this matter to everyone's satisfaction,

It would definitely be a huge blow to the reputation of their country.

It is very likely that this resort will never recover from now on.

Tourism is the real pillar industry of the Maldives,

And they will not allow such a thing to happen.

Not to mention Black Water, even if the American high-level officials come,

They cannot hide anything, because they know very well that their country has no strategic resources,

Nor is it a strategic point.

It is completely unprofitable for the United States.

The United States cannot support so many people in the country for them.

And they can only rely on themselves.

Chapter 6906

The military commander nodded quickly:

"Don't worry about this."

"Although our country is not big, we still have a strong sense of responsibility!"

At this time, netizens all over the world admire Bertnard and Tawana.

The performance of these two people who are not afraid of power has made everyone admire them.

Especially Bertnard, today he really pretended to be big.

This is hard for Black Water.

What they are most afraid of now is that the scapegoat cannot take the blame,

And they are afraid that this matter will bring them greater losses.

For Black Water, this matter is like cancer.

If it is carcinoma in situ, they will be cured by surgery and removal of a part of the body tissue.

But if the cancer has spread, even if the lesion is removed surgically,

New lesions will emerge.

If this continues, it will cost you half your life.

...

Although the Maldivian military took a long time to deal with the situation on the spot,

Elaine and Jacob were always in high spirits.

This was mainly because of the \$100,000 reward promised by Bertnard Arno himself.

The two of them were like riding a roller coaster.

At this moment, they were so happy that they couldn't stop smiling.

After the military registered the information of each guest and dealt with all the bodies,

They allowed these tourists to return to their rooms to rest.

It was already late at night,

And many people were exhausted physically and mentally,

So they all walked back with their relatives.

Elaine and Jacob walked out hand in hand.

The sea breeze brought a smell of blood.

Elaine closed her eyes and took a deep breath, sighing:

"Oh, husband,"

"I don't know why, I feel that the air in the Maldives has become sweeter!"

Jacob had a similar feeling,

But did not realize that it was the fresh smell of blood in the air.

He smiled and said, "Oh my God, I came out for a trip and got \$100,000 for free."

"Not to mention that the air has become sweeter,"

"I think the sea water has become sweeter."

Elaine said happily, "Oh, it's New Year's Eve, and I have encountered such a good thing."

"This is a sign of good luck next year!"

As she said that, she remembered something and said disappointedly:

"Oh my God! It's a loss! A huge loss!"

Jacob asked hurriedly: "What's wrong? What loss?"

Elaine said with a sigh:

"Oh! Claire and son-in-law didn't come to the bar tonight!"

"If they came, wouldn't it be an additional 200,000 dollars in compensation?"

Jacob suddenly realized and blurted out:

"Oh, yes! Damn!"

"This is really a big loss!"

"Two hundred thousand dollars just passed by!"

Elaine said, "No, I'll call them quickly to see if they can get up and register their names and information."

"They can say that they forgot to register when they left just now."

"Maybe they can still get some compensation."

As she said that, she had quickened her pace,

I intend to jog back to wake Charlie and Claire up.

Jacob quickly pulled her back and reminded her,

"Forget it, don't bother."

"They have already registered, and the number of people has been counted."

"If you let them go now, what if they are discovered?"

"We don't understand the local laws in the Maldives."

"We might be charged with fraud."

"It's the New Year, don't do this kind of thing!"

Elaine stopped and sighed, "That's right."

"This is not like our own doorstep."

"It's better to be cautious. Forget it."

"Anyway, son-in-law can make money and doesn't care about the two hundred thousand dollars anyway."

At this point, she smiled and asked,

"By the way, husband,"

"How are you going to spend the one hundred thousand dollars after you get it?"

"How to spend it?"

Jacob shook his head:

"I don't know, there's nothing to spend money on."

"Just will save it first."

Elaine said, "Save it? I've thought about it."

"I'll take a few days off after I go back,"

"And then find a better place to travel!"

Jacob asked: "Where to?"

Elaine bit her back teeth: "Dubai!"

Jacob frowned and asked:

"Why are you going to Dubai again?"

Elaine said angrily, "It was all your fault last time."

"You did those weird things and made me not have a good time in Dubai."

"This time, I must have a good time and spend all the 100,000 dollars!"

When Jacob thought of Dubai,

He couldn't help but recall the painful experience of setting up a trap to pit Peter Zhou last time,

But ended up shooting himself in the foot,

And he felt uncomfortable again.

He was about to say that he would not go this time,

But Elaine warned him directly:

"I tell you, it was you who harmed me last time."

"This time you must accompany me,"

"And you must compensate me well!"

"When the time comes, take out 50,000 US dollars to buy me a gift."

"Just as compensation!"

Chapter 6907

Although Jacob felt that Elaine's request was quite shameless,

He agreed to her request without any hesitation at this moment.

The last time he went to Dubai was indeed the darkest moment of his life.

If for no other reason, just to break this nightmare with his own hands,

He would go to Dubai again and experience the kind of extravagance with his whole body and mind.

So, he said to her:

"The Maldives is not far from Dubai."

"Why don't we let the two children return after this trip is over?"

"And we two can fly directly from here to Dubai."

"Okay!"

Elaine said with a smile:

"Your idea is very good, so it's settled."

"Go back and have a rest quickly,"

"And tell Claire when you get up tomorrow!"

That night, many people around the world stayed awake all night.

But Claire slept very soundly,

And only opened her eyes slowly the next morning.

At this time, the entire White Horse Island had returned to peace.

All the bodies had been transported away,

And the blood left at the scene had been cleaned up.

The tourists were well comforted,

And even Bertnard used the pain pump brought by his personal doctor overnight.

His knee has no possibility of recovery in medicine.

But fortunately, the technology of artificial knee replacement is very mature.

The doctors plan to let him go back for treatment,

But Bertnard insists on staying on the island for a few more days,

At least, wait until Charlie leaves.

Today is the Chinese New Year's Eve.

Bertnard specially asked the staff on the island to decorate the entire island in Chinese style.

He also bought a large number of fireworks and was sending them by plane.

He planned to have a sea fireworks festival for tourists on the island tonight.

After getting up, Claire didn't know what had happened last night.

Seeing that Charlie hadn't gotten up yet,

She washed up and made herself a cup of coffee with the capsule coffee machine in the hotel room.

Then she came to the terrace facing the sea with coffee in one hand and a mobile phone in the other.

During this period, she had been hiding a lot of things in her heart,

And all kinds of pressure made her breathless.

This scene of sitting alone by the sea can make her feel rare peace in her heart.

However, this peace did not last long.

Because she looked down at her mobile phone,

She was immediately startled by the various push notifications on the screen!

"Breaking news: Maldives White Horse Island suffered a terrorist attack last night!"

"Tavana Sweet shared the thrilling live broadcast."

"Tavana Sweet White Horse Island Horror – An Unexpected Terrorist Attack"

"Black Water planned a terrorist attack."

"And the former world's richest man used money to save hundreds of lives."

Claire was stunned.

Didn't Tavana attend a party at the Seaview Bar last night?

Her parents also went, but Charlie and she didn't go.

Later, she was sleepy and slept until now, that too very soundly.

Could it be that a terrorist attack occurred on this island while she was asleep?!

Claire couldn't believe it, and quickly clicked on the news to check them one by one.

There was a video news report that used the picture of Tavana's live broadcast.

When she saw her parents squatting on the ground with their heads down in the live broadcast,

She realized that this incident was actually true!

She quickly read many related reports. Then she found all the details.

She suddenly felt extremely fortunate.

Fortunately, there was Bertnard,

Otherwise, her parents might have met with an accident!

However, after these conventional thoughts like conditioned reflexes appeared,

She unconsciously had an idea in her mind.

If such a big thing really happened on the island,

Charlie couldn't have been unaware of it.

After all, she had seen the extraordinary ability of Master Jingqing that day,

And Master Jingqing also said that with his strength, he could not compare with Charlie at all.

Then, with Charlie's style of doing things,

He should not have stood idly by last night.

Could it be that the reason why the incident last night was safe and sound was all done by Charlie?

She quickly recalled that she had been watching Tawana's live broadcast last night.

After seeing her singing "Assassin",

She suddenly became very sleepy and slept until now.

After reading the relevant news reports last night,

It seems that the gangsters appeared when Tawana was singing in the bar,

Which is highly consistent with the time when she fell asleep.

It seems that the reason why she fell asleep must be related to Charlie.

While she was thinking actively,

Charlie pushed open the door, walked out of the room, stood on the edge of the terrace, stretched, and said with a smile:

"Wife, you got up so early today!"

Claire put away her thoughts, nodded, and said:

"I went to bed early yesterday,"

"So I got up early today."

After that, she looked at Charlie and said with a puzzled look:

"Why did I go to bed so early yesterday?"

"I remember that I was still watching the live broadcast at that time,"

"And I fell asleep in a daze."

Charlie smiled casually: "It may also be that you have been too tired these two days."

"You finally relaxed, and people are usually prone to fatigue."

Claire asked him again:

"Then when did you go to bed?"

Chapter 6908

Charlie smiled and said: "When you went to bed, I also slept too, what's wrong?"

Claire shook the phone in her hand and said:

"I saw on the news that there was a terrorist attack on the island last night."

"It was quite serious."

"I even saw my parents in the relevant video."

Charlie pretended to be surprised and said:

"Is it true?!"

"There was a terrorist attack on the island?!"

"Are Mom and Dad okay?"

"They are okay."

Claire admired Charlie's acting skills a little, and murmured:

"The news said that it was Bertnard Arno who bribed the terrorists."

"So they saved everyone."

"There were no casualties of tourists on the island yesterday."

"I was thinking of going to see Mom and Dad and ask them about their situation."

Charlie could only continue acting:

"I didn't expect this place to be so dangerous!"

"Let's go to Mom and Dad and ask them about the specific situation."

Claire nodded and went out of the water villa with him and came to the next door.

After knocking on the door for a long time,

Jacob rubbed his eyes and opened the door.

Seeing that it was Charlie and Claire, he yawned and said,

"Hey, Claire, Charlie, why are you here so early?"

Claire asked hurriedly, "Dad,"

"I saw on the news that there was a terrorist attack last night."

"Are you and Mom okay?"

"We are okay." Jacob waved his hand nonchalantly,

"Not only are your mom and I fine, but it's a blessing in disguise."

"Each of us will get \$100,000 in mental damages!"

After that, he said with regret,

"It's a pity that you two were not there yesterday."

"If you were here, you two would have received \$100,000 each."

Claire hurriedly said, "What happened?"

"Tell me quickly."

Jacob invited the two in and described the terrifying moment of last night with exaggeration.

When Claire heard that he and Elaine had also been inexplicably unconscious in the bar for a while,

He knew that it was not Bertnard's money offensive that saved them last night,

But Charlie, who came forward to save them.

She couldn't help but look at Charlie,

And saw that Charlie was listening to the story with an absorbed look on his face,

As if he were very interested in what happened last night.

She couldn't help but sigh in her heart.

The marriage between Charlie and her was full of all kinds of lies.

Even though he was a hero and saved her parents,

He still had to act in front of her.

This feeling really made her feel helpless.

At this time, Elaine heard the noise and walked out of the bedroom.

Seeing Charlie and Claire, she said excitedly:

"My daughter, good son-in-law, our trip to the Maldives is really worth it."

"We don't spend a penny, and we are earning a lot when we leave!"

Jacob laughed and said, "I've told them about it already."

Then, Jacob looked at Charlie and Claire again and said,

"By the way, Charlie, Claire,"

"We discussed it and planned to go to Dubai to enjoy for a few days before going back."

"If you have something to do,"

"Go back first, and you don't have to accompany us."

Claire knew that her parents got 200,000 US dollars in compensation this time,

And it was not their style to go back home with peace of mind,

So they nodded and said, "Then you can plan your own itinerary."

At this time, the doorbell suddenly rang outside.

Jacob got up and opened the door, and saw the housekeeper Hani standing outside the door.

He said respectfully: "Hello, Mr. Willson, I'm sorry to bother you."

"I came here so early because I have three things to tell you."

Jacob nodded: "Go ahead, Hani."

Hani said, "The first thing is that the staff of the Chinese Embassy contacted us."

"They want to convey to all Chinese guests that if you want to leave the island in advance and need the help of the embassy, they can arrange flights to help you return home."

"But it is all voluntary."

"If you and your family are willing to continue to stay on the Island,"

"They will not interfere."

Jacob said, "The embassy is quick enough."

"But we won't bother."

"Let's leave on the day of check-out."

"What's the second thing?"

Hani said: "The second thing is that our group president, Mr. Bertnard Arno, knows that tonight is the Chinese New Year's Eve of the lunar calendar."

"So he specially prepared a New Year's Eve dinner in the Asian Style Restaurant."

"At five o'clock in the afternoon, please come there with your family and other guests on the island to celebrate the New Year."

"Mr. Arno will also attend in person."

"At that time, we will also broadcast the Chinese Spring Festival Gala on the spot."

Jacob smiled and said:

"The service on your island is quite considerate."

"By the way, why do you start the New Year's Eve dinner at five o'clock?"

Hani said, "There is a three-hour time difference between us and China."

"It is three hours slower."

"At five o'clock in the afternoon, it is already eight o'clock in the evening in China,"

"And the Spring Festival Gala should have started."

"Oh, so!"

Jacob said with a smile, "Okay, we'll be there on time."

"By the way, can you help me ask when your boss will give you the compensation that he promised?"

Hani said hurriedly, "Mr. Willson, this is the third thing I came to you for."

"Please provide us with your and your family's bank account information."

"Our group's finance department will remit the money to you today."

"In addition, Mr. Wade and Ms. Willson can also get the same compensation."

"Our boss said that all guests on the island will be treated equally."

"And each person will receive \$100,000!"

Chapter 6909

When Jacob heard that Charlie and Claire were not at the scene last night,

And could still get compensation, he suddenly felt a little sour.

He felt that he earned the 100,000 dollars by risking his life,

But Charlie and his daughter could get the same amount of money without going,

Which made his risking his life meaningless.

After all, he was a top student who graduated from university,

And he immediately came up with an equation in his mind:

Assuming that the person on the island is X and the risk is Y , then $X+Y$, which means the person on the island and the risk, is equal to 100,000.

But now, X is also equal to 100,000.

Substituting these two conditions, the value of Y is zero.

Elaine was also subconsciously dissatisfied at this time, and muttered to Hani:

"Hani, you have to talk to your boss."

"We almost lost our lives in the bar yesterday."

"My daughter and son-in-law didn't go to the bar yesterday."

"If they can get 100,000 dollars, then shouldn't we at least get 200,000?"

"It's reasonable to let us bear the risk in vain, right?"

Hani said apologetically:

"I'm sorry, Ms. Ma,"

"This matter was decided by the president of our group."

"I'm a low-level housekeeper."

"I don't even have the opportunity to talk to the president,"

"So how can I be qualified to give him suggestions..."

Elaine was indignant:

"Then 150,000 is okay for us, right?"

"At least you have to add a little more for us to make it reasonable!"

Hani was embarrassed and said quickly:

"Ms. Ma, I will report your opinion to my supervisor."

"But I can't guarantee whether it will be recognized."

After that, he quickly made an excuse and said:

"I'm sorry, Ms. Ma,"

"I have other guests to notify."

"If there is nothing else, I won't bother you!"

Without waiting for Elaine to speak, Hani turned and left.

Elaine said angrily:

"Their boss is too ignorant."

"How can they treat people who are present and those who are not present equally?"

Claire said helplessly:

"Mom, it's good enough that they can take the initiative to compensate you."

"Don't be picky."

"I don't want my part of the compensation."

"I'll give it to you."

Elaine's face was instantly filled with joy, but she said:

"Oh, Claire, I don't want your money."

"I just think they are inhumane."

"I want to gain more benefits!"

"I remember that the compensation standards in the United States are very high."

"If you fall down while eating in a restaurant,"

"The restaurant can make you pay."

"It's a million or eight hundred thousand dollars, or in dollars."

"Your father and I were almost killed yesterday."

"Two hundred thousand dollars each is not too much."

Claire said, "You also said that the compensation standard in the United States is high."

"But we are in the Maldives after all."

"One hundred thousand dollars is already a lot based on the local economy."

"Let's not dwell on it anymore."

Elaine nodded and smiled:

"You are right."

"Mom won't dwell on it."

"By the way, Claire, your one hundred thousand, your father and I will each take half,"

"But let them directly transfer it to Mom's account later,"

"So that it will be convenient for all."

Jacob was stunned and wanted to say something, but held back.

He didn't dare to compete with Elaine for money.

After all, for Elaine, money is harder to snatch than bones in a dog's mouth,

And he didn't dare to offend her.

Seeing Jacob's unhappy expression, Charlie took the initiative to say,

"Dad, then I'll give you my share."

"You and Mom are going to Dubai this time."

"Have a good time, don't be like last time."

Jacob was pleasantly surprised:

"Oh, good son-in-law, you...you are not kidding, Dad, are you?"

Charlie smiled and said,

"How can you joke about this kind of thing?"

"I will tell them later that the compensation for Claire and me will be paid to you and Mom, respectively."

Jacob was very happy and couldn't help but hug Charlie, sighing,

"People say that a son-in-law is half a son."

"And the ancients are not deceiving me!"

At this time, the doorbell rang again.

Jacob hurriedly turned back to open the door, muttering,

"I don't know who is here again."

As he opened the door, he saw that the person standing at the door was Charlie's rich client from the Middle East.

Hamid looked at Jacob and asked politely,

"Mr. Willson, is Brother Wade here?"

"I went to his villa just now and rang the doorbell, but no one was there."

"I saw your housekeeper, who said he was with you."

Jacob nodded, "Yes, yes, my good son-in-law."

"Your client is here!"

After that, he said politely to Hamid,

"Please come in first!"

Hamid waved his hand, "No, no, I won't go in."

"If it's convenient for Brother Wade,"

"I want to talk to him alone."

Charlie had already walked over and said with a smile,

"Brother, what do you want to talk to me about?"

Hamid hurriedly said, "Oh, it's about Feng Shui."

"I still have some questions I want to ask you, brother."

"Do you think we should go out for a walk and talk while walking?"

"Okay."

Chapter 6910

Charlie nodded readily and agreed."

"He said hello to his family and walked to the beach with Hamid.

Seeing that there was no one around, Hamid said anxiously:

"Brother, do you think I will be in danger if I go back now?"

"The opposition and the traitors must be watching me..."

Charlie said, "The traitor is easy to deal with."

"He must not have taken control of the situation yet."

"So he has to wait until you die before cooperating with the opposition."

"The opposition must still want to kill you."

"I will let Ma Kui wait for you at the Syrian border."

"Let him and his men cover you back."

"In addition, I will notify Joseph and ask him to send someone to protect you."

Hamid breathed a sigh of relief and said,

"Thank you very much, brother!"

"When I go back, I will find a way to find out the traitor and kill him!"

"Completely eliminate the internal risks!"

Charlie nodded and said, "Try not to leave your base during this period."

"I will ask the Front to arrange some masters to protect you."

"In addition, remember what I told you before,"

"Find a way to make a fuss from within the opposition."

"Win over some vulnerable groups in the opposition."

"And divide them from the inside first."

Hamid nodded heavily:

"Okay, thank you, brother! Thank you!"

Charlie asked him, "When do you plan to go back?"

Hamid said, "As soon as possible,"

"I want to take the flight tonight to Beirut first."

"And then cross the border to go back."

Charlie nodded: "Then I won't see you off, brother."

"I wish you a safe journey."

As the two were talking, a golf cart drove towards them from a distance.

The driver was Bertnard Arno's assistant,

And Bertnard was sitting in the front seat.

He waved to Charlie from a distance with a very attentive look on his face.

And shouted repeatedly: "Mr. Wade, Mr. Wade, are you free?"

"I want to talk to you!"

Charlie nodded: "Come over."

Bernard quickly asked the driver to stop the battery car on the side of the road,

And refused the assistant's kindness to help him.

He touched a crutch and limped to Charlie and Hamid.

Seeing that he grinned every step he took,

Charlie stretched out his hand to him from a distance and made a gesture of raising the empty space.

Bernard didn't understand what it meant at first,

But the next moment, he found that his crippled leg was suddenly lifted by an invisible force,

And his body was much lighter, and the pain disappeared instantly.

He was surprised in his heart.

When he thought of Charlie's gesture just now,

He guessed that it must be related to Charlie, and he was even more shocked.

Charlie is indeed a man with great supernatural powers.

He was able to summon thunder in the bar last night.

That scene left a deep impression on him.

He felt that even if he suffered from Alzheimer's in the future,

He would never forget that earth-shaking scene.

He came to Charlie as light as a swallow and immediately said respectfully,

"Thank you, Mr. Wade!"

Charlie nodded and asked him,

"Mr. Arno, do you have something to talk to me about?"

Bertnard said quickly,

"I mainly want to thank you for everything you did last night."

"You saved everyone, but in the end, all the credit was attributed to me."

"I really don't deserve it."

Charlie smiled and said, "Be honest, Mr. Arno."

"I can see that you can't hide your happiness on your face."

"You don't look ashamed at all."

Bertnard smiled awkwardly and said,

"To be honest, Mr. Wade, from last night to now,"

"This may be the peak of my personal reputation in this life."

"I dare not lie to you."

"I am really very happy in my heart."

"I rely on you to take care of me for everything!"

Charlie said casually, "It's not considered taking care of you."

"After all, you have spent money."

"It's normal cooperation between us."

Bertnard hurriedly said, "No, no, no, everything still depends on Mr. Wade's care."

"Otherwise, I might have died long ago."

After that, he smiled slightly. Charlie paused and continued,

"By the way, Mr. Wade, the President of France wants to summon me and commend me as soon as possible."

"I will spend New Year's Eve with you, your family, and other Chinese guests on the island tonight."

"And will leave for France early tomorrow morning."

"But don't worry about the two islands."

"I will solve them within a week."

"Regarding the two islands, if you have anything else that I need to do,"

"You can tell me and I will deal with it together!"

Charlie said, "How about this, you can go back and do your own things."

"And when this group of guests leaves the island one after another,"

"You can announce to the public that White Horse Island will be closed for rectification."

"I plan to use this place as a maritime base of Cataclysmic Front."

"It is relatively close to Colombo, and relatively convenient."

"When the time comes, you can come forward to say hello to the senior officials and say that White Horse Island is going to be rebuilt."

"At that time, I will let Cataclysmic Front bring construction workers to carry out the renovation."

Most of the cargo ships going to Europe via the Suez Canal have to go through the Strait of Malacca from Singapore,

Pass through Sri Lanka,

And then enter the Red Sea and cross the Suez Canal.

Colombo, Sri Lanka, is an important hub on this route.

Even if the ship does not stop in Colombo,

It will pass through the south of Sri Lanka.

Although it is still a few hundred kilometers away from the White Horse Island in the Maldives, it is relatively convenient.

Charlie plans to transform White Horse Island and station a group of Cataclysmic Front soldiers,

Equipped with high-powered speedboats similar to those taken by Ma Kui and others,

As well as medium-sized seaplanes.

If there are any problems on the route, they can provide rapid support.

In addition, the Maldives has weak military strength and is unable to cover this area.

Bernard Arno said without hesitation:

"Don't worry, Mr. Wade,"

"I will come forward to solve everything so that Cataclysmic Front can rest assured to construct here!"

Chapter 6911

Seeing Bertnard being so sensible, Charlie said to him with satisfaction:

"As for Black Water, you still need to continue to give them some eye drops."

"Since your president wants to summon you,"

"It must be big news in Europe."

"Remember to mention Black Water more during the summons."

"It would be best if your president could come forward and protest to their government and ask them to thoroughly investigate Black Water."

Bertnard immediately said categorically:

"Don't worry, Mr. Wade, I will do everything I can to keep the White Horse Island incident hot during this period."

"I plan to go there in a while and give Black Water a heads-up."

"How do you plan to put some pressure on Black Water when you go there?"

Charlie asked him,

Bertnard smiled attentively and said,

"Mr. Wade, what I want to do is to go to the United Nations headquarters and donate 10 million or 20 million dollars to their Office of Counter-Terrorism."

"So that they can use this money to promote and enhance the publicity and implementation of anti-terrorism."

"If for nothing else, just to slap Black Water in the face."

Charlie nodded and said appreciatively,

"This is a good idea."

"I like this style of doing things when I go to Black Water's lair and slap them in the face."

Bertnard saw that Charlie liked his plan,

He immediately smiled and said,

"I'm very honored to be recognized by Mr. Wade!"

Charlie changed the subject and said,

"But since you are going to the United Nations, don't just donate 10 or 20 million dollars."

"It's not enough. Donating more can also attract more attention."

Bertnard felt a little pain, but still gritted his teeth and said,

"Okay! Since Mr. Wade said so,"

"Then I will donate 100 million!"

Charlie smiled and nodded,

"Yes, I may not be as good as you in business,"

"But I think that, as a person, it is not necessarily a bad thing to expand the pattern and loosen up the gaps between your fingers."

"Don't care about the little gains and losses in front of you."

Bertnard said against his will: "Mr. Wade. You are right!"

Charlie smiled and said, "Don't worry,"

"I won't let you suffer a loss."

"Do you remember how much you spent on the last Rejuvenation Pill?"

Bertnard didn't know why Charlie asked this, so he said:

"About more than 100 billion dollars."

"Didn't you ask me to match a lot of goods at that time..."

Charlie nodded and said:

"I will never let my friends suffer a loss."

"You are my friend now, so I can make a promise to you."

"When you spend 50 billion dollars here,"

"You don't have to participate in any auctions."

"I will give you a Rejuvenation Pill directly."

"50 billion dollars, just give me a Rejuvenation Pill?!"

Bertnard's eyes almost popped out of his eye sockets.

50 billion dollars, it seems like an astronomical figure,

But compared to the life span that a Rejuvenation Pill can bring,

It is a great deal for Bertnard.

Because his group, even in the context of economic depression,

Made a net profit of 20 billion euros last year.

20 billion euros is almost 23 billion dollars.

Although Bertnard Arnault is not the only boss and shareholder of the group,

At least half of it will go into his personal pocket.

After various ways of tax avoidance,

The actual profit he can get is at least 10 billion dollars a year.

A rejuvenation pill can not only make Bertnard Arnault live 20 years longer,

But also make him more than 200 billion dollars.

In comparison, what is 50 billion dollars?

So, in ecstasy, he held Charlie's hand and asked with red eyes:

"Mr. Wade, are you kidding me?"

Charlie said lightly, "Of course not."

"We have an old saying, a gentleman's words are hard to go back."

"Great, great!"

Bertnard was so excited that he kept turning around in circles.

He subconsciously said to Charlie:

"Mr. Wade, is there anything else you need me to spend money on?"

"If not, I will try to get you 50 billion dollars!"

"It can be collected in a week at most!"

Charlie waved his hand: "If you buy it directly,"

"The price will not be this high."

"If you buy it directly, it will start at least 100 billion dollars."

Bertnard was confused: "Then... what do you mean by 50 billion?"

Charlie smiled and said, "In the future, I may need your help with many things."

"You can calculate how much money you spend each time you help."

"And we will use this amount as the standard."

"Remember, it must be my asking and you must fulfill it."

"It counts only if you spend money on it."

"If you spend money on your own initiative without my permission,"

"It doesn't count."

He paused for a moment, looked at Bertnard's impatient expression, and continued,

"Don't you luxury goods people like to use points and membership levels?"

"Different membership levels have different service levels, different discounts, and different products."

"In addition, some can also exchange points for gifts."

"Just think that for every dollar you spend with me, you can accumulate one point."

"When you accumulate 50 billion points,"

"You can ask me to exchange them for a rejuvenation pill."

Chapter 6912

Bertnard was very excited:

"This... this idea is really great!"

"Mr. Wade, when will we officially start implementing it?"

Charlie smiled and said, "Look, let's start the calculation from now on."

"If you donate 100 million dollars to the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office,"

"Then the 100 million will be included."

"When it accumulates to 50 billion, it will be redeemed."

Bertnard immediately blurted out, "Then I will donate 50 billion to them directly!"

"Give me some time, I will go to raise funds, and when I raise enough,"

"I will go to America and give 50 billion dollars directly to the United Nations!"

Charlie asked with a dark face,

"Do you look like an ungrateful person, or do I look like an ungrateful person?"

"Even if I want to slap Black Water in the face,"

"We can't use 50 billion to fight them, right?"

"Are they worth the price?"

Bertnard said awkwardly:

"Mr. Wade... I... I mainly want to meet your consumption requirements as soon as possible..."

Charlie waved his hand: "You have to remember,"

"Only the consumption I ask you to consume counts."

"And the consumption you make on your own does not count."

"If I don't ask, even if you give 50 billion dollars to my mother-in-law,"

"I won't give you any points."

Charlie was afraid that Bertnard would randomly use bugs to gain experience.

If he chose Elaine to gain experience,

Wouldn't it be equivalent to using money to kill Elaine?

This might be the way Elaine most hoped to die,

And he couldn't let her get her wish.

Bertnard understood what Charlie meant and asked him quickly:

"Mr. Wade, please tell me how much I can spend at the United Nations this time?"

Charlie held up two fingers:

"At most 200 million dollars."

Bertnard nodded immediately:

"Okay! Then I will donate 200 million dollars to them!"

At this point, he said to Charlie in a decadent manner:

"Mr. Wade, you have to give me more opportunities to spend money."

"If it's only 100 or 200 million every time,"

"I don't know when I can save up 50 billion points..."

Bertnard suddenly felt that he had become the protagonist of "Brewster's Millions".

In the movie, Brewster had to spend 30 million dollars within the specified time.

If he couldn't spend it, he would have to take out a legacy of 300 million dollars.

Bertnard is not afraid of spending a lot of money now,

But only afraid of spending less and spending slowly.

It would be best if Charlie could spend 50 billion dollars overnight.

If he couldn't spend it or spent it too slowly, it would make him anxious.

Charlie saw that his face was full of anxiety, so he said,

"Don't worry. This time, when you go to the United States, I can give you another chance to double your points."

"If you seize it, you can get 400 million points by spending these 200 million dollars."

Bertnard said quickly, "Mr. Wade, tell me!"

Charlie said, "When you go to the United Nations to donate 200 million dollars to the Counter-Terrorism Office, you must remind them that this money can only be used for counter-terrorism work outside the United States and outside the areas firmly controlled by the United States."

"For example, this money cannot be used for counter-terrorism in there,"

"Nor can it be used for counter-terrorism in the Middle East, where they actually control the territories."

Bertnard said in surprise, "Mr. Wade, you want me to slap them in their face?"

"That's right."

Charlie nodded. He wanted to slap them in the face,

Otherwise, they would keep trying to cover up Black Water,

Rack their brains to exonerate Black Water,

Or make a big deal out of a small matter. "

Bertnard pointed to his forehead and said awkwardly:

"Mr. Wade, their current commander-in-chief is a little different from normal people in this place."

"If I say so, I'm afraid they will find reasons to sanction me..."

Charlie asked him: "How much is your group's net profit there in a year?"

Bertnard said: "North America accounts for about 25% of all net profits."

"Which is about 5 billion euros."

"Excluding the Canadian market's 20% share, the United States is about 4 billion."

Charlie nodded, waved his hand, and said generously:

"Don't be afraid, this time we will go directly to them and try every means to make them sanction you."

"If they make you lose 4 billion dollars a year in that market,"

"Although I can't compensate you for the 4 billion,"

"It will also be regarded as the amount you spent for me."

"And I will also give you 4 billion points!"

In the last second, Bertnard was still afraid that he would be sanctioned,

But in this second, he suddenly felt invincible.

He felt like he had obtained a god-level equipment in the game.

Other people's equipment was to resist attacks as much as possible.

Or to counterattack attacks, but his equipment could convert the opponent's attacks into his own health bar.

In other words, the harder others hit him, the healthier he would be!

He instantly had a strong urge to burst his chest.

He wanted to rush there and do everything he could to make them sanction him crazily!

And he must not let them show mercy!

It would be best to directly kill all his businesses right away!

At this moment, Bertnard was extremely excited.

For the first time in his 70-year life, he had a strong aversion to money.

How to quickly spend 50 billion on Charlie has become his most anticipated thing now.

What is the hot topic?

Shut the fck up and take my fuking money!

Stop talking nonsense, take my money quickly!

He felt that Charlie was also very bad.

He could spend 50 billion dollars as he wanted,

And he had to listen to his orders and wait for his instructions.

This really made him a little impatient.

Chapter 6913

However, when he thought of the losses caused by the hard confrontation,

Charlie would count them as points for himself.

In just a few seconds, he thought of various ideas for this trip to gain experience.

Didn't Charlie say it?

As long as the money lost due to sanctions from the United States is counted as experience.

This is too easy to do.

It's hard to make money on your knees these days,

And it's even harder to make money standing up.

But if you want to lose money standing up,

Then even if you give a dog a bowl of dog food, the dog will do it!

So, he patted his chest and said to Charlie:

"Mr. Wade, you can wait and see the news in a few days."

"I will definitely go to the United States to make a big fuss about this matter!"

Charlie nodded and snorted and laughed:

"I'm optimistic about you, keep working hard!"

Hamid, who was watching from the side, was secretly shocked.

His brother Wade was really incomparable.

He could control Bertnard with just one pill.

If he had twice his ability, he might even become the commander-in-chief in Syria.

The more he felt that Charlie was capable, the more he felt that he was really lucky.

He kidnapped a few stupid students, and ended up attracting Charlie,

A true god, who not only cured his lameness,

But also helped him resist the attacks of the government forces and the Front,

And continued to consolidate his strength in the war.

This time, Charlie turned the tide.

He had really been saved by him too many times in his life.

It's a pity that he is a man with a big beard.

If he were a s3xy beauty,

He would give birth to eight children for Charlie first and then talk about other things.

Bertnard was in a good mood, so he said to Charlie:

"Mr. Wade, can you and your family come to the New Year's Eve dinner this afternoon?"

Charlie knew that he had organized a New Year's Eve dinner for the Chinese guests,

And he could also watch the Spring Festival Gala,

So he was happy to join in the fun.

But when he thought about what happened last night, which was a sensation around the world,

Countless people were paying attention to this small White Horse Island,

And the tourists on the island had more than 100,000 people online when they did a live broadcast.

If someone broadcast the New Year's Eve dinner tonight, wouldn't he be exposed worldwide?

So he told him, "So, you will have someone issue a notice later."

"Saying that for safety reasons, from now on, until every guest leaves White Horse Island, no one is allowed to use mobile phones in public places and areas."

"If they can comply until the moment of leaving the island, each person can get the compensation of 100,000 dollars."

"Otherwise, White Horse Island has the right to take back the compensation."

"In addition, all participants in tonight's New Year's Eve dinner are not allowed to bring mobile phones."

Bertnard knew that Charlie was low-key, so he immediately nodded and said,

"Okay, Mr. Wade, don't worry, I'll take care of it!"

After the three of them finished chatting and said goodbye to each other,
Bernard returned to the villa where he was staying.

The first thing he did was to call the person in charge of North America immediately.

A series of preparations was arranged in advance,

And then his assistant contacted the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office to inform the other party of the decision to donate.

The name of the United Nations sounds cool, but what is its presence?

Its positioning is a bit similar to the royal family of a constitutional monarchy.

In name, it is quite powerful, the emperor of the nine-five,

Supreme,

But the real power of the country is in the hands of the parliament.

When something happens, the powerful will ask it to come out and take charge of the situation,

But it is just a show.

In fact, members, particularly the permanent ones, do not give it face at all.

And many of the members who give it face, it itself does not look down on,

Because they are all a bunch of poor relatives.

They seem to come to visit you with a bag of local specialties,

But in fact, their houses are falling apart,

And they want you to pay for them to build two villas and marry two wives.

Suddenly, hearing that the former richest man in the world is coming to donate,

The relevant staff of the United Nations were very excited and immediately prepared to welcome Bertnard.

So, Bertnard decided to go back to France to see the president tomorrow,

Accept some media interviews the day after tomorrow,

Firmly express his attitude,

And then immediately take his private plane to the United States to gain experience.

...

In the afternoon, Bertnard fulfilled his promise.

All guests who landed on the island, whether adults or children, received compensation of 100,000 dollars each.

Charlie and Claire gave this right to Jacob and Elaine,

So the couple each received 200,000 dollars.

Today is New Year's Eve, which is the biggest festival in China.

The old couple got a windfall again, so they were extremely happy.

So they went to the restaurant to celebrate the New Year at around 4 o'clock.

The family left the guest room and came to the commercial area of White Horse Island.

They found that there were lights and decorations everywhere.

The decorations related to the Chinese New Year were already hung up and looked very festive.

What Charlie's family didn't expect was that in addition to the restaurant where the hotel provided a New Year's Eve dinner for Chinese tourists,

There was actually a professional lion dance team performing hard.

Chapter 6914

Charlie couldn't help but be curious.

In a place like white Horse Island, all foreign materials are purchased from outside the island.

Where did they get so many Chinese New Year-related materials?

Just as he was wondering, he saw an old man in a red Tang suit standing at the door of the restaurant.

He kept greeting every guest who came in, and even kept taking out red envelopes with Chinese New Year written on them from his pocket and handed them to every guest with both hands.

Charlie looked closely and found that it was Bertnard Arno.

He didn't expect that this old guy would dress himself in a bright red Tang suit.

With his full head of silver hair, he looked like a mascot.

Elaine recognized him at a glance and said quickly:

"The boss of the luxury group is actually giving out red envelopes!"

"Let's go and see how much money this old man can give!"

As she said that, she took the lead and walked in front.

Bertnard also saw Charlie at this moment.

In order to avoid Charlie's family's suspicion,

He just smiled and signaled to Charlie with his eyes,

And then handed a red envelope to Elaine, who had come to him:

"Ms. Ma, Happy Chinese New Year!"

"Wish you good fortune and prosperity!"

As he said, he handed a red envelope to her.

Elaine felt the thickness of the red envelope and felt a little disappointed.

She couldn't help but complain in her heart:

"It feels like there are only two bills in this red envelope at most."

"Even if they are all one hundred dollars, it's only two hundred dollars."

"This old man is still not broad-minded enough."

"He should give at least one thousand dollars, right?"

Because the red envelope was not thick enough, she lost the urge to find out immediately.

She stuffed the red envelope into her pocket and said with a smile:

"Oh, congratulations on your wealth, Boss Arno!"

"I hope you have a prosperous business and good health in the new year!"

Bertnard was also very happy, and said with a smile:

"Thank you for your blessings, Ms. Ma."

"Then I will borrow your good words!"

Elaine whispered, "If someone gives you a lot of blessings, you must also return them with more of the red envelope."

"It's called reciprocity, understand?"

Bertnard was a little confused at first, but his mind was quick after all,

And he soon understood what Elaine meant and laughed:

"Thank you, Ms. Ma, for reminding me."

"I have mastered another knowledge point about Chinese customs!"

Then, he quickly took out another red envelope and handed it to her, smiling:

"Ms. Ma, I also wish you good health and all the best in the new year!"

Elaine took the red envelope with a smile,

And then quickly made up for herself:

"Mr. Arno, you are the big boss."

"I won't give you a red envelope back."

At this time, Charlie, Claire, and Jacob also came to the front.

Bertnard quickly took out three more red envelopes and said Happy New Year to everyone.

Jacob took the red envelope and bowed to express his gratitude happily.

However, Claire did not take the red envelope.

She just said politely: "Thank you for the blessing, Mr. Arno."

"And I wish you a happy New Year."

"But you don't have to spend money on the red envelope."

Elaine quickly said, "Oh, Claire, the red envelope is just for good luck."

"For Mr. Arno, it is not a big deal."

"If you are embarrassed, Mom will keep it for you."

As she spoke, Elaine's hand reached out and took the red envelope.

Claire said with some dissatisfaction:

"Oh, Mom, can you stop being so obsessed with money..."

Bernard hurried to smooth things over:

"Mrs. Wade, don't take it so seriously."

"There's not much money in the red envelope."

"It's just one thousand euros."

"It's mainly for good luck."

Elaine's eyes lit up, and she thought to herself:

"Wow, such a thin red envelope, but there is actually one thousand euros in it."

"The euro is more valuable than the US dollar."

"This old man is really willing to spend!"

Bertnard then looked at Charlie, handed over the red envelope,

And said with a smile: "Mr. Wade, I wish you a happy New Year!"

Charlie smiled and nodded, took the red envelope, handed it to Elaine casually, and said:

"Mom, keep it as a souvenir."

Elaine squinted her eyes, smiled with wrinkles on her face, and said happily:

"Since my good son-in-law said so, then Mom will keep it for you."

Charlie asked Bertnard with interest:

"Mr. Arno, where did you get these materials for the Lunar New Year and this lion dance team?"

Bertnard smiled and said,

"I especially asked people to purchase them from Dubai."

"They were urgently airlifted here early this morning."

"The lion dance team was also invited from Dubai."

"Hoping to give the Chinese guests on the island a sense of home."

Then, Bertnard said, "By the way, Mr. Wade, I specially invited some professional Chinese chefs from Dubai."

"They will be in charge of the New Year's Eve dinner tonight."

"I hope you... And your family will enjoy it."

Charlie nodded and said with a smile,

"Mr. Arno is thoughtful."

Bertnard was praised and smiled with a lot of wrinkles on his face.

Then he whispered to Charlie,

"Mr. Wade, in order to make you and your family happy, I specially arranged a lottery."

"The first prize is 100 million dollars."

"Your family can win it through a secret operation."

"What do you think?"

Charlie was very angry and lowered his voice angrily,

"If you keep thinking about this kind of bad idea,"

"I will increase the experience value for exchanging for rejuvenation pills to 500 billion!"

Chapter 6915

There are about 40 Chinese tourists on White Horse Island.

If they were arranged according to the common Chinese banquet rules,

The several families would have to sit together.

However, the restaurant did not follow the traditional Chinese banquet style of eight or ten people per table.

Instead, the chef designed a set of menus for individual dishes.

According to the Japanese kaiseki style,

The menu details were written on paper.

One set for each person, and all were separate meals.

This menu has a total of 16 dishes.

According to the Chinese custom,

There are four cold dishes, four stir-fried dishes, four stews, two soups, and two meals.

In addition, a variety of Chinese liquors are prepared for guests to choose from.

The benefits of this are obvious.

When each person is served, they only have a small portion of individual dishes.

They don't have to share tableware with others.

And there will be no extra waste.

The most important thing is that several people can sit together.

Under normal circumstances, couples who go out to play can't finish eating after ordering three or four dishes.

It is too wasteful to serve all 16 dishes.

And sharing a table affects the experience.

This way of separating meals is very friendly to small families of two, three, or four people traveling.

During the meal, Bertnard Arno specifically asked the waiter to bring white wine and toast the guests at each table.

At this moment, he looked no different from Chinese people except for his European appearance and skin.

At 5 pm local time in the Maldives, the live broadcast of the Spring Festival Gala began on time.

The status of the Spring Festival Gala in China is like the Super Bowl in the United States.

And it is even more important than the Super Bowl.

So even if it is not so good to watch,

Most Chinese people are still willing to sit in front of the TV and watch it.

For several consecutive years, the largest title sponsor of the Spring Festival Gala was Internet companies.

Especially Taobao, which had the highest appearance rate.

But this year, the largest title sponsor of the Spring Festival Gala finally changed to a physical enterprise.

The Changying Automobile.

Although Changying Automobile has not yet produced its actual car and has not released any models,

The various preheats in the past period of time and the in-depth linkage cooperation with Tawana have made this brand earn enough attention.

Now, it has become the largest title sponsor of the Spring Festival Gala.

And its popularity will inevitably increase significantly.

After thanking Changying Automobile for its sponsorship and title,

The host also announced to all the audience that Changying Automobile's first model will be officially released on July 1.

The first year of the second half of the year.

This news shocked the audience in front of the TV and people in the automotive industry.

The Changying Automobile is very fast.

But they didn't expect it to be so fast.

The first car will be released on the first day of the second half of the year.

This speed is much faster than Remy.

But what they don't know is that Changying Automobile has more cash reserves than the entire Remy Group.

Not to mention Remy Automobile.

In today's society, it is always easier to get things done with money.

With the blessing of sufficient funds, the speed of all links will be doubled.

According to He Yuanjiang's plan, Changying Automobile's first mass-produced car will be designed in the first half of this year.

And after it is officially released in the third quarter of the second half of the year,

It will officially start delivery in the fourth quarter.

Although Changying Automobile's first car is still under intensive design,

Its basic positioning is very clear.

That is, a new energy medium and large SUV with a price range of 250,000 to 350,000.

In the Chinese market, SUVs have always received a lot of attention.

Many car reviewers who worship foreigners like to play tricks on the preferences of Chinese people.

They say that Chinese people don't understand cars and don't look at anything else when buying a car.

Only at the size.

Unlike foreigners who are well-versed in car culture,

They prefer small cars with strong control.

In fact, this kind of statement is pure nonsense in Charlie's view.

Why do Chinese people like bigger cars?

That's because most Chinese families with cars only have one car.

They have to save money to buy a car.

Not only do they have to take care of themselves and their wives, who are going to work and picking up children from school.

But they also want to take care of the occasional three-generation tour.

Therefore, the car must not only be able to carry people, but also.

But also have enough space to carry luggage.

In European and American countries, a family has at least two cars.

And some even have three cars.

They can naturally match the models according to their own needs and preferences.

Moreover, these reviewers clearly know that one of the best-selling models in the US market is a huge pickup truck that can carry a lot of cargo.

Under the current conditions, if a family can only spend 50,000 yuan to buy a car,

They will naturally buy a compact and cheap small car.

Chapter 6916

If they can spend more than 200,000 to 300,000 yuan, a practical SUV must be the first choice.

Remy's SUV sells 200,000 to 300,000 units a day.

Which is enough to show the important position of SUVs in China's mid-to-high-end car market.

In order to make Changying Automobile go global as quickly as possible,

Charlie has even made plans.

After Changying Automobile has gained a foothold in the domestic market,

He will use the Rejuvenation Pill to pave the way.

Let the Rothschild family help him obtain production and sales qualifications in the West.

Acquire an American car company with sufficient productivity.

Such as GM or Ford, and then let Bertnard take charge of brands like Peugeot.

And then integrate them into Changying Automobile's overseas production base.

Although Charlie didn't know how to make or sell cars,

He knew that this brand is named after his father.

And he had to do his best to make it the best car brand in the world.

This Spring Festival Gala, the elements of Changying Automobile were not as ubiquitous as those of previous sponsors.

Sometimes they did some implantation.

Sometimes they asked the host to keep doing oral broadcasts.

And sometimes they made red envelopes to increase their presence.

Although Changying Automobile also spent the same amount of money,

It only made two advertisements, one of which was to let the host announce the release time of Changying Automobile's new car.

In addition, there was only a red tassel logo without words at the end of the program list.

Low-key and restrained are the keynotes of Changying Automobile's title this time.

The programs followed one after another, steadily and accurately appearing like an assembly line.

Although the comedy programs of the Spring Festival Gala have been regressing year by year,

Everyone has a strong sense of freshness because they have never tried to spend New Year's Eve with dozens of compatriots in a restaurant.

Moreover, sometimes, people's laughter points will decrease as the number of people increases.

This is why a person who watches a talk show video on his phone may think it is just so-so.

But the audience at the scene is all laughing,

Because the atmosphere at the scene is better after all.

What Charlie didn't expect was that there was a mysterious program which was not announced in advance in the Spring Festival Gala.

When the host appeared on the screen, he smiled and said,

"In the past, we would announce the program list before the Spring Festival Gala every year."

"But this time, our program team did not announce the program list completely."

"Because we have been actively fighting for this program two days before the live broadcast."

"Now I can tell you that this program can finally meet you on the stage of the Spring Festival Gala!"

The host's few words aroused everyone's interest.

Regardless of whether the program is good or not,

The Spring Festival Gala has always been very rigorous in the organization and arrangement of the program.

In order to ensure that the ringing of the New Year's bell at midnight is not affected,

The previous program must be accurate to the second.

Anyone who deliberately extends or shortens the time of their program will be blacklisted by the director team.

And will never have the opportunity to appear on this stage again.

Therefore, the program list and time of the Spring Festival Gala are basically determined more than half a month in advance.

And then rehearsals will be carried out again and again according to this program list.

What kind of mysterious program can make the Spring Festival Gala program group fight for it to be determined two days before the performance?

This is undoubtedly a big risk, which is completely opposite to the cautious style of the previous Spring Festival Gala.

Just when everyone was puzzled, the host continued:

"Some time ago, a song frequently appeared on the hot search of major websites."

"This song is 'Assassin' sung by our favorite singers Sara Gu and international superstar Tawana Sweet."

"Those who like Miss Gu should know that she will retire from the entertainment industry after all her farewell concerts this year."

"So our director team has tried several times and finally invited Miss Gu to the stage of the Spring Festival Gala again before she retires!"

The audience at the scene has already screamed and exclaimed.

In the past Spring Festival Gala stage, such a fanatical phenomenon rarely appeared.

Many viewers in front of the TV were even more excited.

Who would have thought that Sara could be on the Spring Festival Gala again!

At this time, the host smiled and said,

"Please invite Sara to sing the song 'Assassin' for us."

The stage switched to ancient style again.

And Sara, wearing an ancient long skirt, came on stage.

Even in this restaurant on the Maldives island, many audiences clapped excitedly.

Jacob also raised his hands and clapped them non-stop, and said with a smile:

"Oh, this song was really popular some time ago!"

"Miss Sweet sang this song in the bar yesterday!"

Claire pursed her lips, with a complicated expression, and said nothing.

Charlie didn't pay attention to Claire's expression changes.

He stared at the big screen and looked at Sara's red shawl curiously.

Perhaps, it can't be said to be a shawl.

But more like a long red tassel.

The silk-like material passed from her shoulders through her arms on both sides.

And the long red satin fluttered in the wind behind her on both sides.

This is a long tassel!

Charlie knew that Sara was also using her way to express her respect to her father.

Originally, Charlie might be the only one who could see the hidden meaning in this scene.

But he did not expect that Claire, who was standing by, also saw Sara's intention.

Their families were old friends, and they were engaged.

Sara had been looking for him for so many years.

Claire felt that Sara, who was wearing a long tassel on the stage at this moment,

Was Charlie's true emotional home...

Chapter 6917

When the New Year bells rang,

It was only nine o'clock in the evening in the Maldives.

In order to create a better New Year atmosphere,

Bertnard Arno spent a lot of money to purchase a lot of fireworks.

Which were specially brought to the bay by boat to be set off.

The colorful fireworks rose from the seaside and went straight into the sky.

Exploding in the air, bursting out dazzling fireworks,

And at the same time, being reflected by the sparkling seaside.

This beautiful scenery of the sea and sky is fascinating.

Claire looked at the fireworks on the seashore outside the window and murmured absentmindedly,

"I haven't seen such beautiful fireworks in a long, long time..."

Elaine took out her mobile phone to take pictures.

While muttering,

"Who doesn't say that?"

"In our city, it has been banned for so many years."

"And I almost forgot what fireworks are."

"They are so beautiful, especially when they are so close and set off on the sea."

Jacob's pupils reflected the fireworks that were shrunk countless times.

And the wrinkles on his face were stacked with ups and downs and curves of happiness.

He smiled and sighed, "When I was young, my favorite thing was to set off firecrackers."

"At that time, our family was well off and we had a little money."

"During the New Year, I always used all my New Year's money to buy various firecrackers."

"Every day, a bunch of children chased after me."

"And sometimes I gave them one or two."

"They were so happy when they smashed and rubbed the cannons."

"And they also nominated me as their commander-in-chief..."

Elaine didn't understand his nostalgia and emotion.

But just teased him sarcastically:

"Tsk, with your brother there, could you still be the commander-in-chief?"

"By then, the commander-in-chief must have been your brother?"

Jacob waved his hand and said casually:

"That's not it, you don't understand."

"We are different in age, and we are not in the same team."

"He is the commander-in-chief in his team."

"And I am the commander-in-chief in mine."

Elaine ate melon seeds and asked with a smile:

"With your brother's little idea,"

"Had they thought about incorporating your team?"

Jacob slapped his thigh:

"Hey! Don't say it!"

"He had always been thinking about incorporating my team."

"But I didn't agree, and I was beaten by him for this."

"I'll tell you."

Elaine snorted, "He is a coward since he was a child."

"He always thinks about taking advantage of others."

Jacob nodded and sighed.

"He has been spoiled by mom since he was a child."

"He wants everything, whether it's his or not."

Elaine asked curiously, "Well, it's strange."

"Everyone in other families loves the younger ones."

"So why does your mother favor your eldest brother?"

Jacob smiled bitterly and said, "I have never been as obedient as my brother since I was a child."

"He was smarter than me and could please my mother."

"Besides, no one in this family can really treat everyone equally."

"It's normal if one side is higher and the other side is lower."

Elaine deliberately teased him,

"Your brother has been a coward since he was a child."

"And you have been the same."

"You two complement each other."

Jacob didn't care about her teasing, but suddenly sighed and said,

"Well, I don't know how they spent the New Year and how they spent it."

Elaine was a little angry,

"Oh, you are still thinking about them now?"

"You really have time."

"How can you say that?"

Jacob muttered in a muffled voice,

"After all, we are blood relatives."

"Even if we don't have any contact, I still miss her in my heart."

"His wife was able to make some money some time ago."

"But because of you, she probably has no income now."

Elaine said unconvinced, "She deserves it!"

"Who told her to do those scams?"

"I contributed to society by exposing her."

Jacob sighed, "Nine out of ten Internet celebrities are scammers."

"She doesn't make any difference."

"If she makes money, my mother can live a good life with her."

Elaine snorted, "Her?"

"She still wants to live a good life?"

"God... You've been hesitating and still haven't accepted her yet."

"You're already doing her a favor!"

"The old thing should have died long ago!"

"When your dad left, he should have taken her with him!"

Jacob was a little angry and said with a red face:

"My mom is old. How many days can she live?"

"Can't you have some moral integrity?"

Claire felt a deep sense of powerlessness in her heart at this moment.

And unconsciously thought of Charlie's mother, who was an outstanding woman whom many Chinese wrote books and biographies about.

Looking at her own mother, although she did not dislike her,

She could not help but make comparisons after learning about Charlie's true identity.

The indescribable sense of shame made Claire feel her eyelids burning.

She looked at Elaine and couldn't help but sigh:

"Mom, that's enough. We have been separated from grandma and uncle for such a long time."

"What grudge do you have that makes you hate her so much?"

"You are still cursing people to death during the New Year?"

Chapter 6918

Elaine didn't know that her daughter's state at this time was different from before.

She thought that she was just nagging at her routinely and had no offensive power.

So she said in a cold voice with disdain:

"What's wrong with me cursing her to death?"

"I tell you, I didn't kill that old thing with my own hands."

"It's already considered. He is a very good man!"

"If it were someone else, your grandmother would have died countless times."

"Maybe one episode of Today's Statement would tell the story of her murder!"

After that, he sneered and said sarcastically,

"To be honest, your grandfather is the only good man in the family."

"A few years ago, I complained about him forcing a good son-in-law on you."

"Now it seems that he did it for your own good."

"Otherwise we wouldn't be living such a prosperous life."

"He should have lived a few more years so that your grandmother would have died earlier!"

"Oh! It's true that good people don't live long."

"But evil people live for a thousand years!"

Elaine always loves to show off her tongue.

And unbridled venting brings her strong pleasure.

For so many years, she has been bullied outside.

And she basically relies on venting at home to make up for her emotions.

Sometimes, she will also have the mentality of deliberately going against others.

For example, now, actually, she was just making a few sarcastic remarks about an old lady.

But Jacob and Claire both seemed to be blaming her.

So she couldn't help getting angry, so she said,

"Oh, I just cursed that old woman to vent my anger."

"And you two dared to go against me."

"So I'm going to curse her to death!"

Once she got emotional, she spoke like a machine gun, venting non-stop.

"Damn it, the old woman has bullied me a lot over the years."

"And my legs were broken by that old woman."

"If she really dies one day, I will definitely buy 20,000 yuan worth of firecrackers to celebrate!"

"Even if firecrackers are banned in the city, I will still set them off!"

"Even if I am arrested and put in the detention center for a few days, I will still set them off!"

"I just want to make sure that old woman has no peace even after her death!"

Claire, who was always docile, suddenly stood up, slammed the table, and blurted out,

"Enough!!!"

This sudden action not only scared Jacob and Elaine,

But also scared many guests around.

Claire lost control of her emotions.

And regardless of the surprised looks from the people around her,

She stood up and walked out quickly.

Seeing this, Charlie hurriedly followed.

Only to hear Elaine saying stubbornly behind him:

"This kid, her elbows are always bent outwards."

"Never on my side at all..."

The moment Claire rushed out of the door, tears could not stop flowing.

Charlie caught up with her and saw her in tears.

He asked her with concern, "Wife, what's wrong?"

Claire shook her head and said stubbornly,

"It's okay, I'm fine..."

Charlie realized something was wrong and asked her quickly.

"Why are you crying? Mom is always like this."

"To be honest, I'm used to it."

"You should have gotten used to it earlier."

Claire couldn't control herself and cried with an emotional breakdown.

"I just don't want her to be like this for the rest of her life!"

"I just hope she can make some progress."

"Become a little better, and not be so desperate."

"Why can't she do it?!"

"She has been like this for almost 30 years, from childhood to adulthood!"

"She has suffered so much over the years."

"But she has never really learned from experience!"

"She has never corrected her own faults and problems over the years!"

"She always blames others and always blames others for letting her down!"

"Do you know what's the only improvement I've seen from her over the years?"

Charlie shook his head awkwardly and asked, "What is it?"

Claire cried and yelled, "It's her attitude towards you!"

"Over the years, the only improvement she's made is her attitude towards you."

"As for the rest, there's absolutely no change or improvement!"

Charlie comforted her, "Even if you only see this little bit of progress."

"It's at least an improvement!"

"Then you can't completely deny that she hasn't made any progress over the years, right?"

Claire burst into tears and choked up.

"Yes... There is a little bit of progress..."

"Steps... But... But I know, it's not her who's getting better!"

"It's you who's getting better!"

As she said that, she raised her head, looked at him with red eyes.

Tears couldn't stop flowing, and I choked up.

"It's because your ability is getting stronger, your network is getting wider, and you're making more and more money."

"So she calls you a good son-in-law, and she dares not mock you or insult you at every turn like before!"

"She is still the same her, the one who never changes!!!"

At this moment, Claire's emotions completely collapsed,

Squatting on the ground, burying her face in her arms, crying and shaking all over.

Charlie didn't understand. He felt that Claire shouldn't be so sensitive.

People say that too many lice don't itch. He had been bitten by Elaine for five or six years.

And he was completely immune to the bites.

Claire lived with her for thirty years. Why did she suddenly lose her mind?

So he speculated that her state was obviously problematic.

And the sudden loss of control did not seem to be entirely related to Elaine.

But what else was the reason? He couldn't figure it out.

Some things in life are like this; it's like a math problem with a key condition missing.

You know something is wrong.

But you can't figure out what's wrong, and you can't guess the correct solution and answer.

Claire's pain is superimposed on many aspects, including years of accumulated depression, unspeakable pain, and even pain that she has nowhere to confide.

Thinking that she will disappear from Charlie's world in another month,

She feels even more painful.

At this moment, she is the loneliest person in the world.

Chapter 6919

Charlie, who was slow in emotional response,

Did not understand the real reason for Claire's emotional breakdown.

He just felt that Claire might be crushed one day after enduring Elaine's values and style of doing things for so many years.

Perhaps Elaine's words just now were the last straw that broke her back.

So he took Claire in his arms and patted her back silently.

Claire cried for a while, and her mood eased a little.

She wiped away her tears and said to Charlie,

"Walk with me to the beach."

"Okay."

Charlie readily agreed and walked to the beach hand in hand with her.

The two walked slowly on the waves, and no one spoke,

Enjoying this rare world of two people.

At this time, the Spring Festival Gala was coming to an end.

Many guests had already left the restaurant and returned to their rooms.

At the same time, on the base island of the Warriors Den.

Victoria watched the Spring Festival Gala without saying a word,

And said to Revendor with a sneer on her face:

"Since the Wade family and the An family have made peace with each other,"

"Their actions have become bigger and bigger."

"The Changying Automobile they built is really like a thorn in my flesh!"

Revendor immediately said:

"Lord, Changying Automobile is currently in the development and construction stage."

"Do you want to arrange for some agents to go there to do some damage?"

Victoria waved her hand and said:

"I know that the An family is in China."

"Sending the three elders there will most likely kill the whole family."

"But the reason why I didn't take any action is that I don't know the depth of the mysterious enemy in the dark,"

"And secondly, Nicolas, the old fox, is now investing heavily in China."

"If I touch him or destroy his whole family,"

"Then the end of the Warriors Den will come."

Revendor asked: "Lord, if you don't find a way to do something,"

"The An family and the Wade family are so high-profile."

"And I am worried that these people will jump up and down and disturb the peace of the Lord..."

Victoria couldn't help but grit her teeth.

What Revendor said was a thorn in her heart.

She said with a murderous look in her eyes and a gloomy expression:

"Over the years, after Margaret and Changying died,"

"The An and Wade families have been keeping a low profile."

"I have always suspected that Margaret is still alive,"

"So I didn't kill the two families all these years."

"Instead, I sent scholars to the An family to inquire about the news."

"But I didn't expect that after twenty years,"

"The An family didn't have any news that Margaret was still alive..."

At this point, Victoria frowned and said coldly:

"If it were someone else, they would definitely think that they were worrying too much,"

"Or that Margaret had already died."

"I died at the hands of the elder."

"But I never dared to relax, always feeling that she must still be alive,"

"And must be doing her best to seek revenge on me in secret!"

"Later, I tried to wipe out the An family twice, just to force her to show up,"

"But she didn't show up,"

"Instead, a very powerful, mysterious man appeared."

"Now the chess game has become more and more complicated..."

Revendor knelt on one knee and said respectfully:

"Master, if Margaret doesn't show up and there is no clue about the mysterious man,"

"I dare to suggest to you that you might as well fight them to the death!"

"Hmm?"

Victoria asked him back, "Why do you say that?"

Revendor clasped his fists and raised them above his head, and said loudly,

"Lord! I know that Margaret and Maria may have the secret to make you immortal for a thousand years."

"I also dare to say something that deserves the death penalty."

"If Margaret really delays your immortality for a thousand years, why should you care about the four hundred years of the Warriors Den?"

"It's better to fight them to the death!"

"Even if you really provoke those big countries, what's the worst?"

"At most, you can abandon this base."

"With your strength, Lord, no matter where you want to go,"

"Who in this world can stop you?"

Victoria looked at him, and a hint of surprise flashed in her eyes.

Chapter 6920

The Wu family has had a good life for too long,

And many people are afraid that they will act rashly and harm the entire Wu family.

Only Revendor said that he might as well drag the entire Warriors Den into the water.

This is exactly what he wants.

Victoria had long thought that since she couldn't get the Ever Green Pill, her life span would only be a few decades.

It didn't matter if she couldn't find Maria.

But Margaret couldn't escape.

If Margaret didn't show up again, what would happen if she killed her whole family?

Even if the two great powers of the East and the West wanted to join forces to eradicate the Warriors Den,

What would happen?

When her life span is about to end,

She didn't care about anything!

If it were really a situation where she was going to die,

It would be good to kill more people before she dies!

So, she said to Revendor:

"Revendor, start to adjust."

"I will wait for Margaret for three more years at most."

"If she still doesn't show up after three years,"

"I will wipe out the An family and the Wade family,"

"Leaving no direct members alive!"

Revendor immediately said loudly: "I obey your order!"

...

On the first day of the new year.

Bertnard took a seaplane to Male,

The capital of the Maldives, early in the morning,

And then took his private plane back to France.

Although Cheval Blanc has returned to a peaceful and tranquil state,

The outside world's discussion about Cheval Blanc has not diminished at all.

The world media are constantly doing various special reports,

And even many experts have come to analyze the situation in Syria and the role of Western governments behind this matter.

The pressure on the Syrian opposition is surprisingly great.

Although they were all mud legs or even terrorists,

The situation is different now.

The rebels seized power, and they are no longer rebels, but regular troops.

The difference between the regular army and the rebels is that the regular army, with its own country, can no longer fight guerrilla warfare everywhere as it pleases.

It has to take its own image into consideration to some extent.

Therefore, they dare not continue to attack Hamid.

They can only declare that the Black Water's Ma Kui deliberately framed them.

They have a close comrade-in-arms relationship with Hamid, and there is no possibility of assassinating him with others.

However, this claim is useless, and almost no one will buy it.

After Black Water threw out the scapegoat, \

Although the outside doubts increased instead of decreasing,

They still chose to pretend to be dumb.

They knew very well that this kind of thing could not be explained.

The more they explained, the more they were criticized.

The mainstream media also kept silent about this matter.

But not all.

Some media's coverage of this matter can be said to be working overtime and intensively.

The media in Britain, France, Germany, and Italy have publicly launched a heavy attack on Blackwater,

They criticize Black Water, dig up the past and dirt,

And portray Bertnard Arno as the most courageous and responsible billionaire in the world.

Today, the president will summon Bertnard to the Elysee Palace.

Although the summoning time is 2 pm local time,

Many media have arrived at the Palace in the morning to prepare.

The airport is unprecedented.

In order to take first-hand photos of Bertnard's return to the country,

Each media has sent a team of reporters,

Set up long guns and short guns at the airport runway,

Waiting to welcome the hero of France.

According to the plan of the French government,

The prime minister will meet with the president,

So the prime minister also came to the airport early to prepare to meet Bertnard.

In order to make the welcoming ceremony as grand as possible,

They arranged for the airport to prepare four remote parking stands in advance.

These four stands were only used to park Bertnard's private plane.

All the invited media were waiting to take pictures opposite the parking stands.

After the plane landed, it would taxi here so that Bertnard could get off the plane in the spotlight.

At this time, Bertnard had not arrived at the airport yet,

But his familiar media friends had already sent him photos of the scene through the satellite network.

When Bertnard saw the scene welcoming him,

He was so happy that he couldn't keep his mouth shut with his white hair.

He couldn't help but smile and sighed to his wife:

"Oh, I have been scolded as a profiteer for decades,"

"But I didn't expect that I would become a hero now!"

Chapter 6921

Merchants have basically never been associated with heroes since ancient times.

Bill Gates was once the world's richest man for many years.

He spent so much money.

In the early years, he established a persona for himself that changed the world with technology,

But he was unable to prevent the collapse of his persona in his later years.

In fact, there is no wealth in this world that comes out of thin air.

Any super-rich man is like the queen ant in the ant kingdom.

Behind his huge body, there must be countless worker ants that supply him with blood.

In other words, any existence that exceeds the normal size needs to draw energy from countless things of normal size.

Why can a top star like Tawanna earn billions of dollars a year?

That's because she has tens of millions of fans who support her with money from their own pockets,

So that is why she can make so much money.

Why can Bill Gates be the world's richest man for many consecutive years?

That's because Windows, Office, and various popular software developed by Microsoft have sold hundreds of millions of copies around the world.

Every computer user in the world is providing growth momentum for Bill Gates' bank account through various channels.

It is rare for a rich man who is supported by hundreds of millions of people not to be despised by another hundred million people.

It is basically a pipe dream to want hundreds of millions of people to respect him or even regard him as a hero.

But today, Bertnard is definitely a hero in France.

A national hero!

Charles de Gaulle Airport can be said to be full of gongs and drums, firecrackers, and crowds of people.

Countless media and platforms are broadcasting the dynamics of the airport in real time.

When Bertnard's private plane appeared in the sky in front of the airport runway,

The people were boiling.

The plane slowly descended and landed steadily on the runway.

A yellow guide car flashed eye-catching lights and guided the plane all the way to the parking position that had been prepared long ago.

Bertnard looked at the shocking scene outside the window.

While he was overjoyed, he couldn't help but be nervous.

He even began to wonder whether he should step with his left foot or his right foot first when the plane door opened.

The plane gradually came to a stop.

The airport staff had already laid the red carpet under the plane.

After the private plane's door was opened and the steps were folded out,

Bernard, supported by his wife, appeared at the door with great excitement.

The crowd that had been waiting for a long time burst into cheers.

The shutter sounds of the cameras were faster than machine guns,

And they kept clicking.

Under the watchful eyes of the crowd, Bernard limped down the steps.

The injured knee was faintly bleeding.

Bernard deliberately asked the medical team to do this in order to show his heroism.

What triggered his inspiration was the picture of the American president,

Who was shot in the ear during the election some time ago?

And then gave a speech with his ear wrapped.

There is an old saying in China that the crying child gets the milk.

If you are injured, you must always think about exposing your injury to the public.

Only in this way can you gain the public's support to the greatest extent.

At this time, the French Prime Minister smiled and stepped forward,

Took the initiative to extend his hand and shook it, praising him:

"Mr. Arno, you are the pride of France and the pride of the French people."

"On behalf of the French government and the French people,"

"I thank you for everything you have done on White Horse!"

Bernard was overjoyed.

He knew very well what the characteristics of his French compatriots were.

It was no problem to make money from the French people,

But it was difficult to get their respect.

He had been criticized by the French people for years because of the continuous price increases,

And the forced distribution system.

Now he has transformed himself into a national hero.

This wonderful encounter is perfect.

So Bernard said very modestly:

"Mr. Prime Minister, you are too kind.

These are what I should do."

Chapter 6922

The Prime Minister smiled and said,

"His Excellency the President is waiting to meet you at the Elysee Palace."

"We will take a group photo in front of the reporters later."

"After the photo, the reporters may have a brief interview with you."

"If you are interested, you can simply answer questions."

"If you are not interested, it doesn't matter."

"You can wait until after the meeting with the President to be interviewed at the Elysee Palace."

Bernard rolled his eyes and asked in a low voice,

"Excuse me, Prime Minister, are the media outlets such as the Associated Press, United Press International, and CNN here?"

"They are here."

The Prime Minister nodded and smiled,

"With their keenness for news, how could they not come?"

"Okay, okay, that's great."

Bernard nodded with a smile and said,

"In that case, I will be interviewed by them later."

"Okay!"

After the Prime Minister and Bertnard shook hands cordially in front of the media camera,

The two came to the media reporters together.

The Prime Minister smiled and said to the media reporters present:

"Mr. Bertnard will go to the Elysee Palace later to accept the summons of His Excellency the President,"

"But I just communicated with Mr. Bertnard,"

"And confirmed that I can leave 10 minutes for the media reporters on the scene for a brief interview."

"If you have any questions for Mr. Bertnard, you can raise your hands."

All the reporters raised their hands high at this time.

They are keen journalists themselves.

They naturally don't want to miss such an interview opportunity.

The AFP reporter looked at Bertnard with a face full of confidence.

She felt that Bertnard, as a new generation of national hero, would definitely choose to accept an interview with local media at this time.

As the largest and oldest media in France,

AFP must take the lead and take over this first wave of traffic.

But what she didn't expect was that Bertnard didn't plan to give him a chance at all,

But directly aimed his eyes at the CNN reporter.

He pointed at the CNN reporter and said,

"Come on, let the CNN reporter ask questions first."

The other reporter looked depressed and puzzled.

She didn't know that Bernard was ready to fight at this moment.

From this moment on, he would start working.

The CNN reporter didn't expect that the first person to be called to ask questions would be herself.

She said happily, "Dear Mr. Bernard Elno,"

"I would like to ask if you think this attack was secretly instigated by some people with ulterior motives?"

"Instigation?"

Bernard Elno asked in confusion,

"What do you mean by instigation?"

The CNN reporter quickly said,

"As far as I know, the terrorists who attacked White Horse Island claimed to be mercenaries of Black Water."

"But I think Black Water is a regular mercenary company."

"They will definitely not be involved in terrorist attacks."

"So I think this may be a frame-up to deliberately provoke relations between the past."

"What do you think?"

Bertnard sneered and asked him,

"Where were you when the incident happened?"

The other party explained,

"I am a CNN reporter stationed in Paris."

"I was here when the incident happened."

Bertnard said contemptuously, "You were in Paris when the incident happened."

"But I was on White Horse Island, right in front of the guns of these Black Water terrorists."

"Now you tell me that you think this may be a frame-up."

"How can you be all-knowing?"

"Your name is Sherlock Holmes?"

Chapter 6923

Bertnard's sudden attack embarrassed the reporter.

The reporter's original intention was to help Black Water gain some public opinion,

By raising a possible suspicion that it was framed.

Although not many people might believe it,

As long as he raised the question, it was equivalent to diverting the opponent's firepower.

But he didn't expect that Bertnard would directly refute him in front of so many media reporters,

And it was also a bit humiliating.

He could only bite the bullet and say,

"Mr. Bertnard, I'm not Sherlock Holmes."

"I'm just proposing a hypothesis,"

"And then asking for your opinion and views based on my hypothesis."

"It doesn't matter if you disagree with my hypothesis."

"I just hope you don't have any misunderstandings."

Bertnard sneered, "Misunderstanding?"

"Do you think I don't know what's going on in your heads?"

"You know that what happened on White Horse Island had a very bad impact."

"So you're trying to do everything you can to exonerate the company, right?"

The reporter said, embarrassedly,

"You really misunderstood what I meant."

"I'm not trying to exonerate Black Water."

"I just want to express my personal opinion."

Bernard sneered with disdain on his face,

"It's really interesting."

"You, a reporter, came here, ostensibly wanting to interview me,"

"But actually wanting to express your views and convey your private goods to the audience all over the world through the interview."

"Don't you think that by doing this, you're violating the professional ethics that a reporter should have?"

The cameras of the surrounding media were all aimed at this reporter,

Making him nervous and ashamed at the same time.

He could only say with an apologetic look:

"I'm sorry, Mr. Arno,"

"Maybe there was something wrong with my expression just now,"

"I take back my question!"

Bertnard nodded and said with a righteous face:

"I believe that this matter will soon be revealed and give everyone a satisfactory explanation."

"I also solemnly warn certain people and certain groups here that if anyone attempts to tamper with the truth of the incident,"

"Then I will do my best to investigate everything and expose it all."

Many reporters did not expect that this luxury giant would be so righteous,

And they all spontaneously applauded.

You know, his image in the international arena has never been very good.

Although consumers are flocking to their products,

They are disgusted with this person.

But today, the brilliance of humanity that burst out from this person is awe-inspiring,

And he has just saved hundreds of tourists from all over the world,

Including the famous Tawana Sweet, so everyone has a deeper respect for him.

Not only do these media reporters on the scene look at him with admiration,

But the audience in front of the screen is also full of respect for him.

At this time, Bertnard looked at other reporters:

"Do you have any questions?"

A group of reporters raised their hands high,

But strangely, reporters from several other media outlets put their hands down.

In fact, the instructions they received were the same as those of the previous reporters,

Which was to find a way to excuse Black Water during the question-and-answer session,

Or to divert the audience's thinking and their imaginary goals.

But seeing that this old man didn't give any face,

No one dared to make things worse at this time,

So they simply didn't ask questions.

Bernard didn't intend to let go of these reporters who had suddenly become low-key.

He laughed at himself and said:

"It seems that I, an old man, am too direct in my words."

"And I am not very popular with some of the reporter friends."

"I was a little tougher on the issue of Black Water,"

"And you are too lazy to even ask questions."

There was laughter all around,

And these reporters looked at each other in shame.

Bertnard then looked at the AFP reporter and said with a smile:

"Next, please ask the AFP reporter to ask questions."

The AFP reporter immediately smiled and asked:

"Mr. Arno, I heard that you will rush to the United Nations headquarters in the United States tomorrow."

"And you will also donate to its Counter-Terrorism Office."

"Is that true?"

"It's true."

Bertnard nodded slightly and said:

"The incident on White Horse makes me personally feel fortunate and angry!"

"Fortunately, I had the opportunity and the ability to resolve the crisis."

"What's angrier is that this kind of crisis may be happening anytime and anywhere in the world."

"Others may not have the luck I had when they encounter such a thing."

"So I hope to do my best to provide them with some help,"

"And I also hope to set an example for other individuals with better economic conditions."

"I hope they can also pay attention to the issue of opposing terrorist attacks and do their part in this matter."

Chapter 6924

Bertnard's impassioned speech really affected everyone around him and in front of the screen.

If other rich people said this,

People might think he was acting, self-promoting, or setting up a perfect persona.

But Bertnard was different.

He actually solved an extremely serious terrorist attack,

And it happened that before the attack,

The whole world paid attention to White Horse Island through Tawana's live broadcast.

In addition, the matter was successfully resolved later,

And Tawana personally endorsed Bertnard on the live broadcast.

This influence was too great.

Moreover, in front of the public, Bertnard did not just pay the terrorists,

He was also bravely shot, and it was obvious that he had experienced the danger of losing his life at any time.

With so many factors added up, who would still think he was acting?

At this moment, his reputation reached a new peak.

At this time, Charlie was leisurely watching the live broadcast on his mobile phone from a recliner.

It must be said that this old man's acting skills are really great.

His righteous appearance, coupled with his vicissitudes of white hair and resolute expression,

His affinity and appeal are all top-notch.

Moreover, although this old man is not young,

His fighting power is really fierce.

He chased and bit the reporters as soon as he got off the plane.

Black Water, at this moment, what they want most is to kill Bertnard.

But he is the one they cannot kill the most,

Because the influence of this incident is too great.

If he dies, everyone will blame Black Water.

Moreover, Bertnard is not some unknown, anonymous person.

This guy was once the richest man in the world.

If anyone assassinates him, France and the European Union will definitely not give up for the sake of their own image,

And the whole world will pay close attention to ask for an explanation.

For a time, everyone in the top management of Black Water was in danger, wondering what kind of storm Bertnard would cause at the United Nations when he arrived there tomorrow.

...

On the way to the presidential palace,

Bertnard's face was filled with excitement.

Today, he has found a special sense of honor that he has never had before.

In the past, his sense of honor came from his own achievements.

How much money he made and how many places he ranked in the world were the key to his sense of honor.

But sometimes others may not really respond positively to this sense of honor.

Just like the famous Chinese husband who was a second-generation rich before,

He always regarded it as the greatest honor that no one was richer than him,

But this sense of honor would only make ordinary people reject him,

But it would not make ordinary people identify with him.

And Bertnard's sense of honor this time was exactly given to him by the people of the world.

People admired him and sincerely thought he was a great hero.

This was the first time in his life experience.

Thinking of this, he couldn't help but feel infinite gratitude towards Charlie.

In the past, whenever he thought of this young man who cheated him of his money,

He would be so angry that he gritted his teeth,

But now, when he thought of Charlie,

He felt extremely kind and wanted to make a sworn brother with him.

If he could be like Hamid and call him brother, how great would that be?

From now on, he will call him Brother Wade,

And he will call him Brother Arno.

He will soon accumulate 50 billion experience points and exchange them for a rejuvenation pill.

By then, he will have a good reputation,

A large industry, and a long life.

Living one more day will be a top life!

...

At this time, the Elysee Palace in France was much more crowded than the airport.

The president turned down all his original work this afternoon just to meet with the hero that the country has seen in decades.

The last Frenchman who received widespread positive attention from the world was Charles de Gaulle,

Who swore to die in the face of Germany.

Moreover, Charles de Gaulle was a man of integrity.

But Bertnard was different.

He encountered such a big thing and solved it.

More importantly, this matter was watched by the whole world from beginning to end.

It was simply the best stage tailored for him.

There are lucky people in countries around the world who have encountered sky-breaking traffic,

But most of the traffic they received was only on their own country's network.

No one has ever received sky-breaking traffic on a global scale like Bertnard.

It can be imagined that for a long time to come,

Bertnard will be an idol of people all over the world,

And even every terrorist attack in the future,

Someone will think of his heroic deeds this time.

Therefore, the president also attaches great importance to him and wants to seize this opportunity to help him establish his personality and image again.

And at the same time, let France take this opportunity to be proud of it on the international stage.

The state guest motorcade stopped at the main entrance of the Elysee Palace.

With the support of his wife, Bertnard stepped into the magnificent Elysee Palace.

The president, who was supposed to wait for him to come forward,

Immediately took the initiative and walked towards him quickly.

After a few steps forward, he shook Bertnard's hand tightly and exclaimed:

"Welcome home, Mr. Arno!"

"You are the hero we all admire!"

Chapter 6925

Bernard and the president were old acquaintances.

After all, even if Arno fell from his position as the world's richest man,

He was still the richest man in France and Europe.

Therefore, his influence in this small part of Europe was no less than anyone else's.

In the past, he would not have been interested in a meeting with the president,

But today was a day of honor and glory for his family,

So he was extremely excited.

He shook hands with the president and said humbly,

"Your Excellency, I am grateful for your compliment."

"I simply did what I was supposed to do."

The president shook his head and said with deep emotion,

"Today, all of France is proud of you."

"Later, on behalf of the whole nation, I will present you with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor."

The Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor is France's highest honor.

Generally speaking, in peacetime, it is only awarded to those who have won the highest honors for their country,

Such as world champions in major sporting events.

For a businessman like Bertnard, being awarded such a high-ranking honor is extremely rare.

He had never received one in all his years.

In reality, a single medal is worthless to the French government,

But they strictly limit its number to ensure its value.

If it becomes too common, its value will be greatly diminished,

And its appeal will also be greatly reduced for those who haven't received it.

Bertnard was delighted.

Upon his return, he was met at the airport by the Prime Minister and the President,

And he was also about to be awarded the highest honor.

The ceremony was a grand occasion.

After a brief exchange of pleasantries before the cameras,

The two began the formal awarding ceremony.

The ceremony followed a set routine, witnessed by many high-ranking French officials and guards, and broadcast live by the media.

Under the gaze of people and half the world,

The silver-haired Bertnard received the exquisite Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor.

When the President placed the medal on his chest,

The entire Élysée Palace erupted in applause.

This elderly man prided himself on being a shrewd businessman,

Unfazed by empty fame and fortune. But today,

He truly realized that it wasn't that he disliked fame and fortune,

But he had never been able to reach such heights before.

His eyes were slightly red,

And it seemed that an impassioned patriotic sentiment was also rising in his chest.

Charlie saw Bertnard's excitement and joy through the live broadcast,

And he also saw the French people's admiration for him from the barrage of comments flying all over the sky.

So, he suddenly had an idea and thought,

Why not give him some sweet things to taste?

Immediately, he took out his phone and sent a WeChat message to Tawana,

Who was also on the island.

A few minutes later.

Bernard, who had just received the presidential medal, was standing straight and being photographed by the media with the president.

Suddenly, a staff member nearby walked up to the president and whispered something excitedly in his ear.

The president's eyes lit up after hearing this,

And he lowered his voice and asked, "Is this true?"

"Yes!"

The other party replied, "I've verified it with Tawanna Sweet's company."

"And it's indeed Ms. Sweet's decision."

"If we're all okay with it, Ms. Sweet can make the official announcement on her personal social media platforms anytime!"

"Great! Absolutely fantastic!"

The president was overwhelmed with excitement,

Immediately announcing to the media present,

"Everyone, we just received news that the renowned singer Ms. Tawanna Sweet has decided to hold five solo concerts in France after her vacation to thank Mr. Bernard Arno."

"All proceeds will be donated to French charities!"

The reporters on the scene gasped in amazement.

Tawanna Sweet's concerts have long been a golden key to boosting the local tourism economy.

It can be said that wherever she chooses to hold a concert,

The local tourism industry receives a significant boost.

Money isn't the most important thing;

The global popularity of a country and a city is instantly boosted,

And the subsequent long-tail effect is the greater source of benefits.

What's more, this time, Tawanna wasn't performing for a commercial,

But for a charity concert.

All proceeds would go to charities in her country,

And the box office revenue from the five concerts would be at least 100 million euros!

Besides all the financial benefits,

France would also be greatly bolstered by the fact that a star as big as Tawanna Sweet would take the initiative to perform,

For a benefit concert—something that had never happened even in America.

The reporters were astonished, their cameras trained on the elderly Bertnard Arno.

Everyone knew that Tawanna was holding five charity concerts to repay Bertnard Arno for saving her life.

Bertnard Arno was also bewildered.

His first thought was, "That doesn't make sense."

"It was Charlie who saved Tawanna, not me."

"She must have known."

Chapter 6926

But thinking of Charlie, he instantly understood that this must have been Charlie's order to do this.

Having seen all sorts of storms,

He was actually moved to tears at this moment.

He felt that Charlie had saved his life,

And not only had he given him such a huge credit,

But now he was letting Tawanna add to his glory.

He couldn't help but wonder,

"Is this... is this still the Charlie who extorted hundreds of millions of dollars from me with a plastic imperial seal?"

"And an ink painting of the Mona Lisa?"

"I used to think he was the most despicable person in the world,"

"But why... why do I now find his humanity so brilliant and dazzling?"

"He's the one who leaves after his mission is accomplished."

"Hiding his achievements and fame."

"Isn't that what he's talking about?"

A media outlet, using a telephoto lens,

Keenly captured the corners of Bertnard Erno's eyes,

Tears were streaming down his cheeks.

Unaware of the true situation,

The reporters assumed the old man was moved by Tawanna Sweet's act of gratitude and sketched out a touching story.

Bertnard, the kindhearted and wealthy former world's richest man,

Rescued all the tourists on White Horse Island.

And international superstar Tawanna, ever grateful, immediately reciprocated by hosting five charity concerts in France.

Isn't this a prime example of global unity and human love?

Instantly, cameras began snapping away at Bertnard.

Touching news stories were already taking shape in the minds of the media professionals.

Fans in France and across Europe were instantly ignited,

Cheering loudly in front of their screens!

People had always loved Tawanna, and now,

Thanks to this series of events, they fell in love with this silver-haired old man.

Suddenly, Bertnard's popularity skyrocketed across France, Europe,

And even the world, reaching a peak unmatched by any other wealthy individual.

...

By the time Bertnard left the Élysée Palace,

Major media outlets had already published their own reports online.

Bertnard's wife excitedly told him,

"I've read every article, and without exception, they're all positive."

"All the media are praising you, and their writing style and choice of words are very thoughtful."

"They're generous with their praise and speak highly of you!"

"Really?"

Bertnard's heartbeat quickened with excitement.

He asked, "Have you read the comments online?"

"What are their attitudes?"

His wife blurted out, "They're almost 100% praising and supporting you."

"Many people even explicitly said that if all the wealthy people in the world could be as responsible and accountable as you,"

"They wouldn't hate the rich."

"Such comments have been liked and echoed by many people."

"Many people who used to be dissatisfied with the wealthy now look at you with new eyes."

"Oh my God..."

Bertnard sighed, "If things keep going on like this,"

"Maybe one day I can try to go into politics?"

His wife sneered, "How old are you, and you're still thinking about going into politics?"

"Besides, this kind of thing shouldn't be attractive to you, right?"

Bertnard waved his hands and said seriously,

"You don't understand."

"It wasn't attractive before, but now it is."

"I suddenly found that feeling, the feeling that money can't bring."

His wife held his hand and said seriously,

"Bertnard, we are both very old."

"We should use the rest of our time to enjoy life, right?"

Bertnard smiled unnaturally and said casually,

"You're right, but don't worry."

"I just plan to reduce my energy in making money and do some of the things I want to do now."

"As for life, it won't be affected."

"You can rest assured."

"Besides, even if we want to enjoy life, we can't stop all work."

"After being busy all our lives, it's hard to adapt to suddenly relaxing completely."

The wife finally felt relieved, nodded gently, and advised him,

"You have to remember that when you get older,"

"You still have to put your health first."

She didn't know that Bertnard was sighing in his heart at this moment:

"You're right, we are both very old, but you don't know that I've taken a rejuvenation pill,"

"And the next one is only 50 billion experience points away."

"I've made enough money in my life and enjoyed enough luxurious life."

"Moreover, such a huge luxury empire is still creating wealth for me."

"I have a good reputation now,"

"And it will definitely help me make more money in the future."

"Naturally, I want to experience something different!"

"Mr. Wade has laid such a solid foundation for me now."

"He has put me on such a high platform with almost no effort."

"Such a stage cannot be built with money!"

"If I don't seize this great opportunity, I will not only be sorry for myself,"

"But also for Mr. Wade's cultivation!"

"Besides, I still have a long life ahead of me,"

"At least another 30 or 40 years to live!"

Chapter 6927

With Tawana's help, Bertnard once again dominated the headlines of major media outlets worldwide.

His growing popularity led to a surge in interest in his brand,

It saw record sales and soaring profits at stores worldwide.

Bertnard was in high spirits.

After his meeting with this official,

He only planned to go home for dinner before heading to the airport for a flight to New York.

Due to Bertnard's global fame, his private jet,

Upon takeoff, it was instantly visible via airline software,

Indicating its arrival in New York.

New York is home to the United Nations headquarters.

The media, once again, began reporting extensively that Bertnard had departed for New York to fulfill his promise.

Over the past two days, Bertnard's immense popularity has put immense pressure on the government and Black Water.

Unexpectedly, before any solution could be found to alleviate the pressure,

This scourge suddenly arrived, heading towards the west.

Black Water felt threatened.

They immediately contacted the officials, hoping they would intervene to prevent Bertnard from coming.

Even if he did come, he absolutely must not target Black Water.

The high-ups were also troubled by this matter.

During his business career, he and Bertnard had been acquaintances,

If not close friends.

His family had been a major client of his brands,

But after entering politics, they had lost contact.

Now, Bertnard's relentless pursuit threatened not only Black Water's reputation and prospects but also its image.

After much deliberation, he decided to call Bertnard.

From the plane, Bertnard gazed back at the receding Parisian skyline,

His heart is awash with excitement.

He felt like a general on a foreign expedition,

His ambitions thickening, ready to be unleashed.

At this time, his assistant came hurriedly into the front cabin with a satellite phone and whispered:

"Mr. Arno, this is a call from a very high official from the USA."

Bertnard frowned and whispered:

"What does he want to say?"

The assistant shook his head:

"I don't know, I just heard from his assistant that he wanted to talk to you,"

"And he is already on the line."

Bertnard snorted coldly:

"He just wants me to back off."

"Would I be afraid of him?"

After that, he reached out:

"Give me the phone."

The assistant handed the phone over,

And Bertnard immediately pressed the call button,

And the call that had been muted was immediately connected.

Bertnard said calmly, "Hello."

A slightly hoarse and lazy voice came from the other side:

"Hi Arno, long time no see, how have you been recently?"

Bertnard said yin-yangly,

"I am okay. I almost lost my life on White Horse Island."

"Fortunately, I escaped unharmed."

The other side was silent for a moment, then said,

"Listen, Arno, I don't want to beat around the bush with you."

"I want to be honest with you."

"I know your plane has taken off for New York, but I still advise you to ask the pilot to turn back."

"Or change to a destination."

"It doesn't matter where you want to go."

"Find a place to relax and slowly let this matter go."

"What do you think?"

Bertnard refused without hesitation.

"I've made a promise in front of people all over the world."

"As a responsible gentleman, I won't go back on my word."

He said, his tone slightly irritated.

"Arno, you're a businessman, and so am I."

"No one understands business better than I do."

"The essence of business lies in how you can make more money."

"What others think of you is irrelevant."

Then, he threw out the bait:

"If we can reach a deal on this,"

"I can have the Ministry of Commerce grant your group very substantial tax breaks over the next three years."

"Believe me, Arno, this could bring you hundreds of millions of dollars."

"All you have to do is let go of the White Horse Island issue and let it go."

"No!"

Bertnard said firmly,

"I can't change my schedule and decision."

"Our group will also pay taxes normally according to the local law."

"Our profit margins are already quite substantial,"

"So we don't need any tax concessions."

The other party didn't expect him to be so ungrateful.

His tone immediately became harsher, and he warned,

"Arno, you know, tax rates can sometimes not only be lowered,"

"But also raised very high!"

"As far as I know, none of your luxury goods are produced here."

"We can impose a very high tariff on you,"

"So high that your products will lose all competitiveness."

"However, all this can be completely avoided by simply turning the plane around."

"Do you want to make this deal?"

Bernard Arno was so excited that he couldn't close his mouth.

He couldn't help laughing and said,

"Are...you...are you telling the truth?"

The person thought he was scared.

After all, the essence of a businessman is to pursue profit.

Those top rich people seem to be indifferent.

They will only smile slightly if they earn an extra 100 million,

But as long as they lose 10,000, they will immediately start crying.

Chapter 6928

The official naturally felt that he had Bertnard's lifeline in his hands,

So he smiled and said in a friendly tone:

"Bertnard, Bertnard, Bertnard, we have been friends for a long time."

"I know you and you know me."

"As long as we can cooperate well, I will naturally not treat you like this."

"You know, I never shoot at my friends,"

"But the premise is that you are still my friend."

Bertnard couldn't help but blurt out:

"Shoot me! Please shoot me!"

"I beg you! If you can increase the tariffs for my group by 100% or even 200%,"

"It would be great."

"I will be grateful to you from the bottom of my heart!"

Bertnard asked himself loudly in his heart:

"Is there any channel that is more awesome than this way of brushing experience?"

"Dmn it, there is no other way!"

"Fifty billion experience points, if I accumulate them normally,"

"Mr. Wade must nod for every point."

"As long as Mr. Wade doesn't nod,"

"I can't spend a penny or accumulate a single experience point."

"But, Mr. Wade also said!"

"The business losses caused by this incident can be regarded as experience points!"

"How can there be losses?"

"I can't just stab myself twice, right?"

"If I announce that my group will withdraw from this market,"

"It will indeed lose billions of dollars that year,"

"But if Mr. Wade doesn't admit it, won't it all be wasted?"

"But, if this country sanctions me, it will be different!"

"All sanctions and losses will definitely be recorded in Mr. Wade's account!"

At this time, the high official had no way of guessing Bertnard's psychological activities.

Hearing Bertnard begging him to raise tariffs on the phone,

He thought the Old man was deliberately speaking in a sarcastic tone to antagonize him,

So he immediately threatened,

"Arno, don't think I'm kidding you."

"I can expedite this matter very quickly,"

"And it won't be long before it officially takes effect!"

Bertnard asked, "How long do you mean by 'not long?'"

The official replied coldly,

"Two months, maybe even less than two months."

Bertnard Arno anxiously said,

"Please hurry up! Can it be implemented within a week?"

The official was stunned.

What did he mean?

Was he looking for trouble, or was he truly fearless?

Feeling insulted, he immediately warned,

"Arno, you need to understand your current situation."

"If this policy is implemented, your begging and crying will be useless."

"In fact, you won't even be qualified to call me."

Bertnard, impatient, repeatedly said,

"I understand."

"I hope you can urge the policy to be implemented as soon as possible."

"The faster and more forcefully, the better!"

"What's wrong with your mind?"

The official was extremely confused.

Which wealthy man isn't a Grandet, which wealthy man isn't a Zhou Paopi?

Why does this old man seem so indifferent to money?

Could it be that, just to gain a little fame,

He's so utterly indifferent to a multi-billion-dollar business?

This is embarrassing!

The best way to manipulate the rich is to take their money,

A trick he's tried and tested.

But once the rich don't care about money,

It becomes really difficult to deal with them.

He could only suppress his anger and asked doubtfully:

"Arno, is it worth it to give up billions for a little fame?"

"It's worth it, it's totally worth it!"

Bertnard blurted out without hesitation:

"You may not understand, but I still have to say that money is a burden to me now!"

"I really don't like money anymore."

"If America can give me more punishment and restrictions,"

"I will only be grateful!"

"I hope that the sanctions will be implemented as soon as possible!"

"Thank you very much!"

The official sneered: "I understand, you are just bluffing."

"Thinking that I dare not promote relevant policies, right?"

Bertnard Arno showed his nervousness for the first time:

"Misunderstanding!"

"I'm really not bluffing,"

"I just hope that you can implement the policy as soon as possible!"

"Again, the sooner the better!"

The official felt dizzy.

Seeing that his threats were completely ineffective,

He could only sternly declare,

"Arno, I don't care what your reasoning is, but I can tell you this:"

"You'll regret your decision today!"

"Not only will I push for the policy to be implemented as quickly as possible,"

"But I'll also have the IRS conduct a comprehensive investigation of your business."

"I hope we don't find any problems with your business!"

Bertnard Arno muttered,

"It would be great if there really are problems..."

"What did you say?!"

The official heard his mumbling and demanded angrily.

Bertnard also threw himself into the fight, saying seriously,

"I say, if you can find any problems, that would be great!"

"Ideally, find some serious problems and issue me the heaviest fine in history,"

"A whopping \$50 billion!"

Chapter 6929

The official on the other end of the line felt completely awful.

He hated the feeling of lashing out with a big stick,

Only to have it vanish into thin air just as it was about to bruise the opponent.

The official couldn't understand why Bertnard had dared to challenge his authority and demand a \$50 billion fine.

It felt like threatening someone with a slap in the face for disobedience,

And instead of begging for mercy, they begged him to shoot them.

Furious and humiliated, he still took Bertnard's sincerity as a provocation,

So he said coldly, "Okay, I understand, Arno."

"You think you're a hero now, that I dare not do anything to you?"

"So you don't have to fear anything."

"But don't worry, I will make you pay the price!"

After that, he gritted his teeth and hung up the phone,

Immediately calling out to his staff,

"Find a way to strengthen Bertnard's group and see if we can reasonably and effectively increase its tariffs."

"Once the White Horse Island incident has passed, we can find loopholes in his group."

"It would be best to fine him a large sum of money!"

"I want to make him suffer!!!"

One of the chubby and bearded guys said,

"Sir, the whole world is watching him now."

"If we rashly impose tariffs on his industries or investigate his group,"

"It will easily be seen as deliberate retaliation for the White Horse Island incident and the Blackwater incident."

"So I think we should wait for the time being."

"Wait?"

"I can't wait even a bit!"

The official smoothed his smooth bangs and gritted his teeth, saying,

"This old ba5tard didn't even give me the slightest bit of face and even had the audacity to ask me to fine him \$50 billion!"

"I really can't issue a \$50 billion fine,"

"But at least \$500 million should make him lose something, right?"

The bearded man was silent for a moment, then spoke,

"Why don't we pass a bill calling on our people to minimize unnecessary luxury spending?"

"To achieve this goal, we'll raise tariffs on all luxury goods."

"Whether they're from France, Italy, or even Britain."

"As long as they're luxury goods, the tax will be increased by 50%."

"If anyone asks why we're doing this, we'll say that European luxury goods are draining our people's wallets."

"Americans should be using their money to buy domestically produced goods,"

"Rather than spending their hard-earned money on imports."

The President's eyes lit up.

"That's a good idea."

"After all, our supporters are ordinary working-class people."

"Those high-income people not only don't vote for us,"

"But they're constantly mocking us on social media."

"We can use this opportunity to give them a slap in the face."

Meanwhile, after Bertnard hung up the phone with the President,

He felt incredibly refreshed.

He was like a player who'd found a bug in an online game where they could grind for experience,

And now they'd found the highest-level boss to grind for experience.

Now they were just waiting for the moment when their experience points would skyrocket and they'd drop top-tier equipment.

Seeing him look so smug after mocking the official,

His wife couldn't help but grumble,

"I advise you not to get too carried away with your heroics."

"You're going against the powerful people for your ridiculous sense of justice."

"If they really sanction you, you'll lose at least hundreds of millions of dollars a year, maybe even more."

"What do you know?"

Bertnard snorted.

Summer insects can't talk about ice.

His wife didn't know about the rejuvenation pill.

If she knew, she'd definitely be even crazier than he was.

After all, the amount she spent on her skincare every year was already astronomical.

So, he closed his eyes, crossed his legs, and thought to himself smugly,

"This time, I'm going to give them a hard time!"

...

While Bertnard was still flying over the ocean,

The sun rose on White Horse Island in the Maldives.

Today was Charlie's family's last day on White Horse Island.

As planned, they were to check out at noon and take a seaplane back to the capital, Male.

Then Elaine and Jacob would go to Dubai,

While he and Claire would take an international flight back to China.

Elaine was naturally reluctant to leave.

The scenery here was beautiful, and the climate was pleasant.

Compared to the freezing cold in China and the scorching heat and dryness of Dubai,

It was a welcome relief.

Luckily, she now had plenty of US dollars,

And the shopping malls in Dubai still held a strong allure.

As she approached her departure, Claire felt a bit melancholy.

She considered this trip to the Maldives her first and last trip with Charlie.

After returning, she would be leaving him.

Charlie noticed her downturn and asked with concern,

"Honey, are you reluctant to leave?"

"How about we stay here for a few more days?"

Claire forced a smile and shook her head, saying,

"No, no matter how reluctant I am, I have to leave."

"After all, this is just a stop on our journey, not our entire lives."

Charlie couldn't hear the deeper meaning in her words,

So he simply smiled and said,

"We can come anytime you want in the future."

Chapter 6930

Charlie felt that White Horse Island and JD Island would soon become his own assets.

While he couldn't tell Claire,

He could find excuses to bring her here often.

So, he deliberately lowered his voice and said mysteriously,

"Wife, I heard that the boss of this group also believes in Feng Shui."

"I'll ask Miss Sweet to help introduce him."

"Maybe I can get a position as Feng Shui Director here in the future."

Claire heard him say this, and her smile became even more forced and helpless.

Thinking of Tavana, she asked curiously,

"Miss Sweet is also on the island."

"You have been her Feng Shui Director for so long."

"She came to the island, but you two haven't met yet, right?"

"We are going back today, and we should say hello to her."

Charlie had always tried his best to avoid seeing Tavana with his wife,

But what Claire said at this moment was human nature.

According to the relationship he had laid out before,

He and Tavana had worked together before.

They happened to land on the same island.

It would be a bit unreasonable not to meet and say hello.

So, he asked Claire, "Wife, why don't we go meet Miss Sweet together?"

"Exchange a few words with her, and then come back."

Claire shook her head and said,

"I won't make things worse. You go and say hello to her."

Charlie said, "If you're not going, there's no point in my going alone."

"Why don't we just leave?"

"Isn't it okay if we don't let her know we've been here?"

"Forget it,"

Claire said seriously,

"It's such a coincidence that we two can meet on a small island thousands of kilometers away."

"It's really not right not to say hello."

"If she finds out later, she'll definitely blame you for being unkind."

"You go. I'm just packing up in my room."

Seeing that she said that, Charlie could only nod and say,

"Okay, I'll ask her on WeChat later."

In fact, Tawanna also knew that Charlie was leaving the island today.

She missed him very much,

But because Claire was also on the island,

She had to suppress the urge to see him.

Preoccupied with her thoughts, she was completely lost in thought, completely out of her element.

Her parents, similarly shaken by the impact of the terrorist attacks, had been equally out of their element for the past two days.

The three of them often sat together in a daze,

Their mother even suggested several times that they leave the Maldives and return to America,

But Tawanna remained silent.

After two days, her parents finally recovered from the aftermath of the attacks.

Then, her mother realized something was wrong and said to Tawanna,

"Honey, I think something's not right."

Looking out at the glassy turquoise sea, Tawanna absentmindedly asked,

"What's wrong?"

Her mother replied, "Look, what we've experienced here is known to the entire world."

"And it's such a huge impact."

"Trevor couldn't possibly be unaware of it."

"You two used to be so inseparable."

"I understand why you didn't bring him on vacation this time."

"You said he was training for the competition."

"But after something so serious happened to us,"

"He didn't come to see you. Isn't that a little strange?"

Trevor and Tawanna had always been inseparable,

Like conjoined twins, constantly glued to each other,

A beloved couple recognized throughout the entertainment industry.

But lately, not only have their appearances together become increasingly rare,

But their daily interactions have also become less frequent.

Tawanna's mother found it strange that his girlfriend hadn't rushed over to offer comfort,

Not even a phone call.

Tawanna was at a loss for words.

Just before Trevor left China, they had implicitly agreed to marry.

By then, she had already realized that a relationship with Charlie was impossible,

And even felt an urge to settle things quickly and put aside any other thoughts.

But as her interactions with Charlie grew,

And he repeatedly saved her from danger,

Tawanna suddenly realized the reality:

She might never be able to overcome her feelings for him.

For Tawanna now, even if she couldn't have Charlie,

It didn't matter, but she didn't want to settle.

Trevor was that person.

If she still wanted to settle, she should suppress her true feelings and maintain the relationship.

But since she didn't want to settle,

There was no point in continuing to waste time with him.

Originally, she had thought about breaking up with Trevor directly.

But after thinking about it, Trevor was her longest-term boyfriend after all,

And she didn't want to appear too heartless.

If she could let him let go on his own initiative,

Perhaps that would be the best outcome.

So, Tavana kissed Charlie passionately at the concert,

And even sang the song "Assassin" on the island where she had kissed Charlie passionately,

Just to express her feelings to Trevor and let him know that she still couldn't let go of Charlie!

Trevor had never contacted her,

And even when she encountered such a big thing,

He still didn't ask a single question.

It can be seen that he had understood her feelings and decided to let go as well.

Now, her mother suddenly asked about Trevor.

Tavana hesitated for a moment and murmured,

"Mom, Dad, Trevor, and I are over..."

Chapter 6931

"Over?"

Tawanna's father showed a face full of surprise, and blurted out:

"You two were doing well. Why did it suddenly end?"

Tawanna stammered:

"Maybe it's still not so suitable."

"I think if we continue like this, there will be no substantial results."

"Besides, we are both not young anymore,"

"There is no need to continue wasting each other like this."

"Not so suitable?"

Tawanna's mother said puzzledly:

"You two have been together for such a long time."

"This is the longest relationship you have ever had."

"You are in your 30s this year."

"It's time to consider your own marriage."

"If you break up with Trevor now, it will take you a few more years to fall in love again and get married."

"I'm afraid you will be 40 years old!"

At this point, Tawanna's mother sighed, depressedly:

"A woman's youth is only a dozen years."

"You can't delay it like this anymore..."

Tawanna's father also echoed: "Yes, baby, with your talent in music, your career period can be long."

"But your adolescence is fixed,"

"So it's more important to seize the moment and settle down."

Tawanna's mother immediately echoed her husband's words, adding,

"Daughter, I think Trevor is actually quite good."

"He has a nice look and a good temperament."

"While his income isn't as high as yours, it's already considered elite."

"You can be financially independent after you get married."

"And you won't have to worry about him holding you back."

Tawanna shook her head firmly,

"Stop talking."

"I don't have feelings for him anymore."

"Continuing to waste time on him isn't good for either of us."

The couple exchanged a look of melancholy.

They had a good impression of Trevor,

And their daughter had a complicated love history.

She had finally found someone with long-term stability,

And they both hoped they would soon be able to tie the knot.

They felt it was almost certain,

But they didn't expect it to end so drastically.

Tawanna's mother was visibly upset.

Her daughter's relationship status had reached zero,

And she didn't know when she would finally find love.

Their family had already earned enough money to last them several lifetimes,

And they longed for their daughter to move on to the next stage of her life,

But now it seemed like that was a distant prospect.

Tawanna's father couldn't help but ask,

"Has Trevor changed his mind?"

"Has he been having affairs lately?"

"No," Tawanna said, feeling somewhat guilty, and quickly replied,

"It has nothing to do with a change of heart."

Tawanna's mother suddenly thought of something and blurted out,

"Daughter, could it be that you've changed your mind?!"

Tawanna didn't dare to answer her mother's question, hesitating,

"I already told you it had nothing to do with a change of heart."

"So please stop asking."

Tawanna's mother blurted out,

"During your concert in China, the entire internet was filled with news about you and that dancer kissing through your mask."

"Was it a bit too much on stage that made Trevor unhappy?"

"It's possible!"

Tawanna's father immediately agreed:

"The coverage was indeed a bit intensive."

"And the stage scale was indeed larger than previous performances."

"If I were Trevor, I might also feel a little resentful."

Chapter 6932

After that, Tawanna's father quickly advised:

"Daughter, if you have a misunderstanding because of this matter,"

"Dad suggests that you find an opportunity to explain it to him clearly."

"Work is work, life is life, just keep them separate."

Tawanna said a little irritably:

"You two should stop discussing this here."

"No matter how you discuss it, Trevor and I have come to the end."

"There is no way I can go back to the way we were before with him."

"Let alone marry him."

"In fact, I would rather not get married for the rest of my life than marry him because of age."

Mom couldn't help but say, "But you have to think about your own life!"

"Your career is so successful, and you have made so much money."

"In the future, your music copyrights will continue to create wealth for you."

"But you have to move forward in your life."

"Otherwise, what will happen to the money you earn and your music copyrights?"

"Who will inherit them?"

Tawanna blurted out, "If I am destined to have descendants,"

"My descendants will inherit them naturally."

"If not, then I will just donate them all after my death!"

Mom's eyes were red with anxiety:

"How can this be?"

"Those stars who die alone are very pitiful."

"Some people are surrounded by all kinds of scammers in their twilight years."

"They're all eyeing their inheritance."

"Various institutions are swarming around them like flies,"

"Desperate to get their money, as if they were prime steaks on the table."

"I can't bear to see you suffer that kind of torture in your old age!"

Tavana said seriously, "Mom, I'm only in my thirties."

"I don't want to worry about the problems you're talking about."

"Besides, I believe in my own abilities."

"Since I was able to build my own business in my twenties,"

"I'm sure I won't be manipulated by those people in my seventies or eighties."

"You don't have to worry about these things for me."

With that, Tavana stood up and prepared to go to the terrace to enjoy the sea breeze and calm down.

But at that moment, her phone suddenly received a WeChat message.

The moment she saw the WeChat push notification,

She was overwhelmed with joy,

And her previous annoyance instantly disappeared.

She knew it must be from Charlie.

Tavana's main social circle is in Europe and the United States.

Europeans and Americans have their own social media and instant messaging apps,

And not many use WeChat on a daily basis.

The main reason Tavana downloaded WeChat and registered an account was to contact Charlie.

She had added some Chinese friends on WeChat,

But they were mostly just work partners.

After Chinese's 20 concerts, she had set all of them to Do Not Disturb.

Only one person had the notifications turned on: Charlie.

So, whenever there was a push notification on WeChat,

It was definitely from Charlie.

Tawanna's visible transformation, her overjoyed expression,

Instantly alerted her parents to something amiss.

At that moment, she quickly picked up her phone and opened WeChat intently.

She saw a message from Charlie, which read,

"Which villa does Miss Sweet live in?"

"I'm leaving the island today and want to see you."

Excited, Tavana quickly replied,

"I live in Villa 1, but I'm currently in Villa 2, where my parents are staying."

Charlie replied, "I'm across from you."

"If it's convenient, I'll come over later."

Tavana immediately replied,

"Then let's meet at Villa 2. I'll be back soon."

Charlie replied, "Okay, see you later."

Tavana put away her phone and immediately told her parents,

"I'm going back to my room."

"A friend is coming to visit later."

Without waiting for her parents to reply,

She hurried out to her room.

Tavana's mother couldn't help but say to her husband,

"Tavana's behavior just now was very much like that of a teenager in love."

"Who is the friend she's talking about?"

Tavana's father shook his head and said,

"I don't know, but she's definitely been a little off lately."

"Could she have a new crush?"

Chapter 6933

Just as Tawana's parents were puzzled,

Charlie had already arrived at the door of Tawana's villa.

He rang the doorbell,

And Tawana, who had hurried back to put on some makeup,

Ran out and opened the door for him.

Seeing Charlie, she felt both happy and shy, and said excitedly,

"Mr. Wade, you are here."

"Please come in!"

Charlie waved his hand and said,

"Ms. Sweet, I won't go in."

"Let me just say a few words here."

Tawana was a little disappointed,

"Ah? Talk here?"

"Yes." Charlie nodded and smiled,

"My family and I are leaving the island today."

"So I came to say hello to you."

"Also, I want to thank you in person for your charity performance in France."

Tavana looked at Charlie and said respectfully and with some ambiguity,

"Mr. Wade, you have saved my life time and time again."

"No matter what you ask me to do,"

"Even if it means going through fire and water,"

"Even if it means paying a huge price,"

"I will never hesitate, so please don't say thank you to me..."

Charlie smiled and said,

"I do feel a little sorry for adding a few more concerts for you for no reason."

"And they are charity performances with no income."

"You're joking."

Tawana said shyly,

"Ever since you saved my life in Tokyo, money has no meaning to me."

"If you need it, I'm willing to do all my concerts for free."

Charlie smiled and said, "Miss Sweet, you don't have to be so polite."

"The reason I invited you to France to hold charity performances this time is to give Bertnard a face."

"But don't worry, even though you don't take a penny,"

"He certainly won't dare to treat you badly."

"In addition, you can cooperate more in the future."

"His group has so many luxury brands."

"You can. "We can cooperate with each other. There's no need to think about charging less to save his face."

"And there's no need to think about charging less to save my face."

"He doesn't need money at all."

Tavana understood what Charlie meant, nodded slightly, and said,

"I understand, Mr. Wade."

After that, she looked at Charlie and mustered up the courage to ask him,

"Mr. Wade, are you really not going to come in and sit for a while?"

"There's no one else here. I live alone."

In fact, Tavana didn't want to take the opportunity to have something happen with Charlie.

She just felt that if the two of them stood here and talked,

Charlie would definitely say a few words and then leave.

If she invited him to sit in the house for a while,

The two of them would at least have a chance to talk more.

But Charlie didn't want to be alone with Tavana in private.

This American woman was a bit too unrestrained,

Which was really a bit too much for him to handle.

So, he smiled and said, "I won't go in."

"I'm about to check out and go to Male."

"I just came to say hello to you."

Tavana nodded slightly with some disappointment and sighed,

"After Mr. Wade goes back, I don't know when we will meet again..."

Charlie smiled and said, "You and Changying Automobile will inevitably cooperate in the future."

"And there will be many opportunities to meet."

"When the first car of Changying Automobile rolls off the assembly line,"

"I will invite you to be the image spokesperson."

Tavana nodded heavily and said, "Then it's a deal!"

"Okay, it's a deal!"

Charlie agreed and asked Tavana,

"By the way, when do you plan to leave?"

"Tomorrow."

Tavana said, "I arranged for the person in charge of the performance team to go to Paris."

"I will go back home to rest for a few days."

"Once the performance time in Paris is confirmed,"

"I will actively prepare."

Charlie nodded and smiled,

"Then I wish you a successful performance in advance!"

"Thank you, Mr. Wade!"

Seeing that he had already greeted her, Charlie said to her,

"Ms. Sweet, the previous incident during this vacation must have had a great impact on your mood."

"After the French performance is over,"

"If you still want to come to the Maldives for vacation, you can come to White Horse again."

"After the current guests on the island check out and leave the island,"

"The island will no longer be open to the public."

"I will arrange for mercenaries from the Cataclysmic Front to be stationed here."

"If you come here for vacation again, your safety will be guaranteed."

Tavana asked in surprise,

"Will White Horse not be open to the public in the future?"

"It seems that this island has not been open for a few years, right?"

Charlie smiled and said,

"Bernard came here to thank me for saving his life."

"I've been given this place and the other island as gifts."

"From now on, you can treat it as your own."

"Whenever you want to come,"

"Just let me know and we'll take care of everything."

Tavana's face was filled with surprise.

"Will you come here often, Mr. Wade?"

Chapter 6934

Charlie smiled and said,

"It depends."

"Since we have this convenient opportunity,"

"I'll probably come here more often."

Charlie was thinking that he and Claire had only traveled together once in all these years,

But this was a good start.

A first trip would lead to a second.

In the future, he could come to the Maldives with her often.

This place is essentially isolated from the world and is truly a great place to relax.

Seeing that it was getting late,

Charlie pulled his thoughts back and said to Tavana,

"Okay, Miss Sweet, I have to go back. See you next time."

Tavana nodded repeatedly,

"See you next time, Mr. Wade!"

Charlie waved and turned to leave.

Tavana watched him leave before returning to her room in a daze.

She had just settled herself down on the sofa in the living room when her parents walked in.

Tavana's mother asked with concern,

"Daughter, who was that man just now?"

Tavana was startled by her parents' sudden appearance and exclaimed,

"Mom, Dad, how did you two get in here?"

Tavana's mother said helplessly,

"You didn't lock the door yourself."

"What were you thinking about?"

"You were so absent-minded that you even forgot to lock the door."

"Huh? Oh, nothing... nothing..."

Tavana was very embarrassed and stammered,

"I was just thinking about the performance later."

"And I might have been a little distracted."

Tavana's mother asked her,

"Daughter, you haven't told us who that man was?"

Tavana murmured in her heart,

"Who is that man? He is the love of my life..."

But how could she say such words out loud?

So she explained to her parents,

"He... He is Mr. Wade, a Party A staff member who worked with me when I held concerts in Huaxia."

Tavana's mother noticed that her daughter was obviously evasive and flustered when answering questions about the man just now, so she quickly asked,

"Did you make an appointment with him to come here together?"

"No, didn't... It's a coincidence."

Tavana quickly explained:

"I didn't expect him to be on the island."

Tavana's father came over and asked her:

"Baby, tell us, what is your relationship with that Asian man?"

"Are you breaking up with Trevor because of him?"

Tavana pursed her lips and said:

"My relationship with him is my personal matter, don't ask."

"As for whether I broke up with Trevor because of him, it doesn't matter."

"The important thing is that I no longer have those kinds of feelings for Trevor."

Tavana's mother said helplessly:

"Baby, don't forget that you were born by me."

"There are some things you can't hide from me."

"Tell me the truth, do you have feelings for that Asian man?"

"Or, have you two made clear progress?"

Tavana quickly explained: "Mom, don't guess blindly."

"Mr. Wade and I are innocent,"

"And he is already married."

"He came to White Horse Island this time with his wife."

"Are you here with your wife?"

Tavana's mother breathed a sigh of relief and quickly warned her,

"If you're going to publicly break up with Trevor,"

"Then for the next six months,"

"You absolutely must avoid any scandals with anyone else,"

"As this will negatively impact your reputation."

Tavana replied perfunctorily,

"I understand. You don't have to worry about me."

...

When Charlie and his family concluded their brief trip to White Horse Island and flew back home, Bertnard had already landed in New York.

The United Nations attached great importance to his arrival,

With the Deputy Secretary-General and the head of the Office of Counter-Terrorism personally welcoming him at the airport.

Just like his previous visit to France,

Reporters flocked to the airport, eager to capture the latest news.

As soon as Bertnard stepped off the plane,

He was surrounded by reporters, who peppered him with questions,

The most frequent of which was how much he planned to donate to the UNOCT.

Bertnard bluntly stated, "Ladies and gentlemen, time is limited."

"So I won't answer all your questions here."

"I'll briefly address some of your concerns."

"First, I'm here to donate \$200 million to the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism to advance counter-terrorism efforts worldwide."

Reporters at the scene were stunned.

While many wealthy individuals donate these days,

And even more establish charitable foundations,

Few make such large cash donations directly to a prestigious institution like the UN.

The reason for this is simply due to unspoken industry practices.

Many wealthy individuals donate money not as a genuine donation,

But rather as a way of transferring it from their own pockets to another,

Completely controlled, pool.

These individuals often donate to their own foundations,

But this money doesn't necessarily go toward charitable causes;

It often serves as a kind of trust for themselves and their descendants.

Using the guise of charity to establish a foundation not only garners a good reputation.

But, more importantly, provides an excellent tax shelter for their funds.

So they were very generous in donating money to their own foundations,

Often donating hundreds of millions, billions,

Or even tens of billions of dollars.

But donating to an organization like the United Nations was different.

It wasn't just a transfer from one hand to another;

It was a direct donation of real money.

So when the reporters heard that Bertnard was going to donate \$200 million to the United Nations, they were all shocked.

These \$200 million, once donated, would definitely not be taken back.

It seemed that Bertnard really wanted to promote the global fight against terrorism.

At this moment, Bertnard suddenly thought of something and quickly waved his hand and said with a smile,

"No, no, I need to correct that."

"These \$200 million are to promote the United Nations' counter-terrorism work!"

Chapter 6935

As Bertnard spoke, the expressions of the surrounding reporters turned into shock and confusion.

Some reporters from media outlets, upon hearing that Bertnard had donated but excluded one country, were skeptical.

Meanwhile, those from local media outlets immediately turned grim,

They felt that their country was being discriminated against.

In reality, \$200 million wasn't even enough to cover the costs of their nominal counter-terrorism operations,

Let alone combat terrorism,

So they didn't need Bertnard's donation.

However, for the local reporters,

It is like you can refuse them money,

But you can't discriminate against us.

So, a local reporter immediately asked indignantly:

"Mr. Arno, I want to know why you excluded our country from the use of the donation funds this time?"

"I think we have always been a model of global anti-terrorism and a leader in anti-terrorism operations."

"No one understands anti-terrorism better than us."

"Is it really inappropriate for you to treat us differently in this matter?"

Bertnard looked at the reporter in surprise and teased:

"The tone and manner of your speech reminded me of an old friend,"

"I won't name him here."

The reporters around him who understood burst into laughter.

Bertnard also smiled and continued,

"I still have to answer your question directly."

"Why are we excluded from the 200 million US dollars?"

"It is because until now, Black Water and the government have not given us a satisfactory answer to the attack on White Horse Island."

"They just casually put forward a scapegoat and want to fool this matter."

"I personally do not accept it,"

"And I believe Miss Tawana cannot accept it either,"

"And all the people in the world who have a sense of justice certainly cannot accept it!"

At this point, Bertnard snorted coldly,

His face was filled with a sense of justice that threatened to overflow the screen.

He raised a hand and declared loudly,

"If you can't give me a satisfactory answer on this matter,"

"I have reason to suspect it's deliberately shielding Black Water."

"If justice isn't served,"

"I'm willing to indefinitely withdraw all my brands from the local market!"

"Exclusion from these two hundred million dollars in anti-terrorism donations is my message to the government!"

The surrounding reporters were surprised to see this old man,

Who had always been obsessed with profit,

Even inventing and promoting the rationing system to make money,

Suddenly, I became so full of justice.

The reporters looked at each other in bewilderment.

In this situation, it was simply unrealistic for them to continue to confront him.

Bertnard had already taken the moral high ground.

The previous incident on White Horse Island had been a hot topic and widely known.

The officials were also closely watching Bertnard's trip.

Public opinion was his biggest concern,

So they were worried about the old man's unbridled outbursts.

And Bertnard didn't disappoint them.

He launched into a tirade the moment he stepped off the plane.

This was intolerable.

With a sullen face, the high official immediately instructed his staff,

"Quick, notify all major media outlets to immediately write articles smearing Bertnard."

"See if he has any old grievances, dig them up, and publicize them."

"Then, label him as someone who is doing it for publicity."

"With no genuine interest in counter-terrorism."

Chapter 6936

The staff member quickly said:

"Sir, this guy is so unscrupulous, which is not in line with the nature of a businessman."

"I feel that something is fishy, and he has the upper hand in this matter."

"He is already on the moral high ground."

"If we rashly launch a public opinion war against him, we may very well shoot ourselves in the foot."

"In my opinion, we are in the wrong in this matter."

"So we should try to keep a low profile."

"If it really doesn't work, we can impose appropriate penalties on the mercenaries to calm the public anger."

The official said angrily:

"I didn't want to argue with him, but this guy is really going too far!"

"He donated 200 million dollars to hype it up,"

"Which I can accept, so I welcome him with open arms,"

"But why does he exclude us?"

"Isn't this a blatant accusation?"

After that, he paused slightly and added,

"I don't intend to protect anyone,"

"But the nature of the mercenary group is too special."

"Almost all of its members are our supporters, and we have so many jobs that need them."

"And they are the only ones who can do it."

"If we don't help them at this time,"

"Once the name of Black Water is completely rotten, we will no longer be able to ask them to do things."

"And the people will be very repulsive!"

"So no matter what, we still have to help them at this time."

At this point, he gritted his teeth and said with some annoyance:

"If this Bertnard didn't keep holding on to it,"

"The influence of this matter would definitely have declined by now!"

The chief aide was also a little helpless and said:

"I really didn't expect that Bertnard would dare to oppose us so high-profile."

The official said with a grim expression:

"So, don't hesitate, just do as I say."

"Let's fight back against him directly in public opinion."

"Isn't he standing on the moral high ground?"

"Although we can't climb up, we can pull him down!"

"Once he is the same as us. "If we're all standing in a moral rut, with no one right or wrong."

He then solemnly instructed his staff,

"Remember, sometimes, we don't have to make money to win."

"In business, it doesn't matter if I don't make any money myself."

"As long as I can make my competitors lose money, I'm still winning."

Seeing the thoughtful expressions on their faces, the official said calmly,

"Think about it another way, gentlemen."

"If you're already covered in shit and can't clean it off,"

"Why not just cover others in it?"

"When everyone is covered in shit, no one will just be disgusted by your own stink."

The official's metaphor suddenly enlightened the group!

They all felt a sense of enlightenment, their eyes clearing and shining.

Previously, they'd worried that Bertnard would fight them to the bitter end.

Now, they realized the official was right.

Now that things had come to this, what was there to fear?

The White Horse Island incident had gotten them into trouble,

And since they couldn't wash it off, they might as well give up and discredit Bertnard as well.

As long as he was discredited, the public would naturally turn away from him.

So, the most senior, round-faced aide said without hesitation,

"Sir, I'll contact the media right now and dig up all the dirt on Bertnard."

"It just so happens that his attitude towards us today was so awful that he's already offended the whole media."

"So they have a legitimate reason to confront him!"

"Let's take this opportunity to discredit him!"

The official nodded slightly, looking teachable, and said with a smile,

"Bertnard is a businessman, so let's compete with him in the same way. Let his power become his poison."

Chapter 6937

As Bertnard finished his interview at the airport and,

Accompanied by UN officials, headed straight for UN headquarters,

All major media outlets received instructions.

The instructions were simple:

To discredit Bertnard as much as possible, the darker the better.

Just like any other country, these media houses are actually controlled by a group of plutocrats,

Entrenched in Silicon Valley and Wall Street,

Who are essentially driven by profit.

They often fabricate false news and distort the facts for profit and to curry favor with the government or future governments.

That is why, for politicians, these media outlets are like toilets.

When they can't use them, they despise their smell, odor, and dirtiness.

But when they can, they enjoy sitting on them and pooping and urinating every day.

These media outlets now dared not disobey,

And Bertnard certainly didn't give them a face.

So, everyone was eager to take him down.

Now that they had the nod, it was like taking revenge,

And everyone was naturally delighted.

So, everyone began to use their talents to dig up dirt on him.

Bernard actually had plenty.

For example, when he acquired the Dior brand, he had played tricks on the government.

Before the acquisition, he promised to preserve workers and jobs,

But afterward, he fired thousands of people, turning his back on them.

He even manipulated the stock market and was suspected of money laundering.

Furthermore, when acquiring Louis Vuitton,

He engaged in numerous illegal backroom dealings, making the acquisition illegal.

But Bernard never cared.

He was a true pragmatist, focused solely on results,

And nothing was too much to do.

The media professionals immediately began to use their various methods to uncover all the improper and even illegal business practices of Bernard and reported on them.

For a time, headlines appeared one after another,

Such as "The Dirtiest Richest Man in the World,"

"What You Don't Know About Bertnard Arno,"

"Former World's Richest Man: A Shameless Ba5tard Who Robbed and Stole His Way to the Top,"

And "A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing."

After Bertnard arrived at the United Nations, he was in the lounge preparing for a donation ceremony later when his assistant,

He was looking dismayed and said, "Boss, the media is smearing you like crazy!"

Without even raising his eyelids, Bertnard snorted,

"Slander me? It's just that old story. It doesn't matter. Let them do it."

The assistant said nervously, "But they're being too intense now."

"Almost all local media outlets are covering this."

"The coverage is quite intense..."

"Don't worry!"

Bertnard sneered, "Let them revel to their heart's content."

"Who has become the world's richest man?"

"Whatever they do, the better."

"Ideally, they'll make it so I can't survive here!"

The assistant was stunned.

What on earth was the boss trying to do?

He wasn't like this before!

In the past, he was incredibly mercenary, even turning against his own father for the sake of business.

Even his first hostile takeover attempt, which forced the founder out of the startup team, was a test run on his own father.

Successful, he profited from this one trick for decades.

Now, such a profit-seeking man shows no regard for the local business and even harbors a suspicion of withdrawing from it.

Why...?

His assistant didn't understand,

But Bertnard had figured it out before he arrived.

With Charlie's permission, he could only accumulate experience points bit by bit.

Fifty billion experience points wouldn't be easy to accumulate.

It might take eight or ten years.

Since Charlie had asked him to come to America to cause trouble,

He had to seize this opportunity to severely offend them and proactively cause them losses,

Thus, maximizing the losses.

For him, the greater the losses, the greater the rewards.

This perverse logic is something few in the world could comprehend.

With a wicked smile, he thought to himself,

"If I destroy the local market, just don't deny it."

"Just be sure Charlie doesn't deny it!"

Chapter 6938

Twenty minutes later.

When all sorts of negative information about Bertnard was already spreading,

Bertnard straightened his suit, walked out of the lounge, and stepped into the spotlight.

Media reporters snapped photos of him nonstop, and many people were eagerly anticipating the upcoming interview.

The recent public opinion war had already unilaterally sounded the clarion call for Bertnard, and he hadn't yet retaliated.

Everyone was waiting to see how he would react.

UN officials, however, weren't interested in this news.

They simply hoped Bertnard's money would arrive quickly.

Two hundred million dollars might not even be enough for a federal government employee to buy coffee for a year,

But for the UN, it was a truly substantial sum.

The UN's standing has been declining these days.

Forget generating revenue; it can't even collect dues.

Funding is constantly tight.

Now, someone's offering \$200 million for free— isn't that like pie in the sky?

France's annual UN dues are only \$130 million.

So, UN officials enthusiastically and proactively handled the entire donation process,

Complete with big checks, photos, thank-yous, and group photos.

After the series of procedures was completed, the UN official said excitedly:

"Thank you, Mr. Bertnard, for all you have done for the fight against terrorism."

"Now, please allow Mr. Ayno to deliver his speech."

At the warm invitation of the UN official,

Bertnard picked up the microphone and said to the countless media reporters with a smile:

"I am very honored to have this opportunity to come to the United Nations and contribute to the global fight against terrorism."

At this point, he paused slightly, looked around at the reporters in the audience, and continued:

"As you all know, a few days ago on White Horse Island, an extreme terrorist attack that shocked the world almost occurred."

"Fortunately, at the most critical moment, I bribed the terrorist leader with money."

"And thus avoided the tragic death of myself, my wife, Miss Sweet, and hundreds of guests and employees."

"I used to think that our lives were far away from terrorist attacks,"

"But after this incident, I realized that danger lurks around each and every one of us!"

"In this world, terrorist attacks are not only seen in certain special areas."

"In some remote resorts, there are still people who harbor evil intentions and hide hidden dangers!"

"So, I came here today and stepped into the spotlight in a high-profile manner, hoping that through this donation,"

"I could step into the front line of the fight against terrorism with my own hands."

At this moment, he said loudly with a look of indignation on his face:

"In fact, many people have asked me, since you choose to confront terrorists and the backers behind the terrorists head-on, aren't you afraid of being discredited, retaliated against, or even assassinated?"

Everyone in the audience smiled for a moment.

They were all media people, and they all knew that Bertnard was mocking and satirizing.

This guy is really smart. As if he was saying:

It doesn't matter if you discredit me.

I will directly classify your behavior of discrediting me as revenge from the backers behind the terrorists, and this time, I will step on you under my feet.

At that moment, Bertnard waved his hand and shouted with a stern face,

"I want to say, I'm not afraid!"

"I'm afraid of nothing! In the past, I might have been hesitant, afraid of affecting my career or bringing negative consequences to the group."

"But now, I no longer put personal or group interests first!"

"Because on White Horse Island, I've already died once."

"From that day on, every day I live is a gift from God!"

"So, what else do I have to fear? I will bravely stand up!"

"I will bravely say no to the filth of this world!"

"Even if they wield swords, guns, clubs, and clubs at me, even if I'm torn to pieces, I won't hesitate!"

His impassioned speech and awe-inspiring words stunned the reporters in the audience!

Some reporters burst into applause.

Bertnard's words were spot-on.

To declare in front of the world's media that he wasn't afraid of terrorist retaliation and assassination was truly unparalleled courage.

The key point is that Bertnard is practically one of the smartest little losers in the world.

If the mastermind behind White Horse Island were those extremists in the Middle East, even if Charlie asked him to gain experience, he wouldn't dare be so arrogant.

Because those people would probably launch all kinds of extreme attacks in retaliation against him.

Rejuvenation pills are good, but you have to be alive to take them!

But coincidentally, the mastermind behind White Horse Island is in the west,

And the hopeless Syrian opposition.

And Bertnard didn't even bother to confront the Syrian opposition,

But instead, they targeted the Black Water and opened fire.

Although these two were shameless,

At least they were still within the framework of the normal world.

They would never dare to assassinate him again in this environment.

The only thing they could do was to attack his business,

Which would just help him gain experience.

So Bertnard could act with impunity, treating Black Water as soft persimmons.

The applause from the audience lasted at least two or three minutes.

After the applause finally died down, Bertnard faced the camera and said with a stern expression,

"Just now, before I came on stage, I heard something."

"Some part of the media seems to be digging up some of my past deeds and making a big fuss about them."

"I don't want to explain here."

"After all, businessmen are more or less bound to have some unconventional operating methods, and no one is immune."

Then he sneered, "However, given the concerted and deliberate smear campaign by the media at this time,"

"I have completely lost confidence in the local market environment."

"So I declare that all of my group's brand stores here will officially cease operations after midnight tonight!"

"If the government and the media want me to choose between shutting up or getting out,"

"Then I choose to get out!"

Chapter 6939

Anyone with a discerning eye could see that the local media suddenly began exposing Bertnard's past scandals,

Because he had refused to speak out about the White Horse Island incident.

While everyone understood the tactics,

After the revelations, many people began to feel somewhat dissatisfied with him,

Or even their admiration for him waned.

In reality, this new move was a veiled conspiracy.

Everyone knew he was the one exposing the scandal,

But so what?

Once the scandal is exposed, people's attitudes are bound to change.

However, no one could have imagined that Bertnard would be so hardcore,

Shutting down thousands of stores for dozens of his brands over a single disagreement.

Considering that the market generates tens of billions of dollars in annual sales and billions in net profits!

He simply abandoned it.

What a ruthless person!

The officials have been watching the live broadcast of the press conference,

Intending to wait for the reporters to ask questions,

To see how he would respond, which would definitely embarrass him.

But he never expected that before the reporters even started asking questions,

The old man would start yelling!

The round-faced aide next to him was also dumbfounded.

He muttered, "Is this... is this old guy crazy?!"

"He's going to close all the stores tomorrow?"

"It's just a small matter, is he really that serious?!"

The chief was also confused:

"Yeah... no matter how you look at it, this is not a suitable business deal..."

"It feels like I accidentally f@rted and hit him,"

"But he threatened to chop off one of his legs if I didn't apologize..."

"This is completely fcuking insane!"

"He needs intervention from a brain surgeon and a psychologist!"

The aide asked awkwardly,

"Then what should we do now?"

"This old man has made the situation a bit too passive."

"We just threatened him and said we would ticket his car."

"But he just gave up his car."

"If he really closes all the stores,"

"Then the outside public opinion will definitely turn to his side..."

"I don't know what to do now!"

The chief cursed in anger.

"This is bull@hit! Absurd!"

"We were supposed to give each other a break and let this matter go,"

"But this old ba5tard won't even give me face."

"Now I'm about to discredit him, and he's just quitting..."

After Bertnard announced his decision,

Reporters at the scene raised their hands to ask questions.

This time, Bertnard prioritized AFP.

A reporter from AFP asked him,

"Mr. Arno, as far as I know, your group's net profit in this market is about 20 to 30 billion dollars each year, or even more."

"You are suddenly going to close all your stores here."

"Is this not a bit too much of a loss for you?"

Bernard said without hesitation,

"The loss is a bit large, but it doesn't matter."

"What I care about now is whether justice can be served."

At this point, he looked at several other media reporters in the audience and smiled,

"My journalist friends present should all know that your media started to dig up some of my past behaviors and deeds dozens of minutes ago."

"I also admit that in the process of accumulating original capital,"

"I, like many businessmen who have made it to the rich list,"

"Have more or less original sins."

"I admit this."

"I won't deny it, and I can't deny it."

"All I can do now is give back to society to the best of my ability through concrete actions,"

"Paying for the mistakes I made back then."

"Everyone makes mistakes,"

"But some never admit them, let alone pay for them."

"But I'm different."

"I admit them, and I'm willing to bear the consequences."

Upon seeing this, the crowd's attitude toward Bertnard instantly changed:

"Although the old man did a lot of dirty things in the past,"

"He's now a prodigal son."

"To uphold justice, he's even given up billions of dollars in annual net profits."

"What's wrong with being a bit shady in the past?"

"Huh? What's wrong? Answer me! Look me in the eye and answer me!"

The reporters at the scene were also convinced.

The old man's attitude and words had formed an iron wall,

And from then on, he was invulnerable.

Of course, this presupposes that he resolutely implements the decision to close the store,

Rather than just making a false move and playing tricks on the public.

Some reporters, unconvinced he would make such a huge sacrifice, asked him,

"Mr. Arno, are you sure all stores will be closed this morning?"

"Or are you just playing tricks on us?"

"Every store will naturally close at midnight,"

"But they'll reopen the next morning."

"I'd like to ask, after closing this morning,"

"When will all your stores across the country reopen?"

Chapter 6940

Bertnard replied calmly, "There's no deadline."

"But it definitely can't be too soon."

"I know you're worried I'm exaggerating for attention,"

"But I can promise you one thing:"

"The minimum closure period for all stores here will be three years."

"With no upper limit!"

"Fck! Fcking beast!"

One of the officials, watching from the TV, slammed his half-drunk Coke to the ground.

He was furious, yet felt utterly powerless.

All he could guarantee was that everyone should tow the official line,

Or anyone who wanted to come there to live and earn money would obey the orders.

But if they don't want to live there or earn money there, then their influence is practically zero.

Once Bertnard abandons this market, his relationship will become like that of the peasants in those underdeveloped countries.

Despite the vast disparity in status, ultimately, neither can do anything to the other.

Furthermore, Bertnard has publicly announced that all the stores here will be closed for at least three years,

Potentially costing him \$10 billion in net profit.

To cut costs, he'll undoubtedly have to lay off tens of thousands of employees here.

These employees and their families will then become his opponents,

And public opinion will undoubtedly favor Bertnard!

The president was furious, wishing he could slap the old man across the face.

At this time, a reporter at the scene asked Bertnard with a dark face:

"Mr. Arno, if you really close all your stores,"

"Does that mean that your company will lay off tens of thousands of employees?"

"Do you think this is fair to those employees and their families?"

Bertnard sneered in his heart:

"Layoffs? Don't be ridiculous, how could I lay off employees?"

"These tens of thousands of employees are just my cheating tips for gaining experience!"

"Although the amount per person is not much, when added together, isn't it an astronomical figure?"

"It must start at least one billion dollars!"

"Doing business is like sailing against the current; if you don't make progress, you will fail."

"If I close all the stores here, not only will I lose tens of billions of dollars in annual sales and billions of dollars in net profit,"

"I'll also have to cover the rent for thousands of stores and the salaries and benefits of tens of thousands of employees."

"How could I possibly let this opportunity pass me by?!"

Then, with a wave of his hand, he declared with great authority,

"Closing the stores is my personal protest against the US government's shielding of Black Water."

"How could I allow tens of thousands of employees across the US to be affected by my personal decision?"

"Therefore, I'm making an announcement to all the employees:"

"During the next three years of store closures, everyone's salary will continue to be paid as usual!"

"Holy sh!t!"

Everyone was completely devastated.

This was truly devastating!

Facing an enemy like this, even a god couldn't defeat them!

The reporters on the scene were stunned.

They'd been in the news industry for so many years and had seen all sorts of bizarre things, but nothing like this.

An owner shut down an entire market worth billions of dollars a year because of a petty temper.

That would have been fine, but the key was that no employees would be laid off, and their salaries would continue to be paid.

If he had known this would happen,

He would have resigned a day in advance and found a job at one of the group's stores.

Wouldn't he have been able to sit back and collect three years' salary?

At that moment, employees at all the stores under the Bertnard Group were celebrating wildly.

Happiness had arrived so suddenly.

This was truly a blessing beyond their wildest dreams.

How great was it? Even at church, you wouldn't have been ashamed to make such a wish to God.

But now, Bertnard had made it happen.

As he spoke these words, he felt a pang of pain.

As a capitalist, his pain wasn't about losing money,

Because in his eyes, losing money was profit,

Because he was earning experience points from Charlie by losing money.

His real pain was for his employees.

Three years' salary without working was truly a bit of a bargain for them.

The essence of a capitalist is to exploit the surplus value of their employees.

But when they can't exploit the employees they paid for,

They feel like they've been badly shortchanged.

However, he was, after all, a veteran capitalist born in a traditional capitalist country.

He quickly came up with a solution, smiling and saying,

"Of course, I should clarify here."

"When I say store closures, I don't mean firing all employees or closing the doors."

"Instead, I want my employees to continue working in my stores,"

"And my stores will remain open to all customers here."

"However, all the stores will no longer function as sales outlets."

"I will use them solely as showrooms,"

"Showcasing our products and brand philosophy to the public!"

With these words, the employees' earlier revelry came to an abrupt end.

But this didn't affect the public's admiration for him.

For Bertnard, closing this market while continuing to pay employee salaries and rent for thousands of stores would make the group's financial reports look bleak,

And the losses would be astronomical.

This way, he could maximize his experience points with Charlie.

While thousands of stores open only for display and not for sales wouldn't contribute to revenue,

They could still provide ample publicity for the brand.

This means that locals who want to buy their own brand luxury goods will have no choice but to purchase them overseas,

Through overseas purchasing agents, or through online shopping.

At that point, the revenue from these orders will be counted towards the group's sales performance in other countries.

This not only allows them to profit,

But also maintains its losses in this market.

It's like earning experience points while also earning money in a different way.

It's the perfect solution!

Chapter 6941

Bernard's series of actions made the whole world take notice and praise him,

Except for those employees who were caught off guard.

They thought they could rest for three years,

But unexpectedly, their joy was in vain,

And their joy was too short, not even a minute.

For the next three years, they could either continue to be mascots in their positions or simply resign and find other jobs.

Although being a mascot in the workplace would not be as busy as before,

The schedule was still not flexible,

And they still had to go to work and leave work at a set time every day.

Moreover, for those employees in sales positions, without sales, there would naturally be no sales commissions.

Wouldn't this mean that they would only be able to receive a basic salary?

In this case, most sales staff would probably not be able to bear it and would have no choice but to resign.

This would actually help Bernard's group reduce costs and increase efficiency.

Since he wasn't planning to hire salespeople anyway, if the salespeople resigned, the situation would be even better.

He wouldn't need to keep these idle people around.

Each store would only need a few security guards and one or two receptionists.

Receptionists didn't need to have client connections, sales experience, or salesmanship.

They just needed to be polite and respectful to customers.

And without their commissions, the sales elite would naturally leave, without even a penny of compensation.

It must be said that Bertnard's calculations were extremely shrewd, accounting for virtually every aspect of the process.

However, aside from his salespeople, no one else could see through this and simply believed that Bertnard was the best boss in the world.

He was absolutely amazing, the epitome of a modern capitalist,

Completely overturning the underlying logic that capitalists were all vampires.

For a time, Bertnard's radiant humanity shone brightly around the world.

The President and his staff were now like defeated roosters.

It was over.

It truly was over.

Furthermore, Bertnard's current positive influence was incredibly powerful.

Not only could the country not control him,

But it also needed to provide him with a satisfactory response.

Otherwise, with the global attention he had generated,

The US government's reputation would be severely damaged if it didn't address the issue head-on.

By this point, the officials realized the situation was hopeless.

Protecting this mercenary company is no longer easy.

The only solution is to sever ties and slaughter the dog.

So, the official said dejectedly,

"Alright, give up resistance!"

"There's no need to think about countermeasures now."

"Have the FBI immediately launch an investigation and thoroughly investigate the mastermind."

"And the core motive behind the White Horse Island incident."

The round-faced aide said,

"This incident is actually a secret peace agreement between Black Water and the Syrian opposition."

"The opposition wants to use it to eliminate Hamid and seize his impregnable base."

"Black Water wants to use this attack to blame the Cataclysmic Front."

"Seize the opportunity to label it a terrorist organization,"

"And seize the opportunity to seize their base."

"Each side gets what they want."

"To be honest, there's really no need for us to cover for them in this matter."

"That's right."

The official nodded, his serious and annoyed expression slightly relieved.

Then he sighed and said, "Let the FBI handle it impartially.

We can't control the Syrian side, but whoever participated in the planning of this incident will be arrested and severely punished!"

At this point, the official said depressedly,

"But if this happens, most of the senior executives will probably not be spared."

"The company's reputation will be ruined,"

"And it will basically have to disband."

"Our subsequent global layout will be missing a good dog."

"Without them, our regular troops will probably have a lot of trouble."

The round-faced staff member hurriedly advised,

"Official, I have an idea that can minimize the losses."

The official immediately said, "Speak quickly!"

The round-faced staff member offered a suggestion,

"Why don't we take this opportunity to find a suitable person from the army to support us?"

"This person must have a certain prestige, military achievements, and a certain business acumen."

"Let him leave the army and start his own business,"

"Creating a replica!"

"Then we will secretly help, taking advantage of the FBI's comprehensive investigation, and we will be able to obtain the identities of all their mercenaries."

"We will take out the list of these mercenaries and give it to this person."

"And then find a few obedient and sensible tycoons from Wall Street to invest in his company!"

"In this way, he has connections, prestige, money."

"And information about Black Water's mercenaries."

"He can naturally attract those scattered Black Water mercenaries and quickly form a fighting force!"

"Besides, this is the Black Glove that we support ourselves,"

"So it will definitely be more controllable."

"It will not be like Black Water, which was too clever for its own good."

"What do you think?"

"Holy Sh!t!"

The official blurted out in surprise,

"This is definitely the best plan you've come up with in a while!"

"Very good, I'm very satisfied!"

"Let's do it just as you planned!"

"Execute Black Water publicly to appease the people and get rid of the reputational problems."

"Then we'll completely dismantle it and give it a new look!"

Chapter 6942

The round-faced aide smiled shyly at the praise and then said,

"By the way, sir, I think we still need to warn Syria to stop them from causing any more trouble."

"We'll conduct an open investigation into this matter."

"And everyone will be paying close attention to their every move for a long time to come."

"Yes," the official nodded, saying,

"Running that shabby place is nothing more than taking a risk and illegally extracting some oil."

"It's not a profitable business."

"Tell them to behave themselves and stop causing us any more trouble!"

...

After landing in China late at night,

Charlie and his family happened to see Bertnard's live broadcast.

Even he couldn't help but marvel at the old man's business acumen.

He had found a way to exploit the rules he had set to maximize his profits.

First, Bertnard's revenue in that market would plummet to zero,

While all costs would remain exactly the same.

While he was losing profits, he was also losing operating costs,

Accumulating experience points in both directions.

Even more interesting, this guy had essentially turned thousands of stores across the country into his own showrooms.

Coupled with his skyrocketing popularity,

Demand for his products among the public would only intensify.

If such strong demand couldn't be converted locally,

It would naturally spread to other regions.

With its proximity to Canada, it's conceivable that Canadian luxury consumption will likely experience a surge in the future.

The vast majority of the consumer demand will be met by the Canadian market,

Effectively offset his losses.

He can accumulate experience points while also earning money from other markets.

This guy has a knack for it.

However, if he really wanted to take him down, it wouldn't be difficult.

He could simply conduct a rigorous and detailed financial audit,

Re-analyzing his group's revenue and rationally excluding the portion of profit spillover from the US market.

This way, his actual losses could be minimal, or even close to zero.

But Charlie had no intention of doing that.

While he wasn't as shrewd in business as Bertnard, his vision was much broader than the old man's.

He was the one who set the rules.

If his players had discovered a small loophole,

He had to acknowledge it and not back down.

At least, not immediately.

Changing orders from one day to the next was a manager's biggest taboo.

Besides, he didn't care about Bertnard's bug.

Even if he factored in all the losses in the US market, he'd only make \$40-50 billion a year.

It would take at least ten years to accumulate \$50 billion worth of experience points with \$40-50 billion.

And all he had to pay was a mere rejuvenation pill.

So, why not give Bertnard a chance to exploit it?

That way, he'd be more engaged in the game and feel extra grateful to him.

Besides, why did he have to set the rules for himself?

Wasn't it just to get him to rack his brains and cause a scene?

It seemed like he was incredibly motivated.

This situation had already reached a point where, judging by the situation, Black Water was likely doomed.

He immediately pulled out his phone and sent a WeChat message to Joseph, instructing him to monitor Black Water's every move in Syria.

It was likely doomed, and they would have to withdraw completely before that.

However, given the way of doing things here, they would definitely replace Black Water.

Once it withdraws from Syria, it would have to monitor for new mercenaries returning.

Charlie also reminded him that while Cataclysmic Front wasn't directly responsible for the White Horse Island incident,

It also revealed their shortcomings in intelligence.

Since they had already invested in a permanent base in Syria,

They needed to monitor every move.\

Intelligence work is a never-ending process, requiring complete penetration to prevent such incidents from happening again.

Joseph was also watching Bertnard's live broadcast.

He realized that Black Water's actions had essentially sealed the deal.

He had initially been a little excited,

Because if Black Water fell, Cataclysmic Front would become the world's largest mercenary organization.

But after hearing Charlie's reminder, he realized that even if it disappeared, there would still be White Water, Red Water, Blue Water, and Green Water.

He couldn't be too optimistic, let alone overconfident.

Furthermore, he was indeed responsible for his inadequate intelligence work,

Having been tricked by these people before.

So he immediately replied, "Mr. Wade, don't worry."

"I will be absolutely diligent in collecting every move in Syria and the entire Middle East,"

"And strengthening my intelligence company!"

"If something like this happens again,"

"I will accept military court for dereliction of duty!"

Although the Cataclysmic Front is a mercenary organization,

It is always managed with a highly military approach.

Its core structure is a highly organized and disciplined army, with not only its own rules and regulations,

But also its own set of military laws and even its own military courts.

Joseph's attitude had effectively cut off his own escape route.

Although his responsibility wasn't significant,

Charlie was quite satisfied that he had taken on this responsibility.

However, he didn't give Joseph any leeway, simply admonishing him,

"Be cautious in everything you do."

"Remember, pride leads to a fall!"

This statement served as a warning and an acknowledgment of his work at the same time.

Chapter 6943

Charlie's approach to employing people has always been to use a combination of kindness and severity.

Joseph wasn't directly at fault in this incident,

But as the de facto leader of the Cataclysmic Front,

Allowing it to fall into such a predicament was undoubtedly a dereliction of duty.

While he wouldn't dismiss him for this,

He would certainly teach him a lesson and instill a strong sense of crisis.

Otherwise, if something like this happened again,

The Cataclysmic Front would be plunged into an abyss of no return.

Just like Black Water, a single misstep could lead to total ruin.

Black Water's top brass sensed the danger.

It was clear to everyone that Bertnard had unleashed a powerful attack.

At this point, he was undefeated,

And it was only a matter of time before he would unleash his might and finally defeat the enemy.

These individuals had served as collaborators for the government for so many years, and they knew its style all too well.

The moment they saw Bertnard unleash his full power, they knew they were doomed.

So, these people simultaneously shut down all communication channels,

And then, without prior agreement, set out from their homes for the nearest customs office.

They were betting on a window of opportunity:

The White House needed time to formulate a plan,

Time to issue orders, and time for the FBI to execute them.

If they could seize this window, they could successfully cross the border,

Fly to a place where no one knows them, and start anew under anonymity.

If they missed this window, they would be thrust into the spotlight, facing the harshest legal penalties.

Given the egregious impact of this incident, they could face the death penalty.

The person primarily responsible would likely face the death penalty for war crimes and terrorism-related offenses.

The others would likely face life imprisonment without parole,

Ultimately, dying in prison.

However, while they were well-versed in the workings of the local government,

They had little understanding of the official's style.

Professional politicians carefully consider everything before taking action,

Carefully considering each step before truly taking it.

This approach reduces the chance of error, striving not to achieve anything but to avoid mistakes.

Meanwhile, businesspeople, struggling in the business world, fear nothing more than missing out on making money.

Knowing where there's money to be made, they'll rush in even if they're only halfway through.

Therefore, the moment the high officials decided to abandon Black Water,

They immediately passed the order down to avoid complications.

At that point, the security system placed all senior Black Water executives on an internal arrest list.

Once on this list, all customs systems were instantly synchronized.

This meant that anyone on the list, regardless of where they were leaving the country, would be alerted and immediately apprehended.

Furthermore, this system matched not only the personal information of those listed, but also their biometrics, including fingerprints and facial features.

DNA analysis is even retrieved for those who had already provided DNA data.

Since every person leaving the country must undergo facial recognition and photo-taking, coupled with AI to detect disguises,

Even if the target person used a completely different identity to pass through customs,

Their facial recognition would still be matched, triggering the police.

In this situation, there is no other way to leave the United States except by smuggling.

Black Water's executives, however, believed they still had a chance.

So, each armed with their alternate passport information, they hurried to the nearest international airport and booked the earliest flight out of the country.

As long as they could escape, even if it was just to Mexico,

They could immediately change their identities and flee to the next country.

Unfortunately, upon arriving at the airport, without exception,

They were caught red-handed while going through customs.

Immediately afterwards, the government announced an emergency press conference that afternoon.

They revealed that the press conference would focus on Black Water and the White Horse Island terrorist attack.

But the media were kept in the dark about the details.

Bertnard knew he had lost miserably.

Under its immense pressure, the government would undoubtedly bring harsh punishment to Black Water.

Not only could he claim credit from Charlie,

But he could also start a wonderful business of "profit for points" in the local market.

Afterwards, he immediately called Charlie.

By this time, Charlie had already returned home,

And his family, exhausted from the journey, had already fallen asleep.

After receiving a call from Bertnard,

He went to the vacant room on the first floor and answered the call.

The moment the call was connected, Bertnard could not help but excitedly say to Charlie,

"Mr. Wade, the government has allowed those media outlets to smear me like crazy."

"I have just publicly announced that I have completely broken with them!"

Chapter 6944

Charlie deliberately pretended to be confused and said with a smile,

"Your break with them is your personal decision."

"I respect your personal decision,"

"And you don't need to ask for instructions or report to me."

"Sh!t..."

Bertnard's heart skipped a beat, and he nervously pondered,

"Is Charlie planning to deny his words?"

"If he attributes my withdrawal from the market to a personal decision not under his orders,"

"Then won't he give me any points? If that's the case, I'm screwed!"

He turned pale with fear, a cold sweat pouring down his face,

And his arm, holding the phone, began to tremble uncontrollably.

He suppressed his inner fear and tentatively asked,

"Wade... Mr. Wade... I was at the press conference at the time and couldn't directly consult you."

"So I took the initiative to announce my withdrawal from the local market."

"I wonder if you can still give me some points?"

After saying this, he was extremely nervous, afraid that Charlie would say no.

Charlie, on the other end of the line, smiled faintly and said,

"Your reputation is now at its peak."

"The whole world regards you as the most righteous, wealthy man."

"This time, not only has all your previous negative information been completely cleared,"

"But your reputation has even reached a new high."

"More importantly, according to my speculation, even if you shut down the entire market there,"

"Your global sales will not decrease but increase."

"The local market will also spill over to neighboring Canada and the whole of Europe."

"So you shouldn't suffer any substantial losses from this decision."

"You may even usher in a new wave of growth."

"Furthermore, your fame was already far-reaching during your time on White Horse Island."

"Add to that this trip, and you can be said to have reaped a huge harvest of fame and fortune."

Although Charlie had already tacitly approved of Bertnard's actions, he had to let him know that he had seen through his calculations.

He had to make him understand this first,

And then express his approval of his actions,

So that he would know that he was being lenient.

If he didn't make this clear,

He might think that his cleverness had successfully fooled him and that he hadn't seen through his motives.

Seeing through him, exposing him, making him extremely nervous, and then granting him a pardon,

He would never again dare to take any chances or try to play tricks on me.

Instead, he would be even more grateful and respectful of me.

This was the old saying: first suppress, then praise.

Furthermore, I had to point out everything I had done for him:

The astonishing achievements on White Horse Island, the passionate sentiments.

These were all opportunities and platforms I had created for him.

Without me, how could he have achieved his current immense reputation?

This kind of reputation could not be bought with money.

No one could buy such merit.

While Charlie lacked Bertnard's cunning business acumen and tactics,

His control over people's hearts was far more profound than that of this 70-year-old man.

Therefore, he had to keep a firm grip on him!

At this moment, Bertnard was truly panicked.

He thought this trick could trap Charlie, even make him, like everyone else, be intimidated by his righteousness.

But unexpectedly, Charlie saw through everything.

He felt as if he'd been stripped naked in public, filled with shame, nervousness, and fear.

So, he could only smile bitterly and say,

"I'm sorry, Mr. Wade. I... I... I didn't mean to play tricks on you."

"I was just so angry at the time that I made this decision."

"And I'm filled with gratitude to you."

"Not only did you save my life, but you also gave me great credit for White Horse Island and made me world-famous."

"My gratitude to you is beyond words..."

At this point, he trembled and said,

"As for the profit issue, you're right."

"With the reputation you've bestowed upon me, even if I shut down the market,"

"The group's overall revenue will definitely increase."

"I... I don't have the nerve to ask you to calculate points for me..."

At this point, Bertnard had already given up on the idea of getting points from Charlie.

He knew full well that Charlie was right.

Charlie had already given him so much,

And if he still shamelessly asked for points at this time,

No one would think it was inappropriate.

Chapter 6945

However, if he didn't earn any points this time, then he would only be able to receive the \$200 million he donated to the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism.

He was still 49.8 billion experience points short of the Rejuvenation Pill, a distant prospect.

Just as he was feeling dejected, Charlie said calmly,

"However, you handled things beautifully this time."

"Even if Black Water is completely destroyed, the Cataclysmic Front will benefit from this operation and experience greater opportunities for development."

"So I can make an exception and grant you points for your losses in the local market."

"However, if you act without permission next time, I will definitely not make an exception for you!"

Bertnadr was so surprised that his mind went blank and he felt dizzy for a few seconds before he came to his senses.

He asked with a trembling excitement,

"Mr. Wade...Mr. Wade, are you...Are you serious?!"

Charlie said calmly, "When have I ever gone back on my word?"

Bertnard said ecstatically,

"You haven't, you never have!"

"Thank you, Mr. Wade! Thank you!"

After saying this, he immediately stated,

"Mr. Wade, in order to help the Cataclysmic Front further enhance its strength,"

"I personally wish to donate to the Cataclysmic Front... ten, no, two billion dollars!"

Bertnard knew full well that, given Charlie's status, background, and current industrial and financial strength,

He wouldn't care about tens or even hundreds of billions of dollars.

Even adding a zero wouldn't have caught his eye.

Giving him two islands wouldn't have meant anything to him,

And even giving him tens or even hundreds of billions of dollars outright wouldn't have been a big deal.

However, Bertnard felt that since Charlie was the de facto controller of the Cataclysmic Front,

He might as well play to his will and spend the money on the Cataclysmic Front.

With Black Water's imminent destruction, the Cataclysmic Front would undoubtedly face new opportunities for development.

A donation at this time would surely help it rapidly improve its strength.

In reality, the Cataclysmic Front wasn't short of money.

Charlie had provided it with numerous long-term benefits, and its revenue was substantial.

It had invested heavily in its base construction,

And even its communications satellites were already underway.

However, when it comes to infrastructure, more money is always better, just like urban planning:

If you have enough money, it's always a good idea to build the widest possible path.

Seeing that Bertnard was sensible and must be willing to give the money,

Charlie smiled and said, "Okay, since you are so thoughtful."

"I will thank you on behalf of Cataclysmic Front."

Bertnard breathed a sigh of relief and said repeatedly,

"Mr. Wade, you don't have to be so polite to me!"

"You have helped me so much; it is only right that I show some appreciation."

"I will be very happy if you don't mind my shabby sales!"

Charlie smiled and asked him,

"The government there is probably going to hate you to death now."

"What are your plans next?"

Bertnard hurriedly said, "Mr. Wade, I plan to stay here for a few more days."

"All the stores have to close at dawn."

"Tomorrow I will hold a meeting of all American executives to arrange the follow-up work."

"By the way, I will also look for the media to continue to increase exposure."

"I estimate that the government will be here later today."

"The government is about to hold a press conference to announce how it will deal with Black Water."

"If they are sincere, I will stop and go back to France in two days."

"If they are not sincere enough,"

"I will continue to fight them to the end!"

Charlie smiled and said, "Your courage is commendable."

"Also, remember to keep all your stores open until midnight tonight."

"Aren't you in Manhattan, New York?"

"It would be best if you could find the largest store in Manhattan and attend in person."

"So that the media can create another wave of rhythm."

"In this way, all your stores will probably usher in a buying frenzy tonight."

"The money may not be much for you, but once everyone buys it up, you and your group will be on the hot search again."

"And maybe your sales around the world will increase rapidly."

Bertnard was slightly stunned, thinking,

How did Charlie think of what I was going to do next?

However, he still feigned surprise and said,

"Oh, Mr. Wade, that's a great idea!"

"Thank you so much for the heads-up!"

"I'll definitely seize this opportunity to create some buzz!"

He then didn't forget to flatter Charlie:

"Mr. Wade, you're a true business expert!"

Chapter 6946

Charlie said calmly, "Alright, stop flattering me."

"You're so smart, you can only know more and more than I thought."

"Telling you this is a bit of an amateur."

He stretched and smiled,

"Three years of book losses in the US market will count as experience points."

"You can have fun there these next two days."

Bernard, reassured again, smiled and said,

"Okay, Mr. Wade! I'll follow your instructions!"

...

Half an hour later, the White House press conference room was filled with reporters.

Officials had announced to the world that this press conference would be used to make a statement regarding Black Water and the White Horse Island incident.

After Bernard's outburst, media attention reached an unprecedented level.

The entire press conference hall was packed,

The atmosphere was even more lively than a temple fair.

Given the scale of the event,

The normally confident young female spokesperson was surprisingly nervous before taking the stage.

Given her usual style and mental fortitude,

She would have remained calm even if she had been spouting lies that would have been despised by the entire world.

In her own words, she was born tough and had always been tough.

However, today's approach was a stark departure from her usual style.

Today, she couldn't be tough.

Instead, she had to admit her mistakes.

On behalf of the government, she had to apologize to the world for the Black Water incident.

At the same time, she would announce a series of penalties imposed by the US on Black Water.

She felt deeply dissatisfied when she thought about breaking that tradition,

Having never bowed her head or given in in her career for so many years.

But even though she was dissatisfied, there was nothing she could do.

After all, to her, she was just a spokesperson.

The attitude, wording, and perspective she needed to express in each speech were all set by her superiors,

And she could only follow the rules.

When the time came, she took a few deep breaths and walked into the hall.

The moment she appeared, the flashbulbs of the media reporters flashed incessantly,

And the sound of shutter clicks echoed throughout the hall.

The spokesperson stepped up to the podium, adjusted his demeanor, and began,

"Welcome, everyone, to today's press conference."

"Before we begin, on behalf of the U.S. government,"

"I would like to apologize to the tourists and staff implicated in the White Horse Island terrorist attack."

"We trusted the self-reported surrender of a Black Water executive,"

"Believing it was his personal decision and unrelated to Black Water,"

"And thus delayed the investigation."

"Rest assured, we will conduct a comprehensive investigation into this incident!"

This immediate apology was both unexpected and understandable.

The U.S. government is under immense pressure,

And failure to confront the problem will only exacerbate it.

The spokesperson continued, "Beyond our apologies, we also wish to use this press conference to announce to the world that,"

"At the high official's request, the FBI has arrested all senior Black Water executives."

"Once the investigation is complete, they will be brought to justice!"

The audience erupted in cheers.

Everyone had already roughly understood the whole story.

They knew that the White Horse Island terrorist attack was Black Water's decision,

And the government had no involvement.

As long as it stopped shielding them and handled the matter impartially, everyone would be satisfied.

This also meant that Bertnard had single-handedly won the battle between himself and the government,

Further strengthening his global recognition.

The spokesperson continued, "The FBI has seized Black Water and suspended all operations.

The FBI and the Department of Homeland Security have jointly established a special investigation team."

"Which will conduct a comprehensive investigation."

"We have also frozen all of Black Water's accounts and real estate in the country."

"After the investigation is completed,"

"We will calculate the losses Black Water caused by the White Horse Island incident and compensate the victims."

The judicial system there has always imposed heavy penalties on companies involved.

For example, the courts directly fined Tesla \$243 million for the death and injury caused by its Autopilot system.

And the United Airlines violent incident, which Elaine had always hoped would happen to her,

Also resulted in tens of millions of dollars in compensation to the victims.

Although all the casualties in the White Horse Island incident were Black Water mercenaries,

The island suffered enormous losses;

Bernard was even shot in the leg.

If the United States ceases to shield Black Water and handles this terrorist attack impartially,

Then Black Water will logically be held responsible for the hundreds of millions of dollars Bernard claimed to have spent on bribing the guy,

The tens of millions of dollars in compensation for customers,

And the operational impact of the dozens of deaths on White Horse Island.

If the amount awarded is so substantial that Black Water's cash balances are insufficient,

They will be forced to auction off all their non-cash assets.

This essentially means that Black Water will be irreparably destroyed, both formally and financially.

Chapter 6947

The government's complete abandonment of Black Water signaled to the world that Bertnard had prevailed.

His reputation was at its peak.

He had many ardent fans, even some wealthy individuals, who idolized him.

Then, unexpectedly, an online outcry erupted in support of Bertnard.

Unaware of the truth, the public naively assumed that Bertnard's fight for justice would result in a significant loss in the local market.

Unwilling to let down a hero, some people rushed to Bertnard's US stores, bought several items, and then posted photos on social media, captioning, "I want to do my part to uphold justice."

"If I can't confront the government head-on,"

"I can at least offer my support to Bertnard to the best of my ability."

Unexpectedly, the post received a flood of likes and comments.

Suddenly, a trend took hold online:

Shopping at Bertnard's brands became the most coveted and prestigious activity.

This feeling is like the global frenzy surrounding Labubu, perhaps even more so.

Labubu, a small, low-cost doll, can fetch hundreds or even thousands of dollars because netizens worldwide see it as a symbol of the latest fashion trends.

Owning one makes you the world's most fashionable person.

So, even with a hefty price premium, people are willing to pay for it for the prestige and the perceived trendiness.

Bernard's luxury goods are already renowned worldwide.

Furthermore, all items in his stores are sold at full price, with no premiums.

This is undoubtedly a far superior proposition to the exorbitant prices associated with a particular product.

Consequently, all of his brand stores worldwide experienced an unprecedented consumer frenzy.

The earliest customers flocked to the stores, snapping up the best and most popular items.

Even when they needed to stock up, they happily accepted the offer.

After all, while the stocking system can be tricky,

It always comes at full price, ensuring that a 100-yuan item isn't sold for 1,000 yuan.

After the popular items were sold out,

Even those styles that didn't require stocking but were also slow to sell were snapped up.

Then, items that had been neglected for ages began to be bought up.

Even those products that were so expensive,

So abstract that even the mere thought of buying them was an insult to one's intelligence, they were snapped up one after another.

Stores across America were running low on inventory.

Some stores were completely sold out within an hour,

Their entire storefront stock snapped up.

Before midnight, all North American stores were sold out.

Every store was left with bare shelves,

And a group of employees who were once again filled with joy.

For these employees, today had been a rollercoaster ride.

Although they hadn't received three years' salary for free and would lose their sales commissions,

They had achieved the same level of performance as they had in several months in previous years in just one night,

And the commission income was already quite substantial.

At the entrance of each store, there were many people who wanted to buy things, take photos, and check in.

These people surrounded the doors and windows,

And each of them used their own way to take advantage of the popularity of Bernard Eyre's lonely emergence.

Bertnard was stunned when he received the sales reports from the regional directors.

Although he was a pioneer of hype marketing,

He had long anticipated a surge in his retail stores' performance,

But he hadn't imagined it would be this dramatic.

When reports of inventory shortages and even sell-outs broke out around the world,

He immediately called his assistant and instructed,

"Immediately require all factories to work overtime,"

"Paying them the highest overtime pay permitted by local laws and regulations."

"The faster the better."

"Ensure that the entire supply chain and production chain restocks the global market within five days!"

Chapter 6948

The assistant quickly replied,

"Chairman, the supply chain isn't a major issue."

"The main issue is that our production capacity is severely limited."

"Many of our popular products are handmade by artisans,"

"And we can't ramp up quickly."

"Furthermore, the number of inbound orders from stores is skyrocketing."

"And we won't be able to meet our production capacity for a long time."

Bertnard said, "That's easy."

"Immediately ship the raw materials for these popular products to China."

"And have our contract manufacturers there complete at least 90% of the production."

"Finally, bring the labeling and printing back to Paris."

"And we can legally add the Made in China designation."

"It's legally permitted to use the French logo."

He couldn't help but mutter,

"But the bags made by Chinese craftsmen are much better than those made by Parisian craftsmen,"

"And their service life is at least doubled."

"We should remind the Chinese production side to lower their quality standards as much as possible."

"Otherwise, if we buy bags that don't break for ten or eight years,"

"How can we sell them?"

The assistant asked him nervously,

"Chairman, isn't this inappropriate?"

Bernard demanded angrily, "A55hole, do you need to judge whether it's appropriate?"

"I'm the chairman! Do as I say!"

"We've done this before!"

The assistant said awkwardly,

"Chairman, you're a completely different person now."

"Your reputation is at its peak worldwide."

"If we create news that our group is profit-driven,"

"It will have a huge impact on your reputation."

"You should be careful!"

Bernard suddenly woke up.

"Yes!"

"I'm a hero now!"

"If I start selling OEM products now, and someone finds out, wouldn't all my super high reputation built up be ruined?"

Thinking of this, he truly realized that he was no longer the same person he used to be.

Now that he had a reputation,

He couldn't do anything to make money like before.

So, he thought for a moment and immediately said,

"You're a good reminder."

"I really didn't think this through."

"How about this? Since we're short on stock right now, let's collaborate with other companies and do some joint ventures."

"Like with other clothing brands."

"That way, they'll come up with the joint designs and be responsible for production."

"We just need to authorize the use of the trademark and logo."

"And then be responsible for sales."

"This way, we don't have to produce anything."

"And we can quickly get a lot of joint products."

"We're sure to make money, and we won't be criticized."

"As long as we cooperate with enough joint companies,"

"We'll soon be able to fill our stores with joint products!"

The assistant said in surprise,

"Chairman, you... You're a real business genius!"

"Then I'll immediately contact all the luxury brands,"

"As well as those lifestyle brands, and we'll push this forward as soon as possible!"

Chapter 6949

Bernard's business acumen puts even Charlie to shame.

His lifelong focus is on how to make more money,

This results in a formidable financial mindset.

Collaborations have long been a staple in the luxury and fashion industries.

A few years ago, LV collaborated with the trendy brand Supreme.

At the time, a simple short-sleeved T-shirt, incorporating both brands' logos, fetched a five-figure price tag.

After a wave of hype from retail investors, the price even doubled.

Even in the digital world, collaborations are common,

With some computer and hardware brands are collaborating with well-known game brands to further boost sales.

For consumers, these collaborations offer excellent value,

As they only need to purchase one product and receive the support of two brands,

Naturally resulting in a better deal.

For Bernard, collaborations are generally frowned upon.

Most brands aren't as well-known as his,

And collaborating with lesser-known brands would simply be allowing others to take advantage of him.

But the situation is different now.

Their production capacity is severely limited,

And consumers are eagerly waiting to buy their products!

Their supply chain, after years of refinement, perfectly matches their previous needs in terms of production costs, efficiency, and quality.

But they never imagined sales would skyrocket dozens of times,

Surpassing their previous month's sales in a single day.

Even if they were asked to increase production capacity now,

They'd only be able to increase it by 30% at best,

Which wouldn't be enough to meet current demand.

Bernard is well aware that public enthusiasm,

Like the rising tide, ebbs and flows.

If they can fully satisfy their purchasing needs before enthusiasm fades,

They can maximize their profits.

However, if their supply chain falters,

They'll miss out on this golden opportunity once enthusiasm fades.

Collaboration offers a perfect solution.

By outsourcing production to other companies,

They're effectively creating numerous production lines and supply chains, solving all problems.

Furthermore, with his current fame at its peak, people eagerly sought his products,

This naturally squeezed the market share of other brands, causing them to slump.

Many brands saw sales plummet by over 80% compared to previous years.

Collaborating with Bertnard's brands at this time would effectively fill their own excess production capacity and generate additional revenue.

Consequently, almost all major brands that received invitations to collaborate immediately accepted the proposals.

Immediately, their designers, having secured authorization,

Began designing collaborative products utilizing classic elements from Bertnard's brands.

Bertnard was thrilled.

He had calculated that if this hype continued for a month,

He could potentially recoup his three-year nominal losses in the American market.

If the spillover effects from the American market were factored in,

He could potentially reap even higher profits,

Meaning not only would he not lose a cent,

But he could even earn billions more annually!

He thought to himself excitedly,

“This is the true meaning of fame and fortune!”

“And this kind of fame is something I never dared to hope for in my entire life!”

This also made him feel grateful to Charlie.

Then, he fulfilled his promise to Charlie,

Not only donating 2 billion US dollars to the Cataclysmic Front,

But also spending hundreds of millions of dollars to purchase the 99-year use rights of an island from Sri Lanka and transfer it to the Cataclysmic Front.

This island is located near the international shipping routes in the Indian Ocean.

Sri Lanka is a must-visit for shipping from East Asia to the Middle East, Europe, and Africa.

Cataclysmic Front currently derives half of its revenue from ocean escort missions.

With the Maldives island already in place,

Adding this Sri Lankan island would make escort work even more time-efficient and effective.

Chapter 6950

Bertnard called Charlie specifically to tell him about the island, adding,

"I'm sorry, Mr. Wade,"

"I acted without your permission and therefore apologize..."

Although the island was only worth two or three hundred million US dollars,

Charlie saw through Bertnard's attitude from this incident.

He had long seen through Bertnard.

Although this guy was wealthy, he was also a stingy person.

If an item cost 199, it was 199.

He couldn't just give him 200 yuan and not give him the change.

This would make him feel bad for a long time and was absolutely unacceptable.

This old nobleman, like Grandet, usually wouldn't pay a penny more than the agreed price,

But this time, he actually took the initiative to give an island on top of the agreed price.

This shows that he has made some progress.

To use a saying, he has finally made it.

So, Charlie affirmed his approach and said with a smile:

"Mr. Arno is thoughtful."

"I thank you on behalf of Cataclysmic Front."

Bertnard quickly said, "Mr. Wade, you're welcome."

"This is just a small token of my appreciation."

After that, he quickly said to Charlie:

"By the way, Mr. Wade, Mr. Hamid, who was almost assassinated,"

"Should have a good relationship with you, right?"

Charlie smiled: "Hamid and I have a good relationship."

"What's wrong?"

Bertnard immediately said: "Mr. Wade, I personally feel that Mr. Hamid's situation in Syria should be quite dangerous."

"Since he is your friend, I would like to take out 200 million dollars as a small token of appreciation."

"I hope you can pass it on to him and help him consolidate his foundation in Syria."

Charlie said in surprise:

"Why does Mr. Arno suddenly want to sponsor Hamid?"

Bertnard said with a smile:

"Oh, Mr. Wade, to be honest, this is a small token of my appreciation."

"I hope Mr. Hamid can further improve his own strength and try not to worry you."

"Very good,"

Charlie praised. "I really didn't expect you to have such a heart."

"Hamid is now trying to form alliances."

"And he will inevitably have to spend money to win over some warlords."

"This money can just help him."

"I thank you on his behalf."

Bertnard said excitedly, "Mr. Wade, you are too polite."

"I am already very satisfied to share your worries to the best of my ability!"

"After all, you have helped me so much!"

Charlie smiled and said, "No need to be polite."

"I will say hello to Hamid later and tell him the news."

"Okay, Mr. Wade!"

Bertnard quickly added, "If \$200 million is not enough,"

"Please let me know at any time, and I can add more!"

Charlie teased him, "Mr. Arno,"

"I have to remind you that Syria is unlikely to become a market for luxury consumption."

"You have invested so much in Hamid."

"And you may not have the chance to make it back."

Bertnard quickly said, "Mr. Wade, you misunderstood me."

"I'm not doing this for money."

"I simply want to share some of your burden..."

The situation in Syria, thanks to Hamid's narrow escape and Black Water's island platform,

Has reached a delicate equilibrium.

The opposition leaders who advocated for Hamid's elimination have faced international condemnation after their failed plan became public,

Leading to widespread condemnation.

While they may disregard their international reputation,

Their internal authority has been significantly impacted."

Chapter 6951

Public doubts and internal vigilance are evident, putting them in a precarious position.

Consequently, they are determined not to resort to any more rogue tactics for the time being.

Furthermore, the opposition itself is fragmented.

The core group is divided into separate factions,

While smaller warlords on the periphery, like Hamid, face awkward and even critical situations.

Hamid's attack has served as a wake-up call for them.

After returning safely, Hamid, following Charlie's instructions, has established close ties with some of the more marginalized members of the opposition.

He has been conducting a psychological campaign against these individuals,

Making them wary of those in power.

They have formed an alliance to work together on this matter.

However, Hamid still didn't know the true cohesion within the alliance,

Nor how high its actual combat effectiveness would be once it united.

Therefore, he was keeping his guard up.

After eliminating the internal spies, he tripled the number of personnel responsible for regular sentry duty and security.

Drones equipped with thermal imaging devices took off one after another,

Conducting 24-hour reconnaissance of the surrounding area within a radius of dozens of kilometers,

Fearing that the enemy would launch a surprise attack.

When Charlie called him, he was still asleep after several hours of inspection.

After receiving Charlie's call, he quickly perked up and asked excitedly,

"Brother Wade, what do you want me to do?"

Charlie asked, "Brother, how have things been going these past few days?"

Hamid sighed and said, "I've been secretly cooperating with some warlords within the opposition according to your previous instructions."

"And have reached a preliminary alliance agreement with them."

Charlie asked him, "How strong are those warlords?"

"Strength..."

Hamid said awkwardly, "They are not very strong."

"They don't even have their own territory."

"Their team has been reorganized into the so-called government army."

"However, because of my experience, they are now in a state of panic."

"And are eager to find an opportunity to separate their team."

Charlie instructed: "You can instigate these warlords like you to govern themselves according to your model."

"It would be best if they could also control an area, build high walls, and store food like you."

"These days, it is not safe to leave your back to your comrades."

"If you can build an iron wall by yourself, your safety will be greatly improved."

Hamid sighed: "They want to, but how can they do it?"

It's so easy to accomplish..."

"The core of the opposition has always been extremely wary of them."

"If they want to reorganize their army,"

"They will definitely not agree."

Charlie smiled.

"They wouldn't agree before, but that's no longer the case."

"They must be extremely worried."

"After all, they've secured power and are no longer the opposition they once were."

"This terrorist attack has a huge impact on their image."

"Furthermore, internal morale is low."

"If they continue to maintain high pressure on other warlords,"

"They might be in chaos before the former government troops return."

"Therefore, now is a good time to promote the feudal system."

"Feudal system?"

Hamid said, puzzled, not quite understanding what Charlie meant.

Charlie said, "Another way of putting it is a modern federal system."

"Like you, everyone strives for their own fiefdom."

"Operates within it with their own armed forces, and enjoys a high degree of autonomy in normal times."

"However, in major events like foreign invasion or internal uprisings,"

"They obey the orders of the federal administrators and fight together against the enemy."

Hamid hesitated for a moment and said,

"Many people saw that I almost died in the Maldives,"

"And they might think that they might face the same fate in the future,"

"Or even not be as lucky as me."

"Now they are all in danger."

"If they can have a high degree of autonomy,"

"It would definitely be the best choice."

"I just don't know if the core layer will open this loophole."

Chapter 6952

Charlie said lightly, "Whether this loophole will be opened depends on whether the internal and external pressures are great enough."

"When the pressure is not great, everyone wants both,"

"But when the pressure is too great, everyone will automatically make choices."

"Since there is now great external pressure and great internal barriers,"

"As long as these warlords like you can unite, striving for a high degree of autonomy is not a problem."

"Provided that the capital and economically prosperous areas are left to the core layer."

Hamid sighed, "If we can't get the economically prosperous areas,"

"Even if the core layer agrees, we will most likely have to go to a remote place to start from scratch."

"These warlords may not have such a sufficient starting point. Funds."

Charlie smiled and said, "That's why I called you."

"Bernard just called me and said he's willing to donate 200 million US dollars to you to help you consolidate your position there."

"I think you could use some of that to support your fellow sufferers in building their own territories."

Hamid exclaimed, "Arno donated 200 million US dollars to me?!"

"This... this must be all because of your brother, right?"

Charlie smiled and said, "It doesn't matter whose face it is."

"What's important is that these 200 million US dollars can help you win over many people."

Hamid said gratefully, "Brother Wade, you have helped me so much."

"I don't know how to repay you..."

Charlie said, "There's no need to be so polite between you and me."

"What's more, the Front has its roots in Syria."

"In the future, we will need both of you to cooperate and help each other."

"If you get better, the strength of the group will also improve."

After that, Charlie asked him,

"By the way, after you returned,"

"Did you contact the opposition leader?"

"No."

Hamid said somewhat angrily:

"These bastards who don't keep their promises and stab you in the back,"

"I don't want to have any contact with them again!"

Charlie said lightly:

"Don't be so impulsive."

"He stabs you in the back, but he didn't knock you down."

"Then you have to learn to take this opportunity to make a fuss and blackmail them!"

"Listen to me, ask them for an explanation today and make them give you some compensation."

"Otherwise, you will never stop."

"Not only will you make a fuss in Syria, but you will also make it known on the Internet."

"You can also register a personal account online, shoot short videos,"

"And do live broadcasts."

"The bigger the incident, the more afraid they will be of you."

"In short, you have to do everything you can to torture them and force them to reach a settlement with you."

"Reconcile?"

Hamid asked, "Brother Wade, how do you want me to reconcile with them?"

Charlie said, "Let them at least give you some compensation."

"It would be best if they agreed to expand your territory."

"Then you can hire an exploration team to see if there is any oil or natural gas in your territory."

"If so, we will invest in mining."

Hamid said, "Brother, even if I can dig up oil,"

"I have no way to sell it."

"I don't have the qualifications for import and export business."

"And people won't do business with a warlord like me..."

Charlie smiled and said, "You don't need to sell it."

"As long as oil can be mined in your territory,"

"I will let Cataclysmic Front invest in an oil refinery."

"Gasoline and diesel can be directly digested by the Front."

"And heavy oil can be sold to ISU Shipping,"

"Which can be directly added to passing cargo ships at sea."

"Everything will form an internal closed loop."

"When the time comes, let Cataclysmic Front settle the bill for you."

"And you just need to collect the money."

Chapter 6953

The biggest cost of long-distance transportation is fuel oil.

A 100,000-ton freighter requires dozens of tons of heavy fuel oil every day.

It can refill thousands or even thousands of tons of fuel at a time.

If the price difference is several hundred yuan per ton, then adding fuel once can make a difference of hundreds of thousands.

Many ocean-going freighters like to refuel in Singapore,

Mainly because the oil prices there are cheap,

And filling them up can save a lot of money.

If Hamid had oil, he wouldn't have had to struggle to find any buyer at all,

He would just have to sell the oil to Cataclysmic Front at a lower price,

And Cataclysmic Front would sell the heavy oil to ISU Shipping at a lower price,

And this line of business would be considered a runaway.

When the time comes, Hamid can make money,

Cataclysmic Front can make money,

ISU shipping can save part of the fuel cost.

The fleet size is there, and the cost savings in a year may be hundreds of millions.

This is a win-win situation.

Moreover, Cataclysmic Front relied on the foundation of escorting this route,

And carrying out refueling business for ISU Shipping was nothing more than a matter of carrying hands.

Although Syria's oil reserves are not as rich as those of the wealthy countries,

Charlie does not expect Hamid to get a large oil field that can make tens of thousands of dollars a day.

As long as there is one that is about the same,

It can be digested internally by Cataclysmic Front and Yisu Shipping.

This matter is worth getting into.

Moreover, Charlie didn't want to save himself money,

Mainly because Hamid, a big boss, was usually bored in that poor ravine and had almost no source of income.

If he hadn't assisted himself, his base would not be where it is today.

But if he can't make ends meet for a long time,

It's like a company that has been losing money all year round.

Overall, it's a bottomless pit, forcing him to make money.

He doesn't have the ability, and he has to subsidize him by himself.

Or just give him up.

So for Charlie, the best way is to be able to help Hamid find a stable channel of earnings.

"Syria is a place where wars are raging all year round, and the land is barren."

"Even if you grow food, you may not be able to achieve self-sufficiency."

"Let alone make money here to feed a huge army!"

To say that you want to make some money locally,

The best thing you can do is to extract oil.

If Hamid can't get himself a piece of land that can produce oil,

Then Charlie even considers asking him to find an opportunity to grab one.

Otherwise, with such a big stall as he is now spreading out,

He may well not be able to hold out once he terminates the aid himself.

Hamid also roughly understood what Charlie meant.

Now that the stalls are large, not only are there more people,

But there are also many more permanent fortifications under construction and needing maintenance than before.

The overall operating costs have doubled several times compared to before.

Plus, Charlie has been letting himself hoard enough supplies,

And those reserve supplies also require a large amount of funds to replace them constantly.

In this case, one's deficit will only grow worse.

If you don't hurry up and find a way to get some money,

It will later become very passive.

So, he said to Charlie, "There is an oil field more than 40 kilometers away from me."

"Which has been controlled by the opposition."

"It can produce about five to six thousand barrels of oil per day."

"This is the oil field closest to me."

"In addition, within a radius of 100 kilometers,"

"There are three or four oil fields, all controlled by the opposition."

Charlie calculated the score and said:

"Five to six thousand barrels a day, that year would be two million barrels,"

"About two to three hundred thousand tons,"

"Which is equivalent to an annual output value of more than one hundred million U.S. dollars."

"Excluding various costs, the net profit shouldn't be a big problem to make tens of millions."

After saying that, he warned again:

"Brother, you have been talking to the core members of the opposition recently."

"And you have a showdown with them directly."

"Just say that they must give you a certain amount of compensation for this matter."

"If he asks you what kind of compensation you want, just tell him that you want the oil field closest to you."

"If they give you the oil field and all of them are at peace,"

"You are still a nominal part of them."

"And foreign enemies appear, you will fight alongside them."

"If they don't give it, you don't need to say any nonsense."

"Just lead your troops to attack all the other oil fields within a 100-kilometer radius except this oil field!"

"How to beat up, brother?"

Hamid exclaimed, "Have you directly led the troops to fight over?"

"Right!"

Chapter 6954

Charlie decisively said on the railway:

"Just lead the troops to fight."

"They can't react as quickly as you."

"You can move quickly at a distance of 100 kilometers."

"You can shoot down one in a few hours."

"If you raise so many soldiers, it's time to pull them out."

"I'm wandering around, always nestling in the ravine and eating imported white noodles."

"After eating for a long time, I can't even use a gun!"

"OK!" Hamid said without hesitation:

"Then hit him like a dog! Anyway,"

"I have done a good job of fortification here."

"And I will withdraw after the battle."

"They can't retaliate!"

Charlie said, "That's right, take action when it's time to take action."

"Just summon the army and do it."

Hamid asked: "Then what do you think is the right level of hitting?"

Charlie said seriously:

"Their oil fields must be completely paralyzed to the point where they cannot be repaired without spending a lot of money or a lot of time."

"For you, it is nothing more than paying some normal losses in the war and attrition."

"For them, destroying an oil field may result in hundreds of millions of dollars in losses in the next few years."

"So it is a good deal to hit you no matter what."

"Moreover, your base is impregnable."

"They can't do anything to you,"

"And those oil fields are very close to you."

"You can fight guerrillas and blitzkrieg with them."

"After a round of attack, all these oil fields like money printers will be shut down."

"At worst, just flip the table and don't let them take the bites."

"If they come for you."

Infected by Charlie's words, Hamid immediately said with excitement:

"Brother is so right!"

"Sh!t, don't give me two bites I'm fcuking smashing the pot!"

Charlie told him again, "If you win this step, it will provide an idea for other opposition warlords."

"By then, many people will want to separate and set up their businesses,"

"Which will also greatly weaken the core of the opposition."

"Once everyone wants to enfeoff, they can't suppress it."

"The cost of attacking one by one is extremely high, and the chance of winning is slim."

"By then, in order to protect the core interests, I can only grit my teeth and accept it."

Speaking of this, Charlie explained:

"Sometimes, security does not come from strengthening oneself, but also from limiting the enemy."

"If you can disintegrate the strength of the core layer from within,"

"Then the gap between you and them will become smaller and smaller."

"Small, they will naturally not dare to underestimate you in the future."

"So I think this battle must be fought, and if you want to fight, fight it as soon as possible!"

Hamid was a little eager to try and said excitedly:

"Okay, brother, from this point of view, this battle is inevitable!"

"I'll talk to the opposition's core on the phone later,"

"And as long as he dares to reject my terms, I'll immediately strike a devastating blow at all the oil wells around me!"

A few days before Charlie and Claire returned,

Claire was busy at the company late every day, and in her words, many projects were backlogged for too long and required overtime work.

However, Charlie was not suspicious,

But he did not know that she was already preparing for a month later.

A few days later, Elaine and Jacob returned to Aurous Hill with large and small bags.

The two had a great time in Dubai this time,

And basically spent hundreds of thousands of dollars,

Finally making up for the regret of going to Dubai last time.

As soon as Jacob returned, he resumed his activities in the Calligraphy and Painting Association,

While Elaine, as usual, had nothing to do all day long.

Charlie thought that his life had returned to peace,

So he only took time off to visit the Champs Élysées Hotel every day to help Nanako and other warriors improve their strength,

While also meeting Jeremiah and Ria from time to time to study how to crack the poison in their bodies.

Maria has recently returned to campus life.

According to her, she actually likes to study in school.

Over the past few hundred years, she has traveled to universities around the world and studied for countless professional degrees.

However, since entering the information age,

She has been afraid of being exposed.

She simply gave up the idea of studying.

But Aurous Hill is different.

Aurous Hill is Charlie's territory.

She and Charlie are both enemies of the Warriors Den,

And they are also the targets of Victoria's search.

With Charlie hugging her to keep warm, she felt much more relaxed.

For the first time in so many years, she felt secure because she was in Charlie's city.

When Charlie's life returned to a brief lull,

Hamid suddenly concentrated his forces and launched an attack on several surrounding oil fields.

Chapter 6955

A few days ago, following Charlie's prompts, he approached the core of the opposition to demand compensation,

Offering to hand over the nearest oil fields to him and write them off.

But the core layer, which did not play according to the routine, directly rejected his request.

The core feels that although they were not particular about things before, and directly attacked,

This is not the reason why he should be asking them for money.

Every penny of the opposition is obtained by oil,

And every drop of their oil is robbed through wars.

If Hamid wanted to ask for oil fields from them,

He would rob them of their money.

In their view, Hamid was nothing more than a small thief asking for money from a big thief.

He just wanted to eat nothing and refused to say anything.

He also explicitly warned Hamid that if he continued to entangle, he would directly send troops to attack his station.

The last thing Hamid fears is war.

After Charlie analyzed the situation for him,

He realized his current strategic position.

Don't look at your resident bird not pooping,

The key is that you are in the hinterland of Syria.

If the opposition were to confront them,

They would be a nail in their heart, a tumor growing in their bodies,

And they would be impregnable here,

And they would not be able to get in after tearing their faces apart,

They also need to spend a lot of manpower and material resources to defend themselves internally,

Which will make them internally and externally trapped.

So, Hamid didn't bother to analyze whether the group was scaring him or really wanted to take action,

So he simply struck first.

So, he called Charlie and reported the battle plan to him.

He said, "Brother Wade, I have targeted five of their oil fields."

"I plan to knock out one of them first,"

"Then surround the four exceptions to negotiate with them,"

"And finally get the one closest to me."

"What do you think??"

Charlie asked him: "Where are the opposition forces currently concentrated?"

Hamid said: "The current opposition, most of its forces are concentrated on the border as well as Damascus."

As he said this, he analyzed:

"After all, it is a country that has just been snatched away."

"They have not yet begun to think about how to govern the country and allocate military power in the form of a legal government."

"What they are thinking about is to concentrate their forces around them to prevent them from being snatched away."

"Because of this, there is no decent armed force guarding these oil fields around me."

"At best a few hundred militants."

Charlie asked him: "How is the morale of your team at this stage?"

Hamid said with a smile:

"After such a long period of hard training, and brother, you have given a lot of funds to upgrade your armaments, their combat effectiveness has completely exceeded that of other opposition soldiers."

"The opposition basically are still cluttering around with AK-47S."

"If we really fight, the battle damage ratio can be controlled at least 1:3!"

Charlie said, "If you want to fight, just hit them off guard."

"Let alone the battle loss ratio of 1:3, 1: 10 cannot be counted as a pass."

"You must move quickly, deploy quickly, fight quickly, and withdraw quickly with your soldiers."

"The battle loss ratio must be controlled above 1:30."

Hamid exclaimed, "One to thirty? It's..... this is a bit hard, right?"

The battle damage ratio is one to thirty, which means that if a soldier is killed on one side,

They have to kill at least thirty people on the other side."

This is still very rare in modern warfare.

But Charlie doesn't think so.

With the first-mover advantage, he is already very ahead of the opponent.

Coupled with the advantages of soldier status and weapons and equipment,

The battle loss ratio is bound to continue to expand.

Although one to thirty seems out of reach,

It may not be impossible to achieve it.

He must give Hamid set a high goal and let him go all out towards this goal.

Let's talk about whether it can be completed.

Hamid is a little apprehensive about Charlie's demands,

Feeling that he was not a commander but a student of Charlie's,

And that Charlie had set himself an unattainable assessment target.

So he quickly said, "Brother, this one to thirty is indeed a bit difficult."

"The lives here are worthless. There is no need for us to be so stubborn about the battle loss ratio. . . ."

"Let's just work hard and win?"

Charlie asked him: "When you fought Cataclysmic Front, what was the battle damage ratio?"

Hamid suddenly became energetic and blurted out:

"That time it was amazing!"

"Thanks to your command, brother, the battle-loss ratio was at least one to several hundred."

After saying that, he himself was a little confused and explained:

"But that time was different."

"That time we were fighting a defensive battle,"

"Supported by powerful permanent fortifications,"

"And it was also an ambush battle, which caught them off guard."

"This time it's different, there are no fortifications to rely on this time."

Charlie asked him again: "How was the morale of your soldiers after fighting Cataclysmic Front?"

Hamid blurted out angrily:

"After that fight, the morale was very strong."

"No one expected that we could defeat Cataclysmic Front."

"And it was a crushing victory."

"The morale of the army was very united!"

"That's it."

Chapter 6956

Charlie said, "This is the first time you have left the station to fight a blitzkrieg."

"If the battle damage ratio can reach a height that others cannot imagine,"

"It will not only greatly boost morale,"

"But also greatly damage the enemy."

"Confidence makes the enemy fear you, which will also help you negotiate with them later."

"So you must command and deploy well, fight for a beautiful victory!"

"Understood!"

Hamid learned about Charlie's thoughts and said respectfully:

"I still think carefully, brother!"

"Don't worry, I will go all out!"

Charlie hummed and said:

"In addition, since they have five oil fields,"

"Don't just hit one, at least three, and hit the three largest ones."

"If you want to hit them, hit them in pain."

"If you finish hitting three, and they still don't accept your conditions,"

"Then knock them all out in one go, just like I said before,"

"Lift the table up on them, don't everyone eat."

"Good!"

Hamid felt that his ambition was in his chest,

And his blood was already boiling.

He blurted out: "Don't worry, brother, I will perfectly realize your strategic deployment!"

.....

The next day, Hamid organized 2,000 soldiers to carry out rapid sneak attacks on three selected oil fields.

In this oilfield sneak attack, Charlie's "Four Fast Requirements" was perfectly fulfilled,

Knocking down three of the opponent's oilfields in one go.

And these three oil fields have a daily output of nearly 20,000 barrels of crude oil,

This already accounts for one-fifth of the country's current annual output.

This wave of direct dry waste can be described as heavy losses.

As for Hamid, apart from consuming a portion of his fuel and ammunition,

The three small battles were one-sided crushing,

With the opposition's defending soldiers being killed by 70% and captured by 30%,

While Hamid's soldiers suffered only three minor injuries and no fatalities.

This successful sortie greatly boosted the morale of Hamid's army,

And everyone finally realized that they were no longer the same as those in the opposition,

Making them realize that if they faced the opposition in the future, they would be powerful.

Moreover, Hamid also learned well.

Not only did he destroy these three oil fields,

But he also tied the core workers of these three oil fields to his station.

When he took over the oil fields and devoted himself to mining in the future,

These people would be able to directly serve yourself.

The opposition's core was furious about it.

Their first thought was to gather heavy troops and lay siege to Hamid.

However, at the pre-war meeting, after everyone calmed down and analyzed it, they found that the siege of Hamid was of no use.

The First Military Division analyzed:

"First of all, before we could seize the country, Hamid, as our comrade, once fought a beautiful and tough battle."

"The government forces and Cataclysmic Front united to launch many attacks on his station."

"The rounds of attacks ended in disastrous defeats."

"This time, he attacked the oil fields under our control."

"And it was even more obvious that his soldiers were far more powerful than us."

"Secondly, now our soldiers on our side are very afraid of the combat effectiveness of Hamid's soldiers."

"And other soldiers stationed in the oil fields are even on tenterhooks for fear of being attacked by Hamid."

"Military morale does have a great impact."

"Furthermore, our weapons and equipment are mainly guerrilla equipment."

"With light weapons accounting for the vast majority."

"Although some heavy weapons have also been seized, most of them are tanks, armored vehicles, anti-aircraft missiles, and heavy artillery."

"Anyone here who knows a little bit about military affairs can see that none of this heavy equipment is suitable for attacking in the mountains."

"Tanks and armored vehicles cannot drive to Hamid's station."

"We heavy vehicles may not be in front of us yet."

"And our mobility and combat capabilities will be greatly limited due to the terrain."

"By then, we will only be able to become Hamid soldiers' live targets."

"Although those heavy artillery pieces and howitzers could be fired,"

"The permanent fortifications built by them are not only extremely strong,"

"Most of it's on the reverse slope,"

"And our artillery hits can only tickle them."

"The key is, what we captured was all heavy equipment that the government forces had no time to destroy."

"And the ammunition left to us is very limited."

"Those howitzers are missing once they were fired."

"After firing, those artillery pieces become scrap metal."

"After firing these artillery shells, if we fight ground position battles with anyone in the future, there will be no weapons at our disposal!"

"On the other hand, that bastard Hamid's fortifications are so strong and the caves are dug so deep."

"Even if we shoot all the ammunition over, we will help him loosen the soil above his head and not hurt his foundation at all."

"As for our anti-aircraft missiles, Hamid's army has no air power except a few armed helicopters."

"If he does not use helicopters, then our anti-aircraft missiles will be completely useless against him."

"What's more, our spies within his flanks have already told us about his strategic reserves."

"Everyone should know that even if we invest a large number of troops to completely surround his garrison,"

"Hamid will be able to survive at least for three years."

"But the embarrassing thing is, if he can survive three years,"

"We may not be able to survive three years!"

Chapter 6957

The military advisor's words stabbed like a steel knife through the hearts of the core members.

When they were kings of the mountains,

They, like Hamid, had retreated to the deep forests beyond satellite reach,

Their ammunition and supplies were hidden in the cracks of the rocks.

The government forces, due to the vastly different terrain, dared not rashly attack them.

Now that they had seized the capital, everything had reversed.

They were no longer bandits huddled in the mountains,

But now the government forces, occupying the capital and holding the country in their hands.

When they considered the situation between themselves and Hamid from a different perspective,

They realized that defeating them was nearly impossible,

And even a mere three years of siege would require a tremendous expenditure of manpower and resources.

Three years would bring too much uncertainty,

And whether they would still hold the kingdom after that would be another matter.

Therefore, everyone shared the same thought:

While they still had the kingdom, they had to reap the benefits quickly.

Even if they were attacked, they could still escape with plenty of money and women.

They shouldn't waste their time with that idiot Hamid.

So, everyone agreed not to argue with Hamid.

However, they refused to stand up to him, and he insisted on pestering them.

Just when everyone was dejected and decided to let Hamid go,

Someone suddenly rushed into the meeting room and reported:

"Report! Hamid sent a message!"

The leader asked coldly: "What did he say?"

The man replied: "He said that if we don't give him the oil field he wants,"

"His soldiers will launch an attack on oil fields across the country."

"In his own words, he won't make a penny from selling oil anyway,"

"So it's better to blow them all up and let everyone starve together."

"Fcuk!!!"

The leader was immediately furious.

He pulled out his pistol and fired three shots at the ceiling.

He cursed: "What does this ba5tard mean?"

"Is he really going to fight us to the end?!"

The military advisor quickly advised:

"Boss, calm down first."

"In my opinion, all Hamid wants is a small oil field."

"Just give it to him if he wants it!"

"Give it to him?!"

The chief's eyes widened with anger, and he asked sternly:

"He just destroyed several of my oil fields."

"Which brought us heavy losses."

"Do you know how much money we will lose every day?"

"I gave him face by not making him pay the price."

"Now he wants me to give him the oil fields."

"Damn it! Daydreaming!"

The deputy chief stroked his beard and muttered:

"This ba5tard must be in high spirits now,"

"And we can't send a large number of troops to defend the oil fields across the country."

"From now on, if he destroys one more,"

"We will lose money in this business."

"If he destroys two, the loss will be even greater."

"In my opinion, it is better to give him the oil field he wants."

"As long as he can keep his promise,"

"He will only need to lose one more oil field."

"Otherwise, I don't know how much we will lose."

The military advisor nodded immediately:

"Yes, that's right."

The chief said with a sullen face:

"I know that's the truth, and I can do the math."

"I just have a feeling in my heart"

"I feel uncomfortable."

"Why should I be controlled by him?"

"I am the ruler of a country after all."

"If this kind of thing gets out, where will my face be?"

He gritted his teeth and continued,

"And! This ba5tard is already very rich, and his base is impregnable."

"If we give him the oil fields, he will have more money in the future."

Chapter 6958

"And his strength will become stronger and stronger!"

The military advisor quickly comforted him,

"Boss, as long as we all reach an agreement under the table and keep our distance from each other, no one outside will know the specific situation."

"Besides, he is very proud now."

"If he really gets angry and continues to attack the oil fields we control, the losses will only be greater."

"After reaching an agreement with him and giving him that oil field, we can still resume production in the other oil fields he destroyed,"

"And slowly make up for the losses."

"But if he continues to fight like this,"

"The scope of the losses will be beyond our control."

"Also, you said you're worried about him growing stronger."

"Honestly, we can't stop him now."

"Don't forget, he has a good relationship with the Cataclysmic Front."

"They haven't bothered us yet regarding the White Horse Island incident."

"I think we should go along with Hamid on this matter and also apologize to the Cataclysmic Front."

"Otherwise, if both sides come against us,"

"Won't we be attacked from all sides in the future?"

The leader pondered for a moment, sighed, and said,

"Ah, you're right."

"Damn it,"

"This ba5tard can only get away with it for now!"

He immediately looked up and said to the deputy leader,

"Contact Hamid and tell him that the oil fields he wants can be given to him."

"And we can make peace with him,"

"But the prerequisite is that he absolutely cannot attack other oil fields!"

"From now on, we must keep our distance, and no one is allowed to target each other!"

The deputy leader immediately said,

"Okay, I'll call Hamid right now."

He then took out his satellite phone and called Hamid.

In the past, when they were all comrades,

They used satellite phones to communicate with each other.

Now, although they had become enemies,

Their contact information is still there.

The call soon reached Hamid.

Hamid was sitting in his fortifications, cross-legged, waiting for the call.

He knew that if he put his words out there,

The other party would definitely agree.

Even an elementary school student could figure this out.

Only a fool would fight him to the death.

Besides, he wasn't afraid of their fight.

Brother Wade had already analyzed the situation for him.

If he hurt them this time, they would definitely be scared.

When the call came, a victorious smile immediately appeared on his face.

He picked up the phone and said calmly,

"Hello, who is this?"

The other party immediately said,

"It's me, Abdullah."

Hamid sneered, "It's you, kid."

"To be honest, I've known you for so long,"

"And I didn't expect you to be so unkind!"

The other party quickly apologized,

"I'm sorry, Hamid, you know the situation is different now,"

"And you've been refusing to reorganize."

"We have our concerns too!"

Hamid asked sternly, "We are brothers who fought together in the same trenches."

"Even if you are a little worried, you can't think of killing me, right?"

"And... , I was with my two pregnant wives,"

"Were you fucking trying to wipe out my entire family?"

The other party said helplessly:

"Hey, Hamid, there are some things I don't need to say, you understand."

"Everyone has their own difficulties."

"What we did was indeed wrong, and we won't quibble on this point."

"Besides, you attacked our three oil fields, which was also a relief."

"If you ask me, let's shake hands and make peace."

"We will give you the oil fields you want."

"And we will attack you, and the matter of you destroying our oil fields will be written off."

"What do you think?"

Hamid was delighted and couldn't help but sigh in his heart:

"My brother Wade is still as predictable!"

This was the result he wanted.

However, the more he interacted with Charlie, the more cunning he became.

Since the other party agreed so readily,

He had to take the opportunity to blackmail him.

Thinking of this, he said,

"You must give me the oil fields."

"Besides, I attacked three of your oil fields and injured three of my men."

"You should at least show some appreciation."

"Or I won't be able to explain to my men."

The other party was absolutely furious.

He couldn't stop wondering:

He attacked three oil fields and killed hundreds of their soldiers,

And only injured three of his people.

And now he acts like he has suffered a great loss and is asking them for compensation.

Nobody can be as shameless as this man. Can anybody?

Impossible...!

Chapter 6959

The core members of the opposition are furious,
But they could also tell that Hamid was simply showing off his prowess.
However, he had just demonstrated his army's combat effectiveness,
Which was indeed far superior to theirs.
Hamid's demand for them to pay was not merely extortion,
But also humiliation.
It was like the great powers of the 19th century,]
Invading a country and then demanding war reparations.
The core members of the opposition had risen to power through rebellion.
In the past, their humble origins and lack of sophistication would have
naturally made them unbearable,
Fighting him to the bitter end, even at the cost of their lives.
But now the situation is different.
They held the country in their hands.
If they continued to fight like hell,
They would lose it in less than two years.

So, the leader took the phone and said, "Hamid, let's stop guessing.

Just tell me how much you want!"

Hamid thought for a moment, realizing that the other party had agreed to such humiliating compensation,

Which was another step forward for him.

However, he had to be careful about how much he asked for in compensation.

If he asked for too much,

It might anger them again.

If he could negotiate a reasonable price,

He would have to consider it for a moment.

"You killed three of my brothers."

"Give me three million dollars in cash,"

"And we'll write it off."

Three million dollars for three of his men,

In US dollars, there was an offer that infuriated the opposition leader.

But then he heard that three million dollars was enough to write it off,

And it suddenly seemed like a great deal.

Three million dollars was nothing to him.

While many people in Damascus were still hungry,

They controlled the economy,

So three million dollars was just a drop in the bucket.

He asked Hamid, "If I give you three million, will this really be over?"

"Will you never attack our oil fields?"

"Our strongholds, or our troops again?"

Hamid smiled and said, "Of course, I'm different from you."

"First, I'm a very contractual person."

"Second, I don't have such big ambitions."

"I don't want your territory."

"I just want to manage my own well and protect it from danger."

"So, as long as you keep your promise,"

"We'll keep our distance!"

"Okay!"

The opposition leader said decisively.

"Three million is three million."

"I'll have someone prepare the cash and send it to you immediately!"

A few hours later, an old American Humvee,

Stirring up dust several meters high, arrived outside Hamid's base.

The vehicle stopped at the entrance to Hamid's base.

Two soldiers got out of the back seat,

Each was carrying a large army-green canvas bag filled with cash for Hamid.

Hamid didn't show up,

But instead, he sent several of his men to the mountain pass to take over the money.

After receiving the money,

His men thoroughly searched the bags containing it to ensure they contained no bombs or eavesdropping devices before bringing it back to base.

Inside the base, Hamid, following Charlie's advice, was holding a commendation meeting.

This time, he wanted to honor the elite soldiers who had performed outstandingly during the attack on the oil fields,

Including the three soldiers who had been heroically wounded.

Previously, Hamid's army had been largely composed of disorganized troops,

With disorganized and lax management,

Unclear organizational structures and a poorly defined career path for both soldiers and officers.

Several leadership appointments and dismissals were made solely by Hamid.

Based on his personal preferences, lacking sufficient credibility.

Chapter 6960

This time, he decided to follow Charlie's instructions and seize the opportunity to promote a military merit system.

Within the army, those who achieved meritorious service would receive medals,

And those who were awarded medals would receive promotions,

And those who received official positions would become wealthy.

In Charlie's view, managing an army cannot be driven solely by profit.

More money is used to reward officers and soldiers,

The more they tend to become mercenaries deep down.

Mercenaries always put personal interests first in battle and will never have any spirit of sacrifice or dedication.

To foster a spirit of dedication in his officers and soldiers,

They must be given a strong sense of honor.

Therefore, Hamid, emulating the military structures of major powers,

Planned to implement a merit system within the army.

Every officer promoted in the future would be required to have a clear and convincing record of military service.

This would not only convince officers and strengthen their resolve,

But also encourage them to strive for meritorious service.

The soldiers and officers who received medals not only received cash but also the "Order of Victory."

Modeled after the Iranian military and considered by Hamid to be the highest honor.

Three wounded soldiers received the "Medal of Courage,"

A lower-level award. Each received a \$50,000 bonus,

A promotion in rank and a corresponding increase in monthly salary.

This initiative taught soldiers that,

Even if they didn't play a decisive role in a battle,

Simply displaying courage could earn them recognition and appreciation from higher-ups.

Recognition meant more than just verbal praise.

It offered tangible benefits, making his soldiers eager for the next war.

Even ordinary soldiers hoped to be at the forefront next time,

Hoping to earn their commander's recognition and reward, even if injured.

Morale was thus boosted to its peak.

Immediately afterwards, Hamid selected an officer who had performed meritorious service,

And announced the formation of a new unit, the Oilfield Guard.

The Oilfield Guard consisted of 300 soldiers, composed of five reinforced platoons,

Each with a full strength of 50 men,

And a transport platoon, also 50 men.

The five reinforced platoons were responsible for guarding the entire oilfield and would immediately be stationed at Hamid's newly acquired oilfield.

The transport platoon would be responsible for the armed escort of the oil produced.

Based on a daily production of approximately 5,000 barrels,

This would amount to at least 700 tons of crude oil.

Even heavy-duty tankers would need to fill at least 30 or 40 tankers,

Requiring a medium-sized fleet of vehicles to transport the oil nonstop every day.

Hamid established the transport platoon specifically to provide armed escort for this oil,

Ensuring a steady flow of it to the Cataclysmic Front base.

The problem now is that the Cataclysmic Front can't build its own refinery anytime soon.

Designing and constructing it to produce a million tons per year would require an investment of at least hundreds of millions of dollars and take at least two years.

Until then, the oil fields are producing daily,

But how to sell it becomes a thorny issue.

Hamid is just a minor warlord, lacking the skills to engage in global trade.

If he wants to cash in on the oil, his only options are to sell it to small,

Local refineries at rock-bottom prices or to smuggle it to Turkish traders.

Local refineries have limited capacity and offer low prices, leaving little profit margin.

While smuggling it to Turkey would yield a slightly higher price than selling it to small refineries,

It would also carry the risks and costs of smuggling.

Syria is a relatively easy target, as the opposition's operations are already haphazard,

With border control and customs virtually non-existent.

However, Turkey is a medium-sized country,

And its border control and customs authorities will certainly not allow Syrian black oil to enter easily.

Fortunately, Charlie had his own ISU Shipping,

Offering Hamid a third option.

Shipping the crude oil to the Cataclysmic Front's headquarters.

The Cataclysmic Front's headquarters was located on the seashore,

It had its own simple dock, which was constantly being upgraded.

From there, the crude oil could be transported to ISU Shipping's tankers,

Which would then be transported back to China.

Once the refinery was operational,

The heavy oil could be transported directly from ISU Shipping to a nearby shipping line,

Where it could be refueled for ISU Shipping's cargo ships.

Given the size of ISU Shipping's fleet,

This limited production capacity wouldn't even cover the fleet's annual heavy oil consumption,

So by then, all crude oil could be produced and sold domestically.

Chapter 6961

When the situation in Syria subsided,

Tawana's concert went ahead as planned in Paris.

The queen's unparalleled appeal made fans rejoice as if it were New Year's Eve.

Suddenly, it was the Lantern Festival.

In Charlie's eyes, the Lantern Festival was the most lively of all traditional festivals,

And also the most visually stunning.

The entire Qinhuai River was festooned with lights and even held traditional boat parades.

Although the weather was still damp and cold,

It couldn't dampen the enthusiasm of the Aurous Hill citizens for nighttime lantern viewing.

Tonight, the Calligraphy and Painting Association held a calligraphy, painting, and lantern riddle competition at a book club on the Qinhuai River.

As a member of the association, Jacob naturally wanted to attend.

Elaine, always keen to join in the fun,

Also made arrangements to go along, even inviting Charlie and Claire along.

At this moment, the Qinhuai River was ablaze with dazzling lights,

And many children watching the lanterns were also holding a variety of colorful lanterns,

Creating a lively atmosphere.

All the trees on both sides of the river were wrapped with colorful lights,

And the fireworks were very beautiful.

People were rubbing shoulders with each other,

But they did not mind the crowds and noise at all.

No matter what kind of troubles, difficulties, or dissatisfactions they had in their daily lives,

They could put aside their negative emotions for a short time when they walked out tonight and felt the strong festive atmosphere.

So everyone had a happy and joyful smile on their faces.

Charlie and Claire walked hand in hand along the bank of the Qinhuai River.

Seeing this lively scene, Claire's suppressed sadness was temporarily relieved.

She asked Charlie beside her:

"Do you still remember how you celebrated the Lantern Festival when you were a child?"

After that, she added:

"I'm talking about when your parents were still alive."

Charlie thought for a moment and smiled:

"When my parents were still alive, we would come out to enjoy the lanterns and visit the gardens on the Lantern Festival."

"I would also carry a small red lantern in my hand,"

"But the red lantern was not filled with batteries, but with burning candles."

"At that time, fireworks were not banned."

"Every night on the fifteenth day of the first lunar month,"

"We would go to the lakeside to set off fireworks."

"Some units would even set off fireworks specifically for this purpose."

"The department set aside a budget to set off a large number of fireworks on the night of the Lantern Festival."

"Sometimes, there would be competition between units,"

"With everyone competing to see who could set off more, bigger, and longer fireworks."

"We kids thought it was so lively,"

"And we watched from all directions; it was simply too much to take in."

Claire nodded gently and said,

"It seemed similar when I was a child."

"I remember that every night of the fifteenth day of the first lunar month,"

"The whole city was filled with fireworks."

"Grandpa would also buy a lot of fireworks for us kids,"

"But I didn't dare to set them off."

"Harold usually set them off,"

"And we just watched from the side."

At this point, she suddenly remembered something and said,

"Oh, by the way, I saw Natalie yesterday."

"Vivi?" Charlie asked curiously, "Natalie?"

"Yes." Claire nodded and said,

"Yesterday I went to the Emgrand Group to attend a meeting to report on the progress of the project."

"It happened that the Emgrand Group had a Lantern Festival dinner held a day in advance."

"And Vice President Doris invited me to attend."

"There were a lot of people at the group dinner, and many etiquette ladies were hired to run around."

"Natalie came over to toast Vice President Wang."

"And that's how we met."

Charlie pretended to be confused and asked,

"Did Natalie go to work at the Emgrand Group?"

"No." Claire said, "Natalie started her own business."

"You should have heard about it."

"Mom talked about it some time ago."

"She set up her own etiquette company, specializing in etiquette services, and it seems to be doing very well."

"Many large companies in Aurous Hill have long-term cooperation with her."

"And the Emgrand Group is the largest customer."

Charlie naturally knew Natalie's situation.

It was he who helped her solve the problem of the profiteer who had harmed her in the etiquette company,

Allowing her to have her own career.

He also secretly instructed his subordinates to take good care of Natalie's company.

However, he felt he had to pretend to know less than Claire,

So he feigned amazement,

"I never thought Natalie would find her way back."

Claire nodded and chuckled,

"I think she, like me, must have had some kind of benefactor help her."

"Otherwise, given our circumstances,"

"How could we have partnered with the Emgrand Group and even met face-to-face with Vice President Doris?"

Charlie felt awkward, but he smiled impassively,

"Perhaps you two are just lucky."

Claire didn't say anything, simply nodding gently and passing the conversation off.

At that moment, the Qinhuai River resembled a busy thoroughfare,

Bustling with small, antique-style boats and pleasure boats.

One of the boats, along with the others,

Slowly moved to the right, passing by Charlie and Claire.

At the bow and stern, two boatmen controlled the boat's speed and direction with bamboo poles.

Inside, the entrance and windows were covered with curtains,

Making it impossible to see inside from the outside,

But allowing a glimpse of the outside from inside.

Such boats are not uncommon, and there are more than one or two boats with curtains lowered.

After all, some young couples come out for a boat ride,

And after seeing the scenery on the riverbank for a long time,

They will lower the curtains and spend time in the boat in their own world,

So Charlie did not pay much attention to it.

Chapter 6962

Inside the cabin, a beautiful woman, teacup in hand, gazed vacantly at Charlie from afar through the window.

Opposite her, two elderly people,

A man and a woman sat cross-legged, motionless.

The beautiful woman was Charlie's mother, Margaret.

The two elderly people opposite were Sister Sun, who had been accompanying her,

And Leon, who had recently been on standby at Qixia Temple.

Neither of them dared to breathe,

For they had not expected to encounter Charlie here, and not so close.

At their closest point, Charlie and Claire were walking on the long stone path along the riverbank,

Their boat brushes the shore, with Charlie's toes less than half a meter away.

When the boat had traveled one or two hundred meters,

Margaret put down the teacup and said sadly,

"At that moment just now, I even hoped that Charlie could have some telepathy with me..."

Sister Sun hurriedly whispered,

"Madam, be careful with your words!"

"The young master has great magical powers,"

"And he might hear our conversation!"

Margaret smiled bitterly and said, "Don't worry."

"Although people who practice Taoism have sensitive senses,"

"They don't always keep a close eye on everything around them."

"There are so many people and so many conversations here."

"Even if Charlie hears them, it will be difficult for him to handle them."

"Unless he becomes suspicious of our ship and stares at us specifically,"

"There is no need to worry too much."

Leon said at this time, "Madam, why do you come to Aurous Hill again this time?"

"If you have something to ask me,"

"I will go to Putuo Mountain to see you!"

Margaret smiled and said, "Over the years,"

"I have always wanted to come to Aurous Hill more often."

"After all, this is where Charlie grew up and settled down."

"It's just that every time I come,"

"I come and go quietly, and I don't even dare to see Charlie."

"This time I came here to see more of this place,"

"But I didn't expect to meet Charlie here."

After that, she waved her hands and said self-deprecatingly:

"Forget it, don't do this whining, Leon,"

"I asked you to come here today because there is something very important to discuss with you."

Leon clasped his fists respectfully and said:

"Madam, please tell me!"

Margaret said, "I think the girl of the Willson family has been preparing to leave Aurous Hill recently."

"Many projects that can be completed are working overtime to catch up with the progress."

"For those that cannot be completed,"

"She has taken the initiative to propose a compensation plan to Party A."

"I believe that after Charlie's birthday on February 2,"

"She and her parents will be able to leave."

Leon nodded and said:

"I also think that there will be no changes in this matter."

Margaret reminded him: "Charlie is very powerful and has many spies."

"If the girl of the Willson family disappears from his side directly,"

"I am afraid he will look for her as soon as possible."

"If his reaction speed is fast enough, with our ability,"

"I am afraid there is no way to get rid of his pursuit."

Leon looked at her and asked respectfully:

"Then what do you mean, Madam?"

Margaret said lightly, "I think that on the day that the Willson family girl and her parents leave China,"

"Charlie cannot be in the country."

"We need to find a way to get him away."

"The farther the better."

"This way, he may need a day to realize that the Willson family girl is missing,"

"And then at least ten hours to rush back."

"By then, the Willson family girl will be in the vast ocean."

Leon nodded: "Madam, what you are thinking is that if we can get the young master away,"

"It would be great, but... but nowadays,"

"There are not many people who can influence the young master's itinerary."

"It is difficult for us to make him develop in the direction we want."

"Moreover, if we find someone to get him away,"

"Once the young master realizes that he has been tricked,"

"He will definitely start with this person."

"In this way, we may be exposed."

Margaret smiled and said,

"You are right, it is impossible for us to let Charlie decide the itinerary according to our ideas."

After that, she suddenly changed the subject and said,

"However, we can find a way to lead Charlie by the nose."

Leon asked hurriedly: "Madam, do you have any good ideas?"

Margaret looked at Leon.

Said calmly: "Leon, you disappeared on my orders."

"Charlie must have realized that you were not serving the Wade family for so many years."

"But there was someone else behind you."

"But he certainly couldn't guess it was me."

"Therefore, you must be one of the people Charlie wants to find the most."

"There are many mysteries about you that he wants to solve."

"If you suddenly appear in a certain country on the eve of February 2nd,"

"And he accidentally finds out,"

"I think he will definitely fly over to find you."

Leon's eyes suddenly lit up, and he hurriedly said:

"Madam, you are wise."

"If the young master learns that I have appeared in a certain place, he will definitely come to find me."

"As long as he gets on the plane, we will arrange for Miss Willson to leave."

"I will arrange the domestic transfer route."

"When the young master gets off the plane,"

"I will make sure that Miss Willson has left the country without any clues!"

Margaret asked him, "Then where do you want to go?"

"And what methods should be used to pretend that Charlie accidentally discovered your whereabouts?"

Leon pondered for a moment, and suddenly blurted out:

"I got it, madam! I'm going to Australia!"

Chapter 6963

"Australia?"

Margaret heard about this country and asked him in confusion,

"Why did you choose Australia?"

Leon analyzed,

"First, it's far enough."

"Even if the young master took the Wade family's Concorde,"

"It would take at least four or five hours to arrive."

"The Concorde is quite eye-catching, and the young master probably wouldn't use it unless it was absolutely necessary."

"In this case, the flight would take at least eleven hours."

"Second, it's big enough."

"Australia is vast and sparsely populated,"

"So it's still difficult to find someone."

"After I show up and expose the clues, it will be relatively easy for me to hide."

"And the young master won't find me in a short time."

"Third, this country has had a lot of problems recently."

"Which is likely to attract public attention,"

"Making it easier for the young master to see me."

Margaret asked him, "Do you have a specific plan?"

"Yes." Leon nodded heavily:

"I already have a complete plan in my mind,"

"And I hope that madam will give me a chance to put it into practice."

Margaret nodded slightly and advised him:

"Remember, try to avoid Charlie as much as possible and don't let him find you."

Leon said respectfully, "Madam, don't worry, once the young master arrives in Australia,"

"It won't be long before he realizes that Miss Willson and her parents are missing."

"By then, he will definitely put aside the matter of looking for me and rush back to China as soon as possible."

"As long as I can survive three days without being discovered by him,"

"There will be absolutely no problem."

Margaret smiled and said, "First, lure the tiger away from the mountain."

"And then besiege Wei to save Zhao."

"You have made great progress in the past few years."

"Try to implement your plan perfectly."

Leon immediately bowed and said: "As you command!"

Margaret nodded, reached out to lift the gauze curtain, looking at the dazzling night view on both sides of the Qinhuai River,

She couldn't help sighing: "Such beautiful scenery."

"I always feel that something is missing."

Leon and Sister Sun looked at her and saw Margaret staring out the window in a daze, and looked at each other.

They didn't know what she meant by "missing" specifically.

Was it the lack of family reunion? Probably.

However, both knew that Margaret couldn't meet Charlie yet,

So even if she missed him, she could only keep that longing to herself.

Therefore, they didn't dare to offer any comfort,

Fearing that the sight would stir up his emotions.

Margaret looked out the window, her eyes visibly brightening and translucent,

And it was clear that tears were welling up in her eyes.

Suddenly, Margaret turned around and said to Sister Sun with a childlike smile,

"Sister Sun, quickly have Wendy get some fireworks and set them off on the other side of Charlie!"

Sister Sun hurriedly said, "Madam, fireworks are prohibited in Aurous Hill City.

Isn't it a bit dangerous to let Wendy set them off?"

"It's okay,"

Margaret waved his hand calmly, chuckling,

"Tell Wendy to set them off like a child and run away."

"If he gets caught, he should admit his mistake and be fined."

"The worst that can happen is a few days of detention."

"Nothing will be exposed."

At this point, Margaret murmured softly,

"Charlie will definitely like it."

Sister Sun suddenly realized.

It turned out that Madam had asked Wendy to set off the fireworks,

Not for herself, but for Charlie.

Margaret smiled and whispered,

"Although Charlie can't see his mother,"

"He will surely see the fireworks she sets off for him on this bustling night."

"At that moment, he will surely stop, look up, and gaze at the fireworks bursting into the night sky."

"He will be surprised, smile, and feel happy."

"That's enough, because it's a gift from his mother."

...

Margaret's boat had already left the busiest section of the Qinhuai River,

And Charlie had never noticed that the person he loved most in the world had just passed by his feet.

He and Claire continued strolling along the Qinhuai River.

After a while, they came upon the lantern riddle party held by the Calligraphy and Painting Association not far away.

Many children were already gathered around, vying to guess the riddles given by the staff.

The stalls were filled with dolls, small toys, and souvenirs,

And anyone who guessed the riddle received a small gift.

Chapter 6964

Jacob was rarely so devoted to his work,

Bringing smiles and laughter to the children.

Elaine didn't like the feeling of being surrounded by a bunch of chattering children,

So she sat alone on a chair nearby, eating sunflower seeds.

Charlie asked Claire, "Should we go over to see Dad?"

Claire shook her head and smiled,

"Let's not go. It's all the kids guessing."

"If we go, it'll be embarrassing if we win."

"And even more embarrassing if we lose."

"That's right."

Charlie smiled and nodded, asking her,

"Then let's take a walk?"

"Okay!" Claire agreed happily, saying,

"There's still a long way to go."

"They said there's a flower boat coming later."

"Let's walk along the river. It's a rare opportunity like this."

Charlie casually said, "If you're willing to come out for a walk,"

"We can come here every night for a walk."

Claire smiled slightly but didn't respond.

Charlie could see a hint of melancholy between her brows.

Just as he was about to ask if she was worried,

A bright light suddenly shot up into the sky from the other side of the Qinhuai River.

Then, the bright light exploded in the air,

Revealing a golden spherical firework.

The surroundings erupted in gasps of surprise,

And tens of thousands of people, previously scattered, instantly looked up toward the sky.

The dazzling fireworks illuminated the dark sky,

A vast flash of light, followed by countless smaller bursts of fire.

Claire's eyes, previously melancholic and sorrowful, suddenly brightened.

She skipped and jumped like a child, pointing at the fireworks and exclaiming,

"Honey, look! What beautiful fireworks!"

At that moment, more fireworks soared into the sky,

It exploded in a dazzling display of colors.

The fireworks were reflected in the shimmering surface of the Qinhuai River,

Blending beautifully with the surrounding fireworks and lights,

Creating a breathtaking spectacle.

Charlie, too, was mesmerized by the sight.

He had just been lamenting not being able to see the fireworks,

But now he hadn't expected to see so many fireworks soar into the sky.

He suddenly remembered his childhood,

Setting off fireworks with his parents at the Beihai and Houhai beaches in the capital.

He's lived a life of hardship and suffering for most of his life,

Enduring countless hardships and humiliations.

Yet, he's never suffered from psychological trauma, personality distortion, or hatred of society, maintaining a righteous and kind heart.

Besides the guidance and upbringing his parents provided him,

He also owes his childhood to a happy healing experience.

It's often said that an unhappy childhood can be healed in a lifetime,

While a happy childhood can heal a lifetime.

Charlie embodies the latter.

Even in desperate situations, recollecting the memories of his childhood allows him to find a glimmer of light amidst the darkness,

Allowing him to face hardships with a smile.

The fireworks, now blaring in ever-increasing proportions,

Drew everyone to their seats, their faces filled with joy and happiness.

Amidst the crackling explosions, the wailing of sirens echoed,

Multiple police cars on duty rushed to the location of the fireworks display.

Everyone couldn't help but worry about the unknown fireworks maker.

Several of the pyrotechnicians were quickly apprehended by the police.

However, they were all large fireworks, which, once ignited, would continue to erupt for several minutes.

As they were carted off to the police van,

The fireworks were still struggling to burst from their packaging and soar into the sky.

The police pulled out fire extinguishers and attempted to put out the fireworks,

But seeing the pyrotechnicians already apprehended and the anxious,

Reluctant expressions of the surrounding children, they ultimately gave up the idea.

After several minutes, the fireworks gradually burned down,

And with the last spark extinguished, darkness once again enveloped the sky.

However, the crowds remained undeterred,

For they had just witnessed the most beautiful display of fireworks in the night,

A feeling that filled everyone with a special satisfaction.

After the fireworks ended, Charlie continued to gaze at the sky bursting with fireworks, sighing,

"If I had known a few boxes of fireworks could satisfy so many people,"

"I would have gotten some, too."

Claire subconsciously reminded him, "Don't do anything illegal."

Charlie replied, "Even though I made a mistake,"

"It ultimately satisfied many people."

"Then don't do it."

Chapter 6965

Claire suddenly grasped his arm with both hands,

Staring at him seriously and solemnly.

"Charlie, you must promise me never to take any risks, even the smallest ones."

"If there's any risk, you must avoid it."

As Claire spoke, she fought to hold back the tears that threatened to burst.

She knew her departure from Charlie was inevitable,

And her only concern was that his path to revenge would be in danger after she left.

She wanted to make it clear, telling him to stop seeking revenge and find a safe place to live out his life.

But as the words reached her lips, she fought hard to hold them back.

Reason told her that many things were beyond Charlie's control.

Even if he gave up revenge for his father and mother's murder,

His enemies might not give up on killing him.

Charlie had no idea that Claire was moved by emotion when she said this.

He just coaxed Claire like a child, saying,

"Don't worry, my dear, I won't take any risks."

As he spoke, his mind turned to Victoria,

Whom he had never met but hated to the core.

This woman had killed his parents for so many years and was even going to wipe out his grandparents' family.

In the future, he and she would have a life-and-death battle in which it would be either her death or his.

It would be a dangerous battle, and there was no way to avoid taking risks.

Claire also knew that Charlie had no control over many things that had happened to him.

At this moment, she felt relieved that Charlie had concealed so many things from her for so many years.

She no longer held a grudge against the matter,

But sincerely hoped that Charlie would be safe and sound in the future.

As a girl, she didn't understand the feeling of carrying a deep hatred,

So she could only pray to the heavens in her heart:

"Gods of heaven, bless Charlie and never let him meet his enemy."

"But if he must meet, please bless him to kill his enemy,"

"Avenge his parents, and let him completely free himself from this and live a normal life..."

The Lantern Festival, on the fifteenth day of the first lunar month, finally came to a close.

This holiday was also the last lingering warmth of the Spring Festival.

After this day, starting on the sixteenth day of the first lunar month, the Spring

The festival would be completely over.

The hardworking oxen and horses had actually returned to their posts as early as the seventh day of the first lunar month,

But children and students from elementary school to university did not start school until after the fifteenth day of the first lunar month.

As a result, society as a whole would completely end the influence of the Spring Festival and enter the new year's work and life.

Claire's company became even busier,

But Charlie suddenly had much more free time.

He no longer paid attention to the Warriors Den's headquarters,

Nor did he ask Duncan to continue searching for clues to the Warriors Den's headquarters.

After all, after the major personnel changes,

He had lost the possibility of conquering the entire headquarters.

No matter which headquarters he visited next,

He would only be greeted by the brave cavalry and the death squads fighting to the death for their families.

He was not afraid of the attacks of the ordinary warriors;

He simply did not want to slaughter them in order to weaken Victoria's power.

Some people espouse the underlying logic of "one general's success is the sacrifice of thousands of men,

Believing that those who achieve great things should be unconcerned with trivial matters and unconcerned with the lives and deaths of others.

But Charlie couldn't be that cold-blooded.

Therefore, he simply abandoned any plans for the Warriors Den's base,

He prefers to rest and recuperate while also seeking ways to improve his own abilities.

Maria's life-saving ring and the infamous hand seal that shimmered in the Nordic night sky held immense secrets for him.

He wanted to find an opportunity to retreat and delve into both,

To understand their true potential.

However, retreating wasn't easy.

Sometimes, once immersed in a trance, one could lose track of time, and a week or even two weeks could pass in the blink of an eye.

If he retreated at home, he'd likely be rushed to the hospital by his family.

If he left home to retreat, his family wouldn't be able to contact him for such an extended period, and wouldn't they be desperate?

Helplessly, he could only put his retreat on hold for the time being.

At the end of the first month of the lunar calendar,

Pollard of Changying Automobile brought good news to Charlie.

On the phone, he told him that the 1.0 version of the prototype of Changying Automobile's first car had been secretly put into production at the Gaoheng Automobile Assembly Plant that they had acquired.

He wanted to invite Charlie to the Gaoheng Automobile Assembly Plant to participate in an internal tasting meeting.

Charlie was very surprised and asked him,

"Professor Watt, the first car has been put into production so quickly?"

Pollard said, "It's far more than that."

"This is just the first prototype we have trial-produced."

"We are just building the 1.0 version of the car first to actually feel whether there are any omissions or major mistakes in the design drawings and design concepts of this car,"

"And whether there are any drawbacks in the use of space that have not been considered before."

"We will find and correct problems before producing the 2.0 version."

"Moreover, this 1.0 version of the car is non-powered."

"We are just building a framework first."

"After there are no major problems with the main design,"

"We will lay out the power unit and conduct dynamic testing."

Chapter 6966

Pollard assured, "But don't worry, Master Wade, we will increase the speed as soon as possible while ensuring quality and quantity."

"Now we are concentrating a lot of talents and resources on this."

"It will be very efficient!"

Charlie praised, "Professor Watt, I feel much more at ease with you at Changying Auto."

He then asked, "By the way, when is the prototype inspection you mentioned?"

"And how long will it take?"

"I'll definitely go there sometime!"

Pollard said, "The Gaoheng assembly plant we acquired isn't far from Aurous Hill, just a few hours' drive away."

"As for the inspection, it'll probably only take five or six hours."

"We'll identify any issues and quickly make manual adjustments to the prototype."

"A revised version will be ready in a few days."

Charlie pondered, "A few hours' drive would probably take most of the day."

"And if we factor in the inspection, we might not have enough time in a day."

"How about this? We can arrange a helicopter and fly directly there."

"That would save at least five or six hours,"

"Allowing us to make the round trip on the same day."

Pollard smiled, "Helicopter flights are expensive, so we haven't made the offer."

"But since you mentioned it, Young Master Wade, I'll do as you say."

"Is tomorrow morning convenient for you?"

"I'll arrange a helicopter in advance, departing from Changying Auto's Aurous Hill headquarters!"

"That's convenient!" Charlie agreed, saying,

"I'll be there on time at 8 o'clock tomorrow."

...

Since he could go back and forth that same day,

Charlie didn't even bother to say hello to his family.

After Claire left for the company, he took a taxi to Changying Automobile's headquarters.

From there, he, Pollard, and several core executives boarded a Bell helicopter and flew to Gaoheng Automobile's final assembly plant, over 200 kilometers away.

After the helicopter arrived at the final assembly plant,

The staff took everyone to a completely enclosed workshop.

Here, there was an open space of at least 1,000 square meters,

Where an avant-garde sports sedan was quietly parked.

The exterior of the car looked very stylish, with a streamlined front, a widened body, a raised rear wing, and tires that were nearly 30 centimeters wide.

All highlight the car's positioning as a sporty vehicle.

Pollard said to Charlie, "Master Wade, our current product plan is to first launch a five-seater sports sedan."

"And then a five-seater sports SUV."

"The sports sedan will be priced between 200,000 and 300,000 RMB, and the sports SUV will be priced between 220,000 and 320,000 RMB."

"We will maximize the price-performance ratio of these two models."

"So that consumers can feel our genuine sincerity."

Charlie asked him, "You say the price/performance ratio is excellent."

"I see many cars on the market claiming to have excellent value for money,"

"And some are even selling at a loss."

"If we want to offer high value for money, do we have to lose money to gain publicity?"

Charlie didn't care about money, but he did care about reputation.

He believed that the best development direction for Changying Automobile was market recognition while also making a certain profit.

Profit was not for himself, but to prove that Changying Automobile's products were strong and profitable.

If it lost money to gain publicity, it would essentially be a failed brand and a failed attempt.

Which would bring shame to his father.

Pollard said to him, "Master Wade, in fact, many car companies on the market are just changing the concept."

"They say they are losing money, but that is just a financial concept."

"Many car companies will convert the initial hardware investment and development costs into the cost of making the car."

"It's like they invested 100 million to open a high-end hotel, making 50 million a year and paying back the investment in two years."

"It is obviously a huge profit, but as long as the 100 million investment has not been fully paid back, they can shamelessly say that they are losing money."

"They tell consumers that their rooms lose money every time they sell a night."

"And they are completely subsidizing consumers with money,

Making consumers think that their rooms are very cost-effective."

"In fact, their rooms have extremely high profits."

At this point, Pollard said: "Sometimes, in order to dilute profits,"

"They will even make the company lose money on the books."

"And they will also give part of the company's profits to the customers."

"They split off the business that made money, while increasing investment in other areas."

"For example, as I just mentioned, a 100 million yuan hotel earns 50 million yuan a year."

"Although it can recover its investment in two years,"

"It can't withstand the fact that after one year and ten months,"

"It invested in a second store."

"It also separated the catering and other profitable services of the first store and established a separate company to handle them."

"As a result, they still reported a loss on the books in the third year."

Charlie smiled and said, "I understand."

"These companies are actually transferring the tens of billions of startup funds to the first batch of consumers."

"The actual manufacturing cost of a car is only 100,000 yuan."

"And it sells for 300,000 yuan, with a gross profit of 200,000 yuan."

"However, due to the tens of billions of yuan in initial investment, each car has to bear tens of millions of yuan in costs."

"This makes it seem like they are selling cars at a loss."

"That's right."

Pollard nodded and said, "So I suggest that we don't play this kind of trick of stealing concepts with consumers in the early stage."

"And don't collude with them."

"Since we want to become bigger and stronger,"

"We must subvert their unspoken rules and directly cut off their financial resources."

Chapter 6967

Charlie asked curiously, "Professor Watt, do you have a plan?"

Pollard said, "Master Wade, my plan is that Changying Automobile might as well be like Pang Donglai."

"We directly list all the costs of a car."

"First of all, the intuitive cost, how much is the raw material cost of each car, how much is the production cost, taxes, logistics, warehousing, and management and sales costs, all listed clearly."

"And then the hidden costs, such as the design cost, mold cost, and production line cost of this car."

"For each model, we allocate costs based on sales of 500,000 units."

"If we invest 5 billion in R&D and production lines for this model, then the hidden cost per vehicle is 10,000 yuan."

"Once our cumulative sales of this model exceed 500,000 units, we'll have recouped our initial investment."

"So, starting with the 500,000th unit, we'll deduct this portion of the allocation from the price of the car."

"After listing these costs, we'll disclose our pre-tax profit to consumers to ensure our profit margin is within a reasonable range."

"I've never heard of anyone selling cars this way."

"Even the incredibly popular Remi Auto doesn't disclose its R&D and hardware investment costs."

"Yes!"

Pollard said, "Now the automobile industry has reached its peak."

"Everyone is constantly introducing new products and offering discounts and price cuts,"

"But in fact, the prices of many cars are inflated!"

"Just like those imported brands, the cost is 300,000, and they sell it to consumers for 1 million first."

"If the 1 million sells well, then the terminal price increase mechanism will be activated."

"Although the price is 1 million, you will never get the car without adding 100,000 or 200,000 yuan."

"If you gradually find that no one is willing to pay more,"

"Then sell it according to the suggested price of 1 million."

"When 1 million doesn't sell well, then sell it for 800,000, 700,000, 600,000, or even 500,000..."

"I think this practice is equivalent to writing the word 'swindler' directly on your face."

"Consumers will definitely have a very bad impression,"

"And it will have a great impact on the brand image."

"Since we are latecomers and want to catch up,"

"Then we must do what our predecessors dared not do,"

"Or are unwilling to do."

"We should simply remove the fig leaf and face consumers honestly."

"If they can't keep up, they deserve to be eliminated!"

Charlie strongly agreed with Pollard's philosophy.

He didn't want to be a profit-driven businessman,

Nor did he want to be a benefactor who violated business logic.

He hoped to achieve a win-win situation with consumers,

Producing high-quality products while ensuring that they offer the best value for money on the market.

Based on this principle, Changying Auto's profit margins on all products must be kept relatively low.

Pollard advocated for controlling profit margins, and on this point, the two of them coincided.

So, Charlie said to him: "Professor Watt, do it according to your idea."

"You must make Changying Automobile a national brand that the Chinese people are proud of!"

Pollard nodded heavily and said sincerely:

"For a car named after your father, I will go all out and live up to his lifelong reputation!"

After that, he said to Charlie:

"Master Wade, please give our new car a model name."

"Our competitors have models starting with M, S, L, and E, and each has its own set of logic."

"We also have to have different models to distinguish different types and models."

Charlie smiled and said, "I'm not an expert in this either."

"Let you guys do it."

Pollard said, "Master Wade, actually, this is not about expertise or not."

"It's just a name, anything goes."

"Many competitors use just one letter and a number, or two letters and a number."

Charlie thought for a moment and said,

"Since it's named after my father, let's use the initials of Changying, C."

"We're going to make sedans and SUVs, and very likely commercial vehicles and minivans in the future,"

"So the last digit can't be just one, it needs to be at least two."

He paused for a moment and said,

"How about this: sedans use odd numbers, SUVs use even numbers."

"If the first model is a mid-to-large car, we'll name it C07."

"If we release a larger model in the future, it'll be C09."

"A smaller model will be C05, an A-segment car will be C03, and a minivan will be C01."

"As for off-road vehicles, the same principle applies."

"If the next car is also a medium-to-large SUV,"

"It will be called C06."

"The higher one will be C08, and the lower ones will be C04 and C02."

"If we also launch a commercial vehicle, it can be named C10."

Pollard nodded: "Okay! Simple and clear, with clear logic, then do as you said,"

"The first car will be called C07."

After that, he made a gesture of invitation and said with a smile:

"Master Wade, let me introduce you to some key technologies of the body-in-white of our first car."

Charlie asked him: "What does body-in-white mean?"

Pollard said, "It can be understood as the skeleton of this car."

"We first build the skeleton frame of the body-in-white, and then fill it with flesh and blood based on the skeleton."

"The size of the body-in-white, like the human skeleton, determines the longitudinal size of the person."

"In the future, we will install the doors, front and rear hoods, and anti-collision beams."

"This is the finished size of the car."

"The technology, materials, and sturdiness it uses determine its crashworthiness and safety factor."

"The one-piece die-cast battery compartment at the bottom determines how large a battery it can accommodate."

"Once the body-in-white is finalized,"

"The main frame will remain unchanged, with only minor adjustments made later."

Chapter 6968

Charlie nodded and asked,

"Are there any groundbreaking technologies involved?"

Pollard answered truthfully,

"In the automotive industry, there aren't any breakthrough technologies yet."

"What we can do is ensure that the materials are strong enough and the process is advanced enough to make the car safe enough."

"Therefore, the main frame of our body-in-white is currently made of one-piece die-cast aluminum alloy."

"We upgraded Gao Heng's original production line and the die-casting machine."

"We currently use the most advanced 16,000-ton die-casting machine in China and even internationally."

"In addition, our car body welding is all done with the most advanced robots in the world."

"The assembly and painting processes are all integrated with the best international solutions."

"The hardware and software adaptation team is also the best in China."

"Therefore, when our car goes into mass production in the future,"

"Its completion will be far ahead of similarly priced products."

Charlie asked curiously,

"So, in fact, the key to car manufacturing is the ability to integrate resources."

"Yes." Pollard nodded and smiled.

"The ability to integrate resources determines the technological ceiling of the product."

"If we can integrate the best individual technologies on the market,"

"The overall level will not be too bad."

"In addition, another very important ability is the ability to integrate the supply chain."

"Because the core logic of car manufacturing is the assembly and reproduction of countless parts and solutions,"

"Everything from aluminum and steel to motors, batteries, seats, steering gears, suspension, tires, and even the inconspicuous wiring harnesses hidden in the car body must be screened and integrated from the supply chain."

"This ability determines the lower limit of the product's cost."

"Just like different restaurants, making the same dish, even if the raw materials are the same and the food is served at the same level,"

"The cost cannot be the same because everyone's bargaining power is different."

"A chain restaurant with large volumes has lower procurement costs for all ingredients than an average restaurant."

"So the cost of making the same dish is cheaper than in an average restaurant."

"But if a restaurant can find an authoritative master in the field of vegetable supply,"

"Who has a great reputation and high status in the entire vegetable supply field?"

"Then he may be able to get a lower price that even a big restaurant can't get."

"To put it bluntly, it means having strong bargaining power to make the supplier willing to make less money from us."

Charlie asked him: "So what should we do in these two..."

"How are our capabilities in this area?"

Pollard said, "Master Wade, regarding resource integration capabilities,"

"We can be said to be the best in the domestic automotive field."

"Because your grandfather has a great influence on the global trade market,"

"And with the An family's presence,"

"We can get a lot of equipment and technology that other manufacturers can't get."

Having said that, Pollard said,

"As for the ability to integrate the supply chain, from what we have discussed so far,"

"We dare not say that we are far ahead,"

"But we can still maintain ourselves in the first echelon."

"Suppliers are still very optimistic about the future development of Changying Automobile."

"So, although we have no mass-produced cars off the assembly line yet,"

"They can still give us the conditions of the top OEMs."

Charlie thought for a moment and asked him,

"We still have further information about the main suppliers."

"Is there room to further lower the price?"

Pollard said, "Currently, the largest single cost of a vehicle is the battery power system."

"Your grandfather and second uncle have already started to plan the production of power batteries."

"After it is built and put into production, they will definitely tie up with us for in-depth cooperation."

"Other suppliers are too widely distributed; most of them are domestic manufacturers."

"The chips are Qualcomm and Nvidia."

"The body safety systems are mostly provided by German suppliers."

"The tires come from French suppliers, and the brake systems come from Italian suppliers."

"The overall bargaining space for European suppliers is not very high."

Charlie smiled slightly: "Whether the bargaining space is high or not depends on who is bargaining."

"Whether you go or I go, I'm afraid those Europeans will not give us face,"

"But I do have a friend who can help mediate."

"If he comes forward, I believe that European and American suppliers will definitely agree."

Pollard asked curiously, "Mr. Wade, if you know such a capable person,"

"Why not let him join Changying Automobile and take charge of our supply chain?"

Charlie smiled and said, "I plan to let the heir of the Routhchild family,"

"Steve Rothschild, help us negotiate the price."

"This guy is indeed a capable person."

"There is definitely no problem with him helping privately."

"But if he is asked to join Changying Automobile, it would be a bit too magical."

Pollard exclaimed: "The heir of the Rothschild family?!"

"My God, half of the foreign suppliers I just mentioned are actually industries controlled by their family."

"This is no longer considered a capable person."

"This is a great, capable person!"

"Really?"

Charlie suddenly said in surprise,

"That's great! Comrade Steve Rothschild has finally found an opportunity to show his talent!"

"I'll call him later and ask him to come forward and greet those suppliers."

Pollard said happily, "That's great!"

"If we further reduce the cost and lower the price,"

"The car's cost-effectiveness will be even higher."

"Maybe we can really create a few national masterpieces!"

Chapter 6969

The Routhchild family, as the world's largest family,

Has long since established deep penetration across countries and industries through centuries of operations.

The European and American automotive industries, dating back a century,

Once led the world. Naturally, the Routhchilds have long been involved in such a vast industry.

Not only do they own these European and American companies, but they also hold stakes in,

Or even controlling stakes in Japanese and Korean automakers,

As well as companies in the automotive supply chain.

This isn't a difficult feat for them.

The Routhchilds generally avoid direct investment in companies,

As that would be too cumbersome.

Many industries require an in-depth understanding and evaluation,

Followed by screening and background checks on relevant companies.

The core of their control over these industries lies in extensive financial investment and capital operations.

With vast, inexhaustible resources and a large network of affiliated families,

They established various venture capital firms around the world decades ago,

Investing in mid-tier and promising companies in each target industry.

To achieve rapid growth, large modern corporations rely on financing,

And the Routhchild family has acquired stakes in these companies through various venture capital firms and investment funds.

Once these companies receive their investment,

They enter a period of rapid growth.

The Routhchilds then integrate additional industry resources to further accelerate their growth.

They also exchange their resources for additional shares,

Ultimately supporting the companies' growth and strengthening while also elevating themselves to the position of majority or even controlling shareholder.

Koreans often say that one cannot escape Samsung,

The Samsung Group has long permeated every industry in the country through capital operations.

From technology to daily necessities, everything depends on the Samsung Group and its controlled and held companies.

While Samsung may not be involved in toilet paper production itself,

The giants of the Korean paper industry are backed by Samsung Group.

Even a single pack of toilet paper can net 20, 30, or even more profit to the Group.

Samsung's reach extends beyond South Korea,

While the Routhchilds' reach encompasses the entirety of Europe and America,

encompassing the chaebols that Europeans and Americans cannot escape throughout their lives.

Every aspect of their lives has long been thoroughly infiltrated by the Routhchilds.

Beyond Europe and America, Asia, Africa, and Latin America are not simply the Routhchilds' territory.

They have long since established a presence in energy and mineral resources in Africa, South America, and Latin America.

Beyond China, Japan, South Korea, and Southeast Asia were also exploited by the them after World War II.

Japan and South Korea, in particular, relied on the United States for their postwar economic rise.

Without the early infiltration of American chaebols,

How could they have achieved such rapid postwar reconstruction and economic growth?

Normally, Charlie wouldn't have needed Comrade Steve.

After all, the industries Charlie had previously dabbled in had little to do with the global supply chain.

Even ISU Shipping wasn't a demand-side player in the global supply chain,

But rather provided logistics and transportation for it.

Shipbuilding, while potentially relevant to supply chains, was simply a shipping company, procuring ships from the world's top shipyards,

Not participating in their construction.

Therefore, it had no real role to play in supply chain operations.

But now the situation was different.

The automotive industry, a star of modern industry,

It was one of the most supply-chain-intensive sectors in the world,

A specialty of the Routhchild family.

So, Charlie immediately picked up his phone and called Steve,

Who was sitting idle in Aurous Hill.

Since arriving in Aurous Hill to oversee the family's Greater China operations,

Steve had been preoccupied with three main tasks:

Such as relocating the Greater China headquarters to Aurous Hill,

Increasing investment in the city,

And finding opportunities to get close to Charlie.

The first two things were progressing smoothly,

But the third was a bit more challenging.

Charlie was constantly on the move, seemingly elusive, and he didn't have much contact with him.

Some time ago, the White Horse Island incident was a global uproar.

Steve could easily guess that such a major incident had been so easily controlled,

And that Bertnard Arnault had benefited so greatly,

That it must have been Charlie behind the scenes.

Chapter 6970

This incident further deepened his awareness of Charlie's abilities.

Originally, he treated Charlie with great respect,

Primarily out of a mixture of fear and yearning for the Rejuvenating Pill.

If the Pill were given to his father, he would remain crown prince until his death.

If it were given to him, his son would be crown prince until his death.

He didn't want his father to receive the Pill,

And he also wanted to strive for it for himself in the future.

However, the events on White Horse Island made him realize that Charlie's abilities extended far beyond the Rejuvenating Pill.

His strength lay in his immense personal power and the potential for further development.

Bertnard's gains were something even the richest,

Including the Routhchilds, could only dream of.

Most of the world's nearly ten billion people harbor prejudices against the wealthy,

Knowing that they enrich themselves by exploiting their surplus value and exploiting their per capita resources and wealth.

In this context, even if they don't resent or hate the wealthy, they don't harbor any special affection for them.

But through the White Horse Island incident and a series of subsequent maneuvers,

Bertnard became a wealthy man beloved and supported by people all over the world.

He became the people's tycoon, the world's tycoon, and the righteous tycoon.

This made other wealthy people envious, especially Steve.

He even fantasized about how wonderful it would be if Charlie could one day grant him such an opportunity.

Spending ten billion would be worth it!

But donating ten billion might not necessarily have such an effect.

So, when Charlie called, he was particularly excited and asked,

"Mr. Wade, what do you want to do for me?"

Charlie smiled and asked,

"Steve, your family seems to have deep roots in the automotive industry."

The shrewd Steve Routhchild immediately understood Charlie's intentions.

Changing Automobile has been making such a big move recently,

Even hiring Tawanna to hold twenty consecutive concerts,

This showed that Charlie was determined to expand and strengthen the brand.

The call now must be about supply chain issues.

For these top tycoons, their business acumen is countless times more sensitive than that of ordinary people.

He immediately said, "Mr. Wade, I've found the right person for automotive matters!"

"Ever since Henry Ford began developing the Ford production line a hundred years ago, the Routhchild family has invested in his company."

"Over the years, we've penetrated the entire automotive industry."

"From upstream to downstream."

"We hold direct or indirect stakes in over 80% of the world's OEMs and parts manufacturers."

Charlie smiled and said, "It seems you've guessed my intention."

"I won't beat around the bush."

"When I'm free, I'll bring the head of Changying Auto to meet with you to learn from you."

"I'd also appreciate your help in smoothing out the supply chain."

Sometimes, the supply chain tests not only bargaining power but also coordination skills.

When the chip supply is tight, whoever can secure sufficient chips will have their production unaffected.

The same is true for the supply of large equipment.

When buying equipment, some companies have to pay upfront and wait in line for a year or two,

Or even longer.

But for others, just a simple notification will have the parts shipped to a port for shipment.

The Routhchild family holds an unparalleled position in the European and American manufacturing sector,

Arguably, the father of the European and American supply chain.

Many European and American governments can't match their power,

Let alone other companies.

Charlie doesn't need Steve's personal assistance.

With his influence, he can simply take Pollard on a tour of Europe, America, Japan, and South Korea,

Meeting, dining, and chatting with the heads of supply chain companies.

This will be enough to ensure Changying Auto secures the best resources and prices within these supply chains.

European and American society, like China, is a society based on personal connections.

Steve immediately said,

"Oh, Mr. Wade, how can you trouble yourself to come to me?"

"Why don't you tell me a place and I'll come to find you!"

"Anyway, I'm not very busy in Aurous Hill recently and have plenty of time."

Charlie smiled and said, "The person in charge of Changying Automobile and I are currently at the final assembly plant,"

"Which is more than 200 kilometers away from Aurous Hill, but we will be back later."

"How about this, let's have dinner together at Classic Mansion tonight,"

"And I'll introduce you to each other first."

Steve agreed without hesitation and said with a smile,

"No problem, Mr. Wade!"

"I'll go to Classic Mansion in advance to wait for you!"

Chapter 6971

Charlie and Pollard returned to Aurous Hill together.

As soon as they got off the helicopter,

They headed straight to Classic Mansion to meet with Steve.

Before Charlie arrived,

Steve had already compiled a list of all the automotive companies in which the Routhchild family had a stake or controlling stake.

There were over 600 companies worldwide.

From the top-tier, well-known automakers to obscure wiring harness manufacturers,

The Routhchild family's investment fund managers had invested heavily.

As the saying goes, if there are dates, try twice.

The Routhchild family was no exception.

With their vast resources and deep pockets,

They'd go in and poke every tree in a grove.

When the three met, Steve was low-key like a young college graduate.

He rubbed his hands nervously in front of Charlie.

When he handed the thick list to Charlie, he said flatteringly, as if he was presenting a treasure:

"Mr. Wade, the companies on this list all have more or less the shadow of the Routhchild family."

"You can take your time to look at which company's products you are interested in."

"And I will help you contact them as soon as possible!"

Charlie took the list and took a look at it,

Then handed it to Pollard beside him, and said with a smile:

"Professor Watt, please take a look."

"I don't know much about the industry."

"Okay." Pollard took the list, flipped through it a few times,

And his face was shocked.

When he flipped through it again, his expression was even more surprised.

After he had flipped through all the lists,

He said to Charlie in surprise,

"Master Wade, this list has almost caught all the deadly suppliers on the market."

"I didn't expect that many Chinese companies also have shares held by the Routhchild family."

Steve quickly stated, "As for those Chinese companies, we don't have direct holdings."

"All of them are indirect holdings through venture capital funds."

"A small number of them are held on behalf of individuals or companies with good relationships."

Charlie nodded and asked Pollard,

"Professor Watt, which ones do you think will be more useful to us?"

Pollard said excitedly, "Master Wade, these are basically all useful."

"If Mr. Routhchild is convenient, you can help us introduce them."

"I will visit these key large enterprises,"

"And let the team visit other small and medium-sized enterprises as well."

Steve was extremely shrewd and immediately said,

"No problem, that's easy."

"You will select the ones you want to display in person."

"I will then have someone make an appointment with them and have them line up to meet you in Aurous Hill!"

Pollard felt a little sorry and tried to ask,

"Isn't this inappropriate?"

"There's nothing inappropriate about it."

Steve said with a smile, "They are all small fry to the Routhchild family."

"If they come, not only will they not have any complaints, but they will be particularly happy."

"So Professor Watt, just tell me your time window."

"And I'll let my assistant notify these companies."

After that, he suddenly had an idea and said with a smile,

"I think Changying Automobile can hold a global supplier conference!"

"Global supplier conference?"

Pollard asked in surprise,

"Mr. Routhchild means that we should use the name of this global supplier conference to talk to them openly?"

"Yes."

Steve nodded and explained, "It doesn't matter if they all come to China."

"To Aurous Hill, or even go directly to your office to pay their respects, Professor Watt,"

"But if there are too many people and the noise is too loud,"

"It may cause unnecessary attention and doubts."

"But if it is the global supplier conference held by our Changying Automobile,"

"They are all invited to Aurous Hill to attend the conference."

"Then this matter is much more reasonable."

Chapter 6972

Charlie couldn't help but praise:

"This is a good idea."

"Not only can it make this matter more reasonable,"

"But it can also let the world know that Changying Automobile already has influence in the supply chain."

"All the top and well-known automobile suppliers in the world gathered in Aurous Hill."

"People outside will definitely be amazed at Changying Automobile's supply chain integration capabilities."

Steve nodded and said, "That's what I mean."

"By then, the entire automotive industry's supply chain will definitely see Changying Automobile's influence on the supply chain!"

"I dare not say anything else,"

"But at least it can make Changying Automobile's supply chain cost 10% lower than other car companies!"

Pollard sighed: "A car that costs about 200,000 yuan, excluding the battery, has material costs of about 40%."

"Which is 80,000 yuan."

"If the supply chain can squeeze out 8,000 yuan of space and give this space to consumers,"

"The cost performance of the entire vehicle can be further improved."

Steve asked in surprise:

"So, Changying Automobile intends to take the route of extreme cost performance like those new energy vehicles?"

"Yes."

Pollard said, "A truly national-level product must have a high cost-effectiveness."

"High brand recognition and high product credibility."

"This means that the premium cannot be too high."

"Young Master himself does not want Changying Automobile to become a company with a high profit margin."

Steve couldn't help but sigh:

"From my point of view, Changying Automobile is now so popular."

"And Tawanna Sweet has been helping to promote it."

"Once the car is officially launched, it will definitely be a good opportunity to cut leeks."

"At that time, the press conference will brag more about technology, data, and feelings, and secretly reduce the material cost to the extreme."

"Each car should be able to make a few thousand dollars more."

"Adding to the original profit margin, it will be easy to make \$10,000 for a car."

"In this way, if hundreds of thousands of cars are sold,"

"It will be a great opportunity."

"That's billions of dollars in cash, a very considerable amount."

He then couldn't help but offer another piece of advice:

"The launch of the first car is a great opportunity to reap the benefits!"

"Those leeks are thriving in the fields; it would be a shame not to reap them!"

"If that doesn't work out, you can go for the cost-effective route with the second car."

"After all, you're getting billions of dollars,"

"And a state-of-the-art production line will make you a profit."

Steve, influenced by his family for so many years, has only profit in mind.

The projects he runs are generally designed to maximize profits.

Whenever passion, dreams, and interests conflict, profit always takes precedence.

He originally thought Charlie wanted to squeeze the supply chain to increase profit margins and recoup costs as quickly as possible,

But he didn't expect that he was actually giving this space to consumers.

In his view, such behavior was foolish and naive.

It would be better to seize this opportunity and make a fortune.

Charlie smiled and said,

"Steve, the original intention of the Wade and An families joining forces to create Changying Automobile was not to make money,"

"And I am even less motivated by it."

"If I were motivated by money, why would I bother making cars?"

"I have plenty of ways to harvest the richest people."

"I can easily make more money from holding an auction than from making cars in a few years."

Steve suddenly realized.

He thought to himself, "Yes, how could Charlie be short of money?"

"If he auctioned a few rejuvenation pills, he could easily make hundreds of billions of dollars."

"Someone like my father would definitely spend hundreds of billions of dollars on rejuvenation pills without blinking an eye."

"How could he ever make hundreds of billions of dollars from making cars?"

Thinking of this, he said with shame,

"Oh, Mr. Wade, you have such a high vision."

"I still can't get rid of the stench of money."

"Shame, shame on me!"

Chapter 6973

Inspired by Steve, Changying Auto invited all well-known or sizable upstream companies in the automotive industry,

To host its first Changying Auto Supplier Conference in Aurous Hill.

All companies controlled or held by the Routhchild family were invited.

Initially, they didn't take these supplier conferences seriously.

In fact, not only in the automotive industry, but all large client companies regularly hold similar supplier conferences or partner conferences.

For example, Apple holds its annual Developer Conference, inviting all companies that rely on the Apple ecosystem for R&D.

This serves to strengthen partnerships and to discuss future strategic directions,

Facilitating early collaboration.

For these routine client conferences, companies typically send a mid- or senior-level leader to meet and greet the event.

So these companies followed suit, considering the attendance a gesture of respect.

But no one expected that Steve Routhchild,

The heir to the Routhchild family would actually have his assistant contact them,

Urging them to prioritize their partnership with Changying Auto and not neglect it.

He also urged them to give Changying Auto the highest level of cooperation,

The highest priority, and the lowest price.

Steve's status in the eyes of these suppliers was unparalleled in the entire business world.

Even his explicit statement immediately sparked a surge of interest in Changying Auto.

The attendee lists submitted by these companies to Changying Auto were all filled with the company's highest-ranking leaders.

Seeing Steve's dedication to the organization's cause,

Charlie was both pleased and impressed.

He then instructed Pollard to hold the supplier conference at the Shangri-La Hotel to provide a good reception for these partners who had come from afar.

Originally, Charlie had planned to hold the meeting as soon as possible,

But after learning that the attendees were all top suppliers, he felt that more careful preparation was needed.

Since Changying Auto had already been established and promoted with such fanfare,

He might as well capitalize on the hype and make the supplier conference the biggest news in the industry.

Previously, no auto company had been able to gather all the leaders in the automotive supply chain.

Changying Auto's first supplier conference had the potential to make history.

It was a great opportunity to further demonstrate Changying Auto's strength.

So, Charlie postponed the supplier conference to after the second lunar month,

Allowing time for preparation and warm-up.

...

After Charlie's life returned to normal, the second lunar month was drawing near.

During this time, he traveled to Champs-Élysées Spa almost every day,

Occasionally, he visits with his grandparents and uncles to discuss the future development of Changying Auto.

Steve was true to his word.

Charlie and Claire agreed to travel together to Eastcliff on the second day of the second lunar month to see Sara's final farewell concert.

To dissuade Claire from suspicion, Charlie offered to accompany her,

Saying he had always loved Sara.

However, after Claire learned of Sara's identity and her relationship with Charlie,

While she didn't yet hate her, her initial affection for her, driven by womanly instinct, faded.

Yet, she readily accepted Charlie's explanation,

Unwilling to arouse his suspicion or disappoint him.

Furthermore, having already decided to leave Charlie,

She deeply wished for his safety and happiness.

In her opinion, Sara was the perfect match for him.

If Charlie's revenge was finally achieved and his identity made public,

He could marry Sara, fulfilling the engagement their parents had made over twenty years earlier.

If their story were to become known,

Everyone would be moved by their difficult and arduous relationship.

At the end of the first lunar month,

Claire visited Qixia Temple and met Leon again.

Leon was ready to take Claire and his family out of China,

But the specific implementation still required Claire's cooperation.

He told Claire, "Madam Wade, I will be leaving for Australia tomorrow."

"After the second day of February, I will need your cooperation to lure the young master to go."

Claire nodded and asked, "How can I cooperate with you?"

Leon said, "After I arrive in Australia, I will make a little news there."

"But to be on the safe side, I won't make it too big."

"I will send the news link to you, hoping that you can pretend to be accidental and mention it in front of the young master,"

"And then find a way to let him see the content of the news."

Claire immediately said,

"Okay, I'll follow the instructions of Butler Tang."

After that, she asked, "When will my parents and I leave?"

Chapter 6974

Leon said, "If nothing unexpected happens, the news will be sent to you on the morning of the third day of February."

"Which is the day after the young master's birthday?"

"If everything goes according to plan, after seeing the news, the young master should take the earliest flight to Australia."

"After the young master's flight takes off,"

"I will arrange for you and your parents to leave."

"At that time, I will arrange for someone to pick you up from the capital."

"And also arrange for someone to pick up your parents."

"However, you need to give your parents a heads-up and let them prepare."

"But it's best not to let them know the specific situation before departure."

"Okay."

Claire knew that Leon would not harm her,

Let alone Charlie, so she nodded and said,

"I will find an excuse to tell them,"

"But you need to tell me where my parents and I are leaving the country so that I can make up a suitable excuse for them."

Leon said, "We plan to arrange for you and your family to leave the country by sea from the island city of Qilu."

"At that time, you will depart from Eastcliff and your parents will depart from Aurous Hill."

"The distance between the two sides and the island city is about the same."

"And it will take about six hours to get there."

Claire said, "Then I will tell them that Charlie has something to do temporarily."

"And I will take them on a cruise to Japan and South Korea."

Leon instructed,

"As long as you can make sure that your parents will not tell the young master about this."

"That's for sure."

Claire said, "I will tell them that Charlie has a client who invited him to Australia to look at Feng Shui."

"My parents will not disturb him when he is away at work."

"That's good."

Leon nodded and smiled, "Since you are sure, then let's proceed according to your plan, Madam Wade."

...

Elaine knew that Charlie's birthday was on the second day of February,

And she was thinking about booking a hotel in advance so that the whole family could celebrate his birthday.

When Claire returned home, she asked,

"Claire, our good son-in-law's birthday is on the second day of February."

"Should we find a place and order a cake to celebrate with him together?"

Claire said to her, "Charlie plans to take me to Eastcliff to watch Sara's concert on his birthday."

"I'll celebrate his birthday, and you and Dad don't have to worry about it."

Elaine frowned and said, "Why are you going to see that Sara again?"

"What's the point of seeing her after you've seen her already?"

"Besides,"

"Why this coincidence that she has a concert around our good son-in-law's birthday?"

Claire smiled bitterly, thinking that this was not a coincidence at all.

Sara specially chose Charlie's birthday to hold a concert.

At this time, Elaine saw that Charlie and Jacob had not returned yet,

So she pulled Claire's sleeve and said seriously:

"Claire, Mom thinks that you and Charlie have been married for so many years."

"You are not young anymore; it's time to make plans early."

Claire had something on her mind, so she didn't pay much attention to what Elaine said.

She only heard her say to make plans early,

So she subconsciously asked: "What plans?"

Elaine said, "Of course, plans to have children!"

"You two have been married for several years; it's time to have children."

After speaking, she suddenly realized something,

Widened her eyes and asked:

"Claire, you and Charlie... you haven't done that yet, have you?"

Claire was upset by her question and hurriedly said,

"Mom, don't worry about it."

"We will make reasonable arrangements for our own affairs."

Elaine didn't know what she meant, and couldn't help asking,

"When you say reasonable arrangements, do you mean reasonable arrangements for having children?"

"Or reasonable arrangements for that thing between you two?"

After that, she quickly urged,

"Claire, if you and Charlie haven't made any further progress, then you really have to hurry up."

"If a couple lives together and still treats each other with respect every day, what kind of life is that?"

"It's almost like sharing a house."

"Your situation was special before."

"So Mom didn't say much, but now the time is ripe."

"Don't waste your youth."

"I see..."

Claire sighed silently and then said,

"Mom, I feel a little uncomfortable. I'll go upstairs first."

Elaine nodded helplessly and said,

"Go, think about what I said,"

"And don't focus on work all day long."

Claire paused, and she walked out again after a moment.

Chapter 6975

With two days until the Dragon Rises Day on the second day of the second lunar month,

Charlie and Claire were ready to travel north to Eastcliff.

Charlie had booked a flight to Eastcliff for tomorrow at noon and a suite in the best hotel near the stadium.

He and Claire planned to explore the city first,

Then spend two days exploring after the performance.

The idea of exploring was Claire's.

She had Charlie prepare a four-day itinerary,

Claiming she wanted to explore Eastcliff with him,

But in reality, she didn't want to arouse his suspicions.

Knowing they would be away for a few days,

Including celebrating Charlie's birthday, Elaine took Claire to her room for a few private conversations before departure.

When Claire emerged from Elaine's room, her face flushed,

Her eyes were darting around like a thief.

That night, lying beside Charlie, she lay awake all night.

Also awake was Tawanna,

Who was traveling from France to Eastcliff?

At that moment, she was on a private jet crossing the Eurasian continent.

However, she didn't take her own private jet,

Specifically borrowing Bertnard's, to avoid being discovered.

Otherwise, if her plane moved,

The world would know her next destination.

She didn't want to reveal her whereabouts in advance,

Thinking she was still planning to surprise Charlie in Eastcliff.

She was naturally the secret guest at Sara's final farewell performance.

However, she and Sara had made a close friend agreement to keep this a secret,

Neither to the public nor to Charlie.

She would be at Sara's concert,

Dangling from the sky on a wire, singing the song "Assassin" with her.

She had made the arduous journey from France to Eastcliff for the performance because Charlie would be in the audience,

And more importantly, it would be Charlie's twenty-ninth birthday.

Being utterly devoted to him,

She naturally didn't want to miss the opportunity to celebrate his birthday.

Even just singing a song for him on stage would have been satisfying.

On the plane, her assistant, noticing she hadn't rested yet,

Came over to her and whispered,

"Ms. Sweet, Mr. Trevor just broke the news to the media, saying you'll be holding your engagement ceremony on a certain date."

"The media is hyping this up."

"Do you want to respond?"

Tawanna asked in surprise,

"What does Trevor mean?"

"We haven't been in touch much lately."

"Why would he suddenly release something like this?"

The assistant shook his head,

"Well... I'm not entirely sure..."

"How about you contact Mr. Kennedy?"

Tawanna said helplessly, a little irritated,

"Give me the satellite phone."

The assistant immediately handed it to her,

And she immediately called Trevor.

Trevor was currently at home, closed to visitors.

Ever since he'd announced his engagement,

His agent's phone had been bombarded with calls.

Many fans and media outlets even camped outside his mansion,

Hoping to interview him.

Trevor hadn't accepted any media interviews at this point because he was still waiting for Tawanna to contact him.

He knew that if Tawanna saw the news,

She would definitely contact him immediately,

And he could take this opportunity to have a good chat with her.

Otherwise, she wouldn't answer his calls,

And if she did, she would quickly hang up with various excuses,

Not giving him a chance to be honest.

The reason he made this public announcement was mainly to force her to contact him.

At this moment, his phone suddenly received a satellite call from Tawanna.

He immediately pressed the answer button and said,

"Hi, baby."

Tawanna felt a little uncomfortable and asked him,

"Trevor, why are you talking nonsense to the media?"

Trevor said, "Nonsense?"

"Not really, right?"

"We're already boyfriend and girlfriend, and we've talked about getting married before."

"I also said I'd find an opportunity to propose to you,"

"And you verbally agreed."

Tawanna immediately said, "That was just a verbal promise."

"It doesn't count."

"Besides, even so, you have to propose first before I can decide whether to accept."

"How could you just tell the media about something without my permission?"

Trevor was a little unhappy and asked her,

"If I hadn't said anything, would you have called me?"

"You've been avoiding me all this time,"

"Even when you were on vacation. Why?"

"If you want to break up with me, just tell me."

"We can sit down and have a good talk and solve the problem."

"But don't use this evasive and cold treatment on me."

Tawanna said, "I've been too busy lately and haven't found the time yet."

"When I have more time, I will naturally have a good chat with you."

"Don't you even have this little patience?"

"No!"

Trevor's voice grew louder and louder, roaring,

"If I wait any longer, you'll leave me completely!"

"Tawanna, I know you like that guy named Wade,"

"But I advise you to face reality."

"You and he can never be together."

"He has a wife and a fiancée like Sara."

"How could it be your turn?"

Chapter 6976

Tawanna said guiltily and angrily,

"This is my business. You don't need to worry about it!"

Trevor asked back, "What about me?!"

"What should I do?!"

"Should I continue to wait for you until you change your mind?"

"Or should you just give me a definite answer?"

"Should we officially end this relationship?!"

Tavana pondered for a moment, calmed down, and said seriously:

"Trev, let's end it here."

"To be honest, I don't love you anymore."

"I'm sorry."

Trevor, on the other end of the phone, was surprisingly calm and said:

"Tavana, you can not love me, but you have to love yourself."

"The best way to fall in love with a man like that is to keep this love in your heart,"

"And then find a man who can tolerate you having other men in your heart and marry him."

"Over time, it may dilute your feelings for him."

"But if you keep getting deeply involved in it,"

"It is likely to delay you! Waste your precious youth!"

Tavana was silent for a long time, smiled, and said:

"Thank you, Trevor."

"Thank you. I know you're doing this for my good,"

"But sometimes people are just like that."

"Even when they know something's impossible, they're unwilling to give up completely."

"Besides, I still have the rest of my life to waste."

Without waiting for Trevor to respond, she spoke,

"Let's break up, Trevor."

"This is better for both you and me."

"I know you're a person who values a reputation,"

"So I won't tell the media."

"I'll give you two months, then you can explain everything to the media."

"During these two months, I won't meet with you."

"Nor will I respond to any engagement rumors."

Then, Tawanna hung up the phone, sighed with relief,

And two tears silently fell from her eyes.

...

On the first day of the second lunar month, Charlie and Claire flew to Eastcliff.

Shortly after the flight took off, Leon also prepared to depart from Qixia Temple.

To avoid leaving any records for inspection,

Margaret prepared a cargo plane for him,

Departing from Shanghai and bound for Melbourne, Australia's largest city.

This cargo plane belongs to Margaret's group.

However, unlike the Poqinghui's transport companies,

Margaret's operations are almost entirely legal and aboveboard.

The company she controls is already Asia's largest express logistics group,

Boasting the largest all-cargo fleet in the region and even owning its own cargo airport in mainland China.

Her fleet includes nearly a hundred aircraft,

Both were purchased, and dozens were leased, creating a global air transport network.

This company operates daily flights between Melbourne and Sydney, Australia, and all cargo is clearly traceable and undisclosed.

Margaret has a plan to allow Leon to depart the country on this plane,
Circumventing all customs and regulations.

Upon arrival in Australia, he would be met directly by airport ground staff,
He will be disguised as one of the ground staff,

Allowing him to slip through the border.

Upon his return from his mission, he would simply return to the airport as a
ground staff member,

Allowing the original ground staff member to resume work while Leon
boarded another flight.

Before leaving, Margaret instructed Leon:

"Leon, when you go to Australia this time, you must make sure everything
goes according to plan."

"As long as you can complete the mission,"

"Charlie's life will transition to the next stage."

Leon immediately said respectfully:

"Madam, don't worry, I will definitely fulfill my mission!"

Margaret said, "Your plane takes off tonight and will arrive in Melbourne at
noon tomorrow."

"By then, Sara's concert will not have started."

"If the Willson family girl reveals the news to Charlie as planned the next morning,"

"Charlie will not arrive in Melbourne until at least the third evening in China time."

"There is plenty of time left for you."

"You must leave Australia before Charlie arrives in Melbourne."

Leon nodded heavily: "Madam, don't worry."

"After everything is done, I will wait in Melbourne."

"Once the young master successfully boards the plane to Melbourne,"

"I will leave immediately."

"Okay."

Margaret said, "I have arranged a flight for you to Osaka."

"I will wait for you at the Kinkaku-ji Temple in Kyoto."

Leon asked in surprise: "Madam, is your next stop Japan?"

"Yes."

Margaret nodded and said,

"You suddenly appeared in Australia and lured Charlie south to Australia."

"When he returned from Australia and found that the Willson family girl and her parents had suddenly disappeared,"

"He would easily guess that this was your trick to lure the tiger away from the mountain."

"By then, Charlie would also know that you were behind the departure of the Willson family girl and her family of three."

"He might not doubt your character,"

"But he would definitely guess that there was someone else behind you, Leon."

"Given his personality, he won't just blindly accept this."

"He'll definitely try to figure out the whole story."

"So, Sister Sun, I, and everyone else who has come into contact with Charlie and Miss Willson must leave China before Charlie returns to avoid further complications."

She paused briefly before adding,

"The abbot of Kinkakuji Temple is a disciple of Jing Qing."

"He's already arranged for the temple to close for renovations."

"We can rest there for a while."

Though Jing Qing is young, his unparalleled talent and ability in Buddhism have earned him widespread recognition and support throughout East Asian Buddhist circles.

Many eminent monks in East Asia, eager to advance their Buddhist studies, have expressed a desire to become Jing Qing's disciples.

Jing Qing has also accepted several unnamed disciples based on their affinity with Buddhism,

And the abbot of Kinkakuji Temple is one of them.

Margaret knew Charlie had deep feelings for Claire.

Since Leon had taken Claire away without his knowledge, he would surely do everything in his power to find her.

So, it was best to leave China first to avoid Charlie's lead, and Kinkakuji Temple was a good place to do so.

Chapter 6977

After Charlie and Claire arrived in Eastcliff, they checked in at the hotel next to the National Stadium.

Because of the concert that was about to start,

The entire hotel was fully booked,

And the two waited for nearly half an hour to check in.

After checking in, the two had nothing to do,

So Claire suggested that they go for a stroll in the center of Eastcliff.

Claire, who studied art and design, liked the courtyard houses within the second ring road of Eastcliff very much,

And wanted to go for a stroll with Charlie.

Charlie readily agreed,

But he never thought that Claire just wanted to go for a stroll with him to the place where he had lived as a child.

The two strolled through the alleys within the second ring road.

Claire took a lot of photos and many of them with Charlie.

He seemed to be in a particularly good mood.

When they arrived at Houhai, the surface was still covered with ice,

But it had already begun to melt near the shore.

Claire lamented with regret,

"I've always wanted to try a traditional northern ice sled,"

"But I never had the chance."

"Charlie, have you ever tried one?"

Charlie shook his head.

"Me neither, but if you want to try,"

"We can come earlier next year, not wait until spring."

He didn't dare admit he'd ever ridden one.

After all, the story he'd told others was about being orphaned and wandering around until he ended up in the Aurous Hill Welfare Home.

How could an orphan from Aurous Hill ever have experienced a northern ice sled?

After all, in Aurous Hill's damp, cold winters, it's hard for even a dog to stand on the thin ice,

Let alone a human.

A child raised in Aurous Hill wouldn't have the childhood memories of a child from the north.

Claire was a little disappointed,

But quickly recovered. She asked Charlie,

"It's your birthday tomorrow."

"Do you want to find a nice restaurant for lunch?"

"No thanks," Charlie said with a smile.

"I'm not used to celebrating birthdays in restaurants."

Claire said, "But I have to celebrate your birthday."

Charlie suggested, "Why don't we buy a cake and have it delivered to the hotel?"

"After the show tonight, we can have the cake in our hotel room."

Claire thought about it and nodded.

"That's fine."

"I've already ordered a cake from a famous bakery in Eastcliff."

"I'll celebrate for you tomorrow when we get back to the hotel!"

Charlie smiled and said,

"Okay, thank you, my wife."

...

Back at the hotel, they washed up and lay in bed.

Claire waited for midnight to arrive so she could say happy birthday to Charlie in person,

While Charlie lay in bed, his thoughts were racing.

Sara's words kept ringing in his ears:

"Unless you give me a son!"

He began to worry that after the concert,

Sara would continue to argue with him about that issue.

After the concert, she would completely retire from the entertainment industry.

She would no longer participate in any performances,

Record any songs, or accept any commercial collaborations,

Returning to an ordinary life.

Then, nothing would interfere with her life.

If she mentioned wanting to get pregnant before marriage, how would he explain it?

Just as he was lamenting, the clock struck midnight.

Claire leaned in, resting her head gently on his shoulder, saying,

"Happy birthday, honey!"

Charlie smiled faintly, reaching out to gently embrace her,

And tenderly said, "Thank you, honey."

Before Claire could speak, Charlie's phone began buzzing nonstop.

Dozens of WeChat messages came pouring in.

Sara, Qin Aoxue, Doris, Warnia, Ruoli, Zhiyu, Xiaofen, Melba, Helena, and a host of other women sent him birthday wishes.

Even Tawanna sent a message right on time.

Besides them, the four-hundred-year-old Maria also sent a message to Charlie,

Wishing him a happy birthday.

Others, such as Orvel, Issac, Joseph, and the He family also sent their blessings.

Chapter 6978

What's more interesting is that even Steve Routhchild sent him a long string of blessings.

The non-stop WeChat messages made Charlie a little embarrassed.

He didn't dare to reply in front of Claire,

So he could only put down his phone.

Claire asked him: "Husband, why don't you reply to the messages?"

Charlie smiled and said, "Oh, they are all blessings from a group of customers."

"I won't respond one by one."

"I'll post a circle of friends later and write a few words of gratitude."

Claire smiled slightly and didn't expose his intentions.

Instead, she asked him:

"You are 29 years old."

"Do you have any wishes?"

"A wish?"

Charlie thought for a moment and smiled.

"I hadn't thought about it before,"

"But now that I think about it, I have quite a few."

Claire said, "Think about it first."

"Pick the one you'd like to fulfill most."

"Then make it while you blow out the candles tonight."

"Birthday wishes will come true easily."

"Okay," Charlie nodded with a smile.

...

After a night's rest, time quickly arrived on the second day of the second lunar month.

In Eastcliff, the morning was shrouded in fog, with low visibility.

From the hotel window, Charlie looked down at the National Stadium.

The previously clear field was now hazy.

Not long after, snowflakes began to fall.

Phone notifications buzzed nonstop,

With multiple news and weather apps announcing a sudden,

Heavy snowfall in Eastcliff, with the potential for a blizzard.

Normally, with temperatures rising after the first lunar month and the arrival of March,

The probability of snowfall in Eastcliff would be minimal.

Yet, unexpectedly, a sudden, heavy snowfall blanketed the entire city in a blanket of white.

Claire felt much better when she saw the snow flying all over the sky.

She sat in front of the French window and watched the snow fall intently.

However, the people rushing to catch the morning rush hour on the street outside were not in such a good mood.

The various vehicles on the road were stuck in a mess.

People were struggling to move forward in the snow with umbrellas.

From time to time, people or bicycles would slip on the road.

The snow fell heavily on the university until the evening.

The heavy snow only stopped when Charlie and Claire started to queue up for ticket inspection at the stadium.

The heavy snow had paralyzed the city's traffic,

But it still couldn't stop the enthusiasm of these fans.

Tens of thousands of people entered the venue one after another,

This caused the temperature of the entire venue to rise sharply.

Charlie and Claire got front-row tickets this time,

Which is also the most difficult area to get to all concerts.

Here, you can see the stars on the stage up close and experience the best.

Claire, however, couldn't be happy.

She kept checking the time on her phone.

The performance was set to begin at 7:30 PM, with twenty minutes left.

But she also knew that tomorrow morning at 7:00 AM,

She would have to cooperate with Leon and accidentally let Charlie see the news he wanted.

According to his plan, Charlie would immediately leave for Australia after seeing the news,

Which meant that she only had twelve hours left to spend with him.

At that moment, she felt like she was counting the seconds.

Thinking of only twelve hours left, and seeing Charlie beside her,

Claire's emotions began to lose control,

And tears streamed down her cheeks again.

Charlie noticed her tears and asked with concern,

"Honey, you... Why are you crying again?"

Claire's mood had been unstable for the past few days.

Charlie had noticed something was wrong,

But he was too clueless to guess the reason.

But seeing Claire crying silently again,

His heart suddenly ached, as if he had guessed something.

Seeing Charlie's concerned and nervous eyes,

Claire's pain and grievance were instantly magnified by this concern.

She could hardly contain her urge to hug Charlie and cry.

If she kept it all in, she was afraid she would collapse.

Chapter 6979

But at that moment, a girl next to her burst into tears.

Her boyfriend quickly hugged her and asked nervously,

"Baby, what's wrong?"

The girl choked out, "I... When I think about this being Sara's last concert,"

"I... I'm so sad!"

"I can't imagine her leaving the entertainment industry at such a young age..."

As she spoke, the girl's emotions broke down, and she sobbed uncontrollably.

Charlie then realized that she and Claire were not the only girls crying beside him.

Many girls were like Claire, silently weeping as they looked at the empty stage.

Charlie naturally assumed that Claire's tears were because Sara was leaving the entertainment industry.

So, he held her in his arms and comforted her,

"Don't be sad, my dear."

"Even if Miss Gu retires from the music industry,"

"Her music can still be listened to online at any time."

"Many live concert videos can also be found online."

"And judging by the routines of those Hong Kong and Taiwan singers,"

"She might make a comeback one day."

Claire was stunned by what she heard and smiled bitterly.

Reason gradually took over, and she suppressed the impulse in her heart...

At 7:30, the performance began promptly.

Unlike the grand and dazzling openings of her previous concerts,

Sara's final farewell concert didn't feature a high-profile opening.

The previously dark stage gradually lit up with multiple large LED screens.

A single light illuminated the center of the stage,

Revealing a sand artist working with his hands and fine sand on a glowing sandboard.

The image showed a boy, seemingly two or three years old, holding the hand of a toddler.

Then, music began, and Sara slowly ascended from a platform.

Dressed in a pristine white dress,

She took the stage to sing a song she had written, "Little Us."

The song tells the story of a pair of childhood sweethearts,

Their close bond from infancy through childhood,

And their separation was due to family reasons.

Although they never met again,

The girl's unwavering love for the boy remains a vivid reflection of her inner journey before she found Charlie.

The sand artist expertly synced with the song, repeatedly overturning and redrawing the sand painting.

The painting depicts two children growing up.

When the boy was seven or eight, he left the city with his parents.

The girl, tearful, watched them get into a car and then ran after it for a long time.

The girl then grew up.

Though she grew up like any other child, studying and playing,

She couldn't stop thinking about the boy's departure.

She grew graceful and elegant, but she never found any trace of the boy.

Year after year, the trees by the Houhai Sea sprouted and withered,

Withered and sprouted again,

And the ice that children loved froze and melted, melted and froze again.

Fans of Sara know that as the only daughter of the Gu family,

Worth tens of billions,

She abandoned her status as a Beijing diva to enter the entertainment industry in search of the boy she had missed.

However, no one knows whether she ever found him.

This song doesn't have a perfect ending, either.

The final line goes, "No matter where you are,"

"Please remember the little me and the little us back then."

The song is tender and sentimental, and judging by the performance,

It wouldn't be a suitable opening for a concert.

However, Sara's fans, knowing her years of devotion and dedication,

We were more moved by this song than by other powerful songs.

Considering this was Sara's final concert,

Fans felt a deep connection, with many in the audience already sobbing during the first song.

Charlie's emotions were complex, and a line from a poem kept coming to mind:

"It's easy to torture a man of talent,"

"But it's hardest to reconcile the kindness of a beautiful woman."

A girl who had silently devoted so much love to him for so many years—even a heart of stone would likely be melted by such searing sincerity.

Even more overwhelming for Charlie was the fact that Sara wasn't the only woman who had given so much to him.

Sara's graceful and melodious voice, combined with the lyrics of the song and the paintings of the sand painter,

Even Claire, who was beside Charlie, was moved.

At this moment, the snow, which had stopped for about an hour, fell again.

In the open-air venue, snowflakes fell,

And coupled with this moving song, the audience was moved and moved.

One song quickly pulled tens of thousands of people in the audience into the hot spring of pure love.

Even though snowflakes kept falling on their heads, people still felt warm.

Chapter 6980

After singing the song, Sara turned around on the stage and wiped away her tears.

She knew that Charlie was in the audience,

But she never dared to look him in the eye.

Moreover, today, she specifically instructed the photographers on the scene not to point the camera at the audience to take pictures,

Because she was afraid that the cameraman would accidentally take pictures of Charlie and be seen by someone with ulterior motives.

When the audience saw her turn around and wipe away her tears,

They subconsciously assumed that Sara was sad because of the song,

And inferred that she had not yet found the boy she sang about.

Then, Sara adjusted her mentality and continued the performance.

After singing three songs in a row, Sara finally took advantage of the break between songs to say into the microphone:

"Thank you very much to the audience tonight."

"This is the last of my global farewell concerts."

"Because I was born in Eastcliff, grew up in Eastcliff, and debuted here,"

"I chose Eastcliff to hold this concert."

"I hope that my acting career can have a beginning and an end."

"And end successfully in the place where it started,"

"Which can be regarded as a complete end."

The fans were excited and sad,

And they called her name loudly in the audience,

And some even shouted at her not to quit the music scene.

Sara smiled slightly and continued,

"Although I am very happy and honored to have supporters like you in the entertainment industry over the years,"

"I feel that all good things must come to an end,"

"And I always have to choose a time to say goodbye to everyone."

"So I hope that in my best years, I can say goodbye to everyone properly and solemnly,"

"So that everyone can remember me at my best."

A female fan in the front row shouted at the top of her lungs,

"Sara, you will always be the best in my heart!"

Sara smiled and said,

"You must remember that nothing is always the best."

After that, she said to the audience half-jokingly and half-seriously,

"Maybe if I say goodbye to you now, the last impression I leave in your minds will be of the best Sara."

"But if I say goodbye to you again in ten years, maybe it will be the old and faded Sara."

"If I wait another twenty years and still don't say goodbye to you,"

"Many of you may secretly discuss why that auntie Sara hasn't retired yet,"

"And she is still sticking to the music scene at her age."

"It's really annoying, right?"

"No!"

The fans quickly denied it.

Sara waved her hand and said with a smile,

"Okay, I've decided to leave."

"I won't give you the chance to look down on me ten or twenty years from now."

"Those assumptions are all false. What I want to tell you is that quality companionship isn't about being together for a long time."

"But about being fully present and having no regrets,"

"No matter how long we're together."

"I've given my all over the entertainment industry over the years."

"For me, I've done my best to accompany you all,"

"So I don't feel any regrets saying goodbye now."

"So, don't be sad or regretful."

"Just know that the Sara who loves you has kept her career at the pinnacle."

Sara's heartfelt honesty moved fans to tears.

Many idols rack their brains to figure out how to prolong their careers,

How to exploit their fans' spending potential,

And how to leverage various resources to further their careers.

But Sara never entertained these thoughts.

She is self-disciplined and self-respecting,

Yet she is also deeply sincere with her fans,

Never pretentious or deceptive.

Over the years, she has given her all in every song and every performance,

Truly presenting her best self to her fans.

Moreover, the entertainment industry is a cruel place.

No veteran artist, both virtuous and talented, can maintain their popularity forever.

As they age, even the most powerful stars will see their influence dwindle,

Much like the course of a person's life.

If Sara continues in the entertainment industry,

She will inevitably begin to decline after five or eight years.

No matter how hard she tries,

She will gradually be outperformed and replaced by new talent in terms of appearance, physical strength, and form.

Now, she has retired from the entertainment industry at the height of her success,

Leaving behind a monument to the Chinese music world of unwavering success and unwavering self-esteem.

Furthermore, it will be difficult, if not impossible, for the entertainment industry to find another idol as pure, dazzling, and self-loving as her in the future.

Even if someone were as pure as she, they wouldn't possess her unparalleled talent,

A family background rich enough to rival a nation,

And impeccable self-discipline.

Some people might possess one, two, or even three of these qualities,

But never all four.

She retired at this time,

And will surely become a music legend that will never be seen again!

Chapter 6981

Sara's final performance continued amidst heavy snow.

Fans were unfazed by it,

Instead, I was enjoying this poignant and beautiful scene that was about to be lost forever.

Sara was in excellent form today, performing every song flawlessly, without a single mistake or misstep.

After nearly two hours of performance,

She finished a song with a smile, saying, "Today's concert features a friend from afar."

"She's come all the way from France to be a guest."

"I'm sure you can guess who she is, right?"

The audience erupted in cheers.

Everyone knew Tawanna had been in Paris a few days ago, having given several concerts there.

When Sara mentioned a guest from France,

Everyone immediately realized it was Tawanna Sweet.

Furthermore, everyone knew that Sara and Tawanna had a good relationship.

Sara had been a guest at several of Tawanna's concerts before,

So it was only natural that Tawanna would be a guest at Sara's concert.

At that moment, Sara spoke into the microphone,

"Now, please give your warmest applause to our dear friend who has come from afar."

"Tawanna Sweet!"

The entire audience erupted in applause.

Seeing two superstars perform with one ticket was truly a worthwhile experience for the audience.

As soon as Sara finished speaking,

The lights on the stage suddenly dimmed.

Then, plumes of smoke billowed from both sides,

Obscuring the stage's presence.

Sara had already quietly exited the stage amidst the haze,

And from that moment on, the stage was about to be handed over to Tawanna.

The lights came back on, the stage lights blaring brightly,

And then a familiar sound began to play:

Tawanna's famous song, Love Story.

A powerful fan split the smoke from the center of the stage,

Dispersing it to the sides.

Tawanna suddenly appeared in the center of the stage, atop a lift.

The fans were overjoyed, their screams filling the air and echoing throughout the venue.

Despite the chilly weather, she wore a remarkably cool sequined dress.

The style resembled a one-piece swimsuit,

But it was meticulously crafted, accented with gold sequins,

Making her radiant on stage.

Unlike Sara's restrained performance,

Tawanna, while concentrating on her performance, kept her eyes fixed on Charlie.

She had secretly observed Charlie's position backstage,

And once on stage, she stared at him without blinking.

Claire noticed Tawanna's constant gaze,

But knew it wasn't her, but her husband.

Charlie, feeling somewhat uneasy at her gaze,

Hesitated to meet her gaze throughout the performance,

Fearing Claire might notice.

On stage, Tawanna sang passionately, captivating the audience with her powerful stage presence.

She had specially selected several passionate love songs for her performance today,

Hoping to impress Charlie with her unwavering devotion.

Charlie felt somewhat embarrassed,

So he tried not to look at her or meet her eyes.

But Tavana wasn't satisfied with Charlie's avoidance,

So she walked to the very edge of the stage,

Standing closest to Charlie, I sang passionately.

After singing five songs in a row, Tavana took the microphone and said in Chinese,

"I'm honored to be a guest at Miss Gu's final concert."

"I hope everyone in the audience enjoys this evening."

"And I hope all the lovers in the audience will finally find love."

Tavana greeted the audience, much to their surprise,

And naturally, cheers followed one after another.

Tavana continued, "I've never really understood China before."

"But after getting to know, I found that I have fallen deeply in love with this country and its people..."

As she spoke, she looked in Charlie's direction.

When she said she loved the people of this country,

She was clearly referring to something.

Having said this, she didn't dare to continue with her own thoughts,

So she said, "Next, I'll bring you my last song of the day."

"Which is also my favorite Chinese song,"

"And for this song, I'd like to invite Miss Gu to sing with me!"

After that, she turned around, looked toward the backstage,

And said with a smile, "Miss Gu, please come on stage!"

Everyone watched intently and saw Sara, dressed in a white, traditional-style long dress, slowly walk onto the stage from the side.

Tawanna approached, and the two embraced briefly on stage.

Then, looking down at the audience, she smiled and asked,

"Do you know what song we're going to sing next?"

Chapter 6982

"Assassin!"

The audience was already buzzing with excitement.

Most hadn't seen Tawanna and Sara perform "Assassin" live,

But they had all seen the video on video platforms.

Undoubtedly, the song's value had at least doubled after their adaptation,

Earning widespread acclaim.

Everyone was naturally thrilled to witness their collaborative performance in person.

Afterward, the two women held hands and performed "Assassin" again on stage.

However, this time, they were unaccompanied by any dancers.

Previously, Tawanna had shared a passionate kiss with one of the male dancers through their masks,

Which had garnered considerable attention worldwide.

Everyone had expected a feast for the eyes today,

But unexpectedly, the two women held hands throughout,

Their performance is impeccable yet restrained.

After the song ended, Sara and Tawanna held hands and bowed to the audience.

Sara, holding the microphone, tearfully said,

"At this moment, tonight's performance is officially over."

"Likewise, my acting career has also come to an end."

"I'm truly grateful for your care and support over the years."

"Which has brought me this far."

"I hope my songs will continue to accompany you."

"I wish you all the best in your lives."

"Thank you again! Thank you so much!"

With that, Sara put down the microphone and bowed deeply once more.

The audience was surprised that the performance was already over.

Only then did they realize that Sara had already sung over twenty songs in a row,

And the entire performance had lasted for over two and a half hours,

Far exceeding the length of a typical concert.

However, the thought that this was their idol's final performance was deeply moving,

And a large group of people shouted in unison, "Encore, encore!"

Which simply means "one more song."

Traditionally, concerts have included an encore as a token of gratitude to fans.

However, Sara smiled very casually and said,

"After sending you thousands of miles away, we must finally say goodbye."

"Procrastinating will only drain our emotions."

"I hope you will remember me, remember the me who said goodbye to you all so decisively."

"Perhaps I will meet some of you again in the future,"

"But it will not be on the stage."

"This Sara singing on the stage will never see you again!"

"Thank you all again for your care over the years. Thank you all, bye!"

Sara didn't say goodbye.

Her goodbye expressed all her wishes.

If it weren't for Charlie, she wouldn't have become a singer.

Although she was very talented in this area,

She still couldn't say she loved it.

Her core motivation was to find Charlie.

After her chance encounter with Charlie,

She had already begun to think about quitting.

At this moment on the stage, colorful ribbons were swaying down from the sky,

Mixed with the falling snowflakes, it was a breathtaking beauty.

But Sara just waved and bowed to the audience,

Then stood at the entrance of the elevator and quickly disappeared from the stage.

When the colorful ribbons gradually fell, people realized that Sara was no longer on the stage.

At this moment, the lights in the venue came on, and the speakers in the venue sounded the staff's reminder:

"Tonight's performance ends here."

"Please leave in an orderly manner and don't crowd."

"Please take your trash with you when you leave."

"Thank you for your cooperation!"

Few fans moved, but instead cried in their seats.

Some singers often stage retirement concerts.

Even though they know they'll be back in a few years, their fans still burst into tears at their farewell concerts.

Sara was different. Everyone knew she wouldn't be back after she left.

Claire couldn't hold back her tears,

Her heart aching, knowing that after this performance,

She and Charlie would have three hours less to count down.

Charlie foolishly assumed her tears were for Sara, so he gently soothed her,

"Okay, honey, don't be sad."

"Life is a constant flow of comings and goings."

"It's like that with friends and family, and it's the same with idols."

Claire wiped her tears, nodded gently, then stood up and said,

"Let's go back to the hotel."

"Okay,"

Chapter 6983

Charlie agreed, took her hand, and left the venue with her.

The hotel was not far from the venue,

And they walked back through the heavy snow.

It was almost eleven o'clock when they reached their room.

Claire approached the hotel staff and had them deliver the cake she had ordered to her room. She said to Charlie,

"It's good that I can still come back to your room to celebrate your birthday."

Charlie smiled faintly and returned to the room with her.

The staff quickly delivered the cake,

Along with two bottles of fine red wine.

The cake Claire had ordered was a pristine white heart shape,

Devoid of any fancy decorations or particularly cheesy greetings.

It simply had one sentence:

"Love of My Life."

Charlie knew that this line must have been Claire's request to the cake shop,

And at that moment, he was deeply moved.

Although their marriage was arranged,

After all these years of hardships, it seemed that they finally had true feelings.

Charlie deliberately asked her:

"Wife, what does this line of words mean?"

Claire looked at him and asked shyly:

"Do you really not understand, or are you pretending not to understand?"

Charlie smiled and said, "I understand."

"But I still want to hear you say it."

Claire smiled and said deliberately:

"This line of words is the name of a song."

After that, she turned on her mobile phone and searched for music on the music software.

Then soft music sounded, and the melodious voice came from the speaker of the mobile phone.

"Love of my life, you've hurt me.

You've broken my heart, and now you leave me.

Love of my life, can't you see?

Love of my life, don't you understand?

Bring it back, bring it back.

Don't take it away from me, because you don't know.

What it means to me..."

"You will remember this is blown over.

And everything's all by the way.

When I grow older,

I will be there at your side to remind you.

How I still love you..."

The lyrics of this song are calm and poignant, perfectly fitting Claire's heart at the moment,

And are also what she most wants to say to Charlie.

Although Charlie understands every word of the song,

He has never considered the deeper meaning behind it.

Besides that, his thoughts were a little hazy,

Because he remembered that his mother often listened to this song when he was little,

But he was too young at that time and didn't remember it clearly.

So, he asked with some surprise:

"Wife, what is the name of this song?"

"It sounds very familiar!"

Claire pointed to the line of letters on the cake and said:

"This is the name of the song."

Charlie asked again: "Who sang it?"

Claire said, "A British band called Queen."

"Queen..." Charlie suddenly realized:

"I know, it's the band that sang "We Will Rock You?"

"Yes." Claire nodded and asked him:

"Have you heard this song before?"

"Yes," Charlie said truthfully:

"I heard it when I was very young,"

"But I didn't know what it was called at that time,"

"And I haven't heard it since then."

Claire smiled and said, "It's a nice song, but it's old."

"Probably over fifty years old."

"So long..." Charlie muttered, not surprised.

After all, his mother had often listened to this song over twenty years ago,
So he could guess it must be very old.

Claire placed the cake in front of the hotel room's floor-to-ceiling window,
Lighting it with candles numbered 2 and 9.

Then, she looked out at the snow-covered cityscape at night and said to
Charlie,

"Honey, make a wish."

Charlie nodded, sat across from her, closed his eyes, and, accompanied by the
song, devoutly made a wish.

This birthday wish came to him subconsciously.

He hoped to quickly eradicate the Warriors Den and Victoria,

Confess his identity to Claire and earn her forgiveness,

And then live a simple and peaceful life with her.

Chapter 6984

Decades from now, Claire would gradually age,

And he would confess his identity as a cultivator to her at the right time,

Prepare more rejuvenation pills for her, and stay with her for a hundred years.

After making his wish, Charlie opened his eyes.

Claire, who was sitting across from him, asked curiously,

"Hubby, what did you wish for?"

"How long did it take?"

Charlie smiled and said,

"It's about both of us."

"Because the structure of this wish is so complicated,"

"I had to recite it silently in my mind a lot."

Claire smiled and said, "Thank you for your hard work."

"Now blow out the candles!"

"I'm waiting to say happy birthday to you!"

"Okay!"

Charlie smiled and blew out the candles.

Claire picked up the red wine and said,

"Hubby, you divide the cake, and I'll pour the wine."

"I'll have a few drinks with you tonight."

Charlie happily agreed, and the two gently clinked their glasses.

Claire's eyes welled up as she softly said,

"Hubby, happy birthday!"

"I hope all your wishes come true, that you live a long and healthy life!"

Charlie nodded deeply, moved. "You too, honey!"

Claire raised her glass and smiled, "Cheers."

"Cheers!"

...

Charlie and Claire rarely had the chance to sit down and drink together.

However, today, in the warm hotel, looking at the snowy scene outside the window,

And because it was a special day, both of them had a desire to drink to their heart's content.

After two glasses of wine, Claire was already feeling a little tipsy,

Feeling light and airy, but not uncomfortable at all.

On the contrary, this airy feeling made her feel somewhat relaxed and comfortable.

In a short while, the two of them shared a 750ml bottle of red wine.

Claire's cheeks flushed, but she picked up another bottle of red wine and prepared to open it.

Charlie quickly advised her:

"Wife, you've already drunk a lot, don't drink anymore."

Claire shook her head and said, "It's a rare opportunity to have such a good time, we should drink this bottle too."

Charlie said, "You'll have a headache tomorrow if you drink so much."

"Don't worry."

Claire smiled and said, "There's nothing to do tomorrow anyway."

"And we're not in a hurry to go back immediately, right?"

Charlie was speechless for a moment.

Claire added, "We've been together for so long, and I've never celebrated your birthday so formally."

"Today's the first time,"

"So why not just drink a little more, okay?"

Charlie thought to himself that, since Claire was with him, he wasn't worried about her drinking too much.

He could always help her neutralize some of the alcohol and minimize the aftereffects.

Since she wanted to drink, he might as well have a few more drinks with her.

So, he nodded, tacitly agreeing.

Claire opened the bottle of wine and poured half a glass for Charlie and herself.

He raised his glass and said, "Husband, this glass of wine is for you."

"Like you, I was getting married for the first time,"

"And the marriage was arranged by grandpa."

"I have no experience, and I can't get into the state."

"In the past few years, there have been many things I haven't done well."

"Please forgive me."

Charlie smiled and said, "Wife, you have done very well."

"I was so poor back then, but you didn't despise me."

"After grandpa passed away, the whole family humiliated me and hoped that I would get out of the family as soon as possible."

"You were the only one who didn't kick me when I was down."

"I am really very touched."

"Thank you for what you have done for me over the years!"

Claire pursed her lips, smiled, and said,

"Over the years, you have made a lot of sacrifices for me."

"My parents and this family. I should be the one to thank you."

Charlie quickly waved his hand:

"Why are husband and wife still so polite? It's all in the wine."

Claire nodded and said with a smile, "Cheers!"

The two drank and chatted, feeling unprecedented ease in their hearts.

After two bottles of red wine, Claire was already a little tipsy.

Fortunately, her physical condition was much better than that of ordinary people,

So she was not drunk.

Claire looked at the empty wine bottles and the half-eaten cake, and said to Charlie:

"Hubby, it's getting late."

"You go take a shower first, I'll clean up here."

Charlie said, "You go take a shower, I'll clean up."

"No need."

Claire hurriedly started to clean up, muttering:

"You are the birthday boy,"

"How can I let the birthday boy work?"

"You go ahead, I'll clean up."

Seeing her firm attitude, Charlie did not insist.

Claire watched Charlie go into the bathroom,

And her heartbeat began to get faster and faster.

She looked at the two empty red wine bottles, muttered to herself to encourage herself,

"Claire, now that you have made up your mind,"

"Don't be timid anymore!"

Chapter 6985

After showering, Charlie sat on his side of the bed,

Covered with a separate blanket as usual.

He habitually picked up his phone to check some leftover WeChat messages.

When Claire finished her shower and emerged from the bathroom,

Charlie noticed she was wearing a pale pink suspender nightgown.

The silk nightgown, its glossy surface softly shimmering, contrasted with her skin,

Which had just been drinking, giving it a rosy glow.

The contrast between the two was even more breathtaking.

Although Claire was tall and slender, her figure was perfectly proportioned,

With her breasts perky and firm.

The low-cut neckline of the nightgown made them seem almost ready to burst forth.

As they trembled with her body,

The swaying soft light of the nightgown became even more alluring.

The waistline of the nightgown cinched inward, perfectly showcasing Claire's slender figure.

This professional woman, who usually wore a business suit, actually had an S-shaped curve from the front,

And the side that would be the envy of even top models.

She had bought this nightgown a long time ago but had never worn it.

The reason she hadn't worn it was that she always felt it was too revealing.

Nightgowns, for comfort, aren't overly revealing.

Moreover, pajamas are worn in the privacy of the home and bedroom,

Where no one would wear them outdoors,

So there was no question of revealing them.

Claire's situation was different from others.

Other single women could wear whatever pajamas they pleased in their own rooms, even without them.

Married women, on the other hand, naturally had no restrictions in their own bedrooms, without any concerns.

Claire was neither single nor married.

Although she and Charlie shared a room,

She felt an inexplicable awkwardness because she hadn't overcome the final barrier.

So, even though she'd bought this nightgown,

She'd never dared wear it at home.

But today was different.

She'd spent a long time mentally preparing for this day,

And that's why she'd brought this dress out specifically.

Charlie was dazed.

Young and full of passion, he naturally felt a surge of excitement,

But out of respect for her, he couldn't stare at her.

He suppressed his urge and turned his gaze to his phone.

Claire saw through his thoughts,

Knowing that Charlie was just as nervous as she was.

So, she reached out and turned off the main bedroom light,

Leaving only two dim lights at the headboard.

Then, she slid into her side of the bed,

Lying flat on her back, her beautiful eyes fixed on the ceiling.

A few minutes later, Charlie suddenly felt Claire lift a corner of his quilt.

Before he could react, she had already squeezed into his bed.

Claire's silk nightgown felt icy cool to the touch,

But her exposed skin felt surprisingly hot.

The combined sensations caused Charlie's body to freeze.

He had only experienced such intimate contact with a woman twice in his life:

Once, when Maria lifted him from the hot springs, near death,

And the other time, Helena embraced him tightly while he was unconscious.

Due to the unique circumstances, he didn't have a clear memory of either incident.

But with Claire beside him now,

He felt every inch of her skin, so clear, so real, so deeply impressed.

Unsure of her motives, he instinctively asked,

"Wife, you...what's wrong with you..."

The words were on the tip of his tongue, but they slipped without effort.

They were legally married,

And suddenly asking his wife why she had gotten into his bed was awkward,

And even more awkward than he thought it was.

Claire also knew what he meant and mustered up the courage to say,

"Charlie, we've been married for so long,"

"It's time to take it a step further,"

"What do you think?"

Charlie was surprised and happy, and still a little unsure, he said,

"Wife, didn't you say before that you wanted to upgrade little by little?"

Claire said shyly and ashamedly,

"Actually, since I agreed to marry you, I should have been your wife with you."

"It's just that I was young and ignorant at that time."

"Although I didn't resist my grandfather's arrangement,"

"I always had some subconscious resistance in my heart,"

"So we have maintained this deformed relationship for so many years..."

At this point, she sighed and said to Charlie very seriously,

"Actually, I thought it through a long time ago and thought about changing this situation."

"It's just that I set the tone at the beginning, and suddenly I had to change it."

"I was still a little reserved in my heart."

"But no matter how reserved I was, I had to take this step."

"That's why I made up my mind to give myself to you today,"

"Just as a birthday gift for you!"

Charlie was silent for a moment,

Without taking any action,

His heart is full of mixed feelings.

He naturally loved Claire deeply.

But he always felt that she might not really love him.

It was just that the two of them had lived together for so many years,

This had cultivated a family relationship between them.

Chapter 6986

However, although the family relationship was cultivated,

Love was not cultivated at the same time.

However, he never forced it.

Because when he first married her, he felt that he was not worthy of her.

Claire did not love him at the time, but was willing to marry him when he was penniless.

For her, this act, he was very grateful.

Later, they lived together with such respect,

This also made him develop a kind of inertia.

Later, although his strength continued to improve, he still didn't dare to hope that she would fall in love with him,

Because he knew that if you don't love someone from the beginning,

No matter how good the other person is, it would be difficult to cultivate love.

Isn't that the case with him and Sara?

He treated her as a relative and a sister, and would even take all risks for her, including death.

But if he really asked himself to marry her and have children with her,

He would probably find it difficult to cross that hurdle in his heart.

Because of this experience, in his heart, Claire should treat him the same as he treated Sara.

But he never expected that on the night of his 29th birthday,

In the sixth year of their marriage, Claire would take the initiative to be with him unrestrained.

Seeing that Charlie didn't make any move at this time, Claire, who was standing by, asked him with a guilty conscience:

"Charlie, have you always regarded me as a family member?"

"No!" Charlie said immediately:

"From the moment you married me, no matter how you positioned me in your heart,"

"In my heart, I have positioned you as my wife."

Claire felt a little aggrieved and asked him:

"Then why didn't you move?"

"If you delay any longer, it will be after twelve o'clock..."

It was impossible for Charlie not to think about it, but he was more or less worried that she was not 100% emotional,

So he subconsciously asked: "Wife, you drank a lot of wine tonight."

"Is it the effect of alcohol?"

"No!" Claire categorically denied, blurting out,

"I made this decision before coming here,"

"Otherwise I wouldn't have brought this nightgown."

"We've been married for so long, and when have you ever seen me wear something so revealing in front of you?"

Charlie thought for a moment, grinning foolishly,

"Indeed, I haven't..."

Claire, overwhelmed with shame, blurted out,

"I've already taken the initiative,"

"And you're still hesitant and asking questions."

"If I'd known this would happen, I wouldn't have said anything!"

Charlie suddenly realized and quickly hugged her, saying softly,

"I'm sorry, honey. It's all my fault."

"I was just afraid you wouldn't have thought it through and made a hasty decision that you'd regret later."

Claire looked at him, her voice soft but firm, saying,

"I don't regret giving myself to you."

"If I do regret anything, it's that I made this decision too late..."

Then, she locked eyes with Charlie and said emotionally,

"Hubby, the past is the past."

"No matter what we missed in the past,"

"We should all seize the present, right?"

At that moment, Charlie understood that Claire's decision was the product of careful consideration.

Besides being touched, he was also filled with longing for her.

After all, the couple had been married for six years,

A perfectly normal thing for a married couple, yet they had, for various reasons, delayed it for six years.

Today was his birthday, and taking this belated step tonight seemed like the best outcome.

People often say that the best time to plant a tree was ten years ago,

The second-best time to plant a tree is now.

The same is true with relationships.

Whatever the reason for the delay, it was already substantial,

And no matter how hard you look back, it's impossible to make up for it.

The best way to truly make amends is to seize the present.

So, without hesitation, Charlie turned over, gently pressed Claire beneath him, and kissed her red lips.

At that moment, Claire's body trembled slightly,

And she responded with a clumsy yet passionate kiss.

It was the first time in their six years of marriage that they had kissed so deeply.

Charlie's heart was filled with love for Claire,

While Claire, besides love, felt the pain of the impending farewell.

In that moment, this pain transformed into an even stronger love,

Overwhelming her like a tide.

Everything that followed flowed smoothly and naturally.

Claire's body tensed, her brow furrowed slightly,

Her fingertips were clasping Charlie's back.

Six years into their marriage,

She had truly become Charlie's wife.

And in the final hours before leaving him,

She gave him her most precious possession.

No matter how he had deceived her before,

She completely forgave him at that moment.

Giving herself to him in her final moments was a decision she had carefully considered.

Firstly, she had already fallen deeply in love with him,

And even if she left him, she felt she would never again fall in love with another man.

Secondly, she felt she owed Charlie too much over the past six years of marriage,

And the gap between them was immense.

The only thing she could give him in return was perhaps this wholehearted love.

It was at this moment that Charlie transformed into a truly mature man.

After several storms, each followed by a breakup, he embraced Claire tightly,

I feel a strong sense of unreality and even a strange uneasiness.

However, Claire in his arms was so real that it swept away his anxiety, and he hugged her tightly.

That night, for the first time in the twenty years since his parents were murdered, he slept as soundly as a baby...

Chapter 6987

On one side, Charlie slept soundly, but Claire, beside him, barely slept all night.

After that night, she realized clearly how deeply she loved this man.

If they had taken that step sooner,

Their six years of married life would have been filled with many more beautiful memories,

Perhaps even a child.

Unfortunately, there's no turning back.

The next morning, she received a WeChat message from Leon, using a fake account.

The message was actually a collection of chat logs.

Someone with a female profile picture sent it.

The first message read:

"A Chinese man in his sixties was attacked on the streets of Melbourne by local minors."

"These guys are really too much!"

"They beat an elderly man so badly he's bleeding from his head that he's been rushed to the hospital!"

This was followed by several images,

Including screenshots of passersby, surveillance footage,

And even video footage.

The images clearly showed Leon being surrounded and eventually attacked.

Leon had little resistance against these young men,

And was soon knocked to the ground,

His face was covered in blood, and he was unconscious.

In the following photos, the teenagers leisurely fled the scene,

And Leon was taken to the hospital by an ambulance called by passers-by.

Someone in the chat log asked the girl,

"Oh my god!"

"What's going on?"

"Why are they hitting people?"

The girl replied, "This old man was walking down the street in Melbourne."

"When several local teenagers suddenly rushed out from a nearby alley,"

"Surrounded him, and demanded money to buy cigarettes."

"When the old man refused,"

"They attacked him in broad daylight,"

"Knocking him to the ground and stealing his wallet and watch!"

"Damn!"

"This is too much!"

"How is the old man? Is he in danger of death?"

"It's not clear yet."

"I heard that this old man just immigrated to Australia alone."

"And has no relatives here."

"We local Chinese are trying to contact for help."

The chat log ended here.

Claire was horrified because she could tell from the pictures and videos that Leon's injuries didn't look fake.

Considering the recent sightings and the kids attacking on the streets,

She realized that Leon had personally participated in this incident and fabricated this news in the hope of attracting Charlie's attention.

Surprised, she couldn't help but sigh inwardly at the loyalty these former Wade family members showed to Charlie.

She couldn't help but ask Leon,

"Are you alright?"

Leon replied, "Thank you, Madam Wade, for your concern."

"It's nothing serious."

"Madam, please find a way to let the young master see this."

"Okay!"

Claire replied immediately.

She then checked the time.

It was already 7:30 AM.

Unwilling to delay, she dragged her exhausted body out of bed.

As she emerged from the covers,

She saw the bloodstained sheets on the recliner beside the bed,

And her cheeks flushed to her ears.

She remembered that after staining the sheets last night,

Charlie had simply removed them and spread his own quilt between them.

She hadn't paid attention to these details at the time,

And only now realized the embarrassing situation.

She quickly folded the sheets carefully before he got up.

When Charlie got up, she immediately called the room service.

After making the call, the hotel quickly delivered a breakfast cart to the room.

The two sat across from each other in front of the floor-to-ceiling window where they had eaten cake the previous night.

Outside, a vast expanse of white lay.

The roads had been cleared of snow,

But thick drifts still hung on rooftops, treetops, and many passing vehicles.

The weather, which had been warming up somewhat, suddenly dropped a few degrees.

Charlie sighed, "It's so cold, it seems there's nothing much to do here."

"Why don't we go back early?"

Claire pursed her lips and nodded gently, saying,

"I'm fine. I'll listen to you."

As she spoke, she uncomfortably fiddled with her phone.

At that moment, the notification officially arrived on her phone.

Claire clicked it calmly, then frowned slightly and muttered to herself:

"These guys are really too much!"

Charlie had no idea at this time that his wife was trying to catch him like a fish.

Hearing Claire's mumbling, he quickly asked:

"What is my wife talking about?"

"Which guys are too much?"

Chapter 6988

Claire said angrily, "A friend of mine who works in Australia sent me some screenshots of chat records.

Several teenagers in Melbourne beat up a local Chinese man.

The beating was quite serious.

The key point is that the old man did nothing.

He just passed by them and was beaten by them!"

Charlie didn't take it seriously and sighed:

"Oh, racial bullying still exists objectively everywhere,"

"Especially those uneducated teenagers."

"For them, hatred of outsiders is common."

"This thing is now happening everywhere."

At this point, Charlie couldn't help but sigh,

"To put it bluntly, they lack education."

"Moreover, some people are not only uneducated, but also born bad."

Claire nodded and said in agreement,

"You're right. Such teenagers are uneducated and born bad."

"In addition, they are unaware of the world except for their own homes."

"And they are naturally xenophobic and fearless."

"Yes," Charlie shook his head helplessly.

"I hope people can unite. When faced with something like this,"

"Don't swallow your anger and defend your legal rights."

Claire nodded slightly, looking at her phone with reluctance.

"This old man is truly pitiful."

"The news said he just immigrated to Australia not long ago and doesn't seem to have any relatives there."

"Now he's seriously injured and hospitalized,"

"And I don't know how he's doing."

As she spoke, she pushed the phone towards Charlie and sighed,

"Look how beaten up he is."

"So pitiful..."

Charlie subconsciously glanced at her phone screen.

With just one glance, he froze as if electrocuted,

His pupils are shrinking sharply!

He immediately recognized the bloodied old man in the picture:

Leon, the former head steward of the Wade family,

The man who had followed his father for many years and devoted himself to the family!

At this moment, he was shocked and extremely anxious.

Although Leon's sudden departure had made him realize that he might have other loyalties,

He was certain of one thing:

Leon absolutely, absolutely had no intention of harming him.

On the contrary, he had gone to great lengths to protect him over the years, making him a true benefactor.

Ever since Leon's disappearance, Charlie had desperately wanted to find him,

But he hadn't taken any action.

He felt that Leon must have had his own reasons for leaving,

Perhaps some hidden secret he didn't want to reveal.

He had to respect him and couldn't let his curiosity ruin his plans to quietly leave.

However, Charlie had never imagined that the old man would actually appear in Australia,

And even be severely injured by a group of damned teenagers!

He didn't know what had happened to Leon,

But he couldn't stand by and watch.

As he looked at the pictures, his rage grew, and his fists clenched unconsciously.

In order to prevent Claire from noticing anything,

He calmly handed the phone back, sighing,

"I hope this old gentleman is safe."

At the same time, he took out his own phone and immediately formed a WeChat group with Orvel and Issac,

And then sent a message on WeChat:

"Butler Tang was attacked by a group of teenagers in Melbourne."

"Old Chen, you should immediately arrange for the Wade family's staff there to verify and investigate."

"At the same time, book the earliest flight from Eastcliff to Melbourne today."

"And book a ticket for me as well!"

Then, he sent another message:

"Orvel, you should also check the fastest air ticket immediately to see if there is a direct flight from Aurous Hill."

"If not, check Eastcliff and Shanghai!"

Issac sent a reply: "Why is Butler Tang in Australia?"

"Young Master, please wait a moment."

"I will follow up on this matter immediately."

"In addition, if you are in a hurry,"

"Do you want me to arrange a private plane?"

Charlie replied: "Don't arrange a private plane."

"Steward Tang has worked for the Wade family for so many years."

"His identity is public to the Warriors Den."

"Now that he is in trouble far away, we don't know if it will reach the ears of the Warriors Den."

"If we take a private plane, it will be easy for interested people to find out the connection."

"By the way, please inform the local staff of the Wade family."

"This matter should not have been widely reported yet."

"It is best to spend some money to bribe the local media and prevent them from reporting further on this matter!"

Orvel replied at this time:

"Master Wade, I just checked."

"There are no flights from Shanghai to Melbourne today."

"There is a flight from Eastcliff this afternoon."

"I will leave for the airport now and wait at the Airport as soon as possible."

"When Mr. Chen books the ticket, please book one for me."

"I will go with you!"

Chapter 6989

After deciding to leave for Australia, Charlie began to think about how to fabricate a lie to Claire.

The thought of a feng shui consultation came to mind.

After all, he'd used this tactic so long that he'd developed not only experience but also mastered it.

So, he specifically instructed Orvel to call him later,

But only after he'd booked flights for Claire and him back to Aurous Hill.

This way, he could change his schedule at the last minute,

But still have Claire at the airport first, and make her feel at ease.

Then, he calmly logged out of WeChat, opened the ticketing app,

And asked Claire, "Honey, when do you want to go back to Aurous Hill?"

"Let me check the tickets."

Claire was a little surprised.

She'd assumed that Charlie, upon learning of Leon's mishap, would immediately tell her he was going to be away for a while.

But he actually suggested booking tickets.

She wanted to ask him if they were going alone or together,

But on second thought, she couldn't say that; it would give her away.

So, she casually said, "I'm fine with anything."

"You want to go back today, right?"

"Then we can check out at noon and go to the airport."

"You can book the tickets; they're plenty anyway."

Charlie glanced at the flight information and said calmly,

"Honey, how about the 3:00 PM one?"

The flight to Melbourne wouldn't leave until 5:30 PM.

He could take his wife to the airport first,

And once he was sure she could make it back to Aurous Hill,

He could go through airport security and customs and board the flight to Melbourne.

Claire didn't know what Charlie was exactly up to,

But she knew him well.

He wouldn't stand idly by while Leon was in trouble,

So he must be looking for an opportunity,

A suitable one to get to Melbourne.

So, she said to him, "3:00 PM is perfect."

"It won't delay our arrival, and we'll have dinner."

"Honey, just book that flight."

"Okay!"

Charlie breathed a sigh of relief and booked the tickets.

At noon, the couple had lunch at the hotel before taking a taxi to the airport.

They printed their boarding passes, went through security,

They arrived at the airline's VIP lounge to board their flight.

It was at this moment that Orvel came into play.

He called Charlie, and as soon as the call was connected, he eagerly asked,

"Master Wade, where are you now?"

Charlie casually replied, "My wife and I came to Eastcliff for a concert and are about to fly back."

"What do you want to talk to me about?"

Orvel quickly said, "Master Wade, a friend of mine, is having some problems at his house in the southwest."

"The whole family hasn't been feeling well over the New Year."

"And they'd like to see a master take a look at the feng shui."

"Could you please come and take a look?"

Charlie feigned embarrassment,

"Ah, to be honest, I've been pretty busy lately,"

"So I haven't been planning on going out for feng shui readings for the time being."

Orvel pleaded, "Master Wade, this time it's a sworn brother of mine."

"And we have a very good relationship."

"Please help me..."

Claire was right there, and seeing Charlie putting on such a show even at this hour,

She wasn't angry, but rather felt a little sorry for him.

It must have been exhausting for him to have kept so many things secret from her for so many years,

While also trying to manage his emotions and avoid suspicion.

So, she whispered, "Honey, is Mr. Hong looking for your help?"

Charlie nodded.

His receiver was loud, so it was normal for Claire to hear.

She then took the opportunity to persuade him,

"Just agree to Mr. Hong."

"He's always been very caring towards our family and respectful to you."

"It's better not to offend him on such a small matter."

Charlie didn't expect Claire to be so reasonable.

He even pretended to be embarrassed and said,

"Orvel has an urgent errand and needs to leave today."

"If I agree to it, I won't be able to go back to Aurous Hill with you."

"It's okay,"

Chapter 6990

Claire smiled slightly and said,

"I'll go back by myself."

"It'll only take two hours anyway."

"When I get there, I can take a taxi or have Dad pick me up."

"You can go about your business and don't worry about me."

This was Charlie's plan in the first place.

Seeing Claire take the initiative, he was naturally relieved and said,

"Okay, honey, I'll take you to the plane later."

"I won't be boarding myself."

"I'll have my dad pick you up then."

"Okay." Claire nodded, her heart suddenly aching again.

Originally, Leon's plan had been for her to leave from Eastcliff and her parents from Aurous Hill,

But he hadn't anticipated that Charlie would also put her on a plane.

It seemed she would have to go back to Aurous Hill first.

But no matter what, once she boarded the plane,

She and Charlie would be saying goodbye.

Their marriage would eventually come to an end here.

She felt extremely reluctant to leave,

But for Charlie, she had no regrets.

She knew that if she stayed, not only would she not be of any help to him,

But it would also restrict his abilities.

On weekdays, whenever Charlie went out, he would carefully fabricate a bunch of white lies,

And because he was worried about her, he would never stay out for too long.

Many things that could have been done in one go,

Because of her ties, it might have to be done several times,

Dragging it out for a long time before they were finally completed.

After she leaves, he would no longer be bound by constraints and could focus all his energy on doing his own things, strengthening his power, killing his enemies, and avenging his parents.

So, no matter what, she couldn't hold him back anymore.

While she was feeling extremely sad, Charlie didn't notice the subtle changes in his wife.

He quickly informed his two aides on WeChat that he had made all the arrangements and would meet them at the airport that afternoon.

Not long after that, the service staff of the VIP lounge came up to them and said to them,

"Mr. Wade, Ms. Willson, our plane has started boarding."

"The boarding gate is at Gate 63, about a five-minute walk away."

"Please arrange your time."

Charlie nodded, thanked him, and then said to Claire,

"Wife, let me take you to the plane first!"

Claire was extremely sad, but she could only pretend that nothing was wrong, stood up, and said to him while holding back her tears,

"Husband, you must pay attention to safety when you go out."

Charlie smiled and said, "Don't worry, I'll be back soon."

Claire asked with red eyes,

"You can definitely take care of yourself, right?"

"Of course."

Charlie smiled and said,

"Your husband still has some skills, don't worry."

Claire asked again, "Will you miss me when you are not busy?"

"Of course."

Claire said solemnly,

"You said it yourself, and you must do it."

For Claire, she can leave Charlie,

But she doesn't want Charlie to forget her.

Charlie had never seen Claire so sentimental before, and for a moment, he felt strange.

But then he thought about it carefully.

After all, Claire had just become his wife.

It was normal for a girl to be sentimental after giving him her most precious thing.

So, he gently hugged Claire and promised,

"Don't worry, honey. No matter how busy I am, I will miss you."

"Wait for me to come back."

"If you miss me, send me a WeChat or video."

Claire couldn't hold back her tears, and they flowed down.

But in order to avoid Charlie's suspicion, she could only whisper with a mixture of tears and laughter:

"I just let you succeed yesterday, and you're leaving today."

"I feel reluctant to let you go."

Charlie deliberately asked her:

"It's just that you feel reluctant to let me go?"

Claire was stunned for a moment, then she understood and said shyly:

"You...how could you suddenly become bad!"

Charlie felt wronged:

"No way, I didn't say anything..."

"Still saying no," Claire muttered:

"Although I don't have much experience, I'm not a fool."

Seeing that he was exposed, Charlie did not quibble but just laughed.

Claire was not really angry, so when she saw him agreeing, she did not pursue the matter further.

She just hugged him tightly and said reluctantly:

"In short, take care of yourself when you are away from home."

"At any time, physical health and personal safety are the most important, okay?"

"Okay."

Charlie readily agreed.

Feeling Claire's reluctance to let him go, he was touched and said:

"I will rush back as soon as I finish the business!"

Chapter 6991

At the boarding gate for the flight to Aurous Hill,

Charlie and Claire embraced and watched her walk in, looking back every few steps.

At that moment, Charlie felt no sadness, only emotion.

He felt that this was a true relationship between husband and wife.

After that step, everything had changed drastically.

Claire was no longer the calm and reserved woman who always maintained her composure.

She had become a lovely woman who was cuddly and affectionate,

Even expressing strong reluctance to leave at the slightest separation,

Almost wanted to cry.

However, he didn't yet know that everything he thought he had done was actually a hidden secret.

The moment Claire turned and walked into the boarding bridge,

She burst into tears.

But she didn't dare wipe them away,

Fearing Charlie would see from behind and guess something was wrong.

As she turned the corner and entered the downhill slope of the boarding bridge,

The cabin door is within reach,

She could no longer control her emotions.

She walked like a zombie, sobbing bitterly.

The cabin purser and two flight attendants were at the cabin door welcoming the business class passengers who were boarding first.

They already had the information of every business class passenger.

This narrow-body aircraft had only eight seats in business class,

And five of them were sold this time.

Two of them were female, one was Claire, and the other was a six-year-old girl.

So, the flight attendants knew by the process of elimination that the female passenger who came over crying with tears all over her face should be Claire Willson.

So, the flight attendant hurried over and asked her with concern:

"Ms. Willson, what's wrong with you? Are you not feeling well?"

"Do you want us to communicate with the airport?"

Claire wiped away her tears in a panic and shook her head repeatedly:

"No, thank you."

The flight attendant didn't say much and led her to her seat, then asked her:

"Ms. Willson, do you need anything to drink?"

"We have tea, coffee, and juice."

Claire shook her head:

"Nothing, thank you."

The flight attendant nodded and said:

"Then please call me anytime if you need anything."

Claire sat in her seat, tried to adjust her mood,

And then picked up her phone, contacted Leon, and told him,

"I'm already on the plane back to Aurous Hill."

"Can I go with my parents?"

Leon replied, "No problem, Mrs. Wade."

"We have two plans."

"After you land in Aurous Hill, our people will take you home."

"Then you and your family can pack up."

"Barring any unexpected events, we'll depart tonight."

Charlie, Orvel, and Issac's flight would take off in two and a half hours.

Once Charlie was confirmed on board, he wouldn't be able to leave the plane for the next ten hours.

This would allow Claire and her family to leave smoothly that evening.

Claire had already made up her mind, so she replied immediately,

"Okay."

"I'll go back and tell my parents I'm taking them abroad tonight."

"Okay, Mrs. Wade, our people will be waiting for you at the airport."

"You'll see them when you arrive."

...

At this point, Charlie left Terminal 2 and headed straight for Terminal 3.

The flight to Melbourne would depart from Terminal 3.

After Claire's plane took off, Issac hurried to the airport.

Seeing Charlie, he asked the puzzled question in his heart:

"Master, how did you find out about Butler Tang?"

"Didn't he disappear?"

Charlie said, "My wife's friend is in Australia."

"She just forwarded the news that a Chinese citizen was attacked there."

"Unexpectedly, it was Butler Tang."

Issac was confused: "Butler Tang went to Australia."

"This is too unbelievable."

"He suddenly left without saying goodbye and disappeared."

"How could he suddenly go to Australia?"

Chapter 6992

Charlie said, "He seems to have just immigrated there."

"I'm not sure about his specific situation."

"I have to go over and take a look."

Issac frowned and said, "Master, I always feel that this matter is a bit too coincidental."

"Could it be a trick?"

Charlie said, "I also felt something was wrong at first."

"But I believe in Butler Tang."

"He would never stand against me."

"Otherwise, he would have had plenty of opportunities to do so before."

"There is no need to wait until now."

"That's right."

Issac nodded in agreement and said,

"I just received a call from the staff in Australia."

"They said they had found out the hospital where he is."

"I asked them to find a way to sneak in."

"But they only saw him lying in the ICU."

"The specific condition is still unclear."

"These staff members are all from our Shangri-La Hotel in Melbourne."

"They haven't received any special training and their professional skills are a bit poor."

"I'll ask them to look for another opportunity."

Charlie heard that Leon was still in the ICU.

He felt a little worried and said,

"Don't let them try again."

"Butler Tang must have had his reasons for leaving without saying goodbye."

"He's in trouble this time, and he definitely doesn't want me to know."

"If you alert him, he might disappear again."

"Okay."

Issac nodded and said,

"I'll ask them to prepare a car and take us to the hospital as soon as we get off the plane."

Not long after, Orvel, who flew in from Aurous Hill, also arrived.

Like Charlie, he hurried straight to Terminal 3 to meet the two after getting off the plane.

As soon as they met, he asked anxiously,

"Master Wade, what happened to Butler Tang?"

Charlie said coldly, "It was just some local teenagers."

"Similar to the thugs here a dozen or twenty years ago,"

"Except these teenagers specifically target foreigners, and they're all Asian."

"The worst thing is that these guys, relying on their underage status, are very ruthless and often beat people up seriously."

"Fcuk the little ba5tards!"

Orvel cursed, gritting his teeth.

"Don't let me catch them, or I'll cripple them one by one!"

Charlie said calmly, "Don't worry, none of them will get away!"

...

At 4:45 pm, Claire's plane landed at Aurous Hill Airport fifteen minutes early.

She sent a WeChat message to Charlie,

Telling him that she had arrived at the airport and asked him not to worry.

Before boarding even began, Charlie immediately replied,

"Honey, who's picking you up at the airport?"

Claire replied, "Dad's definitely at the calligraphy and painting association right now."

"So I won't bother him."

"Just will go out and get a taxi."

Charlie instructed her, "Let me know when you get in the car."

"And remember to let me know when you get home."

Claire replied, "Okay, don't worry."

"I'm old enough,"

"I can take care of myself in the few minutes' drive."

While replying to Charlie's message,

She had already exited the plane,

Walked through the baggage area and reached the exit.

She was about to line up a taxi,

But then she remembered Leon's promise that someone would be picking her up,

And she instinctively glanced around.

There were many men and women waiting at the exit,

But no one seemed to be holding a name tag.

Just as she was about to leave,

She heard a familiar voice calling her,

"Ms. Willson!"

"Over here!"

Claire looked in the direction of the voice and was stunned when she saw the person calling her.

"Mag... Maglina?! W... why are you here?!"

Chapter 6993

Maglina was Claire's most capable person since the company was founded.

Seeing Maglina here, the naive Claire didn't think much of it.

She thought it was just a chance encounter.

Unexpectedly, Maglina approached her and said respectfully,

"Miss Willson, I'm waiting for you here on orders from Butler Leon."

"I'll take you back to Tomson."

"We'll leave tonight."

"And I'll accompany you and your parents."

Claire looked at her in shock.

She had so many questions in her mind,

But for a moment, she didn't know where to begin.

Maglina reached out to take her suitcase and backpack,

And said with some shame:

"I'm sorry, Ms. Willson, due to special reasons,"

"I have not been able to tell you my identity."

"I am a subordinate of Butler Leon."

"And I am by your side to protect your safety."

Claire came back to his senses,

Suddenly smiled bitterly, and said embarrassedly:

"I think you were monitoring me, right?"

"You came here not long after my studio was established."

"Many people resigned due to the pressure."

"But you never complained or felt tired."

"I thought I finally met a right-hand worker,"

"But I didn't expect that there was another hidden story..."

Maglina was frank and said with a smile:

"Mr. Willson, I concealed it first."

"I understand your prejudice against me."

"I can't excuse my concealment and deception."

"I can only tell you that although I'm not a soldier,"

"I've been subjected to the strictest military education and management since childhood."

"So, like a soldier, I believe in obeying orders."

"If the order tells me to stay by your side, I must do it."

Claire asked her, "If the order tells you to kill me,"

"You won't hesitate, right?"

Maglina didn't answer her provocative question, but replied frankly,

"If the order tells me to die for you,"

"I won't hesitate!"

Claire hadn't expected Maglina to give her such an answer.

In that instant, her resentment and sense of being deceived vanished.

She understood and sympathized with Maglina.

Maglina had her own position and stance, fulfilling her duty.

From her perspective, there was no right or wrong.

Her answer was also clever.

If the order told her to die for her, she wouldn't hesitate.

The subtext was that if the order really told her to kill her,

She would do the same.

Killing someone or dying for someone else, as long as it was an order,

It made no difference to her.

So, she couldn't help but sigh:

"You are only in your twenties, how can you be so loyal to them?"

"You are so young, shouldn't you find the meaning of your own life?"

Maglina smiled and said neither humbly nor arrogantly:

"Ms. Willson, my life is given by them."

"If it weren't for them, my mother and I would have died long ago."

"They provided me with military education since I was a child."

"Not for my future repayment, but so that I could kill my enemies with my own hands."

"I did it, and they did not restrict my freedom."

"It was my own choice to stay and work for them."

"Not only because they treated me with great kindness,"

"But also because they are truly good people."

Claire nodded ignorantly and sighed:

"Okay, you accompany us,"

"It's like having someone familiar to look after you."

"Where's your car? Let's go."

Maglina smiled and said, "Ms. Willson, to be honest, I'm leaving China with you this time."

"Once there, my real colleagues and I will take care of you and your family's daily needs."

"We may be living together for a long time to come."

Claire was delighted upon hearing this,

But soon felt downcast again.

She whispered, "Did they ask you to stay and monitor us?"

"Are they afraid I'll lose control and contact Charlie?"

Maglina said, "Ms. Willson, to be honest, with the crisis the Young Master is facing,"

"Even if you completely leave, he might not be safe."

"In times of emergency, there's really no difference between surveillance and protection."

"I understand."

Claire nodded gently.

Then, Maglina led her to the parking lot,

Where a dark commercial vehicle was already parked.

Maglina placed her luggage in the trunk,

Opened the sliding door, let Claire get in first,

And then she got into the driver's seat.

After starting the car, Maglina said to Claire,

"Ms. Willson, we will tentatively depart at nine o'clock in the evening."

"You and your family don't need to bring too much stuff."

"Just carry-on luggage."

"If there is anything you need to bring, you can just take a photo and send it to me."

"I will arrange for someone to come tonight to pack and load the things."

"The things may arrive a day later than yours."

Chapter 6994

Claire was surprised by the other party's professionalism,

But she was relieved after thinking about it carefully.

So she asked, "Are we leaving the country by water?"

"Yes," Maglina said,

"The freighter is docking at Daocheng Port."

"After we arrive in the early morning,"

"We will board the ship directly."

Claire said nervously, "If we take the freighter, how should I communicate with my parents?"

"I haven't told them yet."

"I plan to tell them after I go back that I will take them out to play for a few days."

Maglina smiled and said, "Don't worry, there is a lifting partition in the middle of our business car."

"After you let your parents get in the car at night,"

"You can sit in the co-pilot seat and let your parents sit in the back cabin."

"When the partition rises, a colorless, odorless, and harmless anesthetic gas will be released in the back cabin."

"This gas will make them sleepy for a long time."

"Then our car will drive directly into the freighter."

"There are rooms with very good conditions inside."

"When they wake up, we will have entered the high seas."

"You can then tell them everything."

"I believe they will understand."

Claire exclaimed in astonishment,

"Is this... so simplistic and crude?"

"Yes," Maglina said, "This is the best way."

"Otherwise, if they realize something's wrong midway,"

"Or notice something unusual while boarding the ship, you'll have a lot of trouble explaining it."

"If they try to contact the Young Master secretly, the whole plan will be ruined."

"I understand."

Although Claire was naive, she still had a sense of the bigger picture.

Extreme circumstances called for extreme measures.

Given her parents' personalities, if they noticed something was amiss,

They would definitely have their own thoughts.

Dad couldn't bear to part with the foundation he'd built in the Calligraphy and Painting Association and the vanity of driving a Cullinan every day.

Mom couldn't bear to part with the luxurious mansion in Tomson,

And even more so, a wealthy son-in-law like Charlie.

For Charlie's sake, they couldn't get into trouble at all costs.

The best way was as Maglina suggested: Just let them get into the car and fall asleep, and sleep all the way to the high seas.

Her parents' phones didn't have satellite communication capabilities,

So once on the high seas, even if they wanted to secretly contact Charlie,

It would be impossible.

With this thought in mind, she said to Maglina,

"Are you sure the anesthesia won't harm their health?"

"Of course!"

Maglina said frankly, "There is no harm, it will only make them experience an unprecedented deep sleep."

"And don't worry, we have a 15-person medical care team,"

"And they are now on the ship."

"They are carrying the most advanced medical equipment and going with us."

"In the future, this team will serve you and your family exclusively."

Claire subconsciously said, "This is too much of a fuss."

"There is no need to be so troublesome."

"Just give us an environment where we can live a normal life."

Maglina said seriously, "Ms. Willson, or should I call you Mrs. Wade, you are the young master's wife."

"We are taking you and your family away without telling the young master, which is already a great rebellion."

"If we don't take good care of you and your family, how can we face the young master in the future?"

"Besides, we are not going to prevent you and the young master from meeting forever."

"Once the young master completes his revenge plan, everything will be confessed to him, and there will be no restrictions on your contact with the young master."

"You can't contact or meet each other."

"If we fail to take care of you and your family during this time,"

"The Young Master will definitely blame us."

At this point, Maglina added, "We've already arranged everything for you and your family over there."

"Servants, gardeners, bodyguards, doctors, chauffeurs, yacht drivers, helicopter pilots, and even golf, tennis, diving, and yoga instructors—all full-time, and we've trained them over the years."

"You and your family won't have to worry about food, clothing, housing, transportation, entertainment, or health once you're there."

Claire blurted out, "This...this is such a waste of money!"

"It's all Charlie's money, all spent. I...I really can't bear it..."

Maglina smiled and said, "Don't worry, Madam. This amount is just a drop in the bucket for the Young Master."

"Let's put it this way, what the Young Master earns in a day is enough for you and your family to live a life of the highest standard forever."

Claire was stunned.

But Maglina wasn't joking.

In fact, she was being a little conservative.

Charlie's earning power couldn't be measured by conventional business thinking.

She deliberately said to Claire frankly: "Madam, in fact, the young master is not only the heir of the Wade family, nor is he just the grandson of the An family."

"He is the biggest boss of such a large shipping company as ISU Shipping."

"I don't know if you know that when shipping is the most profitable, a container ship could earn hundreds of millions of dollars in freight for one trip."

"And ISU Shipping has more than a hundred ships of various types."

Claire asked in horror: "A ship can earn hundreds of millions of dollars in freight for one trip?"

"This... is too exaggerated!"

Maglina smiled and said, "It may seem too exaggerated."

"But you may not know that shipping costs skyrocketed some time ago."

"The freight for a container from East Asia to the United States directly rose to 20,000 US dollars,"

"And the largest container ship under ISU Shipping is fully loaded with 24,000 containers."

"In other words, this container ship can earn more than 400 million in freight revenue from China to the United States,"

"And that is US dollars. Even if it is a money printing machine, it can't print money so fast."

Maglina didn't say anything else.

She knew that even so, the profitability of ISU Shipping was not as good as Charlie's Rejuvenation Pill Auction.

And the total cost of living for Claire's family of three in Tahiti would not cost 50 million US dollars a year at best,

So this was truly a drop in the bucket.

And the reason she told Claire about ISU Shipping was actually because she hoped that Claire would give up the idea of meeting Charlie again in his heart.

All of Margaret's people knew that their boss hoped that Claire could live a life of ease in Tahiti and not go back to meet Charlie.

Claire's expression was also a little melancholy at this time.

She became more and more aware that the gap between herself and Charlie was unimaginably large.

After a moment of silence, she said, "I will just follow your plan."

Chapter 6995

On the way back, Maglina kept her car deliberately under control.

She didn't dare drop Claire off too quickly, fearing that if she returned too early, Charlie, who was in Eastcliff, wouldn't have boarded the plane yet.

If one of Jacob and Elaine hadn't been smart enough to send Charlie a message asking about something, everything would be ruined.

So, she figured, as long as Claire stayed with her until takeoff and didn't communicate with the outside world,

She'd be able to eliminate any risk.

Furthermore, to avoid any mishaps, they even used their connections to remove and repair the Wi-Fi module on Charlie's plane beforehand.

Many transoceanic flights now offer free or paid internet,

And first class generally has free access.

If the Wi-Fi on this plane wasn't disabled,

Charlie would have been able to receive messages throughout the flight.

Once the Wi-Fi function is disabled, all passengers on board would be temporarily cut off from the outside world ten minutes after takeoff,

Until they are close to landing.

Charlie's plane took off on time at 5:30 PM.

Ten minutes later, the plane climbed to an altitude of 3,500 meters.

By this time, all cell phone signals had been completely lost.

Maglina's hairpin vibrated three times.

This was their internal communication method; three vibrations indicated that Charlie was no longer connected.

So, she sped up and took Claire to her home in Tomson.

Jacob had already arrived home and was watching TV in the living room with Elaine.

Seeing Claire walk in alone, they both looked over at them immediately.

Jacob said with a smile, "Oh, my girl, you're back!"

"Did you have a good time in Eastcliff this time?"

Claire smiled slightly and said, "Very good."

Elaine looked left and right but didn't see any sign of Charlie behind her daughter.

She asked her in surprise, "My girl, isn't Charlie back?"

"No."

Claire adjusted her hair unnaturally and said,

"Charlie went to Australia. Mr. Hong asked him for help, saying that a friend needed his help with feng shui."

"So I came back on my own."

When Jacob heard Mr. Hong, he quickly asked him,

"Is it Master Orvel Hong?"

"Yes."

Claire nodded. Jacob said with a smile,

"Oh, Master Orvel has a good relationship with Charlie."

"Some clients always think of him."

"Not bad."

In Jacob's opinion, whether he could become the executive vice president of the Calligraphy and Painting Association again in the future depended on whether Master Orvel was willing to help him.

He'd previously gotten himself into trouble and been demoted from the Painting and Calligraphy Association.

However, everyone in the industry knew the unspoken rules:

If you were demoted during a crisis, you'd be able to find an opportunity to be promoted back soon after the storm subsided.

It all depended on whether the higher-ups were willing to grant you that opportunity.

Jacob knew he had little foundation, but with Master Orvel's help, this matter would be a sure thing.

Therefore, as long as Charlie and Orvel maintained a close working relationship,

He felt that his case still had a chance.

Claire could probably tell from her father's expression what he was thinking about,

But she also knew that her parents were leaving Aurous Hill soon and might not return.

The Painting and Calligraphy Association is all just a pipe dream.

Then, she said to them, "By the way, Mom and Dad, our company's been slow lately."

"And we've had a lot of things to do since the Lunar New Year."

"A friend recommended a cruise trip from the island city all the way to Tahiti."

"They said the facilities are excellent and it's a lot of fun."

"Let's go tonight!"

"Tonight?" Jacob said in surprise,

"So hasty?"

Elaine asked curiously, "Tahiti? Is it Tahiti that's rich in pearls?"

Claire nodded and said to Elaine,

"Yes, Mom, it's that Tahiti."

"It's said to be better than the Maldives."

"But it's not as hyped as the Maldives."

After that, she said to Jacob,

"Dad, the cruise ship will leave the port tomorrow morning."

"And we are far away."

"If we want to catch up, we have to set off now."

"Their company has allocated a business car, and it's waiting at the door."

"You go back to the room and pack some things, and we'll set off directly."

Elaine asked with concern,

"My daughter, it must cost a lot of money to take a cruise to such a far place, right?"

Claire knew that her mother loved to take advantage of others, so she agreed with her and said,

"It is said to be a super luxurious first-class cabin."

"A ticket costs more than 200,000, and all meals and drinks are free."

Elaine immediately became energetic and excited,

"Let's go! We must go!"

Jacob was a little embarrassed and said:

"Oh, this is too hasty. We haven't handed over many things in our association yet."

"It's not appropriate to leave like that!"\

Elaine blurted out: "What's inappropriate?"

"You don't have anything serious to do there."

"It's just a bunch of old men and women doing some nonsense all day long."

"Besides, President Pei has such a good relationship with you."

"If there is anything, just let him arrange it for you."

"It will definitely not be a problem for him."

Jacob smacked his lips and asked:

"Then let's go on the cruise. It will take at least a month to go back and forth, right?"

"Do you want to say hello to Charlie?"

Claire lied: "This project is managed by Charlie's friend."

"He gave us this opportunity for free because of Charlie."

"It will take a long time for Charlie to go to Australia this time."

"He was afraid that we would be bored at home,"

"So he arranged for us to go out."

"Is that so?" Jacob nodded slightly and said,

"Then I'll say hello to President Pei and ask him to help arrange the work."

Chapter 6996

Elaine stood up happily and said,

"I'll go upstairs and pack my luggage quickly,"

"So as not to delay boarding the ship tomorrow morning!"

"I've been traveling by plane recently,"

"And I haven't experienced a luxury cruise yet!"

Jacob also took out his mobile phone and called President Pei.

As soon as the call was connected, he said to President Pei,

"Old Pei, I have something to tell you."

"My son-in-law went to Australia with Mr. Hong for business."

President Pei asked curiously on the other end of the phone,

"With Master Orvel?"

Jacob smiled and said, "Yes, yes, it's Master Orvel."

"You know, Master Orvel begs my son-in-law for help all day long,"

"And my son-in-law is embarrassed to refuse."

President Pei praised, "Who lets Charlie have real skills!"

"These rich and powerful people in Aurous Hill all respect him as Master Wade."

Jacob was proud in his heart and said with a smile,

"Yes, yes, my son-in-law is indeed capable."

"By the way, Old Pei, what I want to tell you is not this matter."

"It is mainly about my son-in-law."

"This trip to Australia may take quite a long time."

"He was afraid that Elaine, Claire, and I would be bored, so he arranged a luxury cruise to Tahiti for us."

"It may take a month, and it will depart tomorrow."

"I didn't expect it to be so hasty."

"There are many things in the association that I can't handle in time."

When President Pei heard this, he knew what Jacob meant.

After he tricked Jacob last time, the opportunity for advancement that he had been waiting for for many years was gone.

Since then, he realized that he must coax Jacob in the future,

Otherwise, his future would be locked in the Calligraphy and Painting Association,

And he would never have the opportunity to move up in his life.

Now Jacob wants to take a leave to travel.

Logically, no one can take a month off to go out and play,

But since it is Jacob, he certainly cannot refuse.

So he smiled and said, "Jacob, just go have fun."

"I'll take care of things at the association. Don't worry!"

Jacob breathed a sigh of relief and said with a smile,

"Thank you, President Pei."

President Pei quickly said, "Jacob, we're all family."

"If you need anything, just give me a heads up."

"Why be so polite? It's too formal."

Jacob enjoyed the feeling of being valued and said with a smile,

"Okay, Old Pei, given our relationship, I won't be polite."

"I'll bring you a gift when I come back!"

Twenty minutes later, Jacob and Elaine had packed their bags.

Claire hid in her bedroom, covered with the quilt, and cried.

After crying, she wiped her tears, wrote a letter to Charlie on paper,

And placed it on the bedside table.

Then, she simply packed a few clothes and necessities,

Washed her face with cold water, and left the room.

In the living room, Jacob and Elaine were searching Tahiti travel guides on their phones.

Seeing Claire arrive, Elaine immediately announced,

"We've been waiting, my dear. Let's get going, Tahiti!"

Maglina, who was waiting in the courtyard, saw the three of them emerge and quickly stepped forward to help Elaine with her luggage.

She respectfully said, "Uncle and aunt, you two can get in first."

"I'll handle the luggage."

Then, she turned to Claire, "Mr. Willson, you can take the passenger seat."

"Let's have the second row."

Claire nodded and said to her parents,

"Mom and Dad, you can sit in the back."

"Okay," they readily agreed and climbed in, settling into the back seat of the business car.

The most comfortable seats in a high-end business car are the two first-class seats in the second row.

Knowing they were going to be on a long trip,

The two of them skillfully adjusted the seats to their needs and preferences.

Claire, knowing his parents would soon be anesthetized, felt a certain amount of worry.

Maglina could see her worry and smiled, saying,

"Don't worry, Mr. Willson, everything is safe."

"Let uncle and aunt have a good rest."

"Okay." Claire knew that the arrow was on the string and had to be released.

No matter what, she couldn't stay and hold Charlie back.

So, she helped Maglina load the luggage into the car,

Then got into the passenger seat.

Soon, the business car drove out of Tomson.

Jacob and Elaine, who were in the back seat, hadn't noticed anything unusual yet,

Their thoughts are preoccupied with the upcoming luxury cruise to Tahiti.

As the business car pulled out of Tomson, several parked cars immediately followed,

Keeping a distance of dozens to hundreds of meters from it.

These vehicles and the people inside were all Margaret's subordinates,

And they would escort Claire and her parents all the way to the island city.

The convoy quickly drove out of the city and onto the highway.

By now, it was completely dark.

As Maglina drove, she said to Jacob and Elaine,

"Uncle, aren't you guys getting bored in the car?"

"How about I raise the TV in the middle and show you a promotional video for our Tahiti cruise?"

"Okay!"

Elaine agreed immediately, smiling,

"We're just thinking about doing some research!"

"Let us get to know you better first!"

Maglina flicked a switch, and the partition between the rear cabin and the driver's seat slowly rose, separated by a widescreen TV.

Then, a promotional video about Tahiti's tourism unfolded on TV.

The visuals were breathtakingly beautiful, captivating, and Jacob and Elaine were transfixed.

Just then, a puff of colorless, odorless air emanated from the air conditioning vents.

Engrossed in the scene, they felt drowsy.

As their eyelids began to droop,

They fell into an uncontrollable slumber...

Chapter 6997

After Jacob and Elaine fell into a deep coma,

Maglina first opened the rear window and then switched the air conditioning to external circulation.

After the air was completely refreshed, she repositioned the TV.

Claire looked back at the two of them and found that they were sleeping very soundly,

With their chests rising and falling regularly when they breathed,

So he was completely relieved.

Maglina glanced at her and said with a smile,

"Mr. Willson, don't worry. They are both safe."

"Okay."

Claire nodded gently and asked her,

"By the way, when Charlie arrives in Australia,"

"He should contact me as soon as possible."

"If he can't contact me by then, he will definitely be very worried."

"Do you want me to leave him a message?"

Maglina said, "After you board the ship, leave everything else to us."

"The young master will definitely be anxious,"

"But I think that no matter what method is used to separate,"

"The pain of separation is inevitable."

"I don't have the ability to solve any problems for the young master."

"I can only let him digest it slowly by himself."

After that, she looked at Claire again and said seriously,

"Ms. Willson, although separation will be painful,"

"From the overall perspective, it will definitely be beneficial to the young master's revenge and the safety of both of you."

"I understand."

Claire gave a wry smile and nodded slightly, thinking to herself,

"No matter what, I can't burden him any longer."

"He has so much to do,"

"And I'm not only of no use to him, but would only be a burden."

"I hope that after I leave, he can relax and devote all his energy to what he needs to do."

On the highway, the entire convoy sped along at the maximum speed limit.

The entire journey to the Qilu Island City was smooth.

What Claire didn't notice was that many cars identical to the one she was riding in kept appearing on the highway.

And like this one, these cars were brand new and lacked official license plates.

At this moment, Maglina reached out and ripped the temporary license plate from the front windshield.

The same operation was performed in other cars of the same model.

The rear windows of these cars were completely private.

The front windows, while transparent, had been specially modified.

All the surveillance cameras along the way would have captured the windows in a completely white blur,

Completely obscuring everything,

As long as they activated their flash or fill lights.

In the current lighting conditions, without flash and fill light,

It would be impossible to capture what is inside.

Then, other identical vehicles began to frequently overtake and pass each other.

Dozens of identical cars constantly adjusted their positions on the highway,

Like mahjong tiles on a table.

Without any special markings, it was impossible to tell who was who.

And after this shuffling, these cars began to turn onto other roads at different intersections or exit the highway through different exits,

Like fireworks scattering in all directions after being launched.

This maneuver was to minimize Charlie's vision.

With so many vehicles, completely obscure from the outside,

All jumbled together, he would be unable to pinpoint Claire's whereabouts in a short period of time.

If he was determined to find her,

He would have to resort to the most rudimentary method:

Tracking down each clue, car by car.

Furthermore, each clue was an open-ended mystery;

Until he found Claire, he could not confirm its authenticity.

Therefore, even if he were given a year or two,

He might not be able to trace the final destination of all these vehicles.

Furthermore, even if Charlie ultimately confirmed that Claire's car had gone to Qilu Island City,

It would be difficult to determine where she had gone from there.

Furthermore, even if he discovered that she had boarded a ship from the island city, so what?

Once the ship reached the high seas,

Claire's family and accompanying crew would be transferred to another vessel,
Making Charlie's investigation even more difficult.

This was all part of Margaret's plan.

She knew Charlie's current capabilities were formidable,

With not only an AI model but also the covert assistance of a top detective like
Duncan.

She knew that Claire couldn't disappear without a trace.

Rather than painstakingly erasing traces, only to have Duncan exploit a minor
loophole and rip everything apart,

It would be better to do the opposite:

Leave traces everywhere.

Any attempt to investigate would be exhausting, including Duncan.

For the police solving a case, if there's only one suspect, there's nothing to
worry about.

As long as they dig deeper into that person,

They'll definitely find the clues they need.

But what if there are a hundred suspects?

That's a hundred mysteries they need to solve one by one,

Which will definitely become a nightmare.

Chapter 6998

At three in the morning, Churan's commercial vehicle pulled into the island city harbor.

Their ship was already waiting at its berth,

Fully loaded with containers, bound for New Zealand.

Once in international waters, the ship would meet another cargo ship in the Pacific Ocean,

Bound for Argentina from Shanghai.

There, Claire and her family would transfer to this vessel and continue southeast.

A few hundred nautical miles from Tahiti, they would be picked up by a luxury yacht belonging to a Silicon Valley tycoon and taken to the Windward Islands in French Polynesia.

Tahiti, the largest island in the Windward Islands, wasn't Claire's group's actual destination.

Margaret was using the island to house them, a small,

An obscure island in the Windward Islands, privately owned and closed to the public.

Claire's vehicle drove directly into an empty shipping container.

Several staff members then arrived, closing the container's doors.

A crane lifted the container and hoisted it onto the container ship.

However, the container wasn't stacked on top of the pile of containers.

It was hoisted directly onto the deck.

Once the container was stable on the deck, a staff member arrived to open the door.

Maglina immediately started the car and exited the container.

The staff member then opened the door and greeted Claire respectfully,

"Hello, Mrs. Wade!"

Claire felt a little uncomfortable.

First, she wasn't used to so many people addressing her respectfully,

And second, they weren't used to them all calling her Mrs. Wade.

Just then, a middle-aged woman approached and said,\

"Madam, the freighter is about to depart."

"You're tired from the journey."

"Please come with me to the cabin to rest."

Claire asked nervously, "What about my parents?"

The middle-aged woman smiled and said, "We'll arrange for your parents to rest in the observation room."

"A doctor will be with them throughout the trip."

"They'll probably wake up tomorrow afternoon."

"I'll let you know when they do."

She waved behind her, and four medical staff in white coats came running over, pushing two mobile beds.

The middle-aged woman then asked Claire,

"Mrs. Wade, do you have any other questions?"

"If not, I'll have them take your parents over first."

Claire shook her head and said, "I have no other questions."

"Thank you for taking good care of them."

"Don't worry,"

The middle-aged woman smiled.

"I'll take you to see them later, after you've settled into your room."

"We won't restrict your visits at any time."

Claire nodded in agreement.

Maglina helped her carry her luggage and led her inside.

Although this was a cargo ship, it had been specially converted.

Several rooms had been pre-furnished, rivaling those of a five-star hotel.

Not only were the soft furnishings and furniture designed,

But all appliances were also available.

There were also several other rooms,

Including a medical room, an activity room, a dining room, and a cinema.

Even the ingredients prepared for Claire's family were the finest and most expensive in the world,

And the chefs were all Michelin-rated masters.

A middle-aged woman, acting as a guide, explained all the hardware and software to Claire.

She took in every detail, her entire body awestruck.

When she reached the incredibly luxurious rooms, she couldn't help but marvel at the care taken.

She said, "We'll only be on the ship for a short time, maybe ten days or so."

"There's no need to invest so much manpower and resources in decorating."

The middle-aged woman smiled,

"You're the young master's wife."

"Even if you're only on board for two hours,"

"We must be fully prepared."

"We absolutely cannot afford to neglect anything."

Claire felt a pang of pain, but she politely said,

"Thank you."

The middle-aged woman shook her head,

"Madam, you don't have to be so polite with us servants."

She then said, "Madam, let Mengmeng help you get settled."

"I won't bother you anymore."

"The ship will leave in ten minutes, and I'll have to follow up."

Claire nodded and said politely, "You're free to get busy then."

Claire had no idea that Margaret had personally arranged all of this,

Taking great pains.

She did this partly out of guilt towards Claire,

And partly out of the hope that when they reunited and confessed everything,

Charlie would be less critical of her.

Ten minutes later, with a deep whistle,

The freighter slowly pulled out of its berth,

Then, it sailed out of the harbor and into the Yellow Sea.

Claire silently watched the harbor drift further and further away from the port window, unable to hold back her tears once again...

Chapter 6999

In the early morning of Australian time, Charlie, Orvel, and Issac landed at Melbourne Airport.

Melbourne time is two hours ahead of China time,

And it was still dark in China.

Charlie didn't want to disturb Claire's sleep,

So he didn't send her a message.

Issac had already arranged for the staff of the local Shangri-La Hotel to send a Cadillac SUV over.

After the three of them got the car, Issac, who had an international driver's license, was responsible for driving,

And Charlie asked him to drive directly to the hospital where Leon was.

On the way, Charlie asked Issac:

"Old Chen, are you sure Butler Tang is still in that hospital?"

Issac was cautious and said seriously:

"Young Master, the people I arranged replied that they went in and checked three hours ago and confirmed that he was still there."

"Okay."

Charlie nodded and sighed, "I'll see him later and heal his injuries."

"Then we'll take him directly back to Shangri-La."

"After I ask him about some things,"

"I'll go and settle accounts with those brats."

Orvel took out a small utility knife from his pocket and said through gritted teeth,

"Master Wade, as long as we catch those little ba5tards,"

"I will carve the word 'ba5tard' on their foreheads!"

Charlie asked in surprise, "Where did you get the knife?"

"It's impossible that you brought it on the plane, right?"

Orvel said with a smile, "That's not possible."

"The security checks at the airports are so strict."

"You can't bring this thing on the plane."

"I just bought it when I went to the convenience store at the airport to buy cigarettes."

After that, he took out a pack of export-oriented Zhonghua cigarettes and complained,

"Should I say it or not, Cigarettes are so damn expensive in this place."

"Just a box of hard Zhonghua costs almost three hundred yuan."

Charlie smiled and said, "You never forget your performance art wherever you go."

As he said that, he remembered something and reminded Orvel,

"But I have to tell you in advance, when you find someone,"

"No matter what the situation, you can't carve a ba5tard on his forehead."

Orvel asked puzzledly, "Why, Master Wade?"

"If you don't teach them a lesson they will never forget,"

"It will be too easy for these little ba5tards!"

Charlie said seriously, "Why? Let me tell you, first of all, the local ba5tards don't know Chinese characters."

"If he goes out with the words you carved on his forehead in the future, not everyone will be able to recognize it."

"Maybe other ba5tards will think it's some cool and fashionable tattoo;"

"Secondly, we shouldn't leave any holes for the local media."

"If you carve Chinese characters on their foreheads, the local media will definitely seize on this incident and magnify it infinitely."

"Then we don't know how to discredit us."

"You have to know that these people are always like this."

"They shoot each other with guns on the street, and the death of seven or eight people is a trivial matter in their eyes."

"If a foreigner casually drops a piece of wrapping paper on their street, they will escalate it to the national level."

"And a group of people will jump out to criticize it."

"We'd better keep a low profile."

"Even if we carve words, don't carve Chinese characters."

Orvel said with a smile:

"That's easy. Just carve Japanese "Bakayaro" on them, or Korean "Xiba."

Issac, while driving, joked, "Orvel, can you write Bakayaro in Japanese and Xiba in Korean?"

Orvel said seriously, "No, but I can learn!"

"I can apply it right away!"

Issac gave a thumbs up and praised,

"Okay, you are still so eager to learn at your age."

"You have a bright future!"

Charlie smiled and said, "Don't think about throwing dirty water on Japan and South Korea at this time."

"After all, these people are hostile to all Asians."

"If Asians throw dirty water on each other at this time, it will only increase their hostility towards Asians."

"I think it's better to engrave it in English."

"They speak English here."

Orvel chuckled and said, "I heard that this place was where Britain exiled criminals more than 200 years ago?"

"That's right."

Charlie said casually, "This place was not a good place to begin with."

"It is said that there are more rabbits than people, and spiders are bigger than rabbits."

"More than 70% of the land cannot grow crops, and more than half of the land cannot even grow grass."

"But the iron ore reserves are astonishingly high."

"The iron content in many places exceeds 60%."

Orvel smacked his lips and said,

"No wonder Britain exiled criminals here."

"If they wanted to build a prison, they could use local materials to make steel and iron fences."

Charlie knew he was talking nonsense, so he smiled and said,

"Although their early history was not so glorious, they did have mines at home."

"In this era, people laugh at the poor but not at prostitutes."

"Whoever has money is a developed country with modern civilization."

Orvel looked a little unconvinced, and he cursed in a low voice,

"Many developed countries were invading powers everywhere."

"But they suddenly turned into civilized societies."

Chapter 7000

Charlie shook his head and smiled, and said nothing more.

Orvel had clear likes and dislikes and was straightforward,

So he was used to it.

A few minutes later, Issac drove the car to the Parkville district of Melbourne and then arrived at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

After parking the car, he said to Charlie,

"Master, Butler Tang is in the ICU in the emergency department."

"Do you think we should go in now?"

"Or arrange for someone else to investigate?"

Charlie said, "Let's go directly."

And then he opened the door and got out.

Charlie reasoned that since Victoria had never targeted the Wade family,

Leon, as the Wade family's butler, would definitely not be her target.

Therefore, he didn't need to worry about this matter involving the Warriors Den.

Since he didn't have to worry about the Warriors Den, there was generally nothing to worry about.

He went in directly to see Leon, healed his injuries as soon as possible,

And then inquired about the reason for his sudden departure.

The most important thing was to go in and see him.

So, the three of them walked into the hospital and arrived at the emergency department.

Issac inquired about the location of the ICU and called Charlie and Orvel to go to the second floor.

At the nurses' station on the second floor,

A nurse on duty stopped them, "Who are you looking for?"

Issac immediately replied,\

"We're looking for the Chinese man who was beaten and hospitalized."

"He's probably in his sixties and is in the intensive care unit."

The nurse said, "He's been discharged."

"Discharged?!"

Charlie and Issac were stunned,

Except for Orvel, who didn't understand English.

Charlie immediately stepped forward and asked,

"When was he discharged?"

"Wasn't he seriously injured? Why did they let him out?"

The nurse said, "He was discharged three hours ago."

"His injuries were serious, but he was no longer in danger of death."

"He insisted on being discharged,"

"And we couldn't force him to stay,"

"So we did the discharge procedures for him."

Charlie frowned and quickly asked,

"Do you know who picked him up?"

"No one picked him up,"

The nurse said. "He left on his own, on crutches."

Charlie was amazed.

Even if Leon wasn't in danger of death, the photos Claire had shown him at the time showed he was seriously injured and would need at least a month of bed rest to recover.

Yet, less than 24 hours later, he was already out of the hospital.

Who was he trying to avoid with such haste?

Was it to avoid those teenagers?

Or was it to avoid some enemy?

Or was it to avoid him?

Charlie was momentarily confused.

He had no idea he had fallen for Leon's tactic of luring the tiger away from the mountain.

Even less did he know that at this very moment,

Leon, limping, was being helped onto a small Honda Jet at a small civilian airport outside Melbourne by several men in black.

The plane was privately owned by a small miner in Western Australia.

He wasn't very wealthy, so a private jet worth less than \$10 million wasn't particularly eye-catching.

Here, it was just an entry-level private jet for the wealthy.

Since the takeoff took place from a private airport and the registered route was from Melbourne to Port Hedland, Western Australia,

Not an international flight, passengers did not undergo any inspection or registration.

They were driven directly to the airport, skipping even the terminal and boarding the plane at the end of the runway.

The owner of the plane lived in Melbourne with his family during his off-hours and traveled to Western Australia during his working hours.

His main business was transporting mined iron ore to Port Hedland, from where it was exported to his clients in China.

Therefore, he made a roughly weekly commuter trip to Melbourne.

Leon's presence on his plane was virtually undetectable.

The plane taxied and took off in the morning light,

Flying from southeast to northwest Australia, effectively flying a diagonal route across the country.

Upon arrival at an airport near Port Hedland,

Leon would board a cargo ship carrying iron ore,

Departing from Port Hedland for Japan.

Meanwhile, outside the Royal Melbourne Hospital,

Charlie looked at the extensive city road network and frowned, saying,

"Butler Tang has difficulty moving around."

"He certainly wouldn't be able to get far on his own."

Issac asked, "Young Master, do you want to mobilize the local staff to find a way to track him down?"

Charlie sighed, "I'm afraid he is deliberately trying to avoid me."

Suddenly, Charlie remembered something and said to Issac,

"Let's go to the police station and ask for help."

"It's said that Butler Tang just immigrated to Australia not long ago."

"The legal documents and procedures for new immigrants must be very complete."

"Perhaps the police have more information."

Issac nodded, but asked worriedly,

"Young Master, in what capacity should we ask the police for help?"

"If the police need to confirm our relationship with Butler Tang first,"

"Then it will be difficult for us to produce any supporting documents."

Charlie felt a little inexplicably irritated and frowned, saying,

"Let's try our luck first."

"If the other party's demands are really harsh,"

"I also have a way to get him to tell the truth!"