

## Valiant Life 251

Chapter 251: Completed all of a sudden

There was quite a lot of time until the shop renovation works would be completed. Fraud Tian had nothing to do and he occasionally came to have a look at the shop. He would chat with the renovation workers and brag about things.

Outside the shop.

Elder Dog Nicholas had been looking after his doghouse. Suddenly, he raised his head and charged forward.

Lin Fan had appeared on the streets. When he saw Elder Dog charging towards him, he praised, "Not bad, Elder Dog. You know how to greet me."

Elder Dog Nicholas barked continuously as if he was elated.

When Fraud Tian saw Lin Fan, he smiled, "The renovation works are really fast. I think it should be completed in no time."

Lin Fan nodded and asked, "Not bad. Sir, how long more will you need?"

It wasn't because Lin Fan wanted to start work quickly. It was because he wanted to stop worrying about the renovation works.

"Soon. I think I'll only need about three more days," said the renovation manager. The project wasn't a major one and there were two workers, which hastened the works.

\*Ding ding!\*

Suddenly, the phone rang. It was a call from Bai Ke. Lin Fan wondered what the situation was like with him.

Bai Ke sounded extremely happy over the phone, "We succeeded! We succeeded!"

Lin Fan was also elated when he heard him. "What did you succeed in?"

Bai Ke replied, "Our shop finally has business! We've changed our restaurant's concept. Now, we sell rice dishes. Our online sales reached almost three thousand servings. Furthermore, people gave us good ratings!"

Lin Fan was stunned. He hadn't expected Bai Ke to start selling rice dishes but it was a pretty good choice. "That's pretty good. Do a good job and you'll definitely be rich in the future!"

"Young Fan, thank you so much. If not for you, I wouldn't be in such a good state." Bai Ke had called Lin Fan just to tell him about the good news. He was extremely ecstatic.

The restaurant was extremely worn down and he wasn't able to cook other dishes properly. After discussing with his wife, they decided to sell rice dishes. Also, they created a platform online. It was well-received and business was booming. He would surely be extremely busy in the future.

Bai Ke was so happy that he could even laugh in his sleep because he could finally step out of his past.

Lin Fan also congratulated him and they hung up after chatting for a while longer.

Lin Fan was extremely happy too, after witnessing his good friend leading a happy life.

Fraud Tian asked curiously, "Who called? You look so happy."

Lin Fan laughed but the laughter was short-lived. He was stunned.

How can it be? The mission wasn't even completed but there was a notification sound...

Was it a hallucination...? But the sound felt so real.

"The sixth task has been completed. Encyclopedic Points will be increased by 20."

"Unlocking the seventh Encyclopedic task. For it's the seventh page of knowledge, a specialty of someone close to the host will be chosen."

"Wang Ming Yang's friendship with the host is timeless. Although he isn't around, relevant Encyclopedic knowledge will be unlocked."

Lin Fan was extremely stunned when he heard that. What does that mean? Even though I came to a place with so little people, it didn't work? It even mentioned 'timeless friendship'. Why not 'timeless love'?

D\*mn!

Wait, what does Wang Ming Yang know?

He had never asked that question before.

"Wang Ming Yang has a deep and meaningful friendship with the host. Hence, the Gambling classification will be unlocked. (along with the Encyclopedia's mystical boost)"

"Task: To become the revered Master Lin."

"Reward: Encyclopedic Points +20 and the ability to unlock the eighth page of knowledge."

"Note: Since it is a small class of knowledge, there is no need to be involved in the profession."

"Current Encyclopedic Points: 72 points."

The notification ended. Lin Fan felt as if his head was getting hotter and hotter. It was as if someone had poured hot water on him.

Suddenly, everything that he had didn't matter anymore. Lin Fan was more worried about how he was going to complete it.

The Encyclopedia gave him gambling abilities but still wanted him to be a revered Master Lin. Didn't it just want him to gamble? It was impossible for people to still respect him after losing all their money to him.

It looked like this mission was going to be a difficult one for him.

Furthermore, this knowledge classification couldn't earn him extra Encyclopedic Points. Even if he could teach others, he wouldn't do it. It would definitely implicate the lives of others.

Fraud Tian looked at Lin Fan who was standing there idly. He curiously asked, "Why do you look so sad? Your expression is so serious."

Lin Fan was stunned and he looked towards Fraud Tian. "Nothing much, I'm just thinking about something."

Then, Lin Fan suddenly called Wang Ming Yang.

"Hey, tell me. What are you good at?"

Over the phone, Wang Ming Yang was stunned. "What do you mean?"

Lin Fan sighed, "I'm asking if you have any specialties other than gambling."

Wang Ming Yang replied, "Don't malign me, I don't even gamble!"

"Alright, stop acting dumb. Just tell me. I'm prepared for it." He suddenly thought he should make friends with some professors in universities or even scientists.

In the past, he had been trying to avoid Fraud Tian. But now, it looked like he had to avoid Wang Ming Yang too.

Wang Ming Yang didn't understand what Lin Fan meant. But he thought about it for a moment. "Nothing much. I only drink, womanize, gamble and smoke. I'm not good at anything in particular. I'm just courageous, meticulous, gentle and kind. Nothing else."

Alright! Nothing else needed to be said. At least gambling skills were still useful. If he had to learn Fraud Tian's back-scrubbing skills, he'd probably be crying now.

"Alright, that's all. Carry on with your work."

Wang Ming Yang was completely clueless. He didn't know what this brother of his was up to. It felt like something was wrong and he had to pay him a visit soon.

After hanging up, Lin Fan sighed.

Then, someone appeared. "May I know if you are Master Lin?"

Lin Fan looked at the man. He looked a little depressed, as if something bad had happened to him.

"I am, what's up?" Lin Fan asked.

The man looked pretty young. He was in his thirties and his outfit was normal. However, there was something wrong with his facial expression.

The man spoke gently with a hoarse voice, "I heard you're extremely good at fortune-telling. I want to find out what I should do in the future."

Lin Fan was stunned. It was the first time he had been met with a request like this. Then, he shook his head. "You have to depend on your own choices. Everyone has their own way of thinking and it will determine their lives. Therefore, I can't help you with that."

The man raised his head and looked at Lin Fan. In the end, he nodded and left.

Fraud Tian looked at the back view of the dejected man. "There's something wrong with him."

Lin Fan nodded, "I guess so. I briefly read his fortune just now. He has a complicated fate."

Fraud Tian curiously asked, "What do you mean by a complicated fate?"

"It's just like he could lose his life anytime with his choices," Lin Fan replied.

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Fraud Tian followed that man to a nearby hospital. He was still suspicious as to why he had come to the hospital. But he had been moved by Lin Fan's words. As the saying goes, saving one's life is more meritorious than building a seven-floor pagoda for a dead person. Since he had met that man, he was curious and wanted to find out what had happened.

At the doctor's office.

Fraud Tian stood outside and suddenly, the people inside started to converse.

The doctor said, "Her illness can't be treated. You should stop wasting money on treating it."

There was a long period of silence.

The man replied, "I know I'm wasting my money but I've already sold everything I had and I borrowed a lot of money. I can't ever pay off my debts. If I were to stop her treatment, I really don't know what to do anymore."

The doctor sighed, "Let's go have a look at the ward."

At the ward.

There was a weak and frail-looking woman lying on the bed. Her eyes were shut and she looked like she was in a deep sleep. There was a three-year-old boy sitting beside the bed.

The boy immediately came over to hold his dad's hand when he saw him.

The man carried the boy and looked at the person on the bed. He looked extremely dejected. Then, he turned to the boy. "Xiao Dong, when your mom leaves us, we have to go and beg for food on the streets..."

The boy's eyes widened and he replied innocently, "Dad, I don't know how to beg for food. What should I do?"

Fraud Tian was extremely stunned and he wiped the tears from the corners of his eyes. Then, he quickly rushed back to the shop.

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Chapter 252: How to continue with life

Cloud Street.

Outside the shop.

Lin Fan stood there and looked at the progress of the interior renovation. He was so satisfied with it that he started nodding his head. The rough layout was already completed. Although the overall progress wasn't completed yet, it looked promising.

Elder Zhang, the shop owner of the adjacent shop smiled while standing beside Lin Fan. "Little Boss, your renovation works are really quick. They probably just need a few days more to complete it."

Lin Fan nodded. "Yeah, it's a small shop. There isn't much to prepare anyway."

Elder Zhang replied, "Did the court of law transfer you the payment for the renovation?"

"Yeah, it was really quick too. \$320,000, not a single cent less." Lin Fan had to give a thumbs up to the people working there. Qiao Fei had initially not wanted to give any money but it would've made things worse for him. After a while, Qiao Fei surrendered to his fate

and gave the money. Especially since he had been detained for six months, it was like torture to him.

It must have disrupted so much work. The people back in the company had to try to speak to Lu Li to seal the deal again but it was all in vain. Lu Li had already signed the agreement with the other company and the project had already started. All they heard was "We can work together in the future if the opportunity arises."

Elder Zhang looked into the distance. "Hey, what's with Fraud Tian?"

When Fraud Tian walked to the shop, Lin Fan was stunned. "Hey, Fraud. What's wrong? Did you get beaten up by someone? Why are your eyes swollen and red?"

Fraud Tian wiped the corners of his eyes and heaved a sigh, "It's so pitiful."

"What did you see?" Lin Fan was extremely close to Fraud Tian. He was such a heartless man but now, he was crying over someone. It was such a weird occurrence.

Fraud Tian replied, "I followed that man to the hospital. It was pitiful. An average person can't possibly stay at the hospital for a long time. I was having such a hard time looking at the patients there and even their families too.

Lin Fan shook his head. "That's the way it is. You're not Superman or God. You just can't help it sometimes even if you'd like to."

"But if you love a person and want to help him or her, you have to do your best," Fraud Tian said. It was the first time he had said such a deep sentence.

Even Lin Fan was stunned. "What exactly did you see? The impact sounds so heavy."

Fraud Tian recounted the incident, "Let me tell you then..."

Lin Fan and Elder Zhang listened carefully. They hadn't expected him to be able to articulate everything so clearly.



"Don't you think it's very pitiful? Especially after hearing what the kid said... I can't take it. 'Dad, I don't know how to beg for food. What am I going to do? Tell me, what can I do about this...'"

Lin Fan gently patted Fraud Tian on his shoulder and showed empathy. There were countless such instances in the world and sometimes you just had to think positively.

Fraud Tian held Lin Fan's hands and Lin Fan tried to move his hands away. But Fraud Tian held them extremely tightly. His eyes glimmered with hope. "Why don't we help him?"

Lin Fan realized that he couldn't shake him off. "Fraud, you mean well but don't you realize that there's nothing we can help him with? Firstly, we aren't medically trained. Furthermore, even if we were, it's anemia. We would be helpless. Secondly, let's talk about money. It's not like we're broke but what can the money do? It could also cause something bad to happen..."

Fraud Tian shook his head. "I'm not talking about helping him with those things. I've seen these instances so many times over the past decades. I understand them. However, I just saw how pitiful the kid was and how sad his dad was. They probably don't have any confidence for the future. That's why I would like you to read their fortunes and enlighten that dad so that he'll find hope in living again. Although they're in a huge debt, life is always changing and I just want them to find hope again."

Lin Fan was stunned, he looked at Fraud Tian and felt as though he didn't know him anymore.

Fraud Tian thought Lin Fan wasn't agreeable since he remained silent. "Please help them just once. I won't be a busybody again in the future."

"It's not about being a busybody. It's just that you shocked me," Lin Fan said in disbelief.

Fraud Tian shook his head. "It's mainly about that child and the man. You can't just say the child is still young. That's wrong... The child is still suffering. I just feel that enlightening them would be the best way for us to help them. Since we were fated to meet, it'd be a waste not to help them when we can. In the future, when I think of this, I'd feel bad about myself. Nowadays, people are too cold and selfish."

Lin Fan was stunned by what Fraud Tian said. He hadn't expected him to be so kind-hearted. Elder Zhang also looked at Fraud Tian differently. Then, he gave him a thumbs up and said, "I feel that what Fraud Tian just said makes a lot of sense."

Then, Fraud Tian just looked at Lin Fan and waited for him to say something.

As long as he agreed, they'd leave immediately.

He believed in Lin Fan's fortune-telling capabilities. Even if it was really a scam, it was still much better than the others. It would be easier to convince them.

Lin Fan looked at Fraud Tian and felt that he couldn't reject him. "Alright, let's go have a look then."

Fraud Tian was ecstatic. He pulled Lin Fan. "Let's go there quickly. Some things can't be dragged on."

It was a weird scene as the old man tried to drag a young man out of the shop.

Elder Zhang added, "Let me join the both of you. This is a good deed. There is power in unity. The success rate would probably be higher."

"Fraud, it's okay for us to go but you gotta let go of my hands. How am I supposed to walk like that?" Lin Fan said helplessly. It didn't look good on them to be pushing and pulling each other in broad daylight.

Fraud Tian was extremely excited. He felt that as long as this fella decided to do something, things would definitely be resolved. He had that much confidence in Lin Fan.

At the hospital.

Fraud Tian led them to the ward.

The three of them stood at the entrance and looked inside. All they could see was the man's back view.

Lin Fan pulled Fraud Tian aside. "Rest there and wait for me. I'll bring him there later."

Fraud Tian and Elder Zhang nodded.

Lin Fan walked into the ward and stood by the bed. When he saw the woman on the bed, he realized that she was about to die.

The man raised his head. "Master Lin?"

Lin Fan looked at him, "Xu De."

Xu De was stunned. "You know my name."

Lin Fan nodded, "Since you know who am I, you should know what I'm doing. Previously, you asked me how you were supposed to continue with your life. Today, I'll take a closer look at it. I just need some time and I wonder if you're free."

Xu De remained silent and looked at the bedridden wife with his child embracing her. They were both in deep sleep. Then, he said, "I have time."

"Let's go to the resting area then. We can talk there," Lin Fan said.

He was feeling extremely lost and he didn't know what to do. When he had been there for the medical reviews, he had heard that there was a powerful fortune-teller along Cloud Street. Therefore, he decided to have a look.

Now that Master Lin was there, he felt as if he had found someone to rant to.

As they walked past a ward, Lin Fan stopped and Xu De stopped as well. He didn't know what Master Lin was up to.

## Chapter 253: A high-level scam?

Xu De looked into the ward.

In the ward, a group of people was standing in front of the sickbed, looking at the old man lying on it.

The old man said unclearly, "I've wasted our money. Just give me a beating."

The family members were crying, "No matter how much it is, we're willing to spend it on you. How could we bear to hit you?"

The old man wanted to sit up but his body didn't even allow him to perform such a simple action. He said, "If you won't hit me, then let me give you a laugh."

The illness-plagued, skin-and-bones old man mustered up all his energy for a short laughter. His whole face of wrinkles scrunched up together, like a bright chrysanthemum flower.

As the family members looked at the old man, with their eyes red and puffy, they started laughing as well.

The old man said, "That's more like it. If you're all laughing, then I can be at ease. I asked my wife yesterday 'How do I make our kids happy?' and she told me that if I just smiled, you would all be happy."

The family members couldn't stop their tears from flowing. That wife that the old man was talking about had already passed away three years ago.

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Outside.

Lin Fan opened his mouth and said, "If she could talk, that is what she would say."

Xu De didn't say a word, but just silently nodded.

In the lobby.

Fraud Tian came forward and patted Xu De on the shoulder. "You gotta stay strong, kid."

Xu De didn't know who Fraud Tian was, but still, he nodded and thanked him.

Someone of Fraud Tian's age calling Xu De 'Kid' was normal.

The few of them say down.

Lin Fan looked at the child in Xu De's embrace. "The child is very handsome. The purple cloud comes from the East. Xu Dong('Dong' is Chinese for East), that's a very good name."

Xu De was slightly astonished but when he thought of Master Lin's reputation, he was at ease.

"His name was given by his grandfather."

Lin Fan nodded. He realized that Xu De's expression, although still gloomy, had at least gotten slightly better.

"You've spent quite some money on medical bills, am I right?"

Xu De nodded and replied, "Sold my house, borrowed whatever I could from my relatives and friends but in the end, I still couldn't save her."

Lin Fan patted Xu De on the shoulder. "At least you tried all you could. You won't have any regrets in the future."

Xu De took over the cigarette that Fraud Tian had passed to him and took a puff. Then, he said, "Master Lin, what do you say I should do from now on? I feel like my whole life is over at this point. If it was just me, it would be fine but I still have Dong Dong."

Fraud Tian didn't interrupt. He left this matter in Lin Fan's hands. He trusted Lin Fan.

Lin Fan stroked Dong Dong's face, then looked up at Xu De. "Since it's come to this, let me tell it to you straight. Dong Dong currently has two fates. Two futures. You want to know what those are?"

Xu De was stunned. "You can see the future?"

Lin Fan smiled. "Do you want to know?"

Xu De remained silent for a while.

"Yes."

"The first fate is to become a beggar, to become what people call the 'scum of society'. He will spend his life crossing paths with the police numerous times and then spend his most smooth-sailing days in a prison cell," said Lin Fan.

When he heard this, Xu De stared with his eyes wide open at Lin Fan as if he couldn't believe it. His mouth twitched slightly, wanting to say something but not knowing what to say. It was as if there was something stuck in his throat.

Lin Fan carried on, "The second fate is to become a contributor to society, an educated man that becomes successful. He could become a scientist, a wealthy man, an inventor, a professor..."

Xu De looked at Lin Fan, then his expression became gloomy again. "Master Lin, thank you for encouraging me. I know you are all good people but you don't know about me. I really have nowhere to go. I owe too much money. Even if I work the rest of my life, with no sleep and no rest, I won't be able to earn that much money back."

Lin Fan looked at Xu De, then let out a thin smile, "Xu De. Male. Born in 1981. Previously, he has..."

Xu De, who initially just looked blankly at Lin Fan, now stared at him in disbelief. He suddenly realized that this person in front of him knew him so well. Could he have researched about him before?

But very quickly, the thought faded away because it wasn't possible. He was just a normal person, a person living from day to day. He wasn't worth researching about.

Lin Fan asked, "Do you believe me now?"

Xu De said in a hoarse voice, "Yes."

Elder Zhang, who was standing by the side, was astonished. He had known that Master Lin was incredible, but he hadn't known he was this incredible.

Lin Fan pointed at Xu Dong and said, "Look, right now, he has two fates. I have two suggestions for you. Your choice will affect his future. Do you want to hear them?"

This time, Xu De did not hesitate. He nodded immediately.

Lin Fan said, "First, I can help you to repay all your debts. You won't owe anyone a single cent but he will spend his life doing nothing, become the so-called 'scum of society'. He will waste his life away, waiting to die. He will live a lonely life, then die on the streets at sixty."

When Xu De heard the first part, his eyes had glimmered with hope but when he heard the later part, his eyes widened.

"The second choice. You lift yourself up. Suffer for twenty years, after which, your debts will be repaid fully. As for him, he will be a sensible boy from young. He will be hardworking and talented. He will become a useful person in society and live a fulfilling life. And you will also enjoy love and joy from him and his family, all the way until you die a blissful death."

"Now, you can choose. To enjoy a period of peace with no debts or to suffer for twenty years, then have a blissful ending. Of course, fates are ever changing and there are other choices you could make. But of course, of these two choices, one of them is good and the other one is bad. Think about it," said Lin Fan.

The fortune-telling ability was indeed amazing but seeing tens of years into the future, though not difficult for Lin Fan, it was not completely accurate. Because, within this period, every choice would affect his fate. Because of this, it really didn't matter the choice he made.

If one could really see through someone's entire life, that wouldn't be fortune-telling anymore. Only a real god could do that.

Fraud Tian, who had been quiet the entire time, was stunned by Lin Fan. He really wanted to ask whether it was true. Still, based on the current situation, he remained quiet. He planned to ask Lin Fan once they left the place.

"Twenty years..." Xu De's mouth gaped open. He looked down at his son and said without hesitation, "I choose the second option. I will suffer for twenty years in exchange for a life of joy and prosperity for my child. It will all be worth it. If his mother knew about this, she would be rejoicing."

Lin Fan nodded, then asked solemnly, "Do you believe me?"

Xu De looked at Lin Fan and nodded. "I believe you."

At that moment, Lin Fan smiled, then he stood up. "If you believe it, you will have. If you don't believe it, you won't have it. A person only needs to decide once. Twenty years can be said to be long but it can also be said to be short. It can pass in the blink of an eye. Spend some time with your wife. I will be here to visit you again soon."

Xu De stood up and looked at Lin Fan. "Master Lin, I really believe in you."

Lin Fan chuckled, "To believe in me is to believe in yourself. It's also to believe in the future of the one in your embrace."

Xu De nodded.

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In the elevator.



Fraud Tian asked, "What you said just now, is it true? Is his future really going to turn out that way?"

Elder Zhang was waiting in anticipation too. He wanted to know as well.

Lin Fan smiled. "It can't be confirmed. If it was for sure, it wouldn't be effective. It will only turn out well if he believes it. Otherwise, all will be lost."

"Huh!" Fraud Tian was astonished. That was the same as not saying anything at all. It was just like he used to do, conning people with fortune-telling. Just that this time, it was a higher level scam.

However, Fraud Tian believed that the future would really turn out that way.

Lin Fan took out his bank card. "Here, take twenty thousand. It will be deducted from your pay."

"Ah, why is it deducted from my pay?" Fraud Tian was in a much better mood, but when he thought of the money being deducted from his pay, his heart ached.

Lin Fan glanced at Fraud Tian, "I'm letting you know that it's not easy to be a good person. If you want to be a good person, you need to pay a price. But I'll give you a 'like' on this matter. After the shop is renovated, I'll give you a pay raise."

Fraud Tian smiled. "That's more like it. It would be too heartless of you to bully an old man like me who's about to enter his Autumn years."

Chapter 254: No limit today!

The hospital.

Xu De stood there staring blankly for a long while. Dong Dong, who was in his embrace, woke up. "Papa, Dong Dong doesn't know how to beg for food yet but Dong Dong can learn."

Looking at his son, a smile appeared on Xu De's face. "You don't need to learn anymore. From now on, you'll study."

Dong Dong laughed joyfully, "Dong Dong can study. Dong Dong knows how to write Chinese."

Xu De resisted the urge to cry. It was just as Master Lin had said, he had to pull himself together. Whether it was for himself or for Dong Dong, he couldn't sink any lower. After sending off his wife, he would have to start working and earning money to repay his debts and to raise Dong Dong into an adult.

Outside the hospital.

Fraud Tian faced the hospital, then looked over at Lin Fan. "Do you think he believes it?"

Elder Zhang said from the side, "I think he definitely believes it. But these two choices that Little Boss talked about, I think it should be four instead. In the end, won't there be four fates? Little Boss, do you think fortune-telling can really tell the future?"

Lin Fan looked at the two of them, then smiled thinly. "Who knows?"

After going through this incident, he realized that the Encyclopedia didn't only have one use. It had even more uses that he had never thought about before in the past.

Mainly, the Encyclopedia's knowledge came at him too quickly. Each time he completed a task, new knowledge would come his way. This left Lin Fan with practically no time to reflect properly.

For example, the Jiangsu cuisine. If he thought about it normally, opening a shop and running a business would be a great option. However, he had taught two of the dishes to his good friend and managed to help him out greatly.

Fortune-telling could be used to judge one's life. Without saying anything, just by looking at somebody, he could see very accurately into one's past and future.

But if he interfered, he could change one's fate.

Xu De and his son's fates had initially been decided but Lin Fan described his fate through a multiple choice question to let him choose. No matter what he chose, those were fates he had chosen from. His own fates.

Several days passed just like that.

Fraud Tian went to the hospital occasionally to take a look. He took out twenty thousand from his own money and on top of Lin Fan's twenty thousand, he had forty thousand. Xu De had never thought that someone would help him in this way. Of course, he wouldn't accept it, but Fraud Tian didn't take no for an answer.

Although the twenty thousand from Lin Fan wasn't much, it was because he and Xu De were just strangers that were brought together by chance, so he didn't want to give too much. Moreover, Lin Fan could tell that Xu De wasn't a greedy person. Sometimes, when someone is going through tough times, it's enough to just lend a hand.

What made Lin Fan surprised was that Fraud Tian actually took out money from his retirement funds.

At times, Fraud Tian was really quite stingy with his money, but sometimes, he was really generous. It wasn't something that most people would do. On top of that, he went to the hospital diligently every day to visit. When Lin Fan asked him why he would do so much, even Fraud Tian couldn't answer him. All he could say was five words: 'I want to help them'.

In the end, Xu De made a photocopy of his identity card and wrote an IOU.

The deadline for the IOU was twenty years. The deadline for his debts was two years.

Xu De was short of money but he wasn't greedy for money. This forty thousand was borrowed.

Fraud Tian didn't have much to say in the end. He just silently accepted the IOU.

The previous day, Xu De's wife had passed away. It wasn't a very painful death. To Xu De, a large stone was finally lifted off his heart. From then on, he would devote all his heart and energy into Dong Dong.

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Cloud Street.

The townsfolk were looking at the newly renovated shop and couldn't help but compliment it.

"Little Boss, this shop decoration is beautiful. It's a few levels above the old one."

"A few levels? It's galaxies apart! It's like Heaven and Earth!"

"Now that the shop has been renovated, Little Boss can finally be at ease and make scallion pancakes for us."

"We're waiting, Little Boss."

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Lin Fan stood there, chatting with the townsfolk. He was very satisfied with the shop renovation. It had a modern feel to it. The walls had been made by sculpting wooden materials to create some contours.

"Alright, today is the opening of the new shop, I..." Lin Fan was looking at the townsfolk outside, preparing to give them a pleasant surprise when suddenly, a loud celebratory noise came from afar.

Two lion dance teams happily pranced their way over with Wang Ming Yang at the front.

"Today, the shop is opening. We have to have a proper celebration." Wang Ming Yang was in a good mood.

Lin Fan really didn't know what to say about this. Wang Ming Yang had brought his lion dancers here to make noise again. However, Lin Fan was in a joyous mood that day, so he waved his hand. "Today, there will be no limit for the scallion pancakes but each person will only have one serving. Thank you, everybody, for your support all this while!"

Silence.

The whole place went silent. Everyone was stunned. It was as if no one dared to believe it.

Not a single sound could be heard. How awkward.

Lin Fan looked at the crowd, "Are you guys too used to the limit? How about we pretend I didn't say that?"

"Don't..." the townsfolk cried out as they came to their senses.

Lin Fan smiled. "There should be some applause."

At that moment, all the townsfolk recovered from their shock and started applauding thunderously. "Good, good! Little Boss is too great. Where's the applause? Quick! Applaud!"

Lin Fan threw caution to the wind. It was a gift to the crowd. These lovable townsfolk had supported him for so long, he had to make them happy once in a while. Furthermore, he had noticed that some of the townsfolk really were quite tragic. Ever since he had started his business, some of them had never managed to get chosen even after queuing every single time. It really was tragic.

The townsfolk were exhilarated.

"God has opened his eyes! Little Boss is being so generous today!"

"I don't know why but I suddenly feel like that guy who destroyed Little Boss's shop isn't that bad after all. If it wasn't for him, this would never have happened."

"I'm grateful, I'm grateful. I'll remember this for life."

"What are you all standing there for? Hurry up and make calls!"

"Hello, wife? Hurry down to Cloud Street's Master Lin. We don't need to draw numbers today. Everyone will get a piece. Hurry!"

"Dad, Mom. Little Boss isn't limiting his scallion pancakes today. Everyone who comes will get a piece. Hurry!"

...

Insane. At that moment, all the townsfolk in Cloud Street went insane.

Some tourists came over there and didn't know what was happening. They were all dumbfounded. They asked around, wondering what had happened.

They had been to quite a few well-known places and seen people queuing but this queue was a little too long, wasn't it? It was so long that it was scary.

Wang Ming Yang was dumbfounded as well, "Hey bro, what about my lion dance team? Do they still dance?"

Lin Fan laughed, "Of course they dance! Why shouldn't they? Everyone is so happy today, we gotta make some noise."

The shop owners of Cloud Street were not going to carry on with their businesses. They closed their shops and joined the queue. It wasn't that they had never wanted to eat the scallion pancakes before, but they never had the chance to. The chances of being chosen even if they queued were too small, they would rather just stick to running their businesses. But now that Little Boss had taken the limit off, it would be crazy for them not to queue.

At that moment, the queue had already gotten ridiculously long. There were definitely not enough ingredients. Lin Fan yelled, "There are definitely not enough ingredients. Whoever has stock, hurry up and send some over."

"Don't worry, Master Lin. I'll get someone to send some over right now. I'll get you any amount you want."

"Elder Zhang is awesome! Next time I need flour, I'll definitely buy from you."

At that moment, at the Cloud Street connector.

A man dressed in a suit who looked like a political leader was patrolling. Reporters were around him, taking photos.

This leader was checking on the development of Shanghai City.

There were a number of bodyguards close to him, in case anything happened.

Of course, they were just there for a stroll. After all, Shanghai was relatively safe. What could possibly happen?

...

## Chapter 255: Wonderful, Little Boss

As the number three man in Shanghai, Li Shi Kun was inspecting the situation at Cloud Street while accompanied by the district leader. The other leaders beside them were not high or low ranked but next to these two, they were not much at all. Each of them stood cautiously at the side, accompanying the leader.

The reporters followed from behind, filming some news. Chu Yuan was a Shanghai reporter. That day, he was following as well. This was an inspection.

"Cloud Street is Shanghai's earliest business district. As such, it is symbolic and its surrounding environment must be well-kept. We have to keep the citizen's satisfaction levels above the green." Li Shi Kun looked around as he walked. At the same time, he nodded his head constantly. Although Cloud Street was an old-fashioned business district, it had been refurbished several times before. Because of this, it still looked pretty good.

The district leader nodded as he said, "Don't worry, sir. We've put in a lot of work in this regard. Although there are businesses everywhere, this place has performed above the standard in terms of security and inflow of people. In particular, Cloud Street is currently at its peak in terms of inflow of people.

Li Shi Kun nodded contently. Shanghai was already considered a big city. It was no longer suitable for it to take great strides in its development. Hence, it had to go back to its roots and start from within. They had to slowly correct the lack of consideration in the small areas in order to solve the larger issues at hand.

As of then, Cloud Street, whether it was with regards to its hygiene or its environment as a whole, was performing very well. It gave tourists a sense of comfort and gave each shop a good environment to do business in.

...

At that moment, Li Shi Kun stopped in his tracks and looked in front at the snaking queue. An expression of shock appeared on his face. "District Leader Zhang, what's going on?"

Zhang Ming looked at the scene in front and was momentarily stunned as well. He couldn't recover from his daze as his heartbeat quickened. They couldn't be trying to cause trouble, could they? Then, a nervous look appeared on his face and he couldn't answer the question.

The bodyguards raised their alertness. They thought it would be peaceful but now, a crowd of people had blocked off the street and there was no way to proceed.

What made them even more anxious was that these people were raising their hands as if pointing at them. Could it be that they were rioting?

The queuing townsfolk.

"Hey, look. What are those people doing?"

"I don't know. Looks like there are reporters. Could it be that some celebrity is here?"

"Have you ever seen a celebrity that dresses like that?"



"Could it be that they're here to buy Little Boss' scallion pancakes as well? They have a lot of people. We can't let them cut the queue."

"That's right."

...

Li Shi Kun directed his gaze at Zhang Ming, wanting to know what was going on.

Zhang Ming, of course, did not know what was going on, so he directed his gaze at the junior leaders.

The junior leaders all stared back blankly. They had no idea what was going on.

Chu Yuan, as a reporter, hadn't known about Master Lin at first either. Later on, after he had gotten to know Master Lin at the human trafficking raid's honors ceremony, he had some research on Master Lin. He saw that District Leader Zhang's face was getting unsightly as if he was very nervous, so he stepped forward and said.

"Dear leaders, you don't need to be anxious. There is a shop in Cloud Street called 'Master Lin'. that shop's business is flourishing and these people are all here to queue."

Li Shi Kun asked in astonishment, "It's like this every day?"

Chu Yuan nodded, "Yes, it's like this every day. In fact, based on my knowledge, ever since the Master Lin shop opened, the surrounding shops' sales have all improved by 100-200%."

Although Li Shi Kun wasn't involved in business statistics, he was stunned upon hearing this. Through his many years working in the government, he had heard about business opportunities bringing life to certain regions of districts but he had never heard about a single shop carrying a whole street.

"Which news agency are you from?"

Chu Yuan replied, "I'm from Shanghai News Agency, sir. This Master Lin is the informant who aided in the abolishment of the large human trafficking organization recently."

Li Shi Kun had missed that honors ceremony because he had had to go overseas for a conference. He had only heard the news about a hero who helped in the human trafficking raid but he had never seen him in person. When he heard Chu Yuan's words, he was shocked.

\*beep beep\*

"Hey, people in front. Hurry up and give way please."

At that moment, an electric three-wheeled vehicle with supplies loaded on top drove towards them.

The bodyguards wanted to pin the man down but Li Shi Kun stopped them. Then, they gave way to the vehicle.

Li Shi Kun looked at Zhang Ming. "Do you know about this shop?"

Zhang Ming was startled. There was no way he would know about the shop. Then, he shook his head embarrassedly.

Li Shi Kun then asked Chu Yuan, "What does this shop do?"

It was not such a simple thing, to attract so many townsfolk to queue.

Chu Yuan replied, "They sell scallion pancakes. Those scallion pancakes are unbelievably delicious. But there's a rule that they only sell ten servings a day and you even have to draw lots for it. As such, even though there are a lot of people who queue, most of them aren't able to buy it. However, judging by the situation today, something doesn't seem normal. I'm not sure what's the current situation."

Li Shi Kun was shocked. He had never thought that it would be a scallion pancake shop. How could scallion pancakes generate such good business? To get a clearer picture, he decided to go see for himself.

At that moment, Zhang Ming heaved a sigh of relief. This district was under his management. When he saw so many people, he had gotten a little anxious. He had been worried that something might have happened but now it seemed fine. Everything was alright as long as it wasn't some sort of trouble.

He looked gratefully at Chu Yuan. This kid wasn't bad at all. He had helped Zhang Ming to evade danger.

If Li Shi Kun was going to take a look, Zhang Ming obviously had to follow. Similarly, the junior leaders followed them as well. The whole way, they hadn't had much to say. They were supposed to serve as Zhang Ming's back up. In case Zhang Ming couldn't answer any questions, they were supposed to answer for him. The embarrassing part was that none of them had been able to answer the questions.

Lin fan was making scallion pancakes in front of his cart. The queueing townsfolk were mesmerized by this sight. To them, that day was a great day. They wished really badly that Little Boss would never limit his scallion pancakes again.

But this would most likely only happen once unless some joyous event were to happen again.

Looking at the crowd, the queue probably stretched all the way to the Southern Heaven Gate. If it was like this every day, Little Boss would probably tire himself to death.

He would have to work slowly and steadily at it.

At that moment, noises came from the crowd.

"What are you people doing? If you want to eat scallion pancakes, you have to queue! Where are your morals?"

"Argh, where did these people come from? Hurry up and join the back of the queue. You think we're scared of you just because you have more people?"

"What are you looking at? Yes, you! What's with those eyes? Stop staring..."

Chu Yuan was recording the whole situation. When he heard those words, he was stunned.

Sh\*t!

Are these townsfolk insane? Don't they know who this man is?

Zhang Ming and the rest were stunned too. They were all leaders but they were being reprimanded by townsfolk for cutting the queue.

Li Shi Kun had only gone up to take a look. He never thought that the townsfolk would be so riled up. Then, he smiled and said, "Everyone, we're not cutting the queue. We're just taking a look.

The townsfolk were not buying it.

"We've seen this trick countless times before. Hurry and go to the back!"

"Little Boss' scallion pancakes are so delicious that people nowadays are starting to think of all kinds of tricks."

...

Lin Fan looked up and glanced at Li Shi Kun. He was slightly surprised, "A government official?"

Li Shi Kun laughed, "Not bad, youngster. You recognize me?"

"Nope," Lin Fan shook his head, "You just seem like a government official. And not a low ranking one either."

Li Shi Kun chuckled and didn't let it bother him. After that, he looked at the scallion pancake in the cart. "Your technique is pretty good. And to get so many townsfolk to queue, it must taste exceptional."

Lin Fan smiled. "That's very courteous of you. I'm just lucky to have their support."

While Li Shi Kun was interacting with Lin Fan, Zhang Ming said to the crowd, "Everyone, this is Leader Li Shi Kun, the Deputy Mayor of Shanghai. He's here on Cloud Street to inspect, not to cut queues."

When the townsfolk heard this, they were dumbfounded.

"A leader..."

"D\*mn, I didn't recognize him. And I was wondering why there are so many reporters too."

"He must have been shocked by the sight of all of us, so he wanted to come to take to look."

"Wonderful, Little Boss."

...

## Chapter 256: Captured

Indeed, after the townsfolk were told of his identity, they stopped accusing him of cutting the queue. Even if they wanted to, they wouldn't have dared.

Li Shi Kun said, "I heard from this little comrade that the flow of people in Cloud Street has increased by two hundred percent and it has a lot to do with your shop."

Lin Fan smiled. "You flatter me. How could I be so capable?"

A compliment, followed by a modest remark.

A shop owners inside the queue excitedly exclaimed.

"That's the work of the Little Boss. If it wasn't for the Little Boss, Cloud Street would never have become so lively."

"Everyone, don't you agree?"

"Yeah! We're all grateful for Little Boss."

"In the past, not many people came to our Cloud Street but ever since Little Boss came, this place has become lively as heck."

"Little Boss is the gem that brings fortune to our Cloud Street. Wherever Little Boss goes next time, we will follow."

"That's right..."

Li Shi Kun was speechless after hearing all the townsfolk's praise. It was a little too exaggerated, so much so that it was scary.

Li Shi Kun had never thought that this young man would be so well-liked. He had never seen something like this. Then, he looked at the scallion pancake. It was dazzlingly golden and it even gave off an overwhelming fragrance.

Although he was a man of high status, he was still human. The fragrance instantly ensnared him.

This aroma. It's mesmerizing.

Li Shi Kun cleared his throat. "Little Boss, how much for a serving of this?"

Lin Fan smiled. "Fifty."

Li Shi Kun nodded, then took out fifty dollars from his pocket. "Give me one to try. This aroma is exceptional."

Wang Ming Yang, who had been standing at the side all along, stepped forward then. When he saw that there was a group of people, he was startled. When Li Shi Kun saw Wang Ming Yang, he smiled. "Chief Wang, why are you here?"

"This shop is run by a brother of mine. It just finished its renovation so I brought people here to celebrate." Wang Ming Yang had never thought that Li Shi Kun would be here to inspect the street.

Although Wang Ming Yang wasn't the wealthiest man in Shanghai, he was a very wealthy man for his age and he had been named as one of the top ten young entrepreneurs in the past.

As a leader, Li Shi Kun paid close attention to his people, even commoners. As for a young man like Wang Ming Yang who had relied on his own ability to become successful, Li Shi Kun obviously had a strong impression of him.

Zhang Ming stepped forward at that moment. He didn't recognize Wang Ming Yang, but since even the leader knew him, he couldn't have been just a simple man. Zhang Ming smiled and said, "Chief Wang, with friends like you around, Cloud Street is very fortunate. Having increased flow of people is something worth celebrating for the private firms as well as the townsfolk."

Wang Ming Yang then said proudly, "Well, of course. My brother is an extraordinary person."

Li Shi Kun smiled, "Little Boss, here's fifty. Give me a serving so I can have a good taste."

The surrounding townsfolk smiled as they looked at this scene. If it was anyone else, they would never have let them cut the queue. But this was a leader, so they thought it was better to just let it be.

The way they saw it, the Little Boss surely wouldn't reject him. It was the perfect opportunity to get on the leader's good side. Moreover, it was a real high-ranking leader.

But the next second, they were all stunned.

Lin Fan smiled as he said, "I'm sorry, I treat everyone equally. Everyone has to queue. Furthermore, today, I'm rewarding to all the townsfolk for their support towards me. If the rule were to be broken today, those townsfolk wouldn't be happy."

Zhang Ming was stunned. He had no expected that Lin Fan would say something like that.

All those lower-ranked leaders just stared blankly. This was an opportunity that most people wouldn't get even if they begged for it, yet this kid actually told the leader to queue up. What kind of guts did he have?

Wang Ming Yang silently gave Lin Fan his praise.

F\*cking awesome!

That's the person that I, Wang Ming Yang, respect!

"My apologies, leader. This brother of mine only judges by reason, not by person. He doesn't have any bad intentions," said Wang Ming Yang.

Li Shi Kun laughed, "No worries, no worries. This is indeed very fair. You can't break a rule just because of me. I'll queue, I'll definitely queue. But there's no hurry, I'll go take a look further in front first. I'll come back later to have a good taste."

Lin Fan smiled. "Thank you for your understanding, leader. I guarantee you'll find queuing worth your while."

"Alright." Li Shi Kun smiled cheerily, then said to Zhang Ming, "Shops like these, you have to assist them as much as possible in future. If they face any challenges, you have to help to solve them as soon as possible, alright?"

Zhang Ming nodded. "Alright. We've always put the people first. Whenever a business faced any problems, we've always helped them as much as we could."

Li Shi Kun nodded, then smiled. "Then let's not disturb Little Boss any longer."



The leaders went forward with their inspection.

Wang Ming Yang said, "Brother, I really have to give credit to you. That was a leader, the third-in-charge!"

Lin Fan grinned. "It doesn't matter to me. I don't want anything from him, nor does he want anything from me. I must be fair to everyone, don't you think so?"

"That is very sensible. I have no arguments," said Wang Ming Yang with a smile.

The queuing townsfolk were once again in awe of Lin Fan.

"F\*cking awesome, Little Boss!"

"There's nothing else to say other than f\*cking awesome."

"That's what I like about Little Boss. He's fair to everyone and doesn't treat anyone differently."

Lin Fan waved his hand. "That's enough. If you keep praising me, I'm going to start floating in heaven. Then, no one will make scallion pancakes for you guys."

The townsfolk laughed cheerily. Everything was peaceful and Little Boss made them even happier.

The queue didn't get any shorter. In fact, it gradually grew even longer.

Each piece of scallion pancake made the townsfolk feel as if they had been reborn. One after another, strange noises that made people feel awkward rang out from Cloud Street.

However, the crowd didn't look at them with judgemental eyes because they knew exactly what kind of devilish powers Little Boss's scallion pancakes possessed. They were simply terrifying.

From afar, Li Shi Kun was inspecting when he heard the noises. He couldn't help but turn his head and look over curiously.

Chu Yuan said, "Leader, Master Lin's scallion pancakes have the demonic powers to make one unable to resist it. After finishing it, one will feel his spirit being released and that expression is something that will just emerge unknowingly."

Li Shi Kun said in shock, "It's that mystical?"

Zhang Ming was shocked too. "Could there be some kind of problem in those scallion pancakes?"

It was normal to think that there was some kind of problem. People who didn't understand the situation well would naturally think that there were ghosts or spirits involved.

Chu Yuan waved his hand. "There are no problems. The relevant departments have all tested the scallion pancakes before. There are no added ingredients. It can be said that this is all because of Master Lin's technique. No one else can make scallion pancakes like his."

Li Shi Kun was getting a little excited. "I'm getting the urge to try those scallion pancakes sooner. I really want to find out just how this taste that you're describing is like."

...

After the inspection, they made their way back but the length of the queue hadn't changed.

However, some of the townsfolk gave way to Li Shi Kun. They wanted to let him have a taste. To them, the leader couldn't possibly have the time to come and try the scallion pancakes everyday, but they were different. They could queue everyday if they wanted to.

Li Shi Kun looked at the scallion pancake in his hands, then sniffed it. Waves of fragrance rushed into his nostrils and filled his nose. Then, he couldn't take it any longer and took a bite.

\*Crunch\*

Tasting Master Lin's scallion pancake for the first time, Li Shi Kun hadn't been prepared. When he bit in...

The flavors instantly exploded in his mouth, tantalizing his taste buds.

A ridiculous exaggerated expression emerged on his face.

\*ka-cha\*

Chu Yuan captured the moment on his camera, then he kept silent.

A classic expression. Not bad at all.

...

Chapter 257: You just want to cause trouble

The next day!

An article appeared on the internet. It was just a government inspection report and most of the time, something like this would only attract the attention of very few netizens who cared about these things. However, this time, the report went viral.

"D\*mn, this leader's expression is awesome."

"That's a demonic expression. Who took this photo? He's amazing!"

"I feel like this kind of leader is the kind that people like. Making such an expression after eating a scallion pancake. Are these scallion pancakes really that delicious?"

"You guys don't know. That's Master Lin's scallion pancake. Li Shi Kun was inspecting Cloud Street and he passed by the shop so he bought a piece. Obviously, he's been completely subdued by the scallion pancake."

"Look at this report. It says that just because of this shop, the human traffic in Cloud Street has increased by 200%. That's way too terrifying."

"I'm shocked. A single shop managed to pull up a whole street's economy, how insane must it be?"

"Hehe, you Shanghai people only know how to boast. Only a ghost would believe such a thing."

"^you bastard, I live in that area. Master Lin's shop really made Cloud Street's number of visitors skyrocket. I've seen it with my own eyes."

"You may not think it's possible but you better not make everyone else think it's not possible."

...

The government office.

When Li Shi Kun saw this piece of news, he couldn't help but start laughing, especially because of the photo of his expression after eating the scallion pancake. He wasn't bothered by it, nor was he angry. He just hadn't thought that he would act up like that. It had really been unexpected.

Some of his subordinates felt that the photo wasn't very nice and asked him if he wanted it to be removed. However, he felt that it was alright and didn't need to be removed. Previously, all the inspection photos had been very serious. To have one such photo was not bad at all.

It appeared more warm and friendly to the people.

However, one thing was for sure. It was a classic expression that would never be wiped away.

Cloud Street.

Wu You Lan looked at her phone, then said, "You're viral again. This time, you're appearing together with the leader."

Lin Fan was surprised. He went online and instantly burst into laughter. He didn't know what to say. This time, he had gone viral together with someone else. It was hard to imagine.

When some of the other cities' leaders saw the news, their first reaction was that it might be fake news. After all, a single shop bringing up a whole street's visitor flow seemed impossible.

Moreover, for this shop to have so many people queuing up was even more shocking.

But Li Shi Kun was involved in this matter, which made the reliability of the news much higher.

Some of the other cities' leaders started thinking deeply. Maybe they could open special brand shops on certain streets to boost their visitor flow. But eventually, after thinking about it from different angles and perspectives, they realized it was simply impossible. This case wasn't something that they could replicate.

In the end, they just gave up.

However, there were still some other cities' leaders who started to think about attracting people and making use of their talents. If they could attract Master Lin to their cities, it would resolve their issues.

Of course, to carry it out wasn't that simple.

A few days later.

Wu You Lan brought over a cup of tea and placed it on the table. "Recently, I've been feeling that the situation around us isn't quite right."

Lin Fan thanked her, then raised his head and replied, "Isn't quite right? How can that be? Seems normal to me."

Fraud Tian didn't feel like anything was wrong either.

Zhao Zhong Yang was playing with his phone as he said in agreement, "I'm with You Lan. I feel like something isn't right as well. When I came here today, I saw Elder Shen sighing loudly in his shop. I didn't know what was going on."

"How could that be?" asked Lin Fan as he put down his phone.

\*Bam!\*

At that moment, a loud noise came from outside.

Elder Dog Nicholas was having a brilliant time when suddenly, the sound frightened him so much so that his fur stood. Then, he started barking loudly.

Lin Fan and the rest went outside immediately.

Elder Liang, who sold children's toys, pointed at the people outside his door and exclaimed, "You guys are ridiculous! The rent was already increased half a year ago but I didn't say anything. Now you want to increase it by 100%? Why don't you just rob me?"

At that moment, people started to crowd around "You guys really are ridiculous. With people like you increasing our rent, we'll be giving our whole year's worth of profit away. We need to earn money to feed ourselves too, you know?"

Lin Fan went forward immediately. "Elder Liang, what's going on?"

When Elder Liang saw that Little Boss was here, he pulled on Lin Fan and said, "Little Boss, you be the judge. They're just bullying us. They increased the shop rent half a year ago and now, just half a year later, they want to increase it again, and by 100% too! Aren't they just forcing us into a dead end?"

The several black-suit-wearing young men at the entrance looked frustrated as well. They said, "Boss, shouting at us won't do anyone any good. These are orders from our superiors. I'm just an employee and I can only do what I'm told."

"Don't be angry. It's not worth it. Let me ask you this," Lin Fan comforted Elder Liang, then turned to the three young men, "There must be reasons for the rental fees for this shop increasing but it can't possibly increase twice in less than a year. Have you got it wrong?"

The three young men shook their heads, "We didn't get it wrong. We're just following directions and carrying them out. We can't do anything about the rent increase."

"Look, this is the document. We have no choice."

Lin Fan took over the document and read it carefully.

Xin Yu Commercial Real Estate Corporation Limited.

Lin Fan then read the contents of the document. Cloud Street shops' rental fees were indeed increasing by 100%.

After reading it, Lin Fan passed the document back. "Wasn't the agreement once a year? It's not yet time to pay the rent, right?"

Elder Liang calmed the rage in his heart, then said, "Little Boss, you don't know this but there's a rule in the contract that says if the industry inflates, the shop rent may change. What it means is that is that they can increase the rent whenever they want and we would have to pay the amount that it increases by. If we disagree, the contract will be terminated and our remaining rental fees will be refunded to us."

"This agreement is a little absurd, isn't it?" Lin Fan said in surprise, "Are all the business streets around here increasing their rental fees as well?"

The shop owners shook their head and said, "None of them are increasing. It's just Cloud Street."

Lin Fan looked at the three young men. "Let me ask you. If it's based on the industry's inflation and all the other streets haven't increased their rent, then why should the Cloud Street shop rents increase?"

They shook their heads. "These are the changes in the market that have been found. Cloud Street's visitor flow has increased twice over, that's why the rents must increase."

At that moment, Lin Fan understood.

It turns out it was because of him. They had probably noticed the report that had been posted out earlier.

That was why they were increasing the shop rents.

Lin Fan asked, "I rent a shop too, why haven't I been informed?"

The young men shook their heads. "We don't know. We haven't received any notice."

The surrounding shop owners said, "Little Boss, the increase in visitor flow in Cloud Street is thanks to your contributions. They surely wouldn't dare to increase your shop rent. That's why they're taking it out on us instead."

Lin Fan looked at the crowd. "Are all your shop rents increasing?"

The crowd replied, "Yeah, we already got the notice."

Lin Fan was silent for a while, then he asked, "What do you all plan on doing?"

Elder Liang sighed, "I can't afford to pay this rent. I think I'll have no choice but to move elsewhere."

"Sigh, this is really hard for us to handle. Little Boss, perhaps we won't be neighbors in future. I think I'll have to move as well."



"Me too. Although my business definitely won't do as well, we can't just stay here and let them exploit us."

Lin Fan raised his hand, signaling everyone to quiet down.

The crowd looked at Little Boss, not knowing what he meant.

They couldn't bear to leave this place but they had no choice. The rent was too high, they couldn't afford it at all.

They were furious at the situation as well. What the heck was that?

When the flow of people increased, the rent increased. When the people flow had been low, why hadn't the rent decreased? If that was the way they worked, then they should stick to it no matter what.

"Everyone, don't be anxious. I've been in Cloud Street for almost two months. During this period, I got along well with everyone. Everyone treated me courteously and kindly as well. So, if someone is moving, we'll all move. They can increase the rent as much as they want and we don't have to give a rat's a\*s about it."

"Shanghai may lack many things, but it doesn't lack shop openings. I saw the news the other day. Isn't there a district nearby where they just built a new business street? I think it just finished building. We'll move there and start afresh. Let them increase the rental fees all they want," said Lin Fan.

When the crowd heard this, they were momentarily stunned. They hadn't thought that Little Boss would say such a thing.

How touching.

How exhilarating.

Some of the shop owners were close to tears.

They hadn't thought that Little Boss would stay on their side like that.

Those three young men were shocked as well. It seemed like the situation had gotten out of hand.

But to Lin Fan, it was the same no matter where he went. This rent increment method, although it didn't affect him, he absolutely wouldn't have it.

If he had to leave, he would leave. There were no qualms about it.

If they wanted to cause trouble, Lin fan wasn't going to show any fear.

Attracting customers?

That was simply not an issue.

At most, he would just work a little harder and sell twenty servings of scallion pancakes a day.

How could he be afraid of not having enough customers?

Chapter 258: The leader takes care of business

The three young men were just regular employees. Following their superiors' instructions, they had come to notify the shop owners that the rent was increasing and to get the agreeing owners to sign the contract. Everything had been fine and peaceful at first. Although some of the shop owners weren't happy, it didn't matter. Those shop owners could just move away for all they cared. They didn't press the shop owners to carry on renting the shops.

They knew about Master Lin's shop. And when Master Lin asked them why his shop rent wasn't increasing, they knew the reason but they just didn't say it.

Cloud Street Business District had always had a pathetic flow of people. They had even forgotten about the place but they had never thought that it would suddenly appear on the

news with reports saying that the visitor flow had increased by 200%. What the heck was that? It was simply scary.

The management immediately had a conference to discuss it and they decided to double the rent for all the shops except Master Lin's shop. After all, Master Lin's shop was the main driving force behind Cloud Street. Unless they were stupid, they would never increase Master Lin's shop rent.

A small shop that carried the whole business district. It was unbelievable. But the reality was right in front of their eyes. They had to believe it. Hence, they came up with that solution in their conference.

The shop owners would surely not be agreeable. But it didn't matter even if they weren't agreeable. That was just the reality of the situation in Cloud Street.

Lin Fan looked at the three young men and said, "Go back and tell your superiors this. Ask them to come back here with the contract. We'll terminate the contract and leave immediately."

The three men stared blankly at Master Lin. They were lost for words. This matter had gotten out of their hands. They then left the place and went back to inform their superiors of the situation.

This was unlike what they had discussed.

The matter didn't concern Master Lin, yet he made such a big deal of it. They had always thought that as long as they didn't increase the Master Lin shop rent, Master Lin would feel respected. They had never thought that Master Lin would be on the other shop owners' side. This didn't tally with how people usually behaved.

...

"Little Boss..." Elder Liang was emotional. He wanted to say something, yet he couldn't. He didn't know what to say. It wasn't only him who hadn't expected Little Boss to say such things. The other shop owners who were against the rising rental fees were shocked too.

Elder Zhang patted Lin Fan on his shoulder. "Master Lin has spoken. We will stick together. If we go, we all go. We won't leave anyone behind, but we can leave a place behind. If it was in a year or half a year that they increased the rent by 30%, then we wouldn't have anything to say. We wouldn't go against it either. But they just doubled the rent immediately like this. They're simply bullying us."

Sister Hong said, "Lil' Fan, they didn't increase your shop rent. You don't actually have to do this. I understand your intentions but if you go elsewhere, business may not be as good."

Lin Fan waved his hand and smiled. "I don't run my shop for the money. It's just to immerse myself in a warm and lively environment. I've become so friendly with everyone. If you all leave, wouldn't I be left all alone? So, if one of us is going, then let's all go."

The shop owners felt that these words were true.

If Little Boss wanted to earn money, he wouldn't have limited his scallion pancakes to ten a day. If he didn't limit the scallion pancakes, cash would flow in like water.

Tens of thousands, even hundreds of thousands in a day wasn't out of the question.

If he was a little more greedy, he could increase the price straight to 100 per piece. Even then, not many people would think it was expensive.

Hence, they trusted the Little Boss' words. He really didn't run his shop for the money.

Some of the Cloud Street shop owners had been indecisive at first. They had been planning to just give in and let the Xin Yu Real Estate Corporation double the rent but now that they heard Little Boss' words, their fears were wiped away instantly.

In the past, Cloud Street had been lifeless. Although there had been people, most of them had been snatched away by the few surrounding business districts and this one department store.

But ever since Little Boss opened a shop here, the situation had changed and it had gotten much more lively. In the past, they could only earn enough to live day to day but during these two months, they had a fair bit of money to spare.

In their hearts, they knew the reason for this change.

Fraud Tian stood at the side and said, "If we knew earlier, we wouldn't have had to renovate. We could have just moved to a larger shop and did a proper renovation there."

Wu Tian He smiled as he said, "You guys shouldn't be too depressed over this. The people at Xin Yu Real Estate know the reason for all these changes. That's why they didn't increase our rent, to make Master Lin stay. Now that Master Lin is standing on all of your sides, Xin Yu Real Estate will have to take a step back as well."

Elder Zhang asked, "What if they don't take a step back?"

Wu Tian He smiled. "That would only happen if their management is stupid."

The crowd became silent for a bit, then someone raised his head and said, "Elder Wu is right. If Cloud Street loses Master Lin's shop, it will return to its original state. It won't be able to compete with those shopping malls around here at all."

Lin Fan waved his hand and smiled. "Alright, don't worry about it, everyone. Let them worry about it. We've already told them our stand. If they still won't compromise, then we will leave at once. It's no big deal."

With Lin Fan's support on their side, the shop owners all nodded and looked at him with gratitude. Then, one by one, they returned to their own shops.

In the shop.

Fraud Tian looked at Lin Fan curiously. "If they still insist on increasing the rent, we're really moving?"

Lin Fan smiled. "Definitely. Why wouldn't we?"

In Lin Fan's eyes, he had become the leader in this matter. He wondered if he would be able to increase the liveliness of the new place if they moved.

If the scallion pancakes weren't enough to do the job, would he have to make use of his Jiangsu cuisine knowledge?

That would be dead tiring.

But there was no hurry. Nothing was certain until the end.

If they really moved, he might have to sell twenty scallion pancakes a day. It might be a little more tiring but if he could attract more people, it would be worth it.

If it was some other knowledge, he wouldn't dare to guarantee that he would be able to attract people.

But he had complete faith in his scallion pancakes. It was knowledge boosted by the Encyclopedia and it was simply powerful beyond words.

Wu Tian He smiled. "Based on my judgment, we might not have to move."

"I'm going to give a call to Wang Ming Yang and ask him who owns this Xin Yu Real Estate Corporation." Lin Fan took out his phone and dialed Wang Ming Yang's number.

Wang Ming Yang was in the middle of a conference when he saw the phone display. He waved his hand and said, "Let's pause for a moment. I need to take a call."

The shareholders were stunned. During such an important conference, he shouldn't even be taking calls. Could it be a call from some important character?

Lin Fan asked, "Do you know the background of Xin Yu Real Estate Corporation?"

"Xin Yu Real Estate?" Wang Ming Yang was startled, then he said, "What is it? Why would you ask that all of a sudden?"

"Nothing much. Just tell me," said Lin Fan.

Wang Ming Yang: "This company belongs to the Skyworth Group. It's a subsidiary company. It's quite capable."

"Skyworth group." Lin Fan nodded.

"Got it. Xin Yu Real Estate Corporation wants to increase the rent of Cloud Street shops. They're doubling the rent. If there's no change, then I'll be moving somewhere else together with the other shop owners," said Lin Fan.

Wang Ming Yang was dumbfounded. His face was blank.

Increase the rent?

Moving out?

If he didn't know Lin Fan, Wang Ming Yang would probably never encounter something like that in his life.

But ever since he had gotten to know Lin Fan, encountering something like this was just another typical situation.

Chapter 259: What has this got to do with him?

At Xin Yu Commercial Estate Company.

In the work processing area.

An old employee chuckled, "How did things go at Cloud Street? Did the bosses agree to the increase in rental fees?"

A middle-aged woman replied, "I think it's a difficult task. It needs more time. A direct two-fold increase would definitely cause them to feel moody."

Lil' Chen replied, "What moodiness? There is a 200% increase in the visitor flow in Cloud Street. There have been countless calls for the past few days. Everyone was asking if there were any remaining spaces available for them to start their businesses. It was crazy."

The three people drank a few sips of water after returning.

"It wasn't very successful, not many of them agreed," said one of the young employees.

This matter was definitely a difficult one. It was difficult to increase the rental fees without affecting the mood of the bosses.

Furthermore, Master Lin was involved in this which made it more difficult.

The old employee said, "This is normal. Everyone knows the situation at Cloud Street now. Even if they aren't agreeable to it, they have to consider it."

Lil' Chen chuckled, "Half a year ago, I went to inform them about an increase in rental fees and they were so affected that they almost started a fight with me. But in the end, they still signed the papers."

The middle-aged woman was curious. "This Master Lin's shop is too awesome. His shop revived Cloud Street. If this matter is settled promptly, we'll be able to have a fatter bonus at the end of the year."

"We had initially given up on the Cloud Street project but it seems like it's been resurrected. I think we'll have a good time in the future. The property management agency over at Cloud Street has to hire more people and revamp their image. When I went there previously, I saw that there were several illegal methods that they used. It has to be changed."

Then, a middle-aged man came out of the office. He was of an average build and he looked stern. The employees who were having a great time discussing began to lower their heads and continued with their work.

The leader looked stern and if they were caught talking during work, their salaries would be deducted.



"How did it go? Did the shop owners sign the agreement papers?" the leader asked the three employees.

These were new employees and since it was summer period, the weather was scorching. He had thought it'd be a good idea for them to go out there and train themselves in the heat.

An employee replied, "Director, they weren't agreeable. They said we've gone overboard with the increase in rental fees."

Liu Guo Qiang nodded. "How many people didn't agree with it?"

The employee replied, "Initially, some of the shop owners agreed to sign it but they changed their minds afterward. They said if the price increased, they wouldn't rent the units anymore."

Liu Guo Qiang laughed and he looked a little upset. "These shop owners are so greedy. The visitor flow has increased by so much at Cloud Street. How could they still pay the same rent? If they don't wish to continue with their rental, that's fine. There are so many people that want to rent a unit. Alright, go there again tomorrow and record the names of the shop owners that aren't willing to pay. Refund them the contractual money and get them to move out of Cloud Street within five days."

Then, he turned to the employees of the promotions department. "All of you, call the potential shop owners. Tell them that there are available units now. If they're still interested, they can come over and discuss it."

Everyone in the promotions department replied, "Alright, Director."

The three young employees spoke again, "Director Liu, there's one more thing."

Liu Guo Qiang looked at the three of them. "What is it?"

Now that Cloud Street's business had improved drastically, Liu Guo Qiang was delighted. The other business districts probably couldn't match up to Cloud Street.

When Cloud Street takes the number one spot as the hottest business district, he would be able to stand proud and claim that title.

An employee said, "When Master Lin of Cloud Street found out about the increase in rental fees, he wanted to move to another street with the other shop owners."

Liu Guo Qiang looked curious and asked, "Did you tell him that we were increasing his rental fee?"

The employee immediately replied, "Director, we didn't. We didn't even go to Master Lin's shop. He found out about the increase in rental fees for other shops and wanted to leave the place with them."

The other employees remained speechless as they knew that things had become complicated.

Cloud Street's achievements were all due to Master Lin.

"Hmm, I got it," Liu Guo Qiang said as he heaved a sigh. Then, he returned back to his office and called a few people. He wanted to have a meeting.

He wanted to have a meeting about Master Lin's shop on Cloud Street.

Now that Cloud Street was doing so well, if they were to charge the same rental fees, they'd be losing out on a lot.

Soon, the other leaders came and they started to discuss the situation at Cloud Street.

Liu Guo Qiang looked at all of them. "The current situation is like this. We have to implement the increase in rental fees. Master Lin and some of the other shop owners aren't agreeable to it. What do you think we should do?"

A paunchy man replied, "That's a little complicated. After all, the visitor flow in Cloud Street is brought about by Master Lin. If he moves away with the other shop owners, it'd be a disaster for us."

The lady beside him paused, then said, "I think it's impossible. Although the increase in visitor flow in Cloud Street is related to Master Lin's shop, it doesn't have a huge correlation. After my latest investigation, I made a report and all of you can have a look at it."

Soon, she distributed the documents to all the leaders.

"You mean it is the increase in the number of residents in the area that caused the increase in visitor flow? And that happened to occur at the same time as Master Lin's shop opening?" Liu Guo Qiang looked at the papers and asked. He looked like he believed it.

The lady nodded confidently. "You could say so. Master Lin's shop is only slightly bigger than 10 square meters. It's such a small shop. According to my investigation, he sells scallion pancakes and reads fortunes. Do you think a small shop like his could bring about such a huge visitor flow? In my opinion, it is largely due to the increase in the number of residents."

"Furthermore, even if the visitor flow at Cloud Street was brought about by him, we can't be affected by his actions, right? If we were to stay with the same rental fees now and increase it in the future, he would protest against it again. If we increase the fees now and he leaves, it's better than being obstructed by a single person, right?"

The others remained silent as they thought that whatever she had just said made sense.

"I think it is unlikely to be related to the increase in the number of residents. The residents in the vicinity have already reached its saturation point three months ago. If it's this reason, then three months ago, the visitor flow would have been as much as the current one since Master Lin's shop wasn't opened yet. However, it wasn't. Therefore, I believe this is largely related to Master Lin's shop. I went there to take a look once. There are at least a few hundred people outside his shop every single day. Sometimes, it can even be more than a thousand people. There are enough people to queue until the end of the street. I think we have to think through this matter thoroughly and not do something that we'd regret," one of the middle-aged men said.

The lady frowned, "Elder Wang, your thinking isn't correct. Even so, we can't be controlled by his shop, right?"

Elder Wang shook his head. "I didn't mean that."

The lady sneered, "This Master Lin is such a busybody. We increased everyone else's rental fees but his. He doesn't even seem grateful for it and he's thinking of protesting against it with the other shop owners. We, Xin Yu Commercial Real Estate Company, have been in charge of many business districts. We haven't faced such a situation before, have we?"

"I think you're right. We've never faced such a thing before. Therefore, this problem can't be allowed to develop. We have to solve it at its root cause. I believe the increase in visitor flow is completely because of the increase in the number of residents in the area."

Liu Guo Qiang was in a dilemma. It was difficult to judge the situation.

He had to look for Master Lin to discuss it.

"Alright, the meeting has come to an end. I will make a trip to Cloud Street to discuss with Master Lin."

Liu Guo Qiang had always believed that the increase in visitor flow was related to Master Lin.

If not, he wouldn't have increased the rental fees of the other shop owners only. He was afraid that Master Lin would protest against it and leave Cloud Street.

Now that things had become like this, he had to do something about it.

It looked like Master Lin didn't think the same way as an average townsfolk.

If it was someone else, that person would definitely be extremely grateful and joyous.

An increase in everyone else's rental fees but mine? How wonderful!

Chapter 260: I won't make things difficult for you

At Cloud Street.

Lin Fan was laying there leisurely. He wasn't bothered by the increase in rental fees at all.

He wasn't a dumb person after all.

It was such an absurd increment. The corporation practically wanted to destroy their businesses. They had to protest against it.

If they didn't make a big fuss about it, then they would die in silence.

They would definitely be able to find a new place to move to anyway.

Then, he posted on Weibo.

"There is a two-fold increase in the rental fees on Cloud Street. It's a robbery. I'm prepared to bring all the shop owners to look for a new plot of land. Are there any netizens that know of a good business district? All of us want to move out of here."

When the Weibo post was sent out, it immediately created an uproar.

"D\*mn, Master Lin wants to move?"

"A two-fold increase, that's so ruthless. I'm supportive of Master Lin moving out. The people at Shandong welcome you here."

"To the person above, get lost. Anhui is such a better place."

"To the person above, get lost too. Lianzhou is the best place."

...

Then, there was a commotion online.

Meanwhile, a young man was scrolling through Weibo as he was at home. He had been living at Cloud Street for around half a year. In the past, he had felt like this area wasn't good at all. But after he saw Master Lin's shop, he felt that this place was a precious piece of land.

He couldn't bear to leave the area.

He would wake up early in the morning every day to queue for Master Lin's scallion pancakes.

Sometimes, even when he couldn't purchase them, he wouldn't give up. This had already become part of his life. If he didn't queue for them, he would feel uncomfortable.

Furthermore, when he faced difficulties during work or a setback in life, he would go to Master Lin's shop to have his fortune read. Under Master Lin's guidance, he felt like his life was back on track again and he felt like life was perfect after all.

Suddenly, when this young man saw the content on Weibo, he was shocked.

"D\*mn! Does Master Lin really want to move somewhere else?"

This piece of news on Weibo stunned him. He quickly changed and went towards Cloud Street.

At the lift lobby.

"Lil' Wu, why are you in a hurry?" a middle-aged lady asked.

Lil' Wu hurriedly replied, "Things don't look good. Master Lin said that he wants to move away from Cloud Street. I have to rush there to see the situation."

The middle-aged lady was stunned when she heard it. "Is that true?"

Lil' Wu entered the lift and opened up WeChat.

In the WeChat group, someone had already made a big fuss about it.

"Master Lin is really leaving Cloud Street? Is it really true?"

"I don't know. I'm still working. When I knock off from work, I'll be heading there to have a look."

Lil' Wu hurriedly tapped away, "I'm currently on the way to Cloud Street to have a look. If it's really true, we're dead. Where are we going to buy scallion pancakes in the future?"

"Quickly go and have a look. Let us know the latest news!"

...

Meanwhile, an uninvited guest arrived at the shop.

Liu Guo Qiang smiled as he entered the shop, "Hi, Master Lin. I am Liu Guo Qiang from Xin Yu Commercial Real Estate Company, the person in charge of this area. I would like to have a chat with you regarding the increment in rental fees."

Fraud Tian and the others were looking at him too. Wu You Lan had prepared a cup of tea for the guest but she immediately placed the cup down and continued to play with her phone.

This person didn't deserve a cup of tea at all.

Lin Fan placed his phone down. Since the person in charge was here, he wanted to have a good chat with him. "Director Liu, your method of raising the rental fees doesn't seem good."

Liu Guo Qiang had already thought of a brilliant way to go against Lin Fan. He chuckled, "Master Lin, I think you've misunderstood us. We didn't raise the rental fees just as we like. We have a team of professional market surveyors and the fees are based on the current situation. It's not a matter of daylight robbery or solely according to our preferences."

Lin Fan laughed, "You think it's reasonable to raise the fees twice a year? The fees have increased even more. It's only been half a year since the last time you raised it. For a small shop like mine, rental fees for a year amount to more than a hundred thousand dollars. If you double it, it'd be almost three hundred thousand dollars. What do I have to sell to pay my housing loan?"

"That isn't right. I only sell ten pieces of scallion pancakes every day. That's only five hundred dollars per day. In a month, that's only fifteen thousand dollars. Looks like I can't even afford my housing loan this year. I'm making such a huge loss running this 'business'."

Liu Guo Qiang chuckled and waved his hand. "Master Lin, you can't count it like that. We aren't looking to raise your rental fees. After our discussion, we have decided to decrease your rental fees and even waive them off. As long as you remain on Cloud Street, everything can be discussed."

Lin Fan laughed, "Of course it can be discussed. I am not looking to make things difficult for you. All of you want to earn money too, that's normal. But the increment is too much. What if you increase it by just 10% this time? It's reasonable enough. We don't want to make things difficult for you too."

If Lin Fan removed the limit, he could afford the 100% increment in just a month. As for other shops, they'd be making huge losses.

How much would their daily profits have to be in order to gain back the money?

Liu Guo Qiang knew that this matter had to be discussed, hence, he wasn't anxious about it. "Master Lin, it's impossible to just increase it by 10%. The increment isn't decided by us, it's suggested by the headquarters. Look, the visitor flow in Cloud Street now is so good. Everyone's business is doing well. It's normal to increase the rental fees. Please do not make things difficult for us. We are also employees too and we can't make the final decision."

What a scam. What a scam indeed.

If Lin Fan really believed in him, then his fortune-telling ability would have been for nothing.

Lin Fan nodded. "Alright, I won't make things difficult for you anymore."



When Liu Guo Qiang heard his words, he was elated. Indeed, Man is selfish after all. He must have been moved by the waiver of his rental fees.

He knew that Master Lin would definitely agree to it since he would gain from it.

As for the increase in visitor flow, whether it was because of Master Lin or the increase in the number of residents, as long as Master Lin agreed to stay, it wouldn't be a problem at all.

As Liu Guo Qiang was thinking about it happily, Master Lin's words shocked him. He was in disbelief.

"Refund me the rental fees as per the contract. I'm not renting this unit anymore. You can increase the fees all you want. It has nothing to do with me," Lin Fan said.

Liu Guo Qiang hurriedly replied, "Master Lin, we can discuss it further. There's nothing that cannot be talked about. You know it too, I'm here to discuss. I admit that you have had a huge part to play in the increase in visitor flow in Cloud Street. But the increment in rental fees is a strategic plan suggested by the company. Why do you have to make it difficult for us?"

Lin Fan waved his hand. "It can't be discussed any further. I am not concerned about the increment in rental fees anymore. I won't make things difficult for you. Just increase it all you want. I'll just not rent this unit. That will be better, right?"

Then, Lin Fan noticed that there was a teenager waiting outside his shop but he wasn't bothered by it. He was busy chatting with this 'leader' here.

However, the discussion about this matter had collapsed.

Although it was troublesome to move his house and shop, once he had talked big, he couldn't take his words back anymore.

He just had to move. It wasn't a big deal after all.