

Valiant Life 261

Chapter 261: There's a problem...

In the end, the outcome was still unfavorable.

Liu Guo Qiang just left. Although he acted politely when he left, he was definitely cursing Lin Fan's mother in his heart.

Lin Fan was guessing how this fella would curse him.

Old f*cker?

No, I'm still young. He's definitely calling me an ignorant little brat.

That's more likely.

Lil' Wu, who was standing outside the shop, started to speak, "Master Lin, you're really leaving?"

Lin Fan chuckled when he saw his expression. "Should be. I guess I'll be leaving Cloud Street."

"Huh?!" Lil' Wu's jaw widened in disbelief. He couldn't bear for Lin Fan to leave. Why did he want to leave?

"Where are you planning to go?" He had to ask clearly. He wanted to know if it was far away from his workplace. If it wasn't far, he could move there too. Anyway, transport would be convenient and the train service could ferry him to work punctually.

Lin Fan chuckled, "I don't know about that yet. I haven't selected a place."

Lil' Wu didn't ask much after that. He just looked like he couldn't bear for Lin Fan to leave. Then, he told the people in the WeChat group about what he had just witnessed.

The members in the group were shocked.

"D*mn! That's ruthless. A 100% increase? He's literally forcing every shop owner to leave."

"I won't even say anything else about this. I can only say that Little Boss is awesome. No matter where he moves to, I will definitely support him. If it is somewhere far away, I will make time to go and have a look whenever I can."

"What is Little Boss trying to do? Didn't the man mention that he wouldn't be charged a single cent? Why did he still kick up a big fuss about it?"

"That's incorrect. You should know how Little Boss is like. He's not someone that's after such things. He's doing this simply because the other party went overboard."

"In the past, Cloud Street didn't seem so crowded. Things only improved after Little Boss came. Now that they've decided to increase rental fees, it's such an ugly sight to see."

"Yeah, if not for Little Boss, I wouldn't have gone to Cloud Street. I've been there every single day for the past two months. I've made friends with the other shop owners. Now that there is an ongoing conflict about the increase in rental fees, I definitely stand by them."

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Fraud Tian looked at Lin Fan. "It's obvious that the person that came earlier wants to keep you here. They want to double the rental fees to make a big sum of money."

Lin Fan chuckled, "Can I let him get what he wants? Sure, only if I'm a fool."

The other shop owners gathered around. Little Boss was their only hope. They were all very helpless. If they weren't forced to leave, they wouldn't have thought of leaving the place at all.

The increment was too much. They were simply being taken advantage of.

They had even been asked to just leave if they were unhappy with it. Nobody could be spared from it.

As for Lin Fan, he didn't want to stay any further even if his fees were waived.

This was an awkward situation after all.

Lin Fan looked at everyone. "Everyone, don't worry. I will definitely fight for all of you regarding this. This bloody Xin Yu company wants to take advantage of us. How can we agree to it? The fella told me that only my rental fees will be discounted or waived but I rejected him. Am I someone that can't afford it? He didn't understand why I rejected the offer and came to discuss with me. I have to say that it wasn't well done at all."

The other shop owners remained silent. They just looked at Little Boss.

They were moved by him.

At the same time, they were wondering why would a person like Little Boss exist in this world.

This was something they had not seen before.

All businessmen were clever. They were well-versed when it comes to relations. Although some shop owners acted like they were living in harmony with the other shop owners, they would grumble about things behind each other's back.

But they all respected Little Boss.

If the person told them that their fees would be discounted and waived, it would be extremely difficult for them to not agree to that.

But now, they were assured that Master Lin was definitely on their side.

Elder Liang said, "Little Boss, I've never admired someone so much before. You're the only one that I admire. We will only listen to you regarding this matter."

Elder Zhang said, "If we really decide to leave this place, we can just take a break for one or two months. It doesn't really affect us. I'm sure we can find a better place."

Lin Fan chuckled, "Everyone, please do not think of this matter as a bad one. Everything can be changed in a split second."

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At Xin Yu Commercial Real Estate Company.

Liu Guo Qiang returned and he looked extremely stern. The other employees looked at each other and guessed that the discussion has definitely been unsuccessful. If it had been successful, his facial expression wouldn't have been so ugly.

Zhu Xiu Qin said, "How did it go? Did Master Lin agree to it?"

Liu Guo Qiang placed the documents on the table. "Agree with it my a*s. He really thinks that Cloud Street won't be able to survive without him. I have already told him that we can discount and even waive his rental fees. He immediately rejected me and suggested for us to only increase it by 10%. I think he must be dreaming. How much is 10% as compared to 100%?"

Zhu Xiu Qin sneered, "I told you. We can't let them have their way. We have to teach them a lesson. We are a real estate company, not a charity. The increase in visitor flow in Cloud Street would definitely result in an increase in rental fees. That's just how the market works."

"Yeah." Liu Guo Qiang nodded. "I agree with what you said. We can't let them have what they want. They'll get used to it and this will become a norm. Then, it will be even more difficult for us in the future."

Zhu Xiu Qin replied, "It's not as if we have never experienced this before. The increment in price is according to the market. We are not doing anything illegal at all and it's not up to us to say how much the fees should be increased. They can't hit us or scold us for it. If it's not agreeable to them, they can just leave. We wouldn't force them to stay. How are you going to deal with Master Lin's shop?"

Liu Guo Qiang paused for nearly thirty seconds, then, he said, "We have to treat everyone equally. His rental fees will be doubled as well. If he doesn't want to pay up, then he can leave. How're things with the promotions department?"

Zhu Xiu Qin smiled. "It's good. There were nearly a hundred companies that came to ask for unit rentals. The details will be sent over to us soon."

Dong dong!

"It's here. Let's see how it went."

An employee from the promotions department had come over with the relevant documents. "Director Liu, Director Zhu, the documents have been arranged for you. Please have a look."

"Not bad." Liu Guo Qiang nodded as he took the documents over from him. "It's not bad after all. There are currently 103 interested parties. Even if the whole of Cloud Street moves away, the stoppage of work would only last a month at most."

Zhu Xiu Qin laughed, "I told you that there are more than enough interested parties."

Then, Liu Guo Qiang looked at the promotions department employee. "What is it? If you have something to say, say it. Do not be wishy-washy."

The employee replied, "Sir, every single one of them asked the same question when they called."

"What was it?" Liu Guo Qiang was curious. "Please tell me everything at once. Do not give me information in pieces."

The employee replied, "They asked if they could be nearer to Master Lin's shop."

Suddenly, Liu Guo Qiang and Zhu Xiu Qin were stunned.

Liu Guo Qiang asked curiously, "Every single one of them?"

The employee replied, "Yeah."

Then, Liu Guo Qiang looked at Zhu Xiu Qin. This situation didn't seem too good.

Ding ding!

The employee's phone rang. He looked at the name on the phone. "This is a customer that I spoke to earlier."

Zhu Xiu Qin said, "Answer it. Say that Master Lin will be moving away from Cloud Street and see his reaction."

He answered the phone.

The employee replied, "Don't worry. When there's an available unit, we will definitely contact you. As for Master Lin's shop, the latest piece of information I got was that he might leave Cloud Street..."

"HUH?!"

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After hanging up, the employee said, "The customer said that if Master Lin closes his shop, she won't rent it anymore."

Liu Guo Qiang and Zhu Xiu Qin were stunned. They were in disbelief.

It seemed like there was going to be a problem...

Chapter 262: The situation becomes sour

The entire office went silent.

Zhu Xiu Qin was in disbelief. "They must be talking about something else."

They had had a fruitful discussion earlier on and insisted that the increment of rental fees was inevitable. But now that there had been a call like that, it made them feel like things weren't as expected.

Liu Guo Qiang remained silent. Then, he asked the employee to leave the room. He looked at Zhu Xiu Qin. "What do you think of this?"

Zhu Xiu Qin frowned. "I think we have to discuss this matter again. At the same time, we should get the promotions department to call every single one of the potential shop owners and tell them that the increment in visitor flow isn't related to Master Lin's shop at all. It is due to an increase in the number of residents."

"Will that work?" Liu Guo Qiang was also in doubt. Was the increase in the number of customers really unrelated to Master Lin? If they were to judge this situation fairly, it'd be difficult to say that it was unrelated to Master Lin.

Zhu Xiu Qin chuckled, "If we don't try it, we won't know if it'd work. Even if it doesn't work, it has to work. If we let the headquarters know that we have to seek approval from one small shop for the increment in rental fees, I'm afraid both of us would get fired."

"That's true." Liu Guo Qiang nodded. Then, he continued, "I will discuss with that guy again. If it's not possible, we'll take a step back and only increase it by 80%."

"What if he doesn't agree?" Zhu Xiu Qin asked.

"Then forget it," Liu Guo Qiang replied firmly. They had already decided to make a compromise due to Lin Fan. It was the best that they could do. If he still didn't appreciate their efforts, he should just get lost. Cloud Street couldn't afford to not increase its rental fees just because of one small shop.

He had seen the changes in Cloud Street and he had noticed the large increase in visitor flow. If not for the previous news report by the government agents, he wouldn't have believed it. Also, he had gotten his employees to conduct a check and the visitor flow had indeed increased. According to the investigations, the visitors' purchase rate had increased to 90%.

That meant that out of 10 consumers on Cloud Street, 9 of them would purchase something.

Therefore, the increase in rental fees was reasonable. The doubling of rental fees was a result of unique calculations. It wasn't overboard at all.

Zhu Xiu Qin nodded. "That's what we want. We can't be soft against these shop owners, if not, they will take advantage of us. Just tell that guy that we'll both make a compromise and only increase the fees by 80%. We're a commercial real estate company, not a charity."

It's normal for the shop owners to be wary of their profit margins. However, the visitor flow in Cloud Street had only increased over the past two months and the company already wanted to increase the rental fees. The company was clearly testing their patience.

The next day!

A piece of news was posted on the Internet.

'The visitor flow in Cloud Street increased by 200% over the past two months. Thus, there was a request to increase rental fees by 100% but the shop owners are protesting against it.'

This piece of news attracted the attention of many people when it was posted.

Lin Fan had millions of fans on Weibo. Although many of them were there for the hype, there were also many true fans of his.

"The increment of rental fees is so ruthless. I'm a shop owner too and the visitor flow here is comparable to that of Cloud Street. However, my fees are only increased by 5% every three years."

"Master Lin has already posted on Weibo yesterday. He said he might leave Cloud Street and now he's looking for a suitable unit. It looks like he's bringing everyone with him. It's going to be a huge piece of news."

"Cloud Street belongs to Xin Yu Commercial Real Estate Company and they mainly help to develop business districts. They're extremely ruthless. The increment in rental fees doesn't just apply to Cloud Street. Other places are also affected but most shop owners agreed to it."

"How can Cloud Street be compared to other places? Those streets have always been always popular. If people aren't willing to rent the shops, there are plenty of people that are willing to take over them."

"That's true too. This is Shanghai after all. As long as it is a business district, popularity would not be an issue."

"I think this is definitely caused by the news report by the government agents. In the past, Cloud Street was literally dead. It only became popular in the past two months. After looking at the government's report, this Xin Yu Company immediately asked for an increment in rental fees. That's too quick and ruthless."

Then, a post popped up on the Internet page which showed the ID of a particular user, 'Respected Killer'.

"According to what I found out, the rental fees for Master Lin's shop weren't increased. Obviously, the people at Xin Yu Commercial Real Estate Company know that the increase in visitor flow has something to do with Master Lin. Master Lin can't bear to see the rental fees of other shop owners being doubled. Hence, he is on their side and threatened to move away from Cloud Street. I am deeply touched by Master Lin's actions but I'm afraid Xin Yu Company won't change their stance on this matter. In the end, Master Lin will have to leave Cloud Street along with the other shop owners and Cloud Street will be dead again."

"Bro, I think you've got it wrong. How can a small shop bring about so much change in popularity? It's not possible."

"It's not impossible. This is the truth. The shoppers in the vicinity are willing to go to Cloud Street because of Master Lin. If not for him, they'd be looking at other business districts within the same area. Furthermore, there's a series of business districts owned by the same company. Why would they only go to Cloud Street?"

"This analysis is reasonable. Waiting for the final outcome."

"It's still the same with me. Anhui welcomes Master Lin."

"Beijing welcomes Master Lin too."

"Lianzhou welcomes Master Lin again."

Several internet celebrities were reposting this piece of news on Weibo. Master Lin was considered pretty famous on Weibo. Ever since the Starlight incident, Master Lin's popularity had shot up considerably. Many internet celebrities still remembered him from the previous incident.

Famous Economist: "Doubling rental fees at Cloud Street is a normal thing. It is according to the market price. The shop owners are conflicted because it involves their profits. Meanwhile, a small shop affecting the views of all the shop owners on the street is an extremely rare sight. Therefore, there's no concrete evidence to prove that Master Lin's shop is the one that's affecting the other shop owners. We have to look at other factors to determine the cause of the increase in visitor flow. This increase in the number of customers on Cloud Street is definitely brought about by something special. It has nothing to do in particular with this shop of his..."

This economist rattled on for a long paragraph but he was just stating his views.

After a short while, the netizens scolded him for it.

"What the f*ck do you know about this?"

"He forced me to use vulgarities. You people only know how to increase fees but not our salaries. You still have the audacity to say that we're fortunate? Fortunate your mum!"

"Have you been to Cloud Street? Do you know the situation at Cloud Street? If you don't know anything, please refrain from speaking."

"Let me tell this stupid 'economist' off. The most exciting thing every day at Cloud Street is Master Lin's shop. Everyone knows about him and his shop. Do you know what it means to everyone? It means that the queue at his shop can extend all the way to the end of the street."

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The economist was speechless after reading these comments. He was infuriated and he deleted his Weibo account.

Meanwhile.

Cloud Street.

Master Lin's shop was being surrounded by a large group of townsfolk.

Chapter 263: Too ruthless

When the townsfolk found out that Master Lin wanted to discuss with them about his departure, all of them gathered around.

If Master Lin leaves, what would happen to us? We're already used to queueing here every day. Furthermore, we're able to buy scallion pancakes when we're lucky. Although sometimes we aren't able to buy them, at least we have a glimmer of hope.

But if Master Lin leaves with his shop, we would lose that glimmer of hope. How unbearable would it be?

"Little Boss, can you please stay? Everyone's so close to each other and we can't bear for you to leave so suddenly."

"Yeah, what would happen to us when you leave?"

"I can't imagine how life would be like without Little Boss's scallion pancakes. We'd be so bored."

Wu You Lan said, "Everyone can't bear for you to leave."

Fraud Tian added, "They can't bear for us to leave."

Although they weren't affected by the increment of rental fees, Lin Fan was still on the shop owners' side. Moving would be quite troublesome and leaving such a familiar place would take some effort. But some things had to be done this way.

Some shop owners gathered around.

"Little Boss, everyone can't bear for you to leave. Why not stay behind? Since they're not going to increase your rental fees."

"Yeah."

"If it's a 30 or 40% increase, we can still consider it. But a 100% increase is simply too much."

Lin Fan waved his hand. "Don't talk about that. This matter doesn't only concern you. It also concerns me."

The townsfolk were feeling remorseful.

"This Xin Yu Commercial Real Estate Company is simply too much. They actually increased the rental fees by so much."

"I read the news too, they're simply bullying us."

"Little Boss, are you certain of where you're moving to? If it's possible, I'd like to move with you."

"Sigh, I'm really envious of all of you who rent houses. I already bought my house and I can't just leave as I like."

The people who rented houses became silent. They hadn't expected people in the queue to have achieved their dream of buying a house. Suddenly, they felt extremely affected by it because these people actually envied them even though they had achieved their dream of owning a house.

Then, Liu Guo Qiang suddenly appeared on Cloud Street.

"It's him! He's the director of Xin Yu Commercial Real Estate Company and he's responsible for the increment of rental fees."

Suddenly, everyone turned to look at him.

Liu Guo Qiang was stunned when he saw that there were so many people outside Master Lin's shop.

Then, the townsfolk started to yell.

"How can Xin Yu Company be so overboard? Can't you just raise the fees slowly? What's the rush for a sudden 100% increase? Are you really lacking money?"

"Yeah, Cloud Street initially didn't have so many people. Now that it's a little famous, you immediately increase the rental fees. Why didn't you decrease the fees when it wasn't doing well?"

"An immediate increase in fees just because of popularity, I guess after chasing Little Boss away, this place won't be popular anymore. Anyway, without Little Boss here, I won't come here again."

"Me too. Why the f*ck should I come here? There are so many business districts around here. Without Master Lin at Cloud Street, nobody would be attracted to this place anymore."

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Liu Guo Qiang just stood there and didn't say anything. This matter was indeed a rare one. The townsfolk were so agitated at the increment of rental fees for the shop owners.

"Master Lin, we can talk about it again." Liu Guo Qiang walked into the shop. He felt a little intimidated by the furious looks of the surrounding townsfolk.

But they couldn't just not increase the fees because of one small shop. If they made this compromise, what would happen in the future?

Zhu Xiu Qin had been right. They could only make a compromise if Master Lin was willing to do so too. If not, they would go ahead with their plans. Liu Guo Qiang felt that he needed to make another compromise after witnessing the looks of the surrounding townsfolk.

Lin Fan looked at Liu Guo Qiang and nodded. "Alright, let's talk about it then."

He wasn't bothered by the need to move his house. If they could discuss and reach an agreeable price, he was willing to make a compromise too. After all, the other shop owners weren't the same as him. A setback of one or two months of rental fees wouldn't cause great damage to him but would it be a heavy loss to the others.

Furthermore, he had already established himself at Cloud Street. If he were to leave now, he would definitely suffer a loss.

"Director, let me tell you this. Don't think you can just bully the shop owners like that because there are more customers on Cloud Street now. All of us live in the vicinity and we are here for Little Boss. If Little Boss leaves, the number of customers will definitely go back to normal."

"That's right. I've read the news online. Don't think this is not because of Little Boss. All of us are here today just to make Little Boss stay."

"The power of the people can be a double-edged sword. The reason the number of customers increased is us. If we aren't willing to come here, there might be nobody that would want to rent a unit here."

"Please reconsider your move. There is no shortage of business districts around here. The only thing that is lacking is Little Boss."

Liu Guo Qiang was a little upset. He hadn't expected the townsfolk to be lecturing him. But he still tolerated it and said calmly, "Everyone, please don't worry. We are sincere. I am here today to discuss with Little Boss. I wouldn't want everyone to move out of here too. If there's anything, we can discuss it and have a reasonable outcome."

The townsfolk nodded. "That's better."

Lin Fan immediately replied, "Director Liu, name a price then. How much are you guys willing to compromise? Just get straight to the point. Initially, it was your idea to increase the rental fees and even though we were unhappy, we didn't have any reason to request a smaller increase. Now that you're willing to discuss it, let's have a fruitful one."

Liu Guo Qiang nodded. "Master Lin, I admit that the customer flow in Cloud Street is mostly related to you. I don't want both of us to be unhappy. The doubling of rental fees was based on a market report. All the shop owners here, please answer this truthfully: do you think you wouldn't be able to make a profit if we double the fees?"

Elder Liang replied, "Haha, a 100% increase and you think we'd still profit? Yeah, of course. You're the one making all the profit, we'd only be making a small bit. We'd be giving you our hard earned money all year round."

Elder Zhang replied, "Yeah, a 100% increase would make me have to sustain a \$1000 profit every day. Do you even know how stressful that would be?"

Lin Fan waved his hand. "Director Liu, enough of that. How much are you guys willing to compromise?"

Liu Guo Qiang looked at Lin Fan and firmly added, "The best we can do is an 80% increase."

Lin Fan was helpless. "Alright, Director Liu, you can make a move now. There's no need for further discussion. Yesterday, you said 90% and today, you say 80%. I'm willing to wait until you give us a better price."

Liu Guo Qiang frowned. "Master Lin, why not tell me your price? We can both make a compromise."

"At most 30%," Lin Fan answered after thinking for a moment. It would've been impossible for the fees to remain the same. Since he asked for a compromise, he could do 30% at best.

Liu Guo Qiang was stunned. He was thinking of what to say and suddenly, someone came in before he could say anything.

"You must be dreaming."

Zhu Xiu Qin had brought an employee from the promotions department. She said, "The best we can do is 80%. It's impossible for it to be 30%. My purpose here is clear. Xin Yu Commercial Real Estate Company won't back down from anyone. The best we can do is 80%. If you're agreeable to it, sign the papers. If not, please leave within five days."

Liu Guo Qiang frowned. This was perhaps too ruthless.

Chapter 264: This isn't a wet market

This b*tch is speaking with such a sh*tty tone.

Lin Fan glanced at her and didn't care about her. Then, she turned to Liu Guo Qiang.
"Director Liu, this is the best we can do. You can consider it. If not, you may move away."

The townsfolk started to add on.

"Little Boss is already making a huge compromise. 30% is quite a lot."

"That's right. Little Boss already said it, 30% is our best. Furthermore, if Little Boss isn't at Cloud Street, the number of customers will definitely return to normal. When that happens, you'd be depressed and helpless."

"Director Liu, all of us live nearby. If you really chase Little Boss away, we will definitely not come here again. There are so many business districts in the vicinity and they're so much better than Cloud Street. Without Little Boss, Cloud Street would be nothing."

Liu Guo Qiang was in a dilemma. Their words made sense. He had only managed to understand everything after he had made this trip here personally and saw these townsfolk. This was nothing like what he had imagined.

If a business district wasn't built on a good plot of land that was attractive enough to the tourists, it had to be built near a place of residence.

In the past, Cloud Street was definitely pretty popular. But after the development of a few other business districts and a mega business city, the number of customers declined rapidly until recent times. It became popular again after a difficult time and he definitely didn't want to let Cloud Street return to its past state.

30%.

Liu Guo Qiang knew that it was Master Lin's greatest compromise. It all depended on him. He was thinking about it.

Zhu Xiu Qin stood beside them and she was furious. He actually ignored her?

slam

The documents were thrown at the table.

She spoke with a stern tone once again.

"30% is impossible. Director Liu, think about it. Xin Yu Commercial Real Estate Company is a big company. If the other business districts behave like this too, we would be jobless in the future," Zhu Xiu Qin said.

"You are?" Lin Fan asked.

Zhu Xiu Qin looked at Lin Fan. So this was the 'famous' Master Lin? She was extremely upset. How could this matter depend on his desire?

"Director Zhu from Xin Yu Commercial Real Estate," Zhu Xiu Qin said, "Let me tell you. The increment in rental fees for Cloud Street can't be compromised because of a single person. Director Liu wanted to keep all of you here and so he negotiated it to 80%. It is already our biggest compromise. As for the 30%, that's literally impossible."

The townsfolk were extremely upset.

"Why are you so d*mn stubborn? 30% is already quite a lot of money. You guys can't be that greedy."

"I finally understand why Cloud Street didn't do so well in the past. It's because of these stupid directors. How can they lead us back to our best? I'd be happy if they didn't make us bankrupt."

Zhu Xiu Qin was furious when she heard it. "How can you say such a thing? What do you mean by 'stupid directors'?"

The townsfolk were infuriated. "What's wrong? I spoke the truth. Look at the other business districts. Did they increase the rental fees like you did?"

Zhu Xiu Qin sneered, "It's our company's decision to increase the rental fees. They didn't do it just as they wished. You guys wouldn't understand it even if I told you. This increment of 80% is settled. If you agree to it, sign the papers. If not, please register for the refund of rental fees."

"Xin Yu Commercial Real Estate doesn't cheat people or force anyone. We obviously won't compromise because of anyone. We won't return you a single cent less than what you deserve."

Everyone was extremely p*ssed off when Zhu Xiu Qin said that.

"You're such an unreasonable woman. If Little Boss and the rest of them leave, we will definitely not return to Cloud Street. It won't be popular anymore," a townsfolk said angrily.

Zhu Xiu Qin waved her hand. "Regarding its popularity, none of you have any right to speak about it. Xin Yu Commercial Real Estate Company didn't do anything wrong. The increment in rental fees is reasonable. It doesn't matter if Cloud Street isn't popular. The main thing is that our company will definitely not compromise. We have our own procedures to follow."

Liu Guo Qiang frowned. "Director Zhu, stop talking. Also, why did you bring the registration books? There isn't a conclusion to this whole situation yet. Please return to the office."

Zhu Xiu Qin waved her hand. "Don't leave. All of you, stay here. We will settle this today."

The employees all looked at each other. What should we do?

Aren't they just making things difficult for us?

Lin Fan looked at Liu Guo Qiang, "Director Liu, just say what you want. Do you accede to our request? If not, we will sign the papers and leave within five days. We won't stay a day longer."

"This..." Liu Guo Qiang was in a dilemma. Then, he said, "Master Lin, why don't we go back and discuss it again? We will have another meeting."

Lin Fan nodded. "Sure, that's good."

What could be discussed should be discussed and it shouldn't be forced. Nobody owed anyone a living and the best outcome would be a satisfactory one.

Then, Zhu Xiu Qin stopped him. "Director Liu, we don't have to discuss it again. 80% is final."

Liu Guo Qiang frowned and he pulled her aside.

"Director Zhu, this matter isn't as simple as you think it is. These people live around here and if Master Lin leaves, Cloud Street will definitely lose its popularity," Liu Guo Qiang said.

Zhu Xiu Qin chuckled, "You're being too anxious. It's just these townsfolk. You think he has such a great impact on Cloud Street? I already said 80% is the best we can do and you agreed to it back in our office. That's the lowest we can go. If not, then it's fine."

Liu Guo Qiang wanted to agree with her but things were not what he had expected.

Zhu Xiu Qin was considered his subordinate. If Zhu Xiu Qin was above him, then it would have been fine. He would've reprimanded her but Zhu Xiu Qin was a relative of the Vice-

President of the company. She was feared by everyone in the company and nobody dared to infuriate her.

Those that offended her all ended up being sacked. They had no choice at all.

Lin Fan sat there and the surrounding shop owners came over. "Little Boss, how did your discussion with them go?"

"I don't know, I think it won't end up well," Lin Fan said. If it was only Liu Guo Qiang, they might stand a chance against them but this woman was so forceful and that made things even more difficult.

Elder Liang said, "No matter what, the worst that could happen is us leaving this place. That isn't a big deal."

After a while, the two of them returned.

Liu Guo Qiang said, "Master Lin, 60%. That's our best already."

After speaking to her for so long, he finally convinced Zhu Xiu Qin to make an exception. He didn't want Master Lin to leave Cloud Street at all and he managed to convince Zhu Xiu Qin for a 60% increase.

Lin Fan helplessly laughed, "Director Liu, we're not a wet market here."

Zhu Xiu Qin added, "60% is our lowest. If you agree to it, sign the papers. If not, just leave. However, I have to warn you about this. There are so many of you leaving and I can assure you that there isn't a business district with so many units available. At the same time, they wouldn't charge as low as Cloud Street."

Lin Fan wanted to reply but the phone rang.

It was a number that he couldn't recognize.

He picked the phone up.

"Hi, is this Master Lin?"

"Yes, I am."

"Hi, Master Lin. I am the person in charge of Tian Hong business district. We just built it and we urgently need shops here. I am a fan of your Weibo and I know you are looking for a business district. Therefore, I want to know if you're interested in our area."

Lin Fan chuckled upon hearing his words. Then, he switched on the loudspeaker mode to let everyone hear their conversation.

"That's interesting," Lin Fan said.

It looked like the problem that had been affecting them was finally resolved.

Chapter 265: I'll have to settle this on my own

When the telephone was turned to loudspeaker mode, the crowd was still clueless as to what was happening. They wondered what Little Boss meant when he said 'That's interesting'.

But soon, they understood it.

"Master Lin, I found out about your situation on Weibo. As for the crazy things that you've done, I've heard it so many times that I can repeat every single one of them. It's coincidental that our Tian Hong Commercial Street has just been built. We're currently preparing to ask for shop owners to take over the units but I thought it'd be better to invite you over instead of renting them to others," Huang Bin said.

He was supposed to be busy with the marketing segment after Tian Hong Commercial Street had been fully constructed. However, he had been reading Master Lin's Weibo which caught his attention. It wasn't because Master Lin was a superb fortune-teller or that the scallion pancakes were delicious. It was because of the Starlight incident that caught his eye. He had done some research on him and realized that Master Lin was indeed an awesome character and hence, he had been watching him closely.

At the same time, he saw that Master Lin was thinking of moving out due to the increased rental fees. Therefore, he thought of contacting him and if it was successful, the marketing segment would be resolved.

Furthermore, he was curious as to how a small shop managed to make a whole commercial street popular. Therefore, he wanted to take a look and see what was happening.

Lin Fan chuckled, "Chief Huang, you're so courteous. How much are you charging for the rental fees at Tian Hong Commercial Street? If it's too expensive, we can't possibly afford it."

Then, the shop owners outside his shop held their breaths. To them, this phone call wasn't as simple as it looked. It seemed like someone was trying to get them to shift to his commercial street.

Liu Guo Qiang frowned. He knew about Tian Hong Commercial Street and it was only two districts away from Cloud Street. Furthermore, it was a decent location. There were many townsfolk that lived near that area.

Huang Bin replied, "As for that, don't worry, Master Lin. We are definitely not like Xin Yu Company. They immediately skyrocketed the rental fees. We are a legitimate company and the rental fees are all controlled based on the markets."

Lin Fan chuckled, "Chief Huang, the people in charge of Xin Yu Company are in my shop now. I guess we shouldn't talk about them."

Huang Bin apologized and laughed, "Alright, alright. I'll only speak facts then. Since we're a newly constructed commercial street, the contract lasts for three years. The first year of rental is free. The charges are based on the area of the shop. We are charging \$20 per square meter daily. Then, it increases by 5% every year. Everything was formulated based on the lowest prices in the market. Everything can be written in the contract. The number of customers on the commercial street won't matter in the future as the contract is fixed. We will follow the agreement and charge shop owners based on it. What do you think?"

Although his academic results weren't the best, he was still pretty good at calculations. If it was based on a 40 square meter shop, a year's rental would be around two hundred thousand dollars. For his current shop which was slightly more than ten square meters, he was already being charged over a hundred thousand dollars. It seemed like a really good deal in

comparison to Cloud Street. Furthermore, the rental fees were waived for the first year. It was simply too attractive.

An increment of 5% per year was realistic and reasonable too.

Huang Bin immediately added, "As for the shop owners who are looking at the top grade interiors, we also have long-term contracts for that. The yearly increment is a little less, at about 3% per year. What do you think?"

Lin Fan was a little confused when it came to these prices. The previous example had already drained most of his brain cells.

But as for the other shop owners, they were all ecstatic and shocked.

"Little Boss, Tian Hong is good! The prices are reasonable."

"Yeah, this is Shanghai after all. It's a city on the front line. Only the other less developed cities would waive the first year of fees for three years of rent. If this Tian Hong Commercial Street really waives the first year of rental fees, we're in luck!"

"The increment of fees is also reasonable. An average increment would be about 10-15% per year. This Tian Hong Commercial Street is simply managed by kind-hearted people!"

The shop owners were all extremely excited.

Initially, they had been worried about their futures but now, they weren't worried anymore.

Liu Guo Qiang hadn't expected things to end up like this. This Tian Hong Commercial Street sounded like an extremely good deal. The management team there must be too kind-hearted, could they still be considered as businessmen?

This type of business model wouldn't bring about many profits in early stages of the contract.

But if you were to look at this in the long run, according to Shanghai's rate of development, this commercial street could likely be popular very soon.

No company would be stupid enough to invest a huge sum of money to build something on a no man's land.

Zhu Xiu Qin was also stunned. It was as if her confidence had vanished.

She had initially been very forceful and she even had the backing of the people in the headquarters. Furthermore, she knew that these people would definitely surrender to her.

Which commercial street in Shanghai would be able to contain one to two hundred shop owners? They hadn't expected Tian Hong Commercial Street to come in with this lucrative offer.

Zhu Xiu Qin was in disbelief. Then, she asked, "Which company built Tian Hong Commercial Street? That is simply impossible. How could you still make money from this?"

Huang Bin chuckled, "We are from Qi Ming Commercial Real Estate Company. We are looking at a long-term business, unlike Xin Yu Company which only looks at the short-term profits. Shop owners wouldn't even make any profit if you suppress them like this. Any commercial street wouldn't last long like this regardless of how good the business is. We are looking at achieving a win-win situation. We can make money along with the shop owners."

Then, people started to clap.

Lin Fan clapped and said, "Chief Huang, your company is very considerate."

Zhu Xiu Qin's face was as black as thunder. She just stood there and didn't say anything.

At a certain villa in Shanghai.

Lu Li packed his things and prepared to go to his company. As he walked down the stairs into the living room, his father called him.

Lu Zhong Ming said, "Come over here for awhile."

Lu Li didn't know what he wanted. He walked over to his father. "Dad, what is it?"

Lu Zhong Ming put on his glasses. "Xin Yu Real Estate Company is owned by us?"

"Yes, I am confident that the development of commercial streets will be extremely profitable. Hence, I started Xin Yu Commercial Real Estate Company which specializes in the construction of commercial streets," Lu Li replied.

Even though he didn't care much about Xin Yu Company, it brought in a lot of profits every year.

Lu Zhong Ming nodded. "When was Cloud Street developed?"

Lu Li didn't know why his father would ask such a question. After all, his father hadn't asked about the organization for about eight years already. "It was constructed in 2012. It's been about five years."

"Look at this news article," Lu Zhong Ming said as he passed the phone to his son. Then, he sat there and didn't say anything.

Lu Li took the phone over and read it. He gradually furrowed his eyebrows. "Dad, this..."

He didn't really care about Xin Yu Company but when he read the news, he was shocked. A 100% increment of rental fees did seem like a problem.

But this matter shouldn't be managed by him as it was too minor. He was handling billions and trillions of investments nowadays. This was simply peanuts to him.

"One step at a time. If you take too big a step, your testicles might tear," Lu Zhong Ming said.

Lu Li was a little embarrassed. His dad wasn't exactly a cultured man but his words always made sense.

"Even the smallest issues can cause big problems in the future. You have to be more cautious as your company grows. If your business fails, you can still try again. But if you lose your reputation, it's practically impossible to continue. Read the news more when you're free. Don't be too caught up with work. You have to know what's happening in the sub-companies as well. Do you understand what I mean?" Lu Zhong Ming said.

Lu Li nodded. "Dad, I understand that."

"Alright, go have a look and manage it well," Lu Zhong Ming said.

Lu Li was stunned. "Dad, I have an important meeting to attend, I can get my subordinate to..."

"You have meetings every day. You don't have to be impatient. You can only manage greater things when you're able to resolve small things like this. You've been progressing too quickly ever since you took over the company. Go and resolve this issue and take a look at the company. If there's a problem, get rid of it. Don't let them behave as if there's no higher management. If you can't manage one or two of them, fire them and rebuild the team," Lu Zhong Ming said sternly.

Lu Li nodded. "Alright, dad. I think there shouldn't be a problem in the company."

Lu Zhong Ming looked at his son and warned him, "There wouldn't be this situation if there wasn't a problem. Go and tell me the situation when you get home tonight."

Lu Li could only nod at his dad's words. He knew that he was still miles apart from achieving his dad's feats. There were a lot of things that he still had to learn from his dad.

Chapter 266: Sh*t Stirrer

Cloud Street!

The scene was a little noisy and messy. The shop owners were discussing intensely. To them, this was undoubtedly not a joyous occasion. The Tian Hong Commercial Street in the Hong Tian District, another old district in Shanghai. It wasn't any worse than their current location.

At that moment, the crowd directed their gaze at Little Boss, waiting to hear what he had to say. Moving their shops and whatnot, they didn't mind. They had been doing business in Cloud Street for many years and they had seen its highest and its lowest. They had finally managed to turn the tides but they had been hit on the head by Xin Yu Corporation and they had lost all momentum.

In the past, the rent seldom increased. And they just had their last increase half a year ago too. Perhaps Xin Yu Corporation had thought that the visitor flow in Cloud Street would not increase, so they didn't increase their rent too much. But now that the visitor flow grew, they spiked up the rent immediately. It was hard for the shop owners to accept.

Liu Guo Qiang looked at Master Lin, not knowing what to say. But he had to say something, "Master Lin, let's discuss this properly. Qi Ming Company has a good reputation indeed, but if everyone moves away, it'll have a large impact. After all, they've been here for so long. If they move, surely they'd feel reluctant."

After hearing Liu Guo Qiang's words, the shop owners did feel a little reluctant. They had rented the shops here for so long and all of a sudden, then had to leave. Indeed, it was hard to bear.

However, it wasn't that they wanted to leave but the rent increase was too much for them to afford. There wasn't even any buffer time for them.

Zhu Xiu Qin stood silently by the side. To receive such a blow all of a sudden, then receive such a great offer from another party, if she was in the shop owners' positions, she might consider moving away too.

Lin Fan looked at Liu Guo Qiang and said, "Director Liu, you have your reasons for increasing the rent. We understand that. But your increase is too high, we can't afford it. Now, Tian Hong Commercial Street has sent us a peaceful offering, to put our needs and benefits first. I don't think we have a reason to reject them.

"That's for sure but Master Lin, you're still not firm on your decision, are you? There's still room for negotiation." Liu Guo Qiang tried to keep the discussion alive. That's how bargaining worked.

Take it slowly. Talk slowly. There will definitely be a reasonable compromise.

But what he didn't know was that Master Lin really didn't want to discuss anymore.

Lin Fan might not know how to do business, but he wasn't stupid. The conditions given by Tian Hong Commercial Street were so good. The early stage of moving might be troublesome but once they get past that, everything would become better.

At that moment, Lin Fan looked at Liu Guo Qiang and said, "Alright then, tell me how much you're going to increase the rent by."

Liu Guo Qiang was stunned. He was speechless as he didn't have an answer.

A hundred percent? Eighty? Seventy?

If he were to say these numbers, he was afraid he would lose all respect. Then, with a weak voice, as if he had no confidence, he spoke.

"Thirty percent."

"No, I mean twenty."

"Are you crazy?" Zhu Xiu Qin cried out in shock.

Lin Fan shook his head. "Director Liu, this isn't a food market. From a hundred percent, you went to eighty and now, from thirty to twenty. You make me doubt what you base your rent prices on."

Then, without saying anything else, he stood up. He now had to solicit opinions from the crowd of shop owners. "You know the situation now. Director Liu says twenty percent. What do you think?"

As the saying goes, leave no man behind, only leave places behind.

He didn't mind the rent increase but their method of increasing rent was a little absurd. Even if they managed to come to a consensus this time, it might happen again in future.

Cloud Street's visitor flow was increasing day by day and it was obvious to anyone.

They only had one opportunity with Tian Hong Commercial Street. If they missed it, even if they want to move again in future, the conditions may not be as favorable. The shops may not even be available anymore by then.

The shop owners looked at each other.

They knew Little Boss was asking for their opinions.

This matter didn't affect Little Boss much at all, yet, Little Boss had been fighting for the best deal for them all this while.

They were touched.

"Little Boss, if we move, would you move with us?" asked Elder Liang.

The crowd looked at Little Boss as if he was their pillar. They would follow whatever the Little Boss wanted.

Lin Fan nodded. "Having a change of location isn't a bad thing. At least something like this won't pop up again in future."

After that confirmation from Little Boss, the crowd started discussing intently.

"Tian Hong Commercial Street is offering a year of free rent and after that, the rent increase will be very regular as well. It seems pretty good."

"I've run my shop here for three years. The total money I've spent on renovations add up to seventy or eighty thousand. But now, times are changing fast and my shop decorations are a little behind the times. If we change to a new place, I can do a proper renovation again."

"Xin Yu Corporation's rent increase has always been unreasonable. This time, they may have given in but if they increase the rent unreasonably again next time, we'll have no place to go."

"It's so hard to decide."

Some of the shop owners were struggling to decide but most of them had come to a common conclusion and that was to move.

The surrounding townsfolk felt that this wasn't right. How could they bear to see Little Boss leave? So they started to try to dissuade them.

"Don't leave. We've known each other for so long."

"Yeah, if you all leave, where will we shop?"

"Hey Director Liu, can't you lower it a little more? Or don't even increase the rent. Just slowly increase the rent appropriately from now on. I don't even know what your company's management is thinking. All these rent increases, did they calculate them using their feet or something?"

Liu Qiang Guo was dumbfounded. Previously, Master Lin had compromised and agreed to thirty percent. But now, he won't even agree to twenty percent.

If he had known it would turn out like this, he would've stopped earlier and agreed to thirty percent. Then, things would never have turned out this way.

"Master Lin, can we discuss a little more?" said Liu Guo Qiang.

In Lin Fan's mind, there was nothing to discuss. Everyone had their own views. Now that good choice had emerged, why not just choose properly?

But when Lin Fan didn't reply, Zhu Xiu Qin spoke, "Until now, Director Liu, I still have the same sentiment. Xin Yu Corporation won't compromise with anyone. Hasn't Tian Hong Commercial Street already made an offering? Let them go then. From what I know, the

visitor flow there is not even half of Cloud Street's. I don't care if you all believe me, but that's all I have to say. Don't regret your decision."

Liu Guo Qiang glanced at Zhu Xiu Qin as he cursed her in his heart. Is this woman retarded? She's simply a sh*t stirrer. Does she still not understand the current situation?

He admitted that the Tian Hong Commercial Street didn't have much visitor flow since it was newly constructed but he now believed that the reason that Cloud Street had been able to come back from the dead had much to do with Master Lin. It could even be said to be Master Lin's work.

If he goes to Tian Hong Commercial Street, wouldn't the people flow increase there as well?

Lin Fan clapped his hands. "Alright, that's that then. Let's sign the contract, everybody. In five days, we'll move over. Don't worry, Director Liu, we won't delay your time for another day."

Zhu Xiu Qin chuckled, "Even if you want to delay us, you won't be able to."

Liu Guo Qiang was really furious. "Director Zhu, can you not talk anymore? This situation has come to this because of you. Don't you have any idea what's going on at all?"

Zhu Xiu Qin raised her eyebrows. "What do you mean, Liu Guo Qiang? I'm just working in accordance with our company's regulations. Are there any problems with that?"

"I..." Liu Guo Qiang was speechless.

At that moment, Lin Fan made a call.

"Chief Huang, we've just agreed on the matter. If possible, let's draw up a contract tomorrow."

Chief Huang replied happily, "Okay, okay. Don't worry, Master Lin. We'll handle this matter beautifully. Please pass on a message to the Cloud Street business owners for me: Tian Hong Commercial Street welcomes them."

Lin Fan laughed, "For sure, for sure."

Then, he hung up.

"Excuse us, Director Liu," said Lin Fan.

Liu Guo Qiang still wanted to urge them to stay. "Master Lin, is there really no way we can discuss anymore?"

Lin Fn smiled and said, "I've made the call and informed the other party already. If I take back my offer, wouldn't I be playing around with him?"

Chapter 267: Undercover Boss

At the entrance of Xin Yu Real Estate Corporation.

A sedan stopped.

The driver asked, "Chief Lu, should I follow you upstairs?"

Lu Li replied, "No."

He raised his head and looked at this company building in front of him. Lu Li felt some pride in his heart. After all, this was the first subsidiary company he had founded after coming back from overseas. It was a little accomplishment for him in the real estate development field.

Besides the annual conference that he held, he didn't do much in managing the company. After all, it was just a subsidiary company. It had its independent management group and board of directors.

The lounge decoration had a majestic atmosphere to it. Not bad at all.

The female employee at the counter had her head down, playing with her phone. When she saw that someone had come, she looked up but didn't recognize him. So, she didn't bother about him.

Lu Li raised his brows slightly but didn't say anything. He continued towards the inside of the building.

"Who are you looking for? This place is off limits to unauthorized personnel," said the receptionist at the counter hastily.

With a blank expression, Lu Li said calmly, "Keep playing with your phone. My going upstairs has nothing to do with you."

Just as the receptionist wanted to say something, the elevator opened and Lu Li went in immediately. He pressed the button on the elevator.

The receptionist was stunned. She was in disbelief. That guy had swagger. After thinking about it a bit, she decided to return to the counter and continue playing Arena of Valor.

In the office area.

Lu Li was thoroughly pissed. He swept the area with his gaze. There were some restless employees at first but when they noticed that someone had come, they instantly quieted down. But when they saw that it was an unfamiliar face, they heaved sighs of relief.

One of the older staff, Elder Wang raised his head, "May I ask who you are looking for?"

Lu Li was just there to visit but the first thing he saw when he came was the receptionist at the counter playing games on her phone, which left him dissatisfied. After that, he decided he would go take a look at the situation inside.

"I'm here to look for the leader responsible for Cloud Street." Lu Li had no idea who was responsible for Cloud Street.

Elder Wang was startled. He decided to stand in for the leader for now. "Are you renting a place along Cloud Street?"

Lu Li didn't retort. He nodded and said, "Yes, I'm renting a place in Cloud Street."

He would play along with them, for now, to see just what they were up to.

"Come, please take a seat." Elder Wang was very courteous. He directed Lu Li to the side. "You are the first to come personally to our company to ask about the rental."

Lu Li smiled and nodded. "Who's the person in charge of Cloud Street right now?"

Elder Wang smiled back and said, "Liu Guo Qiang and Zhu Xiu Qin are the two people in charge."

"Oh." Li Lu had never heard these names before. Then, he looked around. "Then are they here right now?"

"They're not in the office at the moment. They went over to Cloud Street to settle some things. We can talk about the rental at Cloud Street here first," Elder Wang said hurriedly. Then, he took out a few documents and opened them. "These are diagrams of the shops in Cloud Street. You can take note of a few and if there are vacancies, we will reserve them for you."

Lu Li nodded but he didn't care about all this. "I heard the rent has been doubled?"

"Yes, it has increased." Elder Wang nodded

"That's a little high." Lu Li was expressionless. Elder Wang was a little surprised. He didn't know what this client wanted. But he still explained passionately.

"The following are what we have concluded from the market. Cloud Street's visitor flow has increased by two folds in the recent period. This price is very fair. You may not know this but just during this period, we've received a total of over a hundred inquiries. It is very popular. If you don't reserve it early, you may not get a place," said Elder Wang. His heart was apprehensive as well. The price increase was high indeed but he had no choice. He was just an employee and these things weren't up to him.

Lu Li flipped through the documents, then placed them back on the table. "If I want to negotiate, do I look for those two in charge?"

Elder Wang was stunned. He felt that this man was a little too direct. He then glanced around and said softly, "If you want to negotiate, you can look for Director Liu, Liu Guo Qiang."

Lu Li nodded. "What about the other director, Zhu Xiu Qin?"

Elder Wang laughed, "I suggest you look for Director Liu. It's better to just forget about Director Zhu."

Ring ring

Elder Wang's phone rang.

He answered the call. It was a colleague from the investment department.

"Elder Wang, the talks at Cloud Street have collapsed. They all want to move. We are about to get really busy."

Elder Wang didn't try to avoid the topic. "It can't be. Are they all moving? Then Master Lin is moving too?"

"Mmhhh. They're all moving. Director Liu was initially still negotiating with Master Lin but then Tian Hong Commercial Street came into the picture and messed everything up. I think that there'll be problems."

Elder Wang was astonished. "It can't be. Let's not talk so much for now. I have a client here. What time will you all be back?"

"Not sure. Director Liu and Director Zhu seem to be quarreling. Anyway, things are really complicated right now. Let's leave it at that. I'm hanging up..."

Although the loudspeaker wasn't turned on, Lu Li had heard it all.

At that moment, there was an employee hugging a paper box, looking very sad.

Seeing this colleague being fired, the other colleagues were all saying their goodbyes.

Lu Li pointed there, "What's going on?"

Elder Wang glanced over, then sighed, "He's been fired."

"Did he do something wrong?" asked Lu Li.

"He didn't do anything wrong," said Elder Wang as he shook his head. Then, he remembered that he was talking to a client, so he instantly refocused himself. "Let's talk about the matter regarding the shop."

Lu Li ignored Elder Wang. He made a gesture with his hand. "Hey kid, come over here."

Lil' Jun was already in a bad mood because he was fired. When he heard someone calling for him, he didn't think much and just went over.

Lu Li scanned him from head to toe, then asked, "What's your name?"

Lil' Jun didn't know why this man was asking for his name but he saw that he was dressed rather classily and didn't look like an average person. This expressionless face of his made Lil' Jun feel like he was talking to a leader.

"Gu Jun."

Lu Li asked, "Why have you been fired?"

"I didn't satisfy my superior, that's why I got fired," said Gu Jun unhappily.

The surrounding colleagues signaled to Gu Jun not to talk so openly but Gu Jun wasn't afraid at all. "Don't try to dissuade me. I've already been fired. How can I still be scared of her?"

Lu Li raised an eyebrow. "Tell me more."

Gu Jun put down the box and looked around. "Since I've already been fired, I'm not afraid. Let me tell you. My superior, Zhu Xiu Qin, haggles over every penny. Her tolerance is so low. I was fired just because I suggested to her that this 100% rent increase was unreasonable. Because it was a bad call, she fired me."

"In our department, she might be the second-in-charge on paper, but she's really the first-in-charge. The reason she was able to enter this company is that she has a relative who's the vice-chairperson. In here, she tyrannizes us. If anyone speaks badly of her, she would instantly fire that person without any other reason, without even giving a chance for him or her to justify himself or herself."

Gu Jun had a fire in his heart. Now that he had been fired, he wasn't scared at all. He would say anything he wanted.

Lu Li frowned. "How could there be such a leader?"

Gu Jun laughed, "That's nothing. There are even more screwed up things. Lil' Chen, our former colleague, was fired because he forgot to pour her a cup of water. Don't you think this leader is a joke?"

Lu Li nodded. "She's a joke indeed."

"Chief Li..."

At that moment, the employees saw that the leader was back.

"Lil' Jun, that's enough. Chief Li is back."

Chief Li said, "What are you all doing? Why are you all crowded around here and not working?"

At that moment, the crowd dispersed.

Chief Li nodded, then prepared to return to his office when suddenly, he saw a figure sitting down there. His expression changed as if he saw a ghost.

Elder Wang came over hurriedly and was about to explain to Chief Li that he was a client, but then he saw that Chief Li was in front of that man, greeting him respectfully, "Chief Lu, why are you here?"

Chief Li was dumbfounded. He had never thought that the ever-busy Chief Lu would appear there. If he didn't see him with his own eyes, he wouldn't have believed that he was there.

And, what have those employees said to Chief Lu?

They don't know about Chief Lu's background. They didn't say things that they shouldn't have, did they?

Lu Li stood up and patted Gu Jun on the shoulder. "You don't need to leave. Stay. As long as you don't damage the company's well-being, no one can fire you.

Then, he directed his gaze at Chief Li. "Make a trip to Cloud Street with me."

Chief Li nodded swiftly. "Yes, sir."

At that moment, the surrounding employees were all dumbfounded.

F*ck.

They still didn't know who that man that Chief Li addressed as 'Chief Lu' was. Nobody knew. But judging by the way things looked, he seemed like a very powerful man.

Chapter 268: The final confrontation

Cloud Street!

Master Lin was going to leave and the townsfolk couldn't bear for him to go. After he leaves, where would they go to eat scallion pancakes? Moreover, they were all used to queuing up every day. If they suddenly didn't have to queue anymore, it would feel like they lost something important to them.

"Little Boss..."

Some of the townsfolk felt like crying but there were no tears. They started to say something but then stopped halfway. They didn't know what to say. Even if they urged him to stay, it was too late, it would all be in vain.

At that moment, the townsfolk turned their gaze to Liu Guo Qiang and his people. These people were too much. If they didn't have such black hearts, things would never have turned out this way.

They increased the rent as they liked. Even if no one disputed, they shouldn't have increased it so ridiculously. It was simply absurd.

Zhu Xiu Qin stood by the side. The matter had finally ended. The Cloud Street business owners were all going to leave.

She still couldn't understand what exactly Liu Guo Qiang was trying to do. Could it be that he really believed that the increase in visitor flow had to do with this kid?

If he used his brain a little, he would know that it wasn't possible.

It was clear to anyone with eyes how great the visitor flow in Cloud Street was. Even if all these business owners moved away, it wouldn't have the slightest impact. Of course, these were all just her thoughts.

And she naturally didn't understand why Liu Guo Qiang would believe that the visitor flow in Cloud Street had been brought about by Master Lin.

Zhao Zhong Yang had been broadcasting the whole time. "Everyone, we're going to move to the Tiang Hong Commercial Street in the Hong Tian District. My fellow friends who stay there, you'll be in luck from now on."

"6666... I stay just at Hong Tian District. I'll have the opportunity to see Brother Yang from now on."

"As a resident of Hong Tian District, I have no resentment towards this Xin Yu company at all. In fact, I'm a little grateful. If it wasn't for them, Master Lin wouldn't be coming to Hong Tian District."

"How I wish Tian Hong Commercial Street would chase Master Lin away as well. If that happens, I'd be able to send a request to Master Lin to invite him over to Anhui."

"D*mn, why couldn't it be Dongshan?"

Zhao Zhong Yang was angry over this matter too but he knew that it hadn't initially had much to do with Master Lin. But Master Lin was not someone to just disregard something if it didn't concern himself. Naturally, he would stand with the other shop owners. After this period of being together, everyone had such good relations with each other.

And Zhao Zhong Yang could tell that Master Lin, at times, believed in the person rather than the circumstance. If you were to get along well with him, even if you were facing a dark road ahead, he would follow you through it.

Fraud Tian was smoking a cigarette as he said, "You'll regret this."

Fraud Tian had kept silent about this matter, not because he didn't want to say anything but because the situation had been completely taken over by Lin Fan, leaving him with nothing to say. Now that he finally had the chance, he had to put in a few words to express his displeasure.

He had been the first to follow Lin Fan. He had a fair understanding of this kid's capabilities. He could say with full confidence that no matter where this kid went, he would cause waves.

The surrounding business owners were all signing the contract to withdraw their rentals and move elsewhere.

Lin Fan stood there putting his hands together as a sign of respect towards all the surrounding townsfolk. "My apologies, everybody. Thank you for your care during this period. If you have the opportunity in future, do come to Tian Hong Commercial Street for a visit."

His loyal customers couldn't bear to see him leave.

"Little Boss...sigh...forget it. We don't know what to do either regarding this situation. Don't worry, if we have time in future, we will visit you. But don't you make us queue!"

"Yeah! If we were to make the long trip all the way there and still have to queue, that would be screwed up."

Lin Fan smiled. "So all you're going to miss are my scallion pancakes. I thought you were going to miss me!"

One of the townsfolk replied, "Little Boss, we will miss you. Those scallion pancakes are just a bonus. In future, if we have any issues, we still have to find you for fortune-telling."

"Right, right. There'll be many opportunities in future."

As Liu Guo Qiang saw how well Master Lin got along with the surrounding townsfolk, he started to get more worried. Perhaps he had made a bad decision.

At the same time, he also felt a deep regret. He should have taken a step back at that time. Then it wouldn't have come to this.

But no matter what he said now, it was too late.

This Zhu Xiu Qin really couldn't do anything right but she could do everything wrong. But Liu Guo Qiang had no choice. She had connections, so her word was law in the department.

In the company, everyone had to give in to her.

As for this matter, it had already reached a conclusion. It wouldn't help to talk anymore. They could only leave it at that.

The shop owners were signing the contract but they didn't show a hint of sadness on their faces. Some of them were not even angry. Instead, they each felt a sense of rebirth.

"We're going to a new place. I'm a little nervous."

"Hehe, Little Boss will be with us. I can worry much less because of that."

"Me too. But we have to have a fair competition to decide who becomes Little Boss's neighbor."

Elder Zhang said, "Don't even think about it. I'm Little Boss's neighbor and that's for life. Don't even think about taking that from me."

"Elder Zhang, that's unreasonable of you. You were already Little Boss' neighbor here, can't you give us a chance when we go to the new place?"

"I won't. You all don't understand the feeling of being neighbors with Little Boss."

"Don't be like that, we're all friends. I'll treat you to a meal."

...

Lin Fan stood there smiling as well. He hadn't thought that everyone would be so cheery, to start a debate over who becomes neighbors with him.

Was he really so handsome?

So likable?

At that point, he couldn't help but sigh. It was not easy being so popular.

"Make way..."

At that moment, noises came from afar.

"Chief Li."

"Chief Li, why are you here?"

"Director Liu, Director Zhu, Chief Li is here."

Liu Guo Qiang and Zhu Xiu Qin were surrounded by the crowd and when they heard that Chief Li had come, they turned their heads instantly, then rushed forward, "Chief Li..."

But at that moment, Chief Li had a black face. He even had a man by his side.

Liu Guo Qiang and Zhu Xiu Qin looked at the man by Chief Li's side. They didn't know who this man was but judging by Chief Li's eyes, he was probably a powerful man.

Chief Li started to talk, "This is Skyworth Organization's Chairman of the board of directors, Chief Lu, Lu Li. How have you two handled the situation at Cloud Street?"

Lu Li scanned the two of them, then turned his gaze to Lin Fan. A smile appeared on his face. He came to Lin Fan and said, "Little Bro, we meet again."

When Lin Fan saw that someone had come, he was startled for a moment, then he smiled thinly and said, "Chief Lu, indeed, we meet again."

Lu Li said, "I've heard about the situation in Cloud Street. It was due to bad management on my part that resulted in this situation. If possible, I would wish to discuss with you properly about this."

Lin Fan had taken Lu Li's name card before and he knew how powerful this man was. Even if he didn't have the name card, he could sense the noble aura from Lu Li's appearance. He was a wealthy and respectable man, not a typical person.

"You're too courteous, Chief Lu. You're an important person. You shouldn't worry about these small matters. It's already been settled, it's been settled perfectly."

Lu Li shook his head. "It's not perfect, not perfect at all. Skyworth Organization's objective is to ensure customer satisfaction. We take pride in working together with our clients. Even within our organization, we treat our employees the same way. We would never allow our employees to leave with any unhappiness, instead, we make sure they're happy and content. As for outside our organization, whenever people talk about us, they always give us a thumbs up as they praise us."

"Cloud Street is a property of our organization and you all are its owners. If you were all to leave, it wouldn't be a small matter. I hope that we can settle this properly. If there are issues on our side, I'm willing to apologize to everyone here."

Lin Fan nodded. "Not bad. That sounds more like something a person should say."

Lu Li: "..."

Chapter 269: We will do as you say!

Liu Guo Qiang and Zhu Xiu Qin were both dumbfounded. They had never thought that things would develop to this stage that even the highest, highest superior was there. It was simply terrifying.

Xin Yu Real Estate Corporation was a subsidiary company under Skyworth Organization. Even the highest appointed leader of Xin Yu Corporation was but an ant before this Chief Lu.

Chief Li stood at the back, not uttering a single word. He couldn't bear the consequences of this matter, nor was he willing to. It didn't have a rats a*s to do with him. He didn't even know about this Cloud Street matter. Now that Chief Lu had gotten personally involved, the gravity of things had increased significantly.

Chief Li had just notified his group of this matter.

The other leaders in his group were all silent as if they were scared stiff.

If Lu Li were to go back to the company then, every person in the company would be obediently doing their work.

The townsfolk had been listening in by the side all the while. When they found out that that was the biggest leader in the organization, they all started discussing intensely.

They really wished that Little Boss would not leave.

The words they said naturally described Xin Yu Corporation as an unreasonable company as if they were the world's most corrupt company.

Chief Li, who was standing behind, started trembling in fear. These words they were saying were a bit too extreme, weren't they?

Zhu Xiu Qin retorted, "Chief Lu, don't listen to their nonsense. We all..."

Before she could finish, Lu Li turned around and said, "Chief Li, how did this person enter the company?"

Chief Li was sweating non-stop. He didn't dare to hide the truth, "Chief Lu, she's a relative of Deputy Chief Shen. I...I..."

He started to stutter. This matter wasn't something that he had agreed on. It was mainly because he didn't dare to refute Chief Shen to his face. Now that this had happened, he wanted nothing to do with it.

Lu Lin nodded. "Okay, and now she's fired. I also want you to do a check for me, how many people has she fired during her time in the company. Did she take anything from the company for herself? If she did, I don't think I need to tell you what to do."

Chief Li nodded immediately. "Yes. I will definitely do a thorough check."

Lu Li continued, "Those that have been innocently fired, give each of them a call. If they haven't found other jobs yet, invite them back. If they've already found jobs, compensate them with three months' worth of salary and apologize to them on behalf of the company."

Chief Li was sweating from head to toe. "Yes, I understand."

Zhu Xiu Qin was stunned. She had never thought that there would be such a turn of events. She wanted to say something but the words wouldn't come out of her mouth. It wasn't like she couldn't see the bigger picture in this. She knew that if she started arguing, things would definitely not turn out well.

Fraud Tian stealthily went over to Lin Fan's side and whispered in his ear, "This guy isn't a simple guy."

Lin Fan nodded.

He was f*cking bada*s.

He didn't need to pretend at all. Every word and every action of his gave off a bada*s aura.

At that moment, Lu Li looked over at Liu Guo Qiang. "You..."

Lin Fan finally opened his mouth, "This man is not bad."

Lu Li didn't continue with his sentence. He let Liu Guo Qiang off.

Liu Guo Qiang's heart had almost exploded, especially when Chief Lu had pointed at him. He had so terrified that he almost fell to the ground. But he had never thought that Master Lin would speak on his behalf.

Although it was just five words, Lin Fan was like a godly savior to him.

Regret. He deeply regretted his actions.

If he had known earlier, he would have taken a step back for Master Lin in the first place.

Now that things had come to this stage, nothing else he said would be of any use. He could only wish for a pleasant conclusion.

Lin Fan looked at Lu Li. This guy was a little tricky. Lin Fan said, "I feel that we really have no need to discuss any further. I've already talked Chief Huang from Tian Hong Commercial Street and agreed to move over there. Moreover, almost everyone has already signed the contract."

With a flick of his hand, Lu Li gestured for the employees from the commercial department to come over. They politely handed the contract over.

With a simple glance, he then handed the contract over to Chief Li, "Rip it."

Chief Li grabbed the contract with both hands and tore it in half.

Lu Li said, "I already understand the rough situation. We've indeed handled it badly. To double the rent is not abiding by the market at all. I will take care of this."

Lin Fan smiled. "Chief Lu, there isn't actually a need for this. We've already discussed this. Cloud Street is not lacking in liveliness. Even if I leave, it wouldn't have any impact on this place."

However, the townsfolk wouldn't give Lin Fan this chance.

"What liveliness? After Little Boss leaves, I guarantee that this will be an absolute ghost town. It won't even have the same liveliness that it had in the past."

"That's right. I strongly believe that if Little Boss isn't around, there's nothing much to see on this street."

"My dear Chief Lu, you absolutely must make Little Boss stay. If he doesn't stay, Cloud Street would be trash."

...

Lin Fan looked at the townsfolk. Please don't undermine me like that. It'll make others feel awkward.

But Lin fan knew that Chief Lu definitely wouldn't feel awkward because he had money. A single street wouldn't bother him at all. However, this Chief Lu had some personality issues. Once he set his mind on something, he wouldn't let it be until he settled it properly.

Could it be that rich people all had this mindset? That they wouldn't feel comfortable unless a situation was settled perfectly?

Lin fan said, "Chief Lu, I'll say it straight. When Cloud Street was newly built, its visitor flow was high. Expensive rental fees were normal. But later on, the liveliness started to settle down because of other commercial streets in the vicinity. Yet, the shop rents didn't decrease. Now that the visitor flow has increased again, you can't wait to increase the rent. That's a little unreasonable. Moreover, we've already made an agreement with Chief Huang from Tian Hong Commercial Street. I can't just stand him up."

As a successor to a large organization, Lu Li looked at the crowd of business owners and said, "This matter happened because of a lack of management by our organization. I, Lu Li, would like to apologize to everyone. Because of negligence in my management, some people have spoiled our organization's reputation. But I will guarantee this: I will definitely give everyone a fair conclusion. If you can believe me, please continue to stay here. I swear by Skyworth Organization's name that a similar unreasonable rent increase will never happen again. If it does, I, Lu Li, will give you the Cloud Street shops as compensation with no conditions involved."

Uproar!

The business owners were all stunned.

They had never seen a chief of a company act this way before.

These words were simply unbelievable.

With a very serious tone, Lu Li said, "I can sign an oath. If it really happens, I will absolutely not go back on my word."

The shop owners said, "We will listen to Master Lin..."

Lin Fan was a little frustrated. What was the point of listening to him? But since the problem was thrown at him, he had to solve it.

Lin Fan said, "I'm not someone who likes to stand someone up..."

His meaning was clear. He had already promised Chief Huang. It wasn't right to go back on his word.

Lu Li looked over at Chief Li. "Chief Huang of Tian Hong Commercial street. You have his number?"

"Yes, yes." Chief Li nodded instantly, then he hurriedly took out his phone and made the call.

The call was answered.

Lu Li spoke, "Hello, Chief Huang. I'm the Chairman of the board of directors of Skyworth Organization, Lu Li. There has been an issue arising in the shops of Cloud Street due to our management's negligence. What Master Lin discussed with you, I hope that for our sake, you can scrap it."

Lin Fan chuckled. This motherf*cker made the call straight away. He's basically forcing everyone to stay.

Very soon after, he hung up.

Lin Fan knew that Chief Huang definitely agreed. Probably very quickly too. There was no hesitation at all.

Lu Li said, "Master Lin. This was our fault, so to compensate for it, the rent for Cloud Street will be free for two years. Thereafter, it will increase by five percent every year. What do you think?"

Lin fan didn't reply him but looked at the surrounding business owners. He asked, "What say you all?"

They replied, "You make the call, Master Lin."

Alright then!

It's pointless to ask.

"What else can we do? Chief Lu has already said this much. The compensation is not bad either. Let's stay then," said Lin Fan.

If Lu Li hadn't gotten rid of this Zhu Xiu Qin, even if he gave even better conditions, Lin Fan wouldn't choose to stay. After all, the hidden dangers would have been too much.

The shop owners replied simultaneously, "We will do as you say!"

Lin Fan: "..."

Chapter 270: Time to feast!

Lu Li looked at Lin Fan's outstretched palm, a little surprised. Then, he grabbed it in disbelief, "Don't you want to consider it?"

Lin Fan smiled, "No need to consider."

Lu Li didn't give up yet, "Two years free rent!"

"Mmm."

"No more rent increases in future," Lu Li said.

With the same smile, Lin Fan nodded indifferently.

Silence.

Liu Guo Qiang and the rest didn't know what to say. They didn't understand the situation at all. Chief Lu had given such generous conditions but he was still rejected.

And those shop owners were a bit too stupid, weren't they? Didn't they have any decision-making abilities themselves? Why did they have to keep following Master Lin?

But of course, Liu Guo Qiang didn't understand just how much trust the shop owners had in Master Lin. They knew that as long as they followed Master Lin, it didn't matter if it was North or South, they wouldn't have to suffer regardless of where they went.

That was the kind of charisma that Master Lin had displayed.

Lu Li, for the first time, felt so helpless in this situation. It was completely different from what he had imagined.

Lin Fan opened his mouth, "Just now, you shouldn't have torn the contract. Now you have to make a new one. How troublesome."

Lin Fan then turned his gaze to the crowd. "Everyone, go pack up your things. We'll be leaving soon. We need to save more time for renovating the new shops. Don't delay too much.

The shop owners nodded. "Don't worry, Little Boss. We won't have any problems with that."

Lin Fan nodded, then said to Lu Li, "My apologies, Chief Lu, but I'm sticking with my decision. Let's cooperate again in future. I've already promised Chief Huang of Tian Hong Commercial Street. I'd rather not have to stand him up."

Lu Li looked at Lin Fan. His heartfelt unwilling to give up. He had never thought that even though he appeared personally, the situation wouldn't be solved. This guy's way of thinking was strange. It was very different from the other people he had encountered before.

"You really don't want to reconsider?" Lu Li couldn't resist asking once more.

"Really." Lin Fan was firm. This matter was finished. There was no need to ask about considering anymore.

Lu Li felt as though he was a powerful fist thrown at cotton, simply useless. He felt extremely sullen. This was the first time he experienced the feeling of not being to solve a situation that he was displeased with.

This had never happened before.

Even against the most demanding clients, he could offer lucrative benefits to leave them with no way of rejecting him.

Problems that had to do with money were not problems at all. If it wasn't solvable, it was because of a lack of money.

But now, he had to give up. This problem clearly had to do with money, yet, he couldn't solve it.

Lu Li stared at Lin Fan seriously but didn't say anything in the end. He then gave the orders to get the contract done and to refund a year's worth of rent to the shop owners as compensation.

Lin Fan didn't want to accept this refund, but he couldn't refuse on behalf of the other shop owners. After all, they still needed money to pay for the renovations later on.

Lu Li started to let it go. "Alright, if you have any ideas in future, we can continue working together. This time, due to our Skyworth Organization's management negligence, we've caused trouble for you."

Lin Fan smiled and said, "Of course, with a Chairman like you in Skyworth Organization, I will still maintain my trust in you guys."

The Xin Yu Corporation left.

Then, only the townsfolk and Lin Fan remained.

"Little Boss, you're really leaving. We can't bear it!" said the townsfolk in a hurt tone.

Lin Fan just smiled. "Yeah, I'm leaving. But don't be too depressed. It's not like I'm going overseas. I'll still be in Shanghai. Come to visit when you have the chance. I will still welcome all of you."

The townsfolk said, "Little Boss, this is your decision and we wouldn't want to impede but can you remove the limit for today and let us eat one last time?"

Lin Fan looked at the crowd and laughed, "Alright, no problem. Then I'll make sure everyone is filled up today. I'm going to miss all of you."

The townsfolk replied, "We will miss Little Boss too. If we have the time, we will surely go to Hong Tian District to visit Little Boss in future."

Zhao Zhong Yang held his phone and said, "Everyone, you've seen the conclusion. We are going to move to a new place. My Hong Tian District buddies, have you ever been this excited in your life? If you want to see Brother Yang, then hurry up. Brother Yang will be there waiting for you."

Some of the netizens in the broadcast room were overwhelmed with happiness.

"Haha, Master Lin is finally coming."

"Hong Tian District is going to get lively. But what if we get ruled over by Master Lin's scallion pancakes?"

"I hope that Master Lin can consider Qingpu District. We more than welcome you!"

...

Fraud Tian looked at their shop. "When we move to the new place, we should get a bigger shop."

Wu You Lan nodded. "Yeah, that way, it will look more imposing."

Wu Tian He didn't say anything, but just looked at her daughter and smiled. He had gotten used to their current life, especially the gradual change in his daughter's fortune. His heart could relax now. If he slowly grinded at it, things would turn out well eventually.

Going through certain events with Master Lin had made him feel like he was young again, like he was back to his greenhorn days, reading fortunes for people.

At that moment, an earth-shattering noise came from outside.

"Boo hoo. Master Lin won't be here anymore. My heart can't bear it."

"Today's scallion pancakes will seem even more delicious than before."

"I want to go to Hong Tian District to find work and become neighbors with Master Lin."

"Work is easy to find but such delicious scallion pancakes are hard to come by. For these delicious scallion pancakes, I've decided to change jobs and move."

Lin Fan was helpless. Even till the end, they didn't really love him but they only loved his scallion pancakes. The reality was harsh. His heart felt hurt and it wasn't going to recover for a while.

He worked all the way until six o'clock.

It was only until all the ingredients were depleted that he could finally stop and rest. Looking at all those red notes in the drawer, he had lost track of how many servings he had sold but it looked like at least several tens of thousands of dollars.

This money had come too fast but it was also too painful.

Therefore, when he moved to the new place, it was better to sell just ten servings a day after all. Twenty servings a day could be considered as well. Although it would be more tiring, he could earn a little more money each day. It might not be a bad choice.

At that moment, Wang Ming Yang appeared at the shop entrance. "You're really going to move?"

Wang Ming Yang had only found out when he saw his Weibo. His brother was really going to move. But it was all the same to him, as long as it was still in Shanghai.

Lin Fan smiled. "Yeah, I'm moving. Going to a new place, meeting new people and spreading my scallion pancakes to every district."

Wang Ming Yang shrugged. "That's up to you. It's hard to imagine that you'll be changing locations often next time. If the whole of Shanghai's citizens become trapped under the demonic powers of your scallion pancakes, how f*cked up would that be?"

Lin Fan laughed as he said, "Do you want me to die of fatigue? Then wouldn't all the Shanghai citizens come and queue up for my scallion pancakes?"

Zhao Zhong Yang came barging forward. "I can't imagine that either. To rule the whole of Shanghai with the power of the scallion pancakes. I'm getting excited just thinking about it."

"Ahh," Lin Fan sighed, "I think you're all just dreaming. Where are we gonna eat tonight?"

"The same old place," replied Wang Ming Yang.

"Okay." Lin fan stood up and said, "We'll close the shop and go in full force to the old place for a feast!"

Fraud Tian cried out, "Time to eat some good food!"

Zhao Zhong Yang laughed cheerily too. This matter hadn't affected them at all. It was just a few days of rest.

These bright and leisurely days were just beginning.