

Golden 100

Chapter 100 Team

Zhuang Rui thought about it and agreed. Selling something for a thousand yuan and having it resold for fifteen hundred thousand—if that happened to him, he'd definitely feel disgusted. And Da Xiong had fallen for the cricket gourd again, so Zhuang Rui felt a little sorry for him. He said to Liu Chuan, "Rogue, we're short-handed these days. You can make some arrangements."

The construction of the mastiff kennel is about to begin. When it comes to construction and getting business licenses, three or five people definitely won't be enough to handle it. What Zhuang Rui meant was that if these two are capable, we can use them for now, but the decision should still be made by Liu Chuan himself.

Liu Chuan's temperament has always been one of responding to gentle persuasion but not force. When Da Xiong mentioned the grudge from a few years ago, he felt a little embarrassed. Back then, he had cracked open the heads of these two brothers and hadn't paid them a single penny. Over the years, these two brothers had become extremely respectful to him. Now that they've fallen on hard times, they've come to him for help again. Liu Chuan could no longer refuse them.

"Hey, Daxiong, Monkey, you two brothers can help out at this pet shop, doing after-sales service for regular customers and expanding the pet market in Pengcheng. You two know the ins and outs of this, so I won't explain. As for the salary, it'll be 2,000 yuan per person per month. If your abilities can boost the shop's performance, then bonuses will be added. What do you think?"

Liu Chuan considered it for a moment. He couldn't let them interfere with the mastiff kennel's affairs, and besides, these two didn't have the ability. However, they had been hanging around this antique and flower market for many years, even longer than he had been here, and they were quite knowledgeable about cats, dogs, fish, and insects.

Most importantly, these two brothers are incredibly persuasive; they can talk the impossible into reality. They're perfectly suited for the pet shop. Liu Chuan originally planned to have Zhou Rui handle the sourcing while he expanded the market. But after meeting these two today, he changed his mind. Firstly, he'd definitely be incredibly busy in the coming days, and secondly, with their silver tongues, these two might even do a better job than him.

"Okay, okay, Da Chuan, oh... no, boss, my brother and I promise to work hard and take all the pet business in this market from our store."

Upon hearing Liu Chuan's words, the two were overjoyed. A salary of 2,000 yuan was considered high for the cost of living in Pengcheng. It was much more than what they could earn by setting up a stall from dawn till dusk, not to mention the bonuses. The two brothers were already thinking about how to steal business from other vendors.

"No, you two, although it's true that competitors are rivals, the Pengcheng market is huge, and the pet business can't be monopolized by any one company. You two should go out and find some new customers. Don't try to steal other people's business."

Upon hearing their words, Liu Chuan knew what they were up to and quickly reminded them that he had been dealing with the pet shops on this street for four or five years. Although one or two of them weren't on good terms, they hadn't fallen out. If these two troublemakers messed things up, he might be too embarrassed to come to the market in the future.

"Okay, boss, don't worry. My brother and I are absolutely reliable. We'll go to the park and find those old men and women who do morning exercises. They're very interested in flowers, birds, fish and insects."

It has to be said that monkeys are quick-witted; they immediately came up with an idea. Liu Chuan's eyes lit up when he heard it. He hadn't paid much attention to the elderly market before, and his business was mostly with young people.

"Alright, Monkey, you two brothers, work hard. Buying a house and getting married will be no problem in the future. You know what kind of person I am, Da Chuan. As long as we make money, I'm not stingy." Liu Chuan had already stepped into the role of the boss and started encouraging his employees. These people were now his core team, and he might merge the pet shop and the mastiff kennel in the future.

"Oh, right, there's something else I need to announce. Since you two are here, Li Bing, you and Xiao Zhang can put down what you're doing and come over here. I have a few things to announce."

Liu Chuan called out to the two busy shop assistants, "Li Bing has been with me for over three years. He's the son of one of my mother's colleagues, and his monthly salary has now risen to 3,000 yuan. He's

usually in charge when Liu Chuan isn't at the store. He's honest and reliable, but he's a little lacking in market development skills; however, he's perfect for managing the store."

"Today, Da Xiong and Monkey have officially joined our pet shop. There are a few things I need to tell you. This is Brother Zhou. When I'm not in the shop, Brother Zhou will be in charge of anything. If Brother Zhou is also not in the shop, Li Bing will be in charge."

Da Xiong and Monkey will be in charge of market development. Xiao Zhang, you'll assist Brother Zhou and Li Bing in managing the store. Okay, that's all for now. Li Bing, you guys find a place to get together tonight; the store will reimburse the expenses.

Liu Chuan introduced Zhou Rui to everyone and clarified everyone's responsibilities. Da Xiong and Li Bing knew each other before, so it was easy for them to get along.

Zhou Rui remained cool, nodding to everyone without saying a word. Liu Chuan had told him before that he probably wouldn't be staying in the shop for long; at the very least, he would be returning to Tibet in a few days to bring Renqing Cuomu from the grasslands to Pengcheng.

Liu Chuan then inquired about the situation at the store. Business had been quite good since the Lunar New Year. During the more than half a month he was away, the store was running out of stock of many pets. After finding out which pets needed to be restocked, Liu Chuan took the phone and contacted the customers.

"Sorry, the number you dialed is not in service. Sorry, the number you dialed is not in service."

A synthesized female voice suddenly rang out in the store. Everyone looked at Zhuang Rui upon hearing the sound. After a moment of surprise, Zhuang Rui remembered that it was the ringtone he had just downloaded on Liu Chuan's computer. He quickly took out his phone and answered it.

"Hey Zhuang, what's Liu Chuan doing? I've been trying to call him for ages, and he's always busy. I've arrived at Pengcheng Airport. Pick me up? No need, I'll just take a taxi straight to Tiandu Hotel. You guys can come over later too. Okay, we'll talk when we meet."

The call was from Song Jun. He had already gotten off the plane. Zhuang Rui had offered to pick him up at the airport, but he refused and took a taxi to the Tiandu Hotel instead. This was something they had arranged beforehand, as Liu Chuan was still thinking about the Australian lobsters there.

After waiting for about half an hour, Liu Chuan finished dealing with things at the pet shop, then called Zhou Rui, and the three of them drove towards the Tiandu Hotel.

When they arrived at the hotel, Song Jun was already waiting there. When he saw the two Tibetan Mastiffs running towards them, Song Jun didn't even have time to greet them. He immediately widened his eyes and began to examine them carefully. He had already told Liu Chuan that he could choose the two Tibetan Mastiffs first.

Zhuang Rui's little white lion didn't bother with the two mastiffs at all, and instead followed behind Zhuang Rui.

Strangely enough, the offspring of that golden-haired iron-clad dog turned out to be a tiger-headed mastiff and a lion-headed mastiff, both a little over a month old and about the same size. Song Jun looked at them for a long time before choosing the golden-haired lion-headed mastiff, which made Liu Chuan feel very sorry for him. He also liked the golden-haired dog, but since Song Jun was the patron, he had to give it up.

After selecting the puppy, Liu Chuan introduced Zhou Rui to Song Jun. Knowing that Zhou Rui was from the military, Song Jun was also very happy and invited the group into a private room to sit down. When Song Jun saw Zhuang Rui's snow mastiff, his eyes lit up and he said enviously, "Zhuang Rui, this must be the snow mastiff. You're lucky, kid. I heard that someone offered 40 million, but you didn't sell it."

You have to understand that even if Song Jun were to come up with 40 million RMB, it would take him several days to scrape together the money. Most of his money is invested in various industries, and the cash on hand is really not enough to buy such a dog.

"Hehe, Brother Song, my white lion is not something an ordinary person can keep."

Zhuang Rui affectionately stroked the little white lion's head and said proudly, and the little white lion also stuck out its tongue and licked Zhuang Rui's palm.

Although the little guy is now eating raw meat, ever since Zhuang Rui started using his spiritual energy to groom its body whenever he had free time, its mouth no longer has the fishy smell that is common in dogs. Instead, it has a milky fragrance like that of a baby, which smells very pleasant. Zhuang Rui usually lets it be affectionate with him.

"I know Fatty Ma. He's not a simple guy. In the past few years, with the crackdown on mineral resources, he's actually grown bigger and bigger. He's quite a figure. You had a conflict with him. You weren't fooled by him, were you?"

Song Jun seemed to know very well what had happened to them in the black market tent. Although he praised Fatty Ma a few times, Zhuang Rui and the others could still detect a hint of disdain in his words. It seemed that Fatty Ma and Song Jun were not on the same level.

"No, that fat guy is actually quite interesting."

Zhuang Rui told Song Jun everything that happened afterward, but he downplayed the fact that he had obtained the painting. Anyway, so many experts had failed to see through the mystery in the painting, and he insisted that he was just lucky, so no one could do anything about it.

Zhuang Rui's plan was to have Song Jun introduce him to a master moulder, then use the excuse that the scroll was a bit worn and wanted to be remounted before hanging it at home. In this way, during the mounting process, Tang Bohu's "Li Duanduan" would naturally come to light openly, and no one would suspect that he had seen through the deception beforehand. However, Zhuang Rui had to be present during the mounting process; otherwise, if the painting was switched, he would be in a difficult situation.

When Zhuang Rui subtly conveyed this meaning to Song Jun, Song Jun, who was playing with the puppy, didn't pay much attention and casually said, "The art of mounting is most popular in Yangzhou, but there is also a master in Pengcheng. I'll take you to visit him tomorrow. As for whether he's willing to make a purchase, I can't guarantee it. That person is my elder. Zhuang Rui, is a fake worth it? He doesn't ask for a low price for a single purchase."

"Then thank you, Brother Song. The scroll of that painting is in terrible condition and doesn't look good hanging at home. I was thinking that instead of repairing the scroll, I should reframe it. Besides, I've already spent three thousand yuan, so I won't miss the cost of framing."

"Whether it's worth it or not, you'll know once that painting within a painting is unveiled," Zhuang Rui thought to himself with delight.