

Golden 149

Chapter 149 Dispute

"Zhuang Rui, oh... no, Manager Zhuang, is what you're saying true?"

Lai Jingdong asked Zhuang Rui somewhat uncertainly, "What kind of manager is this who doesn't hold real power and only manages trivial matters?"

"Of course it's true. I studied finance, and I will be in charge of the investment funds for the pawnshop in the future. As for contacting the auction house and negotiating business, you and appraiser Wang will handle that together. Everyone has their own expertise, after all, this is your specialty."

Zhuang Rui's words dispelled Lai Jingdong's doubts. It turned out that Zhuang Rui only wanted to secure the investment funds, and perhaps fearing that he and Wang Yi would cause him trouble, he gave up the lucrative opportunity of cooperating with the auction house to the two of them.

"Looks like we need to figure out a way to take over Wang Yiding's business..."

Lai Jingdong is in charge of foreign art. The business has been open for more than a year, and they have only received a few foreign oil paintings. The value of these paintings is average. Although they are already pawned, there is not much point in sending them to auction. On the other hand, Wang Yiding has a lot of pawned jewelry and luxury goods, which are quite valuable and have more opportunities to be sent to auction. Therefore, Lai Jingdong's mind has now shifted from Zhuang Rui's appointment as manager to how to get a share of Wang Yiding's pie.

"Although Manager Zhuang is young, he is very decisive. However, when dealing with auction houses, there always needs to be someone who can make the final decision. I personally have little experience dealing with auction houses, and as for Wang Yiding, as everyone knows, he is a bit frivolous. I think it would be better if Manager Zhuang were in charge of this area. Otherwise, Wang Yiding and I would be leaderless."

Lai Jingdong first praised Zhuang Rui, then suggested that Zhuang Rui should remain in charge. However, his implication was clear: if Zhuang Rui didn't take charge, then he and Wang Yiding would have to choose one to make the final decision. He said they would get to know each other better over time, but

"Old Wang, from now on you should call him Manager Zhuang. The investment company has issued a document stating that Zhuang Rui will be the manager of our pawnshop from now on. Watch your words."

Lai Jingdong handed the appointment document to Wang Yiding with a mocking expression. Zhuang Rui would definitely have a negative impression of Wang Yiding for his performance earlier.

"Manager? Zhuang Rui?"

Wang was also a bit stunned. He didn't even recognize the appointment document he had just received. He stood there dumbfounded, staring at Zhuang Rui with an incredulous expression on his face.

According to Wang Yiding's plan, the position of manager of this pawnshop was already his. In terms of qualifications and work ability, he believed that no one in the pawnshop could compare to him except for Uncle De. As for Lai Jingdong, he only appraised three or five items a year. How could he compare to him?

With the general improvement in people's living standards, high-end luxury goods from both domestic and international sources have entered the lives of some people who have become wealthy. However, some business people inevitably encounter times when they are short of funds. If they need to raise funds in a short period of time, it may take up to a month to borrow from a bank. This is not a solution to their immediate needs. Therefore, these people will take out some valuable items to pawnshops as collateral to obtain working capital for their businesses.

If the business is profitable, the items can be redeemed, and the pawnshop only charges a small fee. However, if the business fails, according to the regulations of the pawn industry, if the pawner does not redeem or renew the pawn after the pawn period ends, these unredeemed items become forfeited items, and the pawnshop has the right to sell them, which is no longer related to the original owner. Among the forfeited items, the most common are probably various luxury items such as gold and silver jewelry.

In this pawnshop, besides Uncle De's antique appraisal business, Wang Yiding's luxury goods business is probably the most prominent, which is why Wang Yiding is convinced that the manager position is rightfully his.

"Old Wang, what are you standing there for? Sit down quickly. Manager Zhuang is assigning us our work. Listen carefully, instead of thinking about flirting with young girls all day long."

Seeing the expression on Wang Yiding's face, Lai Jingdong became even more smug. Unlike Wang Yiding, his major was relatively obscure in the domestic art market, so besides a fixed salary, there wasn't much extra income.

But Wang Yiding is different. One-third of the items pawned in this pawnshop every day pass through his hands. So Wang Yiding usually considers himself the deputy manager of the pawnshop and is just waiting for Uncle De to step down and make way for him. Suddenly, Zhuang Rui, this young upstart, has taken over. Lai Jingdong believes that Wang Yiding will definitely not give in easily.

"Oh, Xiao Zhuang, how do you allocate my work? I'm feeling overwhelmed by the workload and the pressure. I'd like to find someone to share the burden or take a few days off to rest."

After Wang Yi sat down, his mind slowly cleared. Looking at the document in his hand, he knew that Zhuang Rui's appointment as manager was a done deal, and he couldn't change it.

However, Wang Yiding is different from Lai Jingdong. He is doing quite well in this industry. He could make a living in a pawn shop or auction company. He doesn't value this job as much as Lai Jingdong does. Therefore, his attitude towards Zhuang Rui is still the same as before. He does not treat Zhuang Rui as a manager.

Zhuang Rui's eyebrows twitched slightly upon hearing this, then he smiled and said, "I originally wanted Appraiser Wang and Appraiser Lai to jointly handle the various tasks related to the cooperation with the auction house. However, if Appraiser Wang feels he is already too busy, then I think we can let Appraiser Lai handle it alone..."

"Wait, Zhuang Rui, aren't all the matters related to the cooperation with the auction house handled by Uncle De? What does this have to do with us? What's going on here?"

Before Zhuang Rui could finish speaking, Wang Yiding interrupted him. Cooperating with auction houses under the name of a pawnshop was incredibly lucrative. Not to mention, the few questionable items Wang Yiding had privately acquired could not only recoup his losses but also potentially make a small profit if they went through the auction house's channels. Hearing Zhuang Rui's words, regardless of their

truthfulness, he had to interrupt him. Otherwise, if Lai Jingdong were really put in charge of this, he would regret it.

Zhuang Rui ignored Wang Yiding's rudeness, repeated what he had just said to Lai Jingdong, and then looked at Wang Yiding and said, "Appraiser Wang is the backbone of our pawnshop. If you really don't have the energy to take care of this, let Appraiser Lai negotiate with the auction house. His workload is less, so he is the right person to go. What do you think?"

"No, this is not appropriate. Although Lao Lai doesn't have much to do usually, the items that our pawnshop needs to auction, besides the antiques that Uncle De is in charge of, are the luxury goods that I handle. But Lao Lai is not familiar with these. If he says something inappropriate at the auction, wouldn't people laugh at our pawnshop? Manager Zhuang, how about this, I'll take on this task as well."

After a rapid mental calculation, Wang Yiding uttered the words above. Indeed, after Zhuang Rui became the manager, he could resign and wouldn't have trouble finding another job. However, even if he changed jobs, he would have to start from scratch. It was impossible for him to be able to take charge on his own right away. Therefore, seizing the opportunity at hand was naturally much better than changing environments and starting over. Hence, his way of addressing Zhuang Rui changed accordingly.

"Old Wang, you're making baseless accusations! It's not like I haven't studied how to authenticate luxury goods..."

"You've learned quite a bit. In the past year or so, how many items have you managed to acquire?"

These two, both somewhat bookish, actually started arguing in front of everyone, which made Zhuang Rui secretly chuckle.