

Solving Middle Age Crisis by Intelligence System

Chapter 16: Chapter 16: Ruthlessly Cyberbully Him

Qi Yun turned his head to look and saw the person was his neighbor, also Old Wang's tenant.

He awkwardly squeezed out a smile at the other person, "Hehe, that's right, I got a bit lucky yesterday."

"Oh my! Your luck is out of this world, I chase a set of numbers every day, been doing it for three years and haven't won a penny!"

"You definitely have to treat us today! Let me share in your good fortune."

As the two of them were talking, more people passing by gathered around, some of whom Qi Yun couldn't even name but looked familiar, all clamoring for a treat.

"Sure, no problem, but right now the restaurants aren't open yet, let's go to Old Wang's first, take whatever you want to eat or drink."

Qi Yun generously waved his hand, and a group of people grandly took over Old Wang's store.

Old Wang must have heard about Qi Yun winning the lottery as well, watching him with a big grin, his gaze like a hunter eyeing its prey.

Qi Yun was really worried he'd pop out with "Rent is going up next month!"

The group stormed into the store, but when they came out, each only had a bottle of water and a pack of Yuxi.

Everyone showed restraint.

The ten or so people didn't collectively spend even 300 yuan, which made Old Wang roll his eyes in annoyance.

"That's all you're taking? After this village, there's no more store like this!" Qi Yun joked.

Even though he couldn't name many of these people, there were a few he remembered.

The road in Xia Ping Village was terrible, especially in winter, making it even harder to navigate, and sometimes when people saw him pushing a tricycle, they would help out by giving it a push from behind.

Although it wasn't a big deal, it was at least a kind gesture.

So he didn't mind sharing his good luck with them after winning the lottery.

"That's enough! Thanks, Brother Qi!"

"Thanks, Old Qi, borrowing your good fortune, I'm gonna go place a bet now."

"Brother Qi, hope you win another jackpot!"

"..."

After everyone dispersed, just as Qi Yun was about to sit down in the store, his phone rang again.

He took it out and saw it was Old Feng calling.

"Old Qi, get over to my store quick, emergency!" On the other end, Old Feng sounded urgent.

Qi Yun was slightly taken aback and asked in confusion, "What happened?"

"Two employees got injured coming to work, there are too many people in the store today, we can't handle it all."

"Ah, that," Qi Yun breathed a slight sigh of relief and readily agreed, "Alright, I'll head over right away."

Qi Yun had never been to Old Feng's store before, it was five to six kilometers away from Xia Ping Village.

Today the roads were just too slippery, so he didn't ride his bike and instead flagged down a taxi on the roadside to get there.

In no time, he arrived at the entrance of the "Old Chuanwei Hotpot" restaurant.

When he pushed open the door, he indeed saw the place was quite packed, just barely at meal time, the place was already full.

Not only that, but the waiting area also had quite a few customers waiting for a table.

Behind the counter, Old Feng had one hand holding a dish tray and was rapidly crunching numbers on the calculator with his other hand. After settling the bill with a table of customers, he then looked up and saw Qi Yun.

"There's an apron over there, hurry and help out." After saying that, he quickly went to serve more dishes.

Qi Yun felt a little puzzled, hadn't he said just a few days ago that the store was almost going under? This didn't seem like it was about to close.

But it wasn't the time to talk now, so he deftly put on an apron and started working in the store.

"Waiter! Come clean up this table!"

Just as Qi Yun was busy as a bee, a voice called from behind him.

"Got it, right awa..." He instinctively responded. Just as he turned his head, the words suddenly got stuck in his throat.

It was his ex-wife Shen Wanting and her current husband sitting at the table calling for him.

Qi Yun's expression stiffened, silently pushing the trash bin over, and began to clean up the debris on the table without any expression, pretending not to recognize the two.

Shen Wanting's body tensed slightly upon seeing him, her face showed a flicker of unease, and she instinctively lowered her head.

Meanwhile, beside her, Qiu Jiahao had a playful smile at the corner of his mouth, his tone dripping with mockery, "Hey, isn't this Brother Qi, quite the coincidence huh! Working here?"

Qi Yun turned a deaf ear, continuing to clean up.

When he used to visit his daughter, he had run into this young man downstairs.

He was the same arrogant character, coming up to provoke him.

Had it not been for his daughter being present, he nearly couldn't resist giving him a thrashing.

Rumor had it that Qiu Jiahao was three years younger than Shen Wanting and relied on his father being a minor official in the neighborhood.

He carried the air of a second-generation official all the time, acting superior and looking down on everyone.

Even though Qi Yun despised this guy, he didn't want to have a conflict with him at that moment.

It was peak dining time, and causing a scene would undoubtedly affect Old Feng's business.

But seeing Qi Yun not respond, Qiu Jiahao raised his voice and shouted, "Hey, I'm talking to you!"

Qi Yun continued to pretend he didn't hear, his hands moving faster, just wanting to finish up and stay away from this idiot as soon as possible.

Beside him, Shen Wanting tugged at his arm under the table, gesturing him not to stir up trouble.

Unexpectedly, Qiu Jiahao became even more excited, glaring at Shen Wanting before suddenly banging on the table.

"What kind of attitude is that, waiter? Deaf or what?"

The sudden shout drew the attention of half the store, some bystanders even pulling out their phones to start recording videos on the spot.

Qi Yun originally didn't want to pay attention to this fool, but seeing him becoming more obnoxious stirred some anger in him as well.

But for the sake of not affecting the business, he restrained himself from getting angry, simply raising his head to give the other a cold glance.

However, this glance really enraged Qiu Jiahao, feeling he had been offended.

He abruptly stood up and shouted, "What the hell kind of look is that? Don't believe I'll complain about you? Bring your boss here! Does this store even want to stay open or not?"

Old Feng, who had been busy in the kitchen, rushed over upon hearing the commotion outside.

The apologetic smile he had initially was replaced by a cold demeanor upon seeing Shen Wanting.

He glanced at the arrogant Qiu Jiahao, and said in a deep voice, "I kindly ask both of you to leave, my store doesn't welcome you."

"What did you just say?" Qiu Jiahao laughed angrily, almost thinking he had heard wrong, "Do you know who the hell I am?"

"You can choose to leave on your own, or I'll have someone take you out." Old Feng was not putting up with him and remained firm.

Though he had never met Qiu Jiahao, seeing him so close to Shen Wanting, he could guess his identity.

At moments like this, right or wrong, he had to stand up for his brother.

"Alright! If this lousy store can keep going, I'll take your damn surname!"

Threw down those harsh words, Qiu Jiahao stormed out in anger, leaving Shen Wanting standing awkwardly in place.

She cast an apologetic glance at Qi Yun, and then hurriedly chased after him.

And so the farce came to an end.

Qi Yun had initially worried it would affect business, but to his surprise, the onlookers weren't put off, but instead, seemed to find it all the more intriguing, whispering among themselves.

Old Feng, wearing an apologetic face, shouted to the crowd, "So sorry for affecting your dining experience. We'll be giving each table a complimentary drink as an apology."

"The boss is so generous!"

"The boss is amazing, that guy was way too arrogant, I recorded the whole thing, gonna post it on Douyin to expose him!"

"Exactly, I'm gonna give him a brutal social media takedown!"

Chapter 17: Chapter 17: Two Gold Bars

The guests responded and the atmosphere was even livelier than before.

Qi Yun didn't say any words of thanks, just silently patted Lao Feng on the shoulder.

The two exchanged a glance, understanding each other without words.

They were busy until after midnight, finally sending off the last batch of guests from the store.

Qi Yun collapsed onto a stool, downed half a bottle of beer, and then regained his composure, looking at Lao Feng and asking, "Why did so many customers come to the store today?"

Lao Feng chuckled: "It's all down to luck, yesterday a big streamer, called Lan something Fei, came to eat at the store, thought the taste was pretty good, then today everyone just came."

Qi Yun couldn't help but smile after listening.

Unexpectedly, a hotpot restaurant on the brink of closing received recognition from a big streamer and thereby came back to life.

Seems like in the restaurant business, sometimes you really need to rely on publicity.

"Your store has always had good flavors and fresh ingredients; now with someone helping to promote, the business will definitely get better and better."

Lao Feng sighed: "Hopefully, because brother, I really cannot afford to lose anymore..."

"By the way, how are your two employees doing?"

Speaking of this, Lao Feng frowned again, helplessly replied: "One has a fractured ankle, the other has a sprained arm, probably won't be back any time soon."

Qi Yun thought for a moment and said: "Why don't I come to help you out these days, and bring someone else tomorrow?"

"Okay, I'll recruit more people as soon as possible."

...

After simply eating some food at the shop, Qi Yun bid farewell and left.

From beginning to end, the two never discussed the matter of Qiu Jiahao, as for the threats, they paid no mind.

A barking dog doesn't bite, such people are usually strong in appearance but weak inside.

Both of them had worked hard in the business world, naturally wouldn't be scared by casual words.

Even if the other party makes some move, deal with it when the time comes.

Returning to the rented apartment, it was already past one in the morning, Qi Yun just stepped in when he received a message from Little Blondie.

"Brother Qi, do you think this person is you? Looks so much like you."

Soon after, a video was sent over, the content of the video was precisely the scene that happened at the hotpot restaurant not long ago.

In the video, Qiu Jiahao was acting all cocky, shouting: "Do you damn know who I am?"

Qi Yun hadn't expected that in just half a day, the other party had already quickly gone viral online.

He opened Douyin, searched for related videos, and found dozens of them.

The most popular video had already received over two thousand likes.

The comments were flooded with: "Does he not know who he is?"

"This cocky guy is so annoying, really want to punch him!"

"@Qiu Jiahao, Brother Hao, is this you?"

"I've seen this person before, parked his car in the fire lane last time."

In just a few hours, all of Qiu Jiahao's background had been exposed, endless curses filled the comments.

Qi Yun couldn't feel sympathy for such a person, he was truly concerned for his daughter, living with such a person long-term, how could she possibly be happy?

"No way, I must bring my daughter over soon."

But this matter is not easy, even if Shen Wanting agrees, there are still many issues to solve.

First is the living situation, the current rental apartment, although equipped with heating, has too poor an environment, and doesn't even have an independent bathroom.

Next is her daily care and attending school, all these need to be prepared in advance.

"Ah~ poverty is indeed an illness, if there were money everything would be solved easily."

After a simple wash up, Qi Yun turned on the electric blanket, got into bed, and summoned the panel.

[Today's Intelligence (red): Qiu Yuanshan has hidden two gold bars (200g) obtained through bribery inside the casing of an old washing machine,

the washing machine was sold by his wife to a scrap collector, currently for sale at Hualing Second-hand Market A-2-301]

"Two gold bars!"

Qi Yun widened his eyes, trying hard to suppress his excitement.

After repeatedly confirming the intelligence content, ensuring he hadn't read it wrong, a look of ecstasy appeared on his face.

Heard that the current gold price had risen to six or seven hundred, these two gold bars are worth tens of thousands, aren't they?

This should be the intelligence system's most profitable piece in terms of money.

As for the person named Qiu Yuanshan in the intelligence, he hadn't heard of him, but likely not a good person either.

There was no psychological pressure in making money this way.

...

The following day, after Qi Yun got up, he called Wei Yong, asking his wife to help out at the hotpot store for two days.

Wei Yong agreed readily and returned the thousand yuan salary Qi Yun had transferred to him.

Qi Yun smiled and didn't insist anymore.

Sometimes friendships are built through mutual aid, helping each other out stabilizes and prolongs the relationship.

But the premise is that there are no conflicts of interest between them.

Human nature is truly complex and unpredictable.

So when it involves interests, Qi Yun tries to make it a win-win for everyone.

After finalizing this matter, he went out to an ATM to withdraw three thousand yuan, then went to Lao Wang's store.

There was only Little Blondie inside, holding a phone and chatting enthusiastically with someone.

"Binzi, where's Uncle Wang?"

Little Blondie looked up and saw it was Qi Yun, pursing his lips, replied: "Not up yet, came back at two or three in the night yesterday."

Qi Yun showed a knowing smile, a thought that the old man still had plenty of energy.

He circled around the store, picked up a duckbill cap, and when paying, looked at Little Blondie and said: "Do me a favor, will you?"

"For what?"

"My friend's hotpot restaurant business is overwhelmed, go help as a waiter for two days."

Little Blondie heard about being a waiter and immediately shook his head like a rattle drum.

"What a joke, I have over a thousand followers as a streamer, how could I be a waiter!

What if I run into acquaintances, wouldn't I have to save face?"

"The pay is five hundred a day!"

"No way!"

Little Blondie refused very straightforwardly; at the age where money is viewed as dung, five hundred doesn't hold any allure for him.

"Qi Bro, if you need me for other tasks, I'd have no second thoughts, but I genuinely can't be a waiter."

Qi Yun put the duckbill cap in his pocket, sat on Lao Wang's recliner.

Lit a cigarette, took two puffs, then leisurely spoke: "Qin's mom also helps at the store, wouldn't you want to leave a good impression in front of her?"

"Hmm?" Hearing this, Little Blondie instantly perked up, immediately changed his tune, "Then I'll go!"

Only then did Qi Yun stand up smiling, thinking, can't handle you yet?

From his pocket, counted a thousand yuan and handed it to him, also instructed: "When Uncle Wang wakes up, go over early, I'll send you the address later."

...

Leaving the store, Qi Yun took a taxi straight to Hualing Second-hand Market.

After arriving at the destination, he took out the hat and wore it.

Whenever encountering places with surveillance, he lowered his head to avoid being recorded, extremely cautious.

Even if Qiu Yuanshan starts looking for the washing machine after discovering the gold bars missing.

Unless he has considerable power and can utilize criminal investigation methods, it's difficult to trace back to Qi Yun.

But he does this just to be prepared, those two gold bars are valuable but not excessively so.

Moreover, since those gold bars' origins are not proper, even losing them might not warrant open acknowledgement.

Chapter 18: Chapter 18: The Black USB Drive

A-2-301.

Qi Yun glanced at the doorplate, and sure enough, the entrance was lined with many second-hand washing machines.

The middle-aged owner saw a customer coming and warmly approached, "Brother, feel free to browse, they're all eighty to ninety percent new."

"Alright, I'll take a look around." Qi Yun replied and began to weave through the dozens of washing machines.

From time to time, he randomly reached out to touch and carefully examine a washing machine.

After about ten minutes, a gray Haier drum washing machine caught his eye.

The faint glow it emitted told him that this was the one mentioned in the intelligence.

"Owner, how much is this washing machine?"

The owner smiled and came over, "This one, huh, it's been around for a while, if you want it, it's 600."

"But I recommend you buy this one next to it, it's practically brand new, great brand, high quality, washes very clean.

Just got it from a beautiful lady, and if you want it, I'll give you the lowest price, 1500."

Qi Yun shook his head, "Just this one, I'll use it at the construction site, give you 300."

"Huh~ 300 is losing money." The owner frowned at the price, shaking his head repeatedly, "No more bargaining, if you really want it, 400."

"Deal, then get a vehicle to deliver it for me." Qi Yun nodded in agreement.

After paying in cash, the owner immediately called for an electric tricycle, and together they loaded the washing machine onto the cargo bed, after which Qi Yun climbed on as well.

Not far from the second-hand market, there was an abandoned construction site, no surveillance or even streetlights there.

Qi Yun directed the driver to pull over, unloaded the goods, and only after the driver left did he carry the washing machine inside.

Finding a secluded corner, he took a good look around before starting to closely inspect the washing machine.

After some knocking and patting, he found nothing unusual.

So he laid the washing machine on its back, took out a pre-prepared screwdriver from his pocket, and unscrewed the bottom plate.

As the back cover slowly fell off, an object wrapped in a black plastic bag fell to the ground.

Qi Yun's eyes narrowed, knowing that what he was looking for was inside that bag, and his heart rate increased involuntarily.

Opening the black plastic bag, inside was another transparent waterproof sealed bag.

Two bright yellow gold bars appeared before him, sealed together with an accompanying certificate.

Besides the gold bars, there was a black USB drive.

For some reason, from the first glance at this USB drive, a feeling of unease rose in his heart.

Qi Yun furrowed his brow, thought for a moment, then quickly packed everything up and stowed it in his coat.

Then he dragged the washing machine to a corner and hid it before walking towards the roadside.

The sudden appearance of the USB drive made him instantly more alert.

He adjusted his hat brim, and while walking, he observed around, confirming once more that there was no surveillance before leaving the scene swiftly.

...

Qi Yun walked for two kilometers, changing cars twice on the way, before returning to his rented place.

After locking the door, he took out the black plastic bag from his coat.

Both gold bars had a stamp, inscribed with 'CCB Gold 100g Au9999'.

At today's gold price of 670 per gram, the two gold bars could sell for 134K.

Although he suddenly gained tens of thousands, Qi Yun couldn't feel happy.

His gaze never left that black USB drive.

This thing, placed with Qiu Yuanshan's bribery gold bars and hidden so well.

The content recorded inside isn't hard to guess.

According to his initial assumption, the origin of the gold bars was illegal, and even if they were lost, the owner might not dare to make a fuss.

But with the addition of this black USB drive, everything became uncertain.

However, judging by the scale of bribery, the person on the other side probably isn't someone with too much power, otherwise, there wouldn't be only 200g of gold bars.

But that's just his guess; what if he was wrong?

What if the contents of the USB drive involved some big shot?

He had lived for over thirty years and knew very well that 'using secrets to blackmail important figures' only happened in novels.

If one didn't have a certain background or influence, daring to do such things might result in disappearing without a trace.

On the other hand, if this USB drive was really important to the other party who had considerable power and they found him.

Even if he said he hadn't seen it, the other side might not believe him.

After much thought with no resolution, Qi Yun decided he couldn't be bothered to think further.

He opened a brick under the bed, sealed the USB drive in a bag, and stashed it inside.

Then, carrying the two gold bars, he left.

Riding his electric bike, Qi Yun went to a large mall nearby, where the streets had small shops that specifically bought gold.

He didn't go to a bank due to cautionary considerations.

The price offered at the gold shop was a bit lower than at banks, 665 per gram.

Qi Yun handed one gold bar to them, and because it came with a certificate, they only did a simple check and then transferred the money without hesitation.

He then sold another gold bar at a different gold shop, increasing his card's balance to 172K.

But right now, he wasn't in the mood to be happy and bought a folding shovel from a hardware store before riding back to the place where he left the washing machine.

In a spot with softer soil, he swung his arms and started digging a hole.

After half an hour, the old washing machine was completely out of sight.

Qi Yun carefully cleared away the traces and then mounted his electric bike to leave.

...

On the other side, Qiu Yuanshan had just returned home from training out of town.

He looked exhausted, with bloodshot eyes, indicating he had gone through something troubling.

As soon as he entered, Qiu Jiahao heard the noise and hurriedly approached.

"Dad, you're finally back."

Qiu Yuanshan glared at him coldly, took a bottle of antihypertension medicine from his bag, swallowed a handful, and then angrily said, "How do you even have the nerve to come here?"

Qiu Jiahao, seeing his father's cold stare and interrogation, felt guilty. He lowered his head and softly said, "Dad, I... I was also anxious."

Qiu Yuanshan snorted, slumped onto the sofa, and rubbed his temples, "You know anxiety?"

The mess you caused at the hot pot restaurant is now all over the internet, do you know what a massive trouble you've brought on me?"

Qiu Jiahao shivered with fright, attempting to explain, "Dad, I just couldn't stand that guy, wanted to teach him a lesson. Who knew someone would record and upload it online."

Qiu Yuanshan, furious, slammed the table, pointed at Qiu Jiahao's nose, and yelled, "You idiot!"

Because of your impulsiveness, I'm being investigated now. Look at the mess you've made!"

Qiu Jiahao was so scolded that he couldn't make a sound, hanging his head even lower.

At this moment, Qiu Yuanshan's wife put down her phone in the bedroom and came out.

Seeing her son being scolded so harshly, she immediately stepped up to mediate, "Old Qiu, what's the use of scolding him now? Better think of a way to quell the online storm."

Qiu Yuanshan felt like the antihypertensive he took earlier had been in vain, furiously barking at his wife, "I'm just a deputy secretary of the sub-district office! How am I supposed to quell it, like I'm some almighty king or something?"