

## Middle Age 341

### Chapter 341: One-Eyed Dragon

6:00 PM, Tianshan Airport.

A flight arriving from Shanghai slowly landed.

Zhao Weilin, dressed in an impeccable suit, strode out of the terminal, with his secretary Dong Anyun already waiting for quite some time.

"Chairman, it must have been a tiring journey, the hotel has been arranged."

Zhao Weilin nodded slightly: "Help me schedule a meeting with Qi Yun, I want to see him first."

"Sure." Dong Anyun replied, taking out her phone from her bag. She dialed Qi Yun's number, but the sound in the receiver indicated the phone was off. Her eyebrows furrowed slightly, and she immediately found Zhong Rui's number to call.

After a brief conversation, she hung up and looked at Zhao Weilin helplessly: "Qi Yun went out of town this morning and can't be reached now."

Zhao Weilin frowned: "Did they say when he'll be back?"

"I'm not sure, but the earliest might be tomorrow night." Dong Anyun relayed Zhong Rui's response.

"Forget it, let's go to the hotel first." Zhao Weilin sighed.

...

Meanwhile, Zhou Hongchang sat dumbfounded on the sofa at home, with two bags on the coffee table in front of him, each containing two boxes of tea.

His wife, sitting beside him knitting a sweater, had a somewhat resentful tone: "To put together this 300,000, I even withdrew our fixed deposit early, and now the person is avoiding you and unwilling to meet. What are we going to do about this?"

Zhou Hongchang didn't respond, just stared blankly at the clock hanging on the wall.

"Ding ding ding~"

Suddenly, a crisp sound came from his phone.

Zhou Hongchang snapped back to reality and quickly pulled out his phone to check, but the next second, he laid the phone down in disappointment.

Seeing this, his wife rolled her eyes again: "That friend of yours still hasn't contacted you?"

Zhou Hongchang still didn't say a word.

"In today's society, no one is reliable!" his wife said angrily, "When they need you, it's all brother this and brother that, but when you need help, they hide faster than anyone."

Frustrated by her nagging, Zhou Hongchang got up and went to the balcony, taking out a pack of cigarettes and lighting one.

As the cigarette burned down to the butt, he could no longer hold his anxiety, picked up his phone, and prepared to call Qi Yun himself.

But as he heard the cold automated message from the phone, his mood plummeted into despair...

He had no connections in Bird City; his only hope was Zhang Dayong, but now he wouldn't see him.

Originally, he thought Qi Yun had a close relationship with the other party and wanted Qi Yun to help broker a deal, but the outcome left him hopeless and despondent.

...

9:00 PM, on the streets of Manila.

The air's oppressive heat made it difficult to get used to; even just sitting without moving caused sweat to continue pouring down.

Qi Yun, along with Chen Wei and Duan Pingyu, got out of a taxi. A few meters away was a parked black old Crown car, with a hulking tattooed man standing beside it.

The tattooed man held a phone and gestured towards the three of them, and upon seeing this, Qi Yun immediately walked over.

"Everything you need is in the car," the hulking man said in English, handing over a car key afterward.

Qi Yun took the car key and thanked him.

The hulking man nodded and, without saying more, turned and disappeared around the street corner.

The three of them opened the car doors and got in. There was a black duffel bag on the dashboard, which Chen Wei picked up and opened to find two M1911 pistols and two boxes of ammunition inside.

He took one of the pistols and tossed it to Duan Pingyu. Both of them skillfully cocked their weapons.

Sitting in the backseat, Qi Yun took out his phone and searched for the location of the "Good Luck" gambling den on the map.

"Let's go here. I want to meet someone," he said, handing the phone to Chen Wei, who was driving.

Chen Wei tucked the gun into the back of his waistband, glanced at the screen, and quickly started the car.

The old Crown sped down the humid and hot streets, with the sea breeze wafting in through the windows carrying a fishy smell.

Over twenty minutes later, the car turned into an unusual street, where the signs on either side were predominantly in Chinese, suggesting it was a concentrated area of Chinese residents.

"We're here." Chen Wei pulled the car over to the side of the road and glanced at a neon sign flashing on the right.

"Pingyu, come with me inside, Brother Wei will wait in the car." Qi Yun said, pushing the door open to step out.

Duan Pingyu also opened the door and quickly followed.

The two crossed the street and arrived at the entrance of the Good Luck gambling den.

As soon as they stepped inside the revolving door, a young man came up to greet them with a smile. He first scanned Qi Yun and Duan Pingyu's faces and then enthusiastically said, "Welcome, bosses, to Good Luck."

"You both seem a bit unfamiliar, so it must be your first time at our Good Luck?" The young man spoke fluent Chinese, suggesting he wasn't a local.

Qi Yun nodded slightly, remaining silent, as he examined the lobby's environment.

The lobby was indeed grandly decorated, with golden hues everywhere, and even the crystal chandelier above was shaped like a Copper Coin.

"What would the bosses like to play? We have various entertainment VIP rooms here." The young man pulled out a business card from the inner pocket of his suit and handed it over, "This is my card. If the bosses need anything, I'm at your service."

Qi Yun accepted the business card, which read, "Ah Hao - Business Manager at Good Luck."

To put it nicely, he was a business manager, but bluntly speaking, he was a hustler, specializing in attracting customers and extending credit at the gambling den.

Qi Yun shook his head: "Thanks, but not for now, we're just looking around."

The hustler, hearing this, didn't insist further and smiled, nodding: "Alright, if the bosses need anything, feel free to find me."

Without further ado, Qi Yun headed to the exchange area, taking out the ten thousand USD he had exchanged at the airport and placing it at the window. The staff inside took the money, quickly ran it through a bill verifier, and then handed over twenty chips, each worth five hundred dollars.

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After exchanging chips, he led Duan Pingyu towards the hall.

Several gaming tables were set up in the hall, surrounded by small groups of guests. Some were excited, while others had a look of despair.

Qi Yun's gaze roamed the hall. He appeared to be hesitating over what game to play, but in reality, he was searching for the whereabouts of the child, Yang Zhihao.

He didn't directly ask anyone because he was worried that if the rescue caused a commotion, the gang might trace the clues back to Yang Zhihao.

Fiddling with the chips in his hand, he eventually stopped at a roulette table.

Five meters across from him, a small-framed boy in a waiter's uniform was holding a tray, looking at him in shock. It was Yang Zhihao, whom he hadn't seen for months.

Qi Yun discreetly shook his head towards him, signaling not to make a fuss. Then he casually tossed a chip onto a number on the roulette table, unsurprisingly missing.

After playing a few rounds, he pretended to need the restroom and headed toward the washroom in the upper right corner of the hall.

Just two minutes after entering the washroom, Yang Zhihao followed him in.

Seeing no one else inside, he excitedly said to Qi Yun, "Uncle, why have you come to the Philippines?"

Qi Yun removed the cigarette from his mouth and patted Yang Zhihao's shoulder: "Haha, how's it going for you over here, are you alright?"

Yang Zhihao nodded: "Pretty good."

Knowing this wasn't the place to talk, Qi Yun lowered his voice and advised: "Across the street, there's a black Toyota Crown. Come find me in the car later; I have something to ask you."

"Okay." Yang Zhihao agreed without hesitation.

Qi Yun patted his shoulder again: "Alright, head out for now."

...

France, Paris.

Disguised as someone else, Old Hei was not too far, not too close, following a bearded man, the same informant who had promised yesterday to gather intelligence for him.

"I see him alone, I'm ready to move." Old Hei whispered.

The Bluetooth earpiece relayed Ah Jiao's response: "Do it, this district has no surveillance, I'm bringing the car up now."

"Okay!" Old Hei replied, quickly accelerating his pace.

In the blink of an eye, he closed the distance between himself and the bearded man. Just as he was two meters behind, ready to strike, the bearded man seemed to sense something and suddenly turned his head.

Quick as lightning, Old Hei lunged forward, his speed unmatched. As the bearded man looked at him with puzzlement, Old Hei's fist swung, and with a heavy "thud," it landed squarely on the bearded man's face.

The bearded man instantly winced, clutching his nose, his head spinning from the blow.

"Fuck!"

Ignoring the curses, Old Hei shuffled his steps, quickly maneuvering behind the bearded man, and with precision, delivered a hand chop to the back of his neck.

The curses ceased immediately, and the bearded man's hefty two-hundred-pound body collapsed lifelessly to the ground.

At that moment, a black van pulled up rapidly, and Ah Jie opened the door, shouting to Old Hei: "Quick, people are coming!"

Old Hei grabbed the belt of the bearded man's pants, using his waist for leverage. He lifted the two-hundred-pound frame with surprising strength.

Swiftly tossing the man into the van, he climbed in himself. Before the door even closed, Ah Jiao, who was driving, hit the gas, and the vehicle quickly disappeared around the corner.

More than thirty minutes later, the van stopped in front of an abandoned warehouse.

Old Hei opened the door, dragging the bearded man out, into the warehouse, and threw him onto the ground again.

The heavy impact roused the previously unconscious bearded man.

Wincing in pain, he opened his eyes and assessed the situation. Seeing the three standing men before him, his face instantly showed anger.

"Fuck!" He cursed, reaching for his waist, seemingly trying to retrieve something.

Old Hei sneered, tossing a black gun with a removed magazine to the ground: "Is this what you're looking for?"

His hand found empty space. Without the weapon, he panicked inwardly, though outwardly trying to remain calm.

He had recognized Old Hei from yesterday when he'd seen that Asian man.

"What do you want!"

Ah Jiao took two steps forward, crouched down, and coldly looked at the bearded man: "Yesterday, you informed others about our whereabouts, didn't you?"

"I don't know what you're talking about!" The bearded man responded angrily, shouting, "I advise you to let me go right now, or you won't handle the consequences!"

Seeing his temper, Ah Jiao stood up and said to Old Hei: "Increase the pressure."

Old Hei sneered, his fist cracking with the sound of knuckles.

After a friendly exchange, the bearded man finally relented: "Stop! Damn it, stop! I'll talk! I'll talk!"

Old Hei took a breath, shook his aching arm, and stepped aside.

Ah Jiao approached again, crouched down, and repeated the earlier question: "Did you disclose information about us to others yesterday?"

The bearded man, bloodied, nodded: "It was me."

"Who are they?" Ah Jiao pressed further.

...

Manila, on the street opposite Lucky Come.

Yang Zhihao scanned the surroundings quickly, confirming no one nearby before swiftly running toward the black Crown parked by the road.

Having roamed the streets since the age of seven or eight, he naturally understood why Qi Yun wanted him in the car, clearly not wanting to attract attention.

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He opened the car door and sat in the backseat, Yang Zhihao paused, surprised to see not only Qi Yun but also two other stern-looking strong men in the car.

Qi Yun smiled and patted his shoulder, reassuring him, "Don't be nervous, these are my friends."

Yang Zhihao then relaxed and smiled again, "Uncle, how did you end up in the Philippines?"

Qi Yun chuckled lightly, replying, "I'm here to handle some business, and to ask you for some information."

"Whatever you need, Uncle, I'll tell you everything I know," Yang Zhihao answered without hesitation.

Qi Yun turned to look out the window and asked, "Did you see two young people, a man and a woman, kidnapped last night?"

Yang Zhihao, surprised, covered his mouth with his hand, "Uncle, how did you know!"

"Yes, I saw it last night, in the parking lot at the entrance of Good Luck, those two people were kidnapped, they also seemed to be Chinese."

Qi Yun nodded slightly but didn't explain how he knew and instead asked further, "Do you know who kidnapped them?"

"I do!" Yang Zhihao nodded seriously, "It was Pat's people! They often kidnap Chinese on this street."

"Pat?"

"Yes, Pat is also Chinese, but no one knows his Chinese name, everyone calls him Pat," Yang Zhihao explained.

Qi Yun rubbed his chin and continued asking, "Do you know where Pat took them or where his base is?"

Yang Zhihao thought for a moment, pointing ahead, "I'm not sure, but I know his men often drink at that BBQ stand up ahead."

Qi Yun pondered for a while, "He kidnaps people at the entrance of the gambling hall, and the owner doesn't care?"

Yang Zhihao shook his head, "He often goes to the gambling hall to find the owner, they must know each other."

"Moreover, Pat is also in cahoots with the J station people, I've seen him drinking with uniformed officers, there are many cases of kidnapped people's families coming to report, but they end up with no result."

Qi Yun listened, and his impression of this place was once again refreshed.

Before coming, Harris had already warned him that the authorities here were unreliable, didn't expect them to be so blatant, no wonder the security is so chaotic.

"Go to the BBQ stand and see for me if Pat's people are there."

"Alright." Yang Zhihao nodded and pushed the door to get out and check.

Qi Yun took out a cigarette box from his pocket and lit one.

A few minutes later, Yang Zhihao jogged back, and after getting into the car, he panted, "They're up ahead! Two people, one of them is blind in one eye."

Qi Yun nodded, put out the cigarette in his hand, and without asking about Pat, he seriously looked at Yang Zhihao, "Do you want to return to China? I can send you to school."

Upon hearing this, Yang Zhihao lowered his head and fell silent for a long time before raising it to look at Qi Yun, "Thank you, Uncle, I won't return to China."

"I have no family left, I have to rely on myself from now on."

Qi Yun sighed, in just a few months the child had become more resilient.

He raised his hand and touched Yang Zhihao's head, speaking softly, "I'll give you my phone number, remember it, if you ever need help just call me."

With that, he quickly repeated his phone number twice, "Did you remember it?"

"I remember!" Yang Zhihao nodded earnestly, "Thank you, Uncle."

"Alright, you go back first, don't mention to anyone that you've seen me." Qi Yun patted Yang Zhihao's shoulder, quietly stuffed the remaining six chips from before at the gambling hall into his pocket.

"Okay, I know, Uncle, you also be careful." Yang Zhihao seriously looked at Qi Yun, then got out of the car and left.

After he walked away, Qi Yun instructed Chen Wei, "Drive ahead, stop at the BBQ stand entrance."

Chen Wei responded by starting the car and slowly drove forward.

About three hundred meters ahead, on the right curb, there was a BBQ stand with a few customers drinking there.

Qi Yun observed through the car window and indeed found, among one of the tables, one person was One-Eyed Dragon.

"Let's go." Qi Yun called out, opened the door, and got out, with Chen Wei and Duan Pingyu following suit.

As there were many Chinese on this street, their appearance didn't draw attention from those around.

Qi Yun directly approached the table of One-Eyed Dragon, pulled a chair to sit down, Chen Wei and Duan Pingyu stood on either side.

One-Eyed Dragon and his companion showed a trace of bewilderment in their faces given the sudden appearance of the trio.

"Who are you?" One-Eyed Dragon asked, frowning.

Qi Yun didn't answer his question, scanned the surroundings, and casually spoke, "I want to talk business with Pat, where is he?"

One-Eyed Dragon didn't respond, he scrutinized Qi Yun for a long while before finally shaking his head, "I don't know Pat."

Qi Yun chuckled, "Let's talk in the car."

The guy next to One-Eyed Dragon sneered, his missing front tooth let the air in, "You must be mistaken? We don't know Pat."

Qi Yun ignored them, stood up, went to the car, and opened the driver's side door to sit inside.

Chen Wei and Duan Pingyu stayed, coldly watching the pair, lifting the corner of their shirts to reveal the guns on their waists.

"Let's go."

They both paused.

Seeing Chen Wei and the cold expression on Pingyu's face, they dared not resist, exchanged a glance, and actually headed toward the car.

Duan Pingyu got in the passenger seat first, pulling out a gun from his waist, ready to shoot if these two dared to act recklessly.

Chen Wei urged One-Eyed Dragon and his friend into the car back seat, closed the car door, then searched them and confirmed they had no weapons before nodding at Duan Pingyu.

Qi Yun quickly started the car, leaving the BBQ stand.

The BBQ stand owner saw this and spat on the ground, cursing under his breath for bad luck.

This group of One-Eyed Dragon often drank at his place but always put it on the tab, already owing thousands.

He knew what they were up to, didn't dare refuse, could only let these scum drink and eat for free.

Therefore, faced with their unexpected departure, he considered it an escalation of their behavior, leaving without a word.

...

Ten minutes later, Qi Yun drove into an abandoned construction site.

He had found this location on the map earlier, intending to give One-Eyed Dragon and his friend a good scare here.

As the car stopped, Chen Wei and Duan Pingyu each pushed one of them, using the bright moonlight to walk toward the unfinished building ahead.

In front of the unfinished building, Chen Wei yelled "Squat down!", then pulled out his gun, coldly staring at the two.

Implying he would shoot them dead without hesitation if they weren't cooperative.

One-Eyed Dragon and his companion squatted down obediently, their expressions tense.

It wasn't that they were cowardly, but this scene was too familiar to them, they had experienced it numerous times before.

Except, previously, they were standing, and the ones squatting were others...

"Bro...brother, maybe there's some misunderstanding? Let's talk this out, no...no need for this..."

Qi Yun took out a cigarette box, lit one, took a couple puffs, and asked the two with his back turned, "One more chance, do you know Pat?"

"Know! Know!" This time they didn't dare lie, nodding eagerly.

Seeing they were willing to cooperate, Qi Yun finally turned around and said gravely, "Did you guys kidnap two people last night at the entrance of Good Luck, one male and one female?"

One-Eyed Dragon and his partner froze upon hearing this.

They had initially thought these people were sent by their boss's enemy, didn't expect it was actually concerning those two hostages.

"None of you want to speak?" Qi Yun squatted down and exhaled a smoke ring, "Or how about this, today only one of you gets to leave here alive, whoever cooperates can raise a hand."

Upon hearing this, Chen Wei immediately pulled the gun slide.

Hearing the cold mechanical sound, the two flinched, even though they were tough and cruel usually, few people could avoid fear when facing death themselves.

"Cooperate! I'm cooperating!"

"I'll say! Whatever you want to know I'll tell you everything!"

The two almost simultaneously raised their hands and shouted.

Qi Yun nodded contentedly, "Since you two are both willing to speak, then answer one question each, if the other gets it wrong, the other can point it out, and I'll send him away."

"One-Eyed Dragon, start with you."

One-Eyed Dragon nodded hastily, "Okay, no problem, I definitely won't lie."

"Are you the ones who kidnapped them?" Qi Yun asked sternly.

"Yes! We kidnapped them! Last night Pat had us do it!" One-Eyed Dragon didn't dare to lie anymore.

Qi Yun turned to the guy missing a front tooth, "Are they dead or alive now?"

"Alive! Alive!" Missing Tooth quickly replied, even providing an extra answer, "They're locked in the basement right now!"

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Manila, abandoned construction site.

Qi Yun had a cigarette in his mouth, glancing sideways at One-Eyed Dragon crouching on the ground.

"Your turn, where are the people being held, how many guards?"

"In Niya Village! At Pat's cousin's house!" One-Eyed Dragon's face lost its defiance, stammering in response, "Besides the two of us, there are six other people!"

"Are there weapons?"

"Yes, yes, handguns."

Qi Yun stood up, eyes locked onto One-Eyed Dragon.

After a long while, he suddenly asked, "What's your name? I mean your real name."

"Huh?" One-Eyed Dragon was taken aback, "Tao... Tao Zhiqiang."

"And you?" Qi Yun turned his head towards the one with the missing tooth.

The guy with the missing tooth answered nervously, "Min Yaozu."

Qi Yun didn't move from his spot, and after a moment, his expression changed slightly before he gave them a faint smile.

The two were unnerved by his look, One-Eyed Dragon shrugged his neck, looking very afraid, "Bro... Bro, we're telling the truth, I also know what we did was despicable, but we were forced by Pat. If we didn't do it, he'd kill us..."

Qi Yun didn't listen to his nonsense any longer, telling Chen Wei, "Brother Wei, they're not being truthful, let's employ some tactics."

Upon hearing this, Chen Wei exchanged a glance with Duan Pingyu, and the two pulled One-Eyed Dragon and the one with missing teeth up from the ground, pressing onto their sides at the ribs, and started applying force.

The two instantly screamed miserably, with beads of sweat appearing on their foreheads.

The moans lasted for a minute before Qi Yun waved his hand, asking them again, "I want the truth, is anyone willing to tell me?"

The one with the missing tooth was already on the verge of passing out from the pain, gasping heavily.

One-Eyed Dragon squeezed out some words painfully through his teeth, "We... we're telling the truth..."

Qi Yun furrowed his brows and turned his back.

Seeing this, Chen Wei and Duan Pingyu resumed applying force.

This time the screams were even louder but lasted for a shorter time, less than half a minute before the two fainted from the pain.

"Continue or not?" Chen Wei asked.

Qi Yun extinguished the cigarette, looked at the time on his watch, and shook his head, "Find some rope and tie them up."

Chen Wei nodded and walked away, feeling reassured with Duan Pingyu around that those two guys wouldn't be able to harm Qi Yun.

Ten minutes later, he returned with two lengths of hemp rope, tying One-Eyed Dragon and the one with missing teeth securely.

...

France, Lyon.

In somewhat aged manor.

De Gaulle held the phone and asked his subordinate, "How's the matter going?"

A deep male voice from the other end, "By the time our men arrived, those people had already fled. I've sent all our men out to look for them, and I've already instructed the intelligence dealer that if the other side contacts him, he knows what to do."

"Okay, bring them directly to me if caught," De Gaulle's voice remained calm, not appearing to take the matter to heart.

"Understood."

...

Dawn, abandoned construction site in Manila.

After Qi Yun and the others left, One-Eyed Dragon suddenly opened his tightly shut eyes.

He tried to struggle but felt a heart-wrenching pain in his abdomen, as if his bones were cracking, and his body was tied so tightly that he couldn't move at all.

With no choice, he bit his lip, endured the pain, and forcefully rotated his hips to one side, then kicked the one with missing teeth, waking him up suddenly.

"They're gone! Find a way to untie the ropes!"

The one with missing teeth was momentarily stunned, struggling to sit up, but soon endured the same pain as One-Eyed Dragon, feeling like his ribs were hammered, moving slightly made him sweat from the pain.

The two had their hands and feet tied behind them, even their arms were bound.

Chen Wei's rope-binding skills were very professional, tying the arms to the upper body, making it impossible to use any strength.

The one with missing teeth lay on the ground, laboriously moving his body, finally making it to One-Eyed Dragon's side.

He gasped a couple of breaths, asking, "Why did you give them a fake location earlier?"

One-Eyed Dragon sneered, "Although those two are tough, I'm more afraid of Pat's ruthlessness. Do you think if Pat found out we betrayed him, what kind of outcome would be waiting for us?"

"And our money is all with Pat. Compared to dying, I'm more afraid of becoming penniless again! I believe you think the same way."

"Haha, indeed, without money, I'd rather be dead!" The one with missing teeth spat out a mouthful of saliva, turned his body, and his tied hands touched the rope on One-Eyed Dragon's hands.

But after trying for a few minutes, the knot showed no sign of loosening.

To assist the other in untying the rope, One-Eyed Dragon bent his body like a shrimp, which was very uncomfortable after maintaining that posture for a long time.

Impatiently, he urged, "Hurry up!"

"Damn it, I can't use my hands, how to hurry up!" The one with missing teeth sweat on his forehead, retorted irritably.

"Can't use your hands, then why the hell don't you try with your teeth?"

"Don't start with my teeth again!?" The one with missing teeth shouted sensitively.

...

The moon shone faintly, the countryside night was silent, except for the bugs' chirping, there was no other sound.

A sedan was driving down the small road.

"Turn left at the intersection ahead." In the car, Qi Yun on the back seat glanced at the phone map and suddenly spoke.

Chen Wei, upon hearing, also glanced down at his phone screen, "No, Niya Village is two kilometers ahead."

"People are not in Niya Village. They lied." Qi Yun turned to look out the window, "Yang Zhihao just sent me a message, saying the two captives are in Kangji Village."

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Yang Zhihao's message was naturally a fabricated excuse.

The truth was, when he was interrogating One-Eyed Dragon and his partner earlier, he noticed something shifty in One-Eyed Dragon's eyes, as if he wasn't being truthful.

So, with a mindset to try his luck, he asked for the two men's names and then used the intelligence system to check the targets. It turned out he got a red alert on the gap-toothed guy.

The intelligence was "Min Yaozu plans to indulge himself with the kidnapped Chinese girl during the shift change tomorrow. He specifically prepared two blue pills for this, address is Kangji Village, No. 21..."

Originally, he wanted Chen Wei and the others to use some tactics to get information from the guards, but those guys were tight-lipped.

After all, they weren't ruthless criminals who would gun someone down. This is abroad, making a fuss would make it hard to escape.

Moreover, time was pressing. The kidnapped person was still in their hands. According to Yang Zhihao, these people had no professional ethics. Even if they received the ransom, they would still kill the hostages, wasting the whole trip.

So, they had to bite the bullet and go.

Although Chen Wei had doubts, he still followed Qi Yun's instructions and turned left at the intersection.

After a few more minutes of driving, they were approaching the village entrance. Chen Wei turned off the headlights and slowed down.

Under Qi Yun's direction, the car finally stopped outside a yard.

"They are inside. Be careful, try not to kill anyone, but prioritize your own safety," Qi Yun whispered.

Chen Wei and Duan Pingyu nodded, gently opened the door, and got out of the car.

The two men approached the gate of the yard and peered inside through the crack in the gate, then moved to the side wall and vaulted over the more than two-meter-tall wall with ease.

Qi Yun took out a cigarette box, brought a lighter to his mouth, but at last put the cigarette back.

Five minutes later, there was a noise from the iron gate as someone inside opened it.

Chen Wei and Duan Pingyu each supported someone as they came out and quickly got into the car.

"Tha... Thank you!" said the young man, who looked to be in his twenties with a face still filled with fear.

The girl sitting beside him was of a similar age, trembling slightly, and clinging tightly to the young man's arm, her eyes brimming with tears.

Both of them had multiple scars on their faces, and their clothes were stained with blood, indicating they had suffered.

Chen Wei quickly started the car and said without turning his head, "The guy at the back is our boss. If you want to thank someone, thank him."

Upon hearing this, the young man turned to look at Qi Yun and thanked him again.

Qi Yun waved his hand, not rushing to respond to him, and asked Chen Wei, "What's the situation inside?"

"Just two people guarding, knocked out." Chen Wei replied concisely.

Qi Yun nodded; the situation was much smoother than anticipated.

He turned around and took out two bottles of water from a side bag, handing them to the young man: "Have some water first."

The young man shakily accepted, "Tha-thank you, big brother."

Qi Yun smiled at him: "No need to be nervous, you're safe now. I'm called Qi Yun, you can just call me by my name."

The young man nodded, opened a bottle of water, and handed it to the still-fearful girl next to him: "Xiao Qing, it's okay now, have some water."

The girl took the water bottle, took small sips, and her trembling subsided slightly.

"Where are we going?" The car had entered the main road, and Chen Wei asked looking back.

Qi Yun thought for a moment, took out his phone, and called Harris to help get in touch with some connections to find a doctor.

Harris readily agreed and soon sent an address.

Half an hour later, the car stopped at a secluded street corner.

The tattooed strongman they had met before was already waiting there. He bent down and waved through the car window.

"Follow me."

Qi Yun softly urged the two kids beside him: "Let's get your wounds treated first, and in the morning arrange for you to return home."

The young man nodded gratefully and thanked Qi Yun.

"Let's go."

The group followed the strongman to the entrance of a shop building.

The strongman knocked on the door, and after a short while the roller shutter door was pulled open from the inside.

The strongman exchanged a few words quietly with the person inside, then that person gestured for them to enter.

After the shutter was closed again, the lights inside turned on. The side of glasses examined Qi Yun and the others, finally looking over at the two kids with curiosity.

Qi Yun nodded: "Take care of their wounds."

The glasses-wearing man pointed upstairs: "Follow me," he said, leading the way up the wooden stairs.

The young man seemed uncertain, looking hesitantly at Qi Yun.

Qi Yun patted his shoulder reassuringly, "It's fine, go with him. We'll be right here waiting."

Hearing this, the young man nodded, helping the girl up the stairs.

After about half an hour, the glasses man led the two downstairs again, the wounds on their faces now tended to.

The tattooed strongman said a few words to the glasses man, then led Qi Yun and others away.

Outside, Qi Yun took a black canvas bag from Chen Wei, and then pulled out two wads of USD from his pocket, handing them to the strongman.

The strongman only accepted the canvas bag, declining the two wads of USD, shaking his head at Qi Yun.

Seeing this, Qi Yun didn't insist and simply said thank you.

The strongman nodded, got into the Crown vehicle, and drove away.

After they left, Qi Yun checked his watch. It was 3 a.m., five hours before the earliest flight back home.

"Where are your passports?"

Chapter 346: Qien People (Part 3)

"In the hotel we stayed at before," the young man replied.

"Do the people who kidnapped you know the place?" Qi Yun continued to ask.

The young man shook his head: "They didn't ask about that, just told us to call home and get money sent over."

"Alright, go get your passports first."

Half an hour later, the group arrived at the hotel. The young man had booked a room for seven days earlier, so the luggage was still in the guest room.

Inside the room, Qi Yun lit a cigarette and handed his phone to the young man: "Call your family."

The young man took the phone, his fingers trembling as he dialed the familiar number, and the call quickly connected.

"Dad!"

"Xiao Qing and I are okay now, someone saved us."

"No, just some minor injuries, Brother Qi has already found a doctor to help us handle them."

"We're at the hotel now, Brother Qi said he'll send us home when it's light."

"Yes, he's right here."

The young man appeared fairly calm as he went over to Qi Yun and handed the phone over: "Brother Qi, my dad wants to say a few words to you."

Qi Yun nodded and took the phone.

"Hello, how do you do?"

"Are you Mr. Qi? Thank you so much for saving my son!" The voice on the other end belonged to a middle-aged man, slightly choked with emotion.

Qi Yun chuckled lightly: "We're all fellow countrymen, no need to be so polite."

"I just happened to see them being kidnapped last night, and luckily I have friends here who figured out where they were being held, so I just went ahead and rescued them."

"Yes, yes, yes, we're all fellow countrymen, luckily Xiao Hao had good fortune to meet Mr. Qi, thank you, thank you so much!" The other end continued to express endless gratitude.

"Haha, as long as they're okay. I'm planning to head back to Bird City today. Where do the two kids need to go? I can get them on a plane," Qi Yun asked, pretending not to know.

"No need to trouble you, Mr. Qi, their mother is already over there. I'll notify her to come over shortly," the middle-aged man replied.

Qi Yun nodded: "Okay, I'll wait at the hotel. Once you arrive, I'll leave."

"Alright, thank you!" The middle-aged man thanked him again, "By the way, did you say you're heading to Bird City today?"

"Yes."

"That's great," the middle-aged man raised his voice a little, "Our home is also in Bird City. When you arrive, give me a call; I must thank you in person."

Qi Yun pretended to hesitate for a moment, then smiled: "Alright, let's find a place to sit down tonight."

"Okay, let's do that. I'll send the kid's mom to the hotel right away."

After ending the call, Qi Yun handed the phone to the young man again: "Have her call home too, to let them know she's safe."

The young man nodded, took the phone, and handed it to the girl named Xiao Qing.

Two minutes later, the phone was back in Qi Yun's hands, and there was another round of gratitude on the other end, with a similar proposal to thank him in person once they knew Qi Yun would be in Bird City.

Unable to refuse their kindness, Qi Yun reluctantly agreed.

Over forty minutes later, hurried footsteps could be heard in the corridor outside, mixed with the sound of a woman sobbing.

The two kids heard the noise and quickly went to the door to open it.

Quite a few people were outside, with two middle-aged women standing in front, followed by seven or eight others.

After the two kids recounted the events to their mothers, the two women rushed over to Qi Yun, grabbed his hands, and started thanking him again.

"Haha, there's no need for that, sisters. I just happened to be there," Qi Yun, though a bit uncomfortable being held onto, understood a mother's feelings.

"No matter what, you're a lifesaver for our children and a benefactor to our two families!"

"Yes, thank you so much. If anything had happened to Xiao Qing, I wouldn't know how to go on living."

The two women spoke as they wiped their tears.

"Did Xiao Hao say you're returning to Bird City? We're also from Bird City, and now that the kids have been found, we need to go back too. Once we get back, we must properly thank you."

Chapter 347: Like Hell I Believe You!

On the other side, inside the abandoned construction site.

After struggling for three to four hours, One-Eyed Dragon and his partner finally managed to untie the ropes with the help of an exposed steel bar in the corner.

Freed from their bonds, they lay on the ground, gasping for air, their clothes soaked with sweat.

After a brief rest, One-Eyed Dragon sat up, "Let's go, quickly report back to Pat!"

Toothless knew the gravity of the situation as well, especially since the guys who handled them earlier clearly looked like tough characters.

So, he forced himself to stand up, and walked out of the abandoned construction site.

When they were taken into the car earlier, their phones had already been confiscated by Chen Wei, so they couldn't make calls now.

More than half an hour later, they finally returned to their base by a hired car.

At the moment, Pat was cuddling a sexy blonde woman while sleeping soundly.

Without caring for anything else, they bravely woke him up and quickly recounted the situation.

Upon hearing this, Pat quickly took out his phone to call the guards. Yet, after several attempts, no one answered.

He immediately felt uneasy; those hostages were crucial for making big money, so he hurriedly led his men to the place where the hostages were kept.

But when they arrived, the room was empty, save for two unconscious guards lying on the ground.

Pat was instantly infuriated and turned around to give One-Eyed Dragon and his partner a harsh slap.

He cursed angrily, "Didn't you say there were no leaks? Where are they!"

The slaps were strong enough to knock one of One-Eyed Dragon's teeth out.

One-Eyed Dragon, clutching his face, looked frightened and hurriedly defended himself, "I... I don't know, we... we really didn't tell them about this place, Boss, you have to believe me!"

"Believe you my ass!" The furious Pat immediately pulled out his gun and fired two shots.

One-Eyed Dragon and Toothless fell back in agony, blood gushing from their mouths, eyes stubbornly fixed on Pat.

After spending hours grinding steel bars to bring back the news, not only was the money gone, but their lives as well...

...

At 8 AM, a group of people appeared at Manila's airport.

The families of the two children had already wired a million each to Pat yesterday, and judging by the local police's attitude, some kind of conspiracy was sensed.

Therefore, they didn't hold much hope of getting the money back, leaving two people to handle the aftermath while taking the children back to the country.

Initially, thinking the flight was short, Qi Yun's group had booked business class. Even though he politely declined, two enthusiastic wealthy ladies still kindly upgraded their seats to first class.

With their family backgrounds, tens of thousands of dollars might really not matter, even if Qi Yun's net worth was over a billion, he still might not be as wealthy as them, given those positions were just too attractive.

Everyday, countless people lined up to send "tea leaves", so many that the threshold might be worn down.

"Xiao Qi, what job do you do in Bird City?" The one asking was You Wenlan, the young man's mother. This year she was 38, her husband was a deputy minister, and she herself was a section chief in the natural resources department.

Having gotten to know each other before, she no longer called Qi Yun "Mr. Qi", but "Xiao Qi", encouraging Qi Yun to address her as sister.

Qi Yun naturally didn't refuse; he welcomed these powerful and influential relatives.

"Haha, Sister You, I now run two companies, mainly doing gaming and trade," Qi Yun replied with a smile, "This time in the Philippines was to survey the market."

"Xiao Qi is really talented," You Wenlan praised repeatedly, then pointed to the woman sitting next to them, "If your company encounters any trouble in the future, you can directly look for Sister Sun."

Then she leaned in towards Qi Yun, lowering her voice, "Xiao Qing's uncle is in the commerce department."

Upon hearing this, Qi Yun naturally showed a surprised expression on his face, then said to Xiao Qing's mother, "Then I'll thank Sister Sun in advance, if I ever need your help, don't pretend not to know me, hahaha."

Sister Sun waved her hand, feigning anger, "Don't be so formal with sister, you saved Xiao Qing's life, from now on we're family!"

Behind them, the two kids had also recovered from the shock. The girl named Xiao Qing stuck her head out, "Brother Qi, do you have a girlfriend? I can introduce someone for you."

Qi Yun waved his hands repeatedly, "No need, I appreciate the thought."

...

Bird City, kindergarten gate.

Zhao Qing was somewhat surprised as she looked at Dong Anyun, and the unfamiliar man behind her.

"Hey, Miss Dong, didn't you return to Shanghai? Why did you come here to find me?"

Dong Anyun explained with a smile, "Plans changed, our chairman came personally to discuss cooperation with President Qi again."

Then she extended her hand to introduce the unfamiliar man behind her, "This is our company's chairman, Mr. Zhao Weilin, same surname as Miss Zhao, related five hundred years ago."

From the moment Zhao Qing emerged, Zhao Weilin hadn't taken his eyes off her face, this unusual behavior made Zhao Qing somewhat suspicious.

"Miss...Ms. Zhao, hello," Zhao Weilin proactively reached out his hand.

Zhao Qing looked at the hand extended by the other party, wanting to refuse, but out of courtesy and considering the other party was Qi Yun's business partner, she reluctantly shook hands with Zhao Weilin.

"Hello."

It was just a simple handshake, yet Zhao Weilin seemed unwilling to let go, gripping tighter instead.

This startled Zhao Qing, and she hurriedly pulled her hand back with force, stepping back a few paces, looking at Zhao Weilin with some alarm.

Zhao Weilin's eyes slightly reddened, seeming to realize he was a bit out of line. He awkwardly retracted his hand, apologetically saying, "I'm sorry, Ms. Zhao, I..."

Zhao Qing didn't listen to him talk further, frowning and speaking directly, "Is there something you need from me? If not, I need to go teach the children now."

Beside her, Dong Anyun hurriedly stepped forward to smooth things over, "Ms. Zhao, it's like this, our Chairman wants to meet with Mr. Qi to discuss cooperation matters, but his assistant mentioned he went on a business trip."

"Moreover, his assistant refused to give me Mr. Qi's contact information, so I hoped to obtain Mr. Qi's number from you, if that's convenient?"

This clumsy excuse, only the naive Zhao Qing would believe it.

But having met Dong Anyun before and knowing Qi Yun mentioned some business dealings with them, she hesitated for a moment but did not clearly refuse.

"Just a moment, I'll call Qi Yun and ask."

Zhao Qing said as she pulled out her phone from her jeans and dialed Qi Yun's number.

Yet at this moment, Qi Yun was flying in the sky, impossible to answer her call.

Zhao Qing could only shake her head helplessly, "I can't reach him right now either, I'm sorry. Since his assistant didn't give you the contact, it wouldn't be right for me to give it to you without his permission."

Dong Anyun nodded disappointedly, "No problem, I won't trouble you, Ms. Zhao."

"Okay." Zhao Qing responded, putting away her phone, "If there's nothing else, I'll get going."

"Sure, goodbye Ms. Zhao." Dong Anyun smiled politely.

Zhao Qing said no more, turning towards the kindergarten.

Just then, Zhao Weilin suddenly stepped forward, "Wait!"

This sudden action startled Zhao Qing; already a bit bothered by Chairman Zhao's previous behavior, she quickly stepped back two paces.

Just as Zhao Weilin was about to say something more, a figure suddenly stepped between him and Zhao Qing, separating them.

The person was Gao Min, the bodyguard arranged by Qi Yun, but her identity to Zhao Qing was a somewhat friendly neighborhood acquaintance who had helped her drive away a few people trying to chat her up at the mall.

"What are you trying to do?" Gao Min, full of presence, coldly watched Zhao Weilin.

Both Dong Anyun and Zhao Weilin were taken aback by the sudden appearance of Gao Min.

Dong Anyun was the first to speak in explanation, "Misunderstood, our Chairman Zhao, he..."

Gao Min didn't let her say too much, turning to Zhao Qing, "Qing, you go on back first. If they bother you again, I'll call the police."

"Okay." Zhao Qing nodded somewhat nervously, without thinking much about why Gao Min always appeared promptly whenever she was in trouble.

She simply agreed and jogged back to the kindergarten, saying a few words to the security guard at the duty room.

The guard immediately opened the window, sticking his head out to look this way.

Zhao Weilin watched Zhao Qing's departing silhouette, standing stunned in place.

Dong Anyun lightly cleared his throat, pulling him back from his daze, "Chairman Zhao, shall we leave now?"

"Okay." Zhao Weilin sighed heavily, desolately turning away.

Back in the business car, Dong Anyun's smile was somewhat bitter as he twisted open a bottle of water and handed it over, "Chairman Zhao, have a sip of water."

Zhao Weilin waved his hand, leaning on the leather seat, still looking absent-minded.

Dong Anyun placed the water aside, then carefully picked a strand of hair from his handbag, "I collected a strand of hair from Ms. Zhao's clothing earlier, I'll send it for identification later."

"It's her." Zhao Weilin's voice was soft, but firm, "Even though I haven't seen her for over twenty years, I recognized her the first moment I saw her. It's undeniably her!"

Dong Anyun nodded, taking a small sealed bag from his bag to keep the strand of hair secure, then looked up at Zhao Weilin, "Chairman Zhao, I understand your feelings right now, but regarding this matter, I think you should take it slowly."

"After all... she's been alone for so many years, even if you reveal your identity, she might not be able to accept it right away..."

This statement seemed to hit a painful spot for Zhao Weilin, his eyes reddened again, tears slipping from the corners.

At this moment, compared to him sitting in the office, he seemed like a different person entirely.

...

Six o'clock in the afternoon, Bird City Airport.

Qi Yun and his party got off the plane, though the temperature in Jiang Province was even higher than in Manila, this dry heat felt more comfortable than the humid muggy heat.

Just upon arriving at the terminal's exit, they saw several people ahead enthusiastically waving at them.

Those coming to pick them up were the families of Qi Yun's two cheap sisters.

Chapter 348: Each to Their Own

Airport, at the exit.

Standing at the front is a middle-aged man wearing glasses and an executive jacket, slightly chubby.

Qi Yun had previously seen a photo of this person online, so he already knew his identity.

A 36-year-old Deputy T-level Executive Vice Minister, two years younger than Zhang Dayong, a rarity nationwide.

The young Xiao Hao approached him and softly called, "Dad."

The middle-aged man nodded, seeing his son was okay, his long-held concern finally eased.

You Wenlan walked over and whispered a few words, the middle-aged man looked up at Qi Yun, enthusiastically extended his hand: "Mr. Qi, thank you very much for saving the two children."

Qi Yun also extended his hand to shake: "Haha, it was nothing, you can just call me Qi Yun."

The middle-aged man patted Qi Yun's arm, smiling: "My name is Shao Yuewen, I should be a few years older than you, so I'll call you Brother Qi."

He stepped aside to introduce the others to Qi Yun, "This is Xiao Qing's father..."

The others stepped forward to shake hands with Qi Yun, expressing their gratitude.

"Brother Qi, I'll take the children home first, let's find a place tonight to sit down together." Shao Yuewen spoke concisely.

"No rush, I think you all should spend time with the kids first, Sister You and they must be tired from the long flight, rest well, we can gather tomorrow." Qi Yun kindly replied.

Shao Yuewen turned his gaze to You Wenlan, who smiled and nodded: "Little Qi is considerate, let's do it tomorrow, we're family now, no need to be too formal."

"Alright." Shao Yuewen patted Qi Yun's shoulder, "Tomorrow then, I'll find a place."

You could tell Shao Yuewen respects his wife's opinion a lot.

After the greetings, they headed to the parking lot, Zhong Rui came to pick up Qi Yun.

Qi Yun didn't rush to leave, instead, he first saw off the others into their cars.

"Brother Qi, I'll go now, see you later."

"Bye, Brother Qi."

The two kids bid farewell to Qi Yun.

Qi Yun nodded with a smile: "Alright, go home and rest well."

"Brother Qi, we're off, I'll call you tomorrow." Shao Yuewen rolled down the window and waved.

"Okay." Qi Yun smiled and nodded.

After they had all left, he got into the business car, patted the back of the driver's seat: "Let's go."

Meanwhile, in the back seat of the Audi A6.

You Wenlan, checking messages on her phone, said to Shao Yuewen beside her: "Is Qi Yun's background clear?"

Her face was expressionless, no trace of her earlier warmth.

Shao Yuewen nodded: "We had it checked, his background is clean, he had a company that went bankrupt but made a comeback later."

"He once donated a valuable meteorite to the city museum, and a few months ago, he donated a precious Qingnang Book to the Beijing Chinese Academy of Sciences."

"Now he owns two companies and is a major shareholder in two others, he's a city ZX committee member and was on CCTV a few days ago."

You Wenlan, upon hearing this, just slightly raised her eyelids, as if such a feat unattainable for ordinary people was nothing in her eyes.

She put away her phone and replied nonchalantly: "Since he's not a fool, I might as well truly acknowledge him as a brother."

Sitting in the front passenger seat, Xiao Hao was not happy, turned around, and grumbled: "Mom, why do you say that about Brother Qi."

Shao Yuewen raised his hand to tap his son's head, saying disapprovingly: "Your mom takes him as a brother, and you call him Brother Qi, what kind of relationship is this?"

Xiao Hao turned his head nonchalantly: "To each his own."

Facing her son, You Wenlan's cold expression turned helpless: "Xiao Hao, you're not allowed to run around anymore, it's too dangerous outside. If Qi Yun hadn't saved you this time, what would you have let your parents do?"

"Got it." Xiao Hao replied perfunctorily, bowing his head to continue discussing Thailand's shows with his group.

...

On the other side, in the business car.

Zhong Rui, driving, reported to Qi Yun: "Boss, the city announced today, the new campus of No. 15 Middle School is set at Xuanwu Street, many agencies have already called, wanting to buy our properties."

"What's the price?" Qi Yun casually pulled out a pack of cigarettes and lit one up.

"20% higher than when we bought them."

"Too little." Qi Yun exhaled a smoke ring, rejecting without hesitation, "Let's wait and see in a few days."

"Alright." Zhong Rui nodded, "Also, Dong Anyun from Maple Capital called again yesterday, wanting to meet you."

"Dong Anyun?" Qi Yun wondered, "Didn't she go back to Shanghai?"

"Not sure." Zhong Rui shook his head, "I asked her what it was about, offered to pass it on, she wouldn't say."

"Okay, I got it." Qi Yun responded.

Soon, the car turned into Golden Collar Villa.

Qi Yun returned home, took a shower, then went to the nearby supermarket for fresh ingredients to cook dinner for Zhao Qing and their daughter.

About an hour later, a lavish meal was laid on the dining table.

Just then, Zhao Qing and Nuannuan returned.

The little girl, upon seeing Qi Yun, rushed to him without even taking off her shoes: "Daddy, you're back!"

Zhao Qing put down her bag and teased with a smile, "Look at how anxious you are. Go take your shoes off and put your bag away first."

The little girl listened to Zhao Qing and obediently kissed Qi Yun on the neck before taking off her shoes.

"When did you come back?" Zhao Qing changed into slippers, glanced at the table full of dishes, and said, "Not bad."

Qi Yun grinned, hugging her waist, "Just arrived this afternoon."

The little girl saw their intimate gesture, covered her face in mock shyness, and ran off to wash her hands, giggling.

Zhao Qing blushed and swatted Qi Yun's hand away, "I'm going to change clothes."

Qi Yun reluctantly let go, "Alright, come eat soon."

At the dinner table, Zhao Qing mentioned what happened at the kindergarten today.

"By the way, Miss Dong came to the kindergarten looking for me today. She said that their chairman wanted to meet you but couldn't reach you."

"Came to the kindergarten to find you?" Qi Yun was a bit surprised, sensing something unusual. "How did they know you were at the kindergarten?"

"I don't know either." Zhao Qing shook her head, "I tried calling you in front of her, but couldn't get through. Then they left."

She was worried it might affect Qi Yun's business, so she chose to tell him, but didn't mention the odd behavior of Chairman Zhao.

"Okay, I got it." Qi Yun replied with a frown.

After dinner, Qi Yun went outside to call Dong Anyun, wanting to ask what was going on.

But Gao Min got out of the car first and walked straight to him.

"What's up?" Qi Yun asked her.

Gao Min nodded and truthfully reported everything that happened at the kindergarten gate today.

After listening, Qi Yun's brows furrowed instantly.

He pulled out a cigarette, lit it, took two deep puffs, and then picked up the phone to call Dong Anyun.

"Hello, Mr. Qi."

"I heard from my assistant that you were looking for me?" Qi Yun's tone was calm.

There was a pause on the other end of the line before replying, "Yes, Mr. Qi, do you have time now? Can we meet?"

"Okay, where do you want to meet? I'll come over now."

"Let's meet at the Hilton Hotel's café."

"Alright." Qi Yun acknowledged, then hung up the phone.

He went back inside to inform Zhao Qing, then got into Chen Wei's car and headed to the Hilton Hotel.

...

France, Paris.

It's still midday with bright sunlight.

Ah Jiao, Lao Hei, and A Jie were quietly infiltrating a high-rise apartment.

A Jie marveled at the expensive-looking paintings on the walls, clicking his tongue, "Looks like this guy Perry really has some money."

"Stop gawking and move faster. See if you can find any useful information." Ah Jiao scolded, frowning.

"Oh." A Jie pouted and started searching the room.

At that moment, Ah Jiao's phone vibrated slightly. She saw it was from Niu Da and quickly answered.

"Hello, Big Brother Niu."

"Get out of there! Someone's coming for you!" Niu Da warned in a deep voice.

He wasn't acting with Ah Jiao and the others but had been following them secretly.

"Don't take the elevator, use the fire escape!"

"Okay!" Ah Jiao heard this and, without thinking, put away her phone and signaled to Lao Hei and A Jie, "Let's go, we've been found!"

Upon hearing this, the two quickly put down what they were holding and headed swiftly towards the door.

Ah Jiao and her team had just left less than a minute ago when six or seven strong men burst into the room.

They searched around but found no one. The bearded leader's face turned grim as he picked up his phone to call the team guarding downstairs, but no one answered.

The bearded man swiftly moved to the window and looked down, seeing only their car and another white SUV.

"Let's go!" he barked briskly and rushed downstairs.

When they reached the ground floor, they found the four men in charge of watching the place lying sprawled on the ground, and the white SUV previously parked outside was already gone.

The bearded man's face was extremely upset. He grabbed a subordinate by the collar and shouted, "Where are they?"

"They... they ran. Someone suddenly appeared and attacked us." The subordinate replied through gritted teeth.

Hearing this, the beard slammed the subordinate to the ground, "Useless!"

After venting his anger, he pulled out his phone and dialed a number.

"They got away, and there's someone outside helping them. They must be really skilled."

There was a brief silence on the other end, "Keep sending people to search for them. I'll send Bert over to help you."

"This is your last chance. I hope you won't disappoint me again."

The bearded man, upon hearing this, lost all his previous ferocity. He wiped the sweat from his forehead and replied, "Yes, yes, don't worry. I will definitely catch them."

Chapter 349: Two Hundred Million, Right? Fine, I'll Give It to You!

Hilton Hotel, the café on the first floor.

Qi Yun sits across from Zhao Weilin, with Dong Anyun seated to the side.

Dong Anyun speaks first, "President Qi, let me introduce you to the chairman of our company, Mr. Zhao Weilin."

Qi Yun stares blankly at Zhao Weilin, without any intention to reach out and greet him.

Zhao Weilin also keeps his eyes firmly on him, full of scrutiny.

"Waiter, three cups of coffee please." Dong Anyun senses the tension in the air, calls out to the waiter, and forces a slight smile, "The coffee here is quite good."

However, neither Zhao Weilin nor Qi Yun responds to her attempt to break the ice.

Ever since Zhao Weilin arrived in this city, he not only obtained detailed information about Zhao Qing but also thoroughly investigated Qi Yun.

He now knows that this guy in front of him had been married once before getting together with his daughter, and the child isn't even with his daughter...

This made him feel that Zhao Qing was at a loss, being with someone who was divorced and had a child.

But luckily, they are not yet married.

"Qi Yun, right?" Zhao Weilin finally speaks, but his tone sounds somewhat unfriendly.

Qi Yun notes the hostility in the other's eyes, assuming it's because he refused the equity acquisition, causing resentment.

He looks at his watch, checks the time, and says calmly, "Go ahead, why are you looking for me?"

Zhao Weilin is even more displeased by his lack of respect. Just as he is about to speak, he is interrupted by Dong Anyun.

"President Qi, we're mainly here to discuss the issue of Dawn Technology's equity," Dong Anyun replies, glancing at Zhao Weilin with a smile.

She can sense that her boss has changed significantly over the past two days. Whenever matters concerning Zhao Qing are involved, he loses his usual wisdom and composure.

Qi Yun pushes aside the coffee in front of him, picks up a bottle of water, opens it, and takes a sip, saying unhurriedly, "I don't think there's any more need to discuss this matter further. As I told you last time, I have no intention of transferring it at the moment."

"If you insist on buying, then it's two hundred million."

Zhao Weilin sneers, "Two hundred million, you've got quite an appetite, don't you? Can you handle that much?"

Qi Yun glances at Zhao Weilin, his temper flaring up. He hasn't even started troubling him, yet the man already displays a sour face and speaks with a sharp tongue.

How does someone with such conduct become a business mogul?

He acts like a philanthropist by donating thirty million in front of the cameras but is so contemptible in private.

"It's none of your business if I can handle it or not. If you want to buy it, pay up. If you can't afford it, don't waste my time." Qi Yun retorts stiffly.

Zhao Weilin is slightly taken aback, clearly not expecting Qi Yun to talk to him like this, with no respect whatsoever.

He gives Qi Yun a side glance and sneers once more, "Heh, two hundred million, is it? Fine, I can give it to you!"

This time, it's Qi Yun's turn to be taken aback. A look of astonishment flashes across his face, nearly wondering if he heard it wrong.

The opponent is willing to buy for two hundred million; has Tao Ziming made some groundbreaking progress?

Or does the opponent have some information unknown to him?

For a moment, he is somewhat puzzled.

"But I have one condition," Zhao Weilin adds.

Two hundred million is no small amount, but Qi Yun doesn't lack it, so after a brief surprise, he quickly regains his composure, sits back, and nonchalantly utters, "Say it."

"I want you to leave Zhao Qing," Zhao Weilin says firmly.

Qi Yun hears this, his pupils suddenly dilate, truly thinking he heard wrong: "Say that again?"

Zhao Weilin extends a finger, pokes at the table, and with a firm gaze on Qi Yun, emphasizes each word, "I want you to leave Zhao Qing!"

This time, Qi Yun hears clearly, and his expression turns grim, coldly surveying the other: "Am I too nice to you?"

"Did you forget to bring your brain when you went out?"

He was already fuming, and now he is completely enraged.

He can tolerate conflicts and clashes; after all, in today's world, making money involves bowing, kneeling, and scraping these are basic skills.

But messing with his woman is absolutely unacceptable.

The audacity to even demand he leave Zhao Qing, this truly shows he is not being taken seriously.

Zhao Weilin freezes; this guy not only disrespects him but dares insult him too, making his face turn sour.

Before he can speak, he sees Qi Yun pointing at him and continuing, "You old fart, meddling around the kindergarten during the day, laying hands on my woman, I haven't even settled this score with you, yet now you're gesturing about!?"

"And you want me to leave Zhao Qing, do you think you're the Jade Emperor!"

"Today, if not for the fact that you're just old bones, I wouldn't bother with you; otherwise, I'd have to deal with you, old man."

"I'll give you one night to get out of Jiang Province, and if you dare target my woman again, I'll tear those old bones down!"

Qi Yun hasn't had such an outburst in a long time, pointing at Zhao Weilin and cursing violently.

As for Zhao Weilin, he's miserable. He likely never expected anyone to dare treat him this way.

At this moment, he points at Qi Yun with one hand, clutching his chest with the other, his face turning red, looking like he's about to have a stroke.

"You... you...." For half a day, all he can say are these words, clearly fuming with anger.

Beside him, Dong Anyun finally snaps out of her shock, quickly stands up to support Zhao Weilin, patting his back to help him breathe, and tries to calm him, "Chairman Zhao, don't be mad, it's all a misunderstanding, don't be mad."

Chapter 350: Two Hundred Million, Right? Fine, I'll Give It to You!

After speaking, she turned to look at Qi Yun, her expression anxious: "President Qi, you've misunderstood, things aren't what you think they are."

"Chairman Zhao, he... he's Miss Zhao's father!"

"I don't care about this father business, even if you are her dad, you can't just start hitting..." Qi Yun half-spoke, but his expression suddenly froze, his hand pointing at Zhao Weilin suspended in mid-air.

After a long while, he came to his senses and cautiously asked, "What did you just say? He... he's Zhao Qing's father?"

"That's right! Chairman Zhao is indeed Miss Zhao's biological father." Dong Anyun hurriedly took out an identification report from her handbag and handed it to Qi Yun, "This is the result from a professional testing institute, if you don't believe it, you can see for yourself."

Qi Yun took the identification report, and his expression gradually changed from shock to apprehension.

After a full two minutes, he carefully read the identification report twice, and then guiltily glanced at Zhao Weilin.

This old guy's features, indeed, seem to bear some resemblance to Zhao Qing, no wonder I found him somewhat familiar when I saw him on the news before...

Coupled with the previous information about someone looking for a long-lost daughter, he now believes what Dong Anyun said.

This old guy is likely truly Zhao Qing's biological father...

Qi Yun once again stole a glance at him, seeing that he still looked like he was about to pass out, Qi Yun murmured to himself, this is bad...

"Um..." Qi Yun licked his dry lips, and with a stiff face attempted to speak, but when the words reached his mouth, he wasn't sure how to address the man, "Uncle, should we perhaps go see a doctor at the hospital?"

Zhao Weilin's face was ashen, and he didn't reply.

After quite some time, he finally caught his breath, and with Dong Anyun's support, sat back down in his chair.

"Ha, what a mess this has become." Qi Yun rubbed his hands together, letting out a couple of dry laughs.

Dong Anyun also quietly advised: "Chairman Zhao, he... he didn't know about your relationship with Miss Zhao... please don't be angry."

Zhao Weilin took a deep breath, his gaze still locked onto Qi Yun, and said coldly: "I can overlook this incident, but you must leave my daughter!"

At these words, the guilt-ridden Qi Yun instantly frowned.

He was very annoyed by this commanding tone, especially when it involved separating him from Zhao Qing for no apparent reason.

"I can offer you two hundred million to buy the shares of Dawn Technology." Zhao Weilin added.

Qi Yun sat back in the chair, took out a cigarette pack, lit one, and after pondering for a while, calmly replied: "I won't leave Zhao Qing."

Although he wasn't as angry as he was just now, his tone was extremely firm.

He didn't even bother to ask the other party for a reason, because he didn't think he needed one.

Zhao Weilin was about to say something more, but Qi Yun continued, "Zhao Qing and I are doing well, she's very happy being with me, and we plan to get married soon."

"So, even if you are her biological father, I won't agree to this demand."

"Let's leave it at that for today, goodbye."

With that, he held the cigarette in his mouth, stood up, and left.

After walking a few steps, he turned and asked Dong Anyun: "Does Zhao Qing know about this?"

Dong Anyun glanced at Zhao Weilin, and seeing that he didn't object, she gently shook her head: "Miss Zhao doesn't know yet."

Qi Yun nodded and briskly left the hotel.

On the way home, he furrowed his brows continuously, smoking several cigarettes in succession.

Chen Wei glanced at him through the rearview mirror, noting his troubled appearance, and probed, "Trouble?"

Qi Yun slowly shook his head, letting out a long sigh: "No problem."

Chen Wei said nothing more, focusing on driving.

Half an hour later, Qi Yun returned home. Zhao Qing had not yet gone to bed, her face covered with a mask, she was sitting cross-legged on the sofa reading a book.

"Why aren't you resting?" Qi Yun asked as he approached.

Zhao Qing closed the book, stood up from the sofa, and wrapped her arms around his waist: "Waiting for you."

"You smell heavily of smoke, go take a shower and change clothes."

"Okay." Qi Yun replied, gently hugging her, debating in his mind whether to tell her about Zhao Weilin.

Zhao Qing seemed to sense something was off, softly caressing Qi Yun's back, and asked gently, "What's wrong? Trouble at work?"

Qi Yun buried his head in her hair, inhaled deeply, and ultimately decided to temporarily withhold the matter.

Although he found Zhao Weilin's attitude annoying, since Zhao Weilin hadn't personally revealed his identity to Zhao Qing, Qi Yun felt he should respect that decision.

"It's nothing, just a bit tired, you go to sleep first, I'll take a shower." Qi Yun shook his head, letting go of her.

Zhao Qing obediently nodded: "Okay, I'll wait for you in the bedroom."

...

In the early hours, Qi Yun sat in his study smoking, glancing at Ah Jiao's message on his phone before calling her back.

"Something happened?"

Ah Jiao sighed, "Almost got cornered today, good thing Brother Niu was there to help."

Qi Yun flicked his ash: "Their doing?"

"I think so," Ah Jiao's tone was a bit heavy, "The target's influence is considerable, as soon as we started asking around on the black market, someone was on us."

"Identity compromised?" Qi Yun continued to ask.

Ah Jiao shook her head, "Still unsure."

Qi Yun was silent for a while, "Any plans?"

"We discussed it, deciding to start with the person who leaked in the black market and try to dig out who is behind it."

"Okay, give it a try, but prioritize your safety."

"Alright, I'll be careful."

"Okay, call me if anything happens."

Ending the call, Qi Yun sighed, brows furrowed, and after a brief thought, he picked up his phone and sent a message, "Have you considered it?"

After two minutes of waiting, he received no reply.

Qi Yun put down the phone, extinguished the cigarette, and the familiar light screen appeared before him.

[Current Intelligence Points: 37]

[Today's Intelligence 1 (Red): You Wenlan's father loves collecting antiques, especially obsessed with high-quality porcelain.]

You Wenlan?

People keen on antique collecting, nine out of ten don't lack money. Given that older sister's family background, it's normal for the old man to have such a hobby.

[Today's Intelligence 2 (Red): Last night, Luo Yang's sandstone mining company discovered high-quality quartz sand at the Bayin River section, and he's hired experts to survey it, the reserves are remarkable.]

[Today's Intelligence 3 (Red): Recently, Northern Mongolia's herders found a group of suspicious Europeans on the grassland, seemingly searching for something.]

These three pieces of intelligence today seem to be of little value...

Qi Yun wasn't disappointed, sipping from his cup.

He had planned to visit the purple intelligence coordinates at Lop Nur's Ancient Loulan soon, and having no other distractions was a relief.

The next day, Qi Yun drove Zhao Qing and his daughter to kindergarten, then prepared to visit Cao Yufei's pharmaceutical plant to find Pang Zefeng.

As soon as he drove halfway, Luo Yang's call came in.

Qi Yun had not picked up but could already guess why Luo Yang was calling.

"Hahaha, Brother Qi, I really have to thank you this time for letting me win the second bid section..."

"How about this, tonight I'll find a place to treat you to dinner, you must let me express my gratitude, otherwise I won't feel at ease." Luo Yang's tone was hearty, clearly in a good mood.

"Tonight?" Qi Yun pondered slightly, having already agreed on an evening meeting with Shao Yuewen.

"Is tonight inconvenient for you? How about noon then?" Luo Yang asked.

"Fine, let's meet for lunch then."