

Middle Age 621

Chapter 621: When Did You Make Me Your Disciple? _2

Da Chuan glanced at him sideways and said bluntly, "Am I your dad? You want me to take the hit when there's danger."

Ji Kai wasn't offended, baring his teeth and saying, "Would you dare respond if I called you that? I'll record it and send it to your dad in a bit."

"You little punk, still asking for a beating." Da Chuan laughed as he raised his hand, pretending to slap the back of Ji Kai's head, while Ji Kai quickly shrank his neck and hid behind Qi Yun.

From this simple exchange, it was clear that their relationship was indeed extraordinary.

The three of them didn't discuss anything serious afterward. After a few bottles of alcohol, Qi Yun and Da Chuan had gotten to know each other, and they exchanged their contact information.

"A friend of Xiao Kai is a friend of mine. If you ever need anything from a buddy in the future, just say the word, don't be shy." Da Chuan clinked glasses with Qi Yun, speaking very heartily.

After downing a glass of wine, he patted his belly and got up to take a leak.

Once he left, Ji Kai handed over a cigarette, "Brother Qi, Da Chuan's dad is on par with Old He, just in a different domain."

Qi Yun was shocked at these words!

Is he really that influential?

No wonder he just said this physique could withstand storms. Indeed, he wasn't wrong...

He lit the cigarette, took a couple of puffs, and looked at Ji Kai, "Can I ask you a question?"

Ji Kai, smoking a cigarette, leaned on the sofa, "Go ahead."

"Are you after my body?" Qi Yun had a playful smile on his face, his eyes slightly squinting.

Ji Kai was momentarily stunned, catching the meaning behind his words.

In normal friendships, who just opens up right away? Even with their additional colleague relationship, there's no need to introduce someone like Da Chuan as a buddy.

What status is that?

Equivalent to Zhang Feng in Shanghai.

Or even more influential than him.

After being called out, Ji Kai wasn't embarrassed, exhaling smoke rings with a smile, "Brother Qi, don't overthink it. I just genuinely want to be friends with you."

"As for being after your body, we'll see about that later."

Seeing the other party not wanting to elaborate, Qi Yun didn't press further, just shook his head with a smile.

Some things just need to be hinted at, no need to push further.

When Da Chuan returned, the three of them drank a few more bottles of foreign wine. Having enjoyed themselves, they decided to call it a night.

As they were leaving, Ji Kai initially planned to settle the bill, but the manager, upon seeing Qi Yun, waived the charges immediately.

"Mr. Qi is a distinguished member of our club, and the boss has instructed us not to charge him any fees." The manager responded with a warm smile and a bow.

Upon hearing this, Ji Kai immediately gave Qi Yun a thumbs-up, "It's great to roll with Brother Qi, you don't even have to pay when going out!"

"Yeah, of course, Brother Qi has influence!"

Qi Yun smiled helplessly, ignoring the two guys' obvious flattery.

The boss the manager referred to was naturally President Bi, and given their relationship, there was no need to worry about such a trivial matter, so Qi Yun thanked them and left with Ji Kai.

In the parking lot outside, Qi Yun saw Da Chuan's vehicle, which wasn't the fancy car he imagined, but a very ordinary off-road one.

Only, it had a white plate with black lettering.

"Alright, we'll end it here for today. I'll call you tomorrow." Qi Yun waved to both of them.

Da Chuan hiccuped, patting his arm, "Alright, take it easy on the road."

"Yeah, no worries."

After Da Chuan got into the car, Ji Kai lit a cigarette, the earlier playful smile gone from his face, "Brother Qi, I probably won't stay here long."

Qi Yun nodded, "No problem, plenty of chances to meet in the future."

"Yeah." Ji Kai hesitated for a moment, then spoke in a low voice, "If any of those people coming at you make trouble, you can have Da Chuan pick you up."

"Once you enter that courtyard, no one can touch you."

Qi Yun raised an eyebrow, what did that mean?

Someone wanted to target him?

He was about to ask for clarification, but Ji Kai had already turned his back, waving as he walked toward the off-road vehicle, "See you around!"

The car engine started, and from the backseat, Da Chuan poked his head out and shouted, "Brother Qi, call me if anything comes up!"

The sound of the off-road vehicle's engine roared as it left the parking lot, quickly disappearing into the night.

Standing there with a cigarette, Qi Yun's mind was swirling.

Since these words came out of Ji Kai's mouth, it couldn't just be idle talk.

But he hadn't offended anyone in Beijing, had he?

After thinking for a long time and getting nowhere, he decided to ask around to get some insight and be mentally prepared. He returned to his car and pulled out his phone.

"Hey, are you resting?"

"You know it's rude to call at this hour, right?" Xiao Hanguang's annoyed voice came from the phone.

Qi Yun ignored his tone, chuckling as he asked, "I want to ask about something, do you know Ji Kai?"

"Ji Kai?" Xiao Hanguang pondered for two seconds, quickly responding, "The nephew of Ji Hongzhang?"

"Yes."

The top Q Power circle in the capital was that small, everyone knew everyone.

"I know about him, why are you asking?"

Qi Yun organized his words, concisely recounting the prior incident in Shanghai and his recent meeting with Ji Kai.

"You want to know why he'd approach you?"

"Yeah."

"Ah." Xiao Hanguang sighed, pretending to be helpless, "For someone as smart as you, you can't even figure this out."

"Word outside is you're my apprentice, didn't you know?"

Apprentice?

Qi Yun thought, when did you accept me as an apprentice?

You never told me...

"You can think of it as ZZ investment."

"Some people can't conveniently reach us directly, so they instead show goodwill to you, expressing their stance, got it?"

"Got it... got it." Qi Yun rubbed his nose, asking again, "Before he left, he said some people might cause me trouble... I really can't think of anyone in that circle I've offended?"

"You ask me, who should I ask? You're always stirring things up everywhere, you might have stepped on someone's toes somewhere." Xiao Hanguang teased lightly.

Qi Yun gave a wry smile, he rarely went out of his way to provoke anyone; trouble just found him.

"Alright, didn't they already give you a solution?"

"Ji said it right, if someone targets you, just hide in that courtyard, no one will be able to do anything to you."

"Hanging up, don't call me so late next time."

Listening to the busy tone on the phone, Qi Yun helplessly put down his phone.

Once home, he took a shower, trying to glean some information from today's system intelligence, but found nothing useful.

...

Early the next day, before dawn, An Zai was already waiting downstairs.

Once Qi Yun received the call, he invited him to the living room on the first floor.

An Zai detailed the situation over at Kunlun Mountain while taking a scale from his pocket to hand over.

Qi Yun took it and placed it in his palm. He'd already seen the shape in the pictures yesterday. It did look similar to a fish scale, but it felt special, very solid.

Unable to discern anything by sight, he put the scale away and let An Zai rest first.

After breakfast, Qi Yun called Wei Xueming in advance to explain the situation, then drove to New University.

In the office, aside from Wei Xueming, there was another woman in her fifties, an expert in biology that he had specially invited.

Qi Yun didn't waste any time, directly handing over the scale.

The female professor examined it carefully with a magnifying glass, frowning slightly, "The texture is too peculiar, it's neither from fish nor reptiles... never seen in known animals."

"I'll take it to the lab for analysis and discuss with you once the results are out."

Wei Xueming glanced at Qi Yun and nodded, "Alright, let's go together."

New University had various specialized labs in its teaching building. The three quickly arrived at a room dedicated to component testing.

Outside the room was a sterilization and protective gear area. The female professor donned a sterile suit and said to the two, "Professor Wei, Young Qi, please wait a moment."

With that, she entered the testing room.

Chapter 622: The Gold Mine Mountain

In the corridor, Wei Xueming rested his hands on the radiator and asked in puzzlement, "Where did you get this scale from?"

Qi Yun pursed his lips, hesitating for a moment in his heart.

If anyone else had asked, he definitely wouldn't reveal the secret about Shambala, but the elderly man in front of him was different.

Qi Yun had great respect for Wei Xueming, not only because he had helped him several times, but also because of his character.

Qi Yun glanced down both ends of the corridor, and only after confirming no one else was around, did he reveal the entire story.

Wei Xueming was so shocked by what he heard that his eyes almost popped out, even more so than when he last saw the Qingnang Book.

"Sham...Shambala!?"

"It actually exists!?"

Qi Yun nodded. "That space is very peculiar, as if it's isolated from the world."

"At the bottom of that lake, there is a city, identical in design to the description of the Shambala Royal City in the Buddhist scriptures."

Wei Xueming remained silent for a long time before finally sighing, "I really wish I could see this miracle with my own eyes."

Seeing his excited demeanor, Qi Yun felt a ripple of emotion in his heart as well.

He didn't mind taking the old man to have a look, but the high altitude of four to five thousand meters was likely too much for his body to handle.

"I have visual materials here; I'll bring them over later for you to study."

"Good! Good!" Wei Xueming nodded happily.

After a pause, he lightly patted Qi Yun on the shoulder, solemnly saying, "You did the right thing. Such a pure place shouldn't be disturbed by the mundane. I won't tell anyone about this."

About an hour later, the door of the testing room opened from inside, and a female professor walked out with a report in hand.

Wei Xueming eagerly asked, "What are the test results?"

The female professor adjusted her glasses, her face carrying a hint of seriousness. "In terms of composition, this is indeed the scale of a certain creature."

"But...it's very special."

"Its surface isn't the normal keratinized calcified layer but a structure never seen before, rich in a large amount of metallic elements."

"These elements weren't attached later; they seem to have been slowly absorbed by the scale during its growth, particularly the silicon element, with a very high content."

Qi Yun felt a slight stir in his heart; this test result was the same as Ignacio's speculation.

"Professor, under what circumstances would such a phenomenon occur?"

The female professor shook her head. "This phenomenon is unheard of in nature; scientifically speaking, it shouldn't appear on a creature."

"If you want me to give a conjecture...the only thing I can think of is a lightning strike."

"Lightning strike!?" Qi Yun's face showed astonishment.

"Yes."

"The structure revealed on this scale resembles repeated lightning strikes, where the silicon element in the electricity is gradually absorbed by the scale, eventually merging, just like how some plants absorb minerals from the soil."

"However, in any known creature, this characteristic has never been observed."

"Based on your judgment, what kind of species might this scale belong to?" Wei Xueming picked up the conversation, clearly filled with curiosity about this unknown creature.

Having spent a lifetime studying historical archaeology, he had never heard of such a creature either.

The female professor thought for a moment and pondered, "I cannot determine that currently, not even which category of creature it belongs to."

"I extracted trace residues from the scale for genetic testing and found that its sequence doesn't match any organisms in the existing database."

"It's neither fish, nor reptile, nor amphibian, and it doesn't share homology with any known animal gene sequences."

Qi Yun recalled Ignacio's speculations from the Buddhist scriptures and hesitantly asked, "Is there a possibility of it being from the dragon kind?"

As soon as he said this, both the female professor and Wei Xueming looked at him simultaneously.

Perhaps they were shocked by this bold speculation.

The female professor slowly shook her head. "Although there are various legends, the dragon kind has never been proven to exist."

"However, human understanding of Earth is very limited, especially in extreme environments like the deep sea and high-altitude glaciers, which hide many undiscovered species."

"We can only say that everything is possible."

At this moment, the bell rang, interrupting the conversation between the three.

Back in Wei Xueming's office, the two professors discussed the matter again in detail. They concluded that if the scale came from a living creature, then it must be an ancient species, even older than humans.

The female professor was also very curious about the origin of this scale, but since Qi Yun didn't know her well, he didn't reveal much.

After leaving New University, Qi Yun immediately contacted Ignacio and relayed the test results.

Upon seeing the report, Ignacio was also very surprised, marveling at how special that space was to sustain such a strange creature.

"I need to study the Lotus Sutra again, as well as the Huaxia's Classic of Mountains and Seas. I have a hunch that perhaps we'll find answers in these intriguing books."

"Classic of Mountains and Seas?" Qi Yun was taken aback.

"Yes, even though the descriptions in the Classic of Mountains and Seas are greatly exaggerated, some of the exotic creatures recorded there have been found to possess similar traits to real-world species."

"It's just that the ancients, limited by their knowledge at the time, interpreted them with an exaggerated perspective."

"For example, there's a passage describing, two hundred and eighty li north, it's called Mount Daxian, with a serpent named the long snake, its fur like a pig's bristle, and its sound like drumbeats;"

"This actually describes a long-necked snake, which I once encountered in the Amazon Rainforest."

Chapter 623: The Gold Mine Mountain (Part 2)

Qi Yun nodded, he wasn't skilled in these matters, so he left them to the professionals.

If someone from the Gwen Clan's team sent to Shambala could come out alive, it would be ideal. Just catching one person and questioning them would reveal what it's all about.

After ending the call with Ignacio, he promptly got in touch with Brother Quan to inquire about the situation over there.

"We've been on alert around the cave entrance and, so far, no one's come out."

"Judging by the traces at the scene, I estimate the chances of that group surviving are very slim..."

After hearing this, Qi Yun couldn't quite define his feelings; he felt somewhat relieved yet complex.

Relieved that Brother Quan and his group had safely retreated without any casualties like that team.

But complex because this meant he might find it difficult to uncover the secrets inside...

Send someone in for another exploration?

If he doesn't want news of Shambala to leak, he would have to send people he absolutely trusts.

Yet, he couldn't bring himself to do it, knowing the enormous danger inside and sending Chen Wei and others to their deaths.

Because these people had provided him much help, protected him and his family's safety, even saving his life.

The relationship between them wasn't just a simple employment.

"Keep watching for two more days. If there's still no movement, I reckon those backing them will make a move."

"Understood."

...

After dealing with the matter here, Qi Yun started attending to the bottled water company.

Accompanied by Shao Yuewen, he met with several key figures from related sectors. Processes that might take several months were directly fast-tracked, with a specialist coming to the company to assist, and they promised completion within three days.

These people weren't just favoring Shao Yuewen; it was more about Qi Yun's changed status, as astute people wanted to connect with him.

That night, Mr. Wei Zhe from Bao Dao called Qi Yun, informing him that he'd already contacted Zhang Wei from Evergreen Shipping, who expressed willingness to meet.

Yet, Qi Yun was occupied with various tasks the past couple of days and had no time to visit Bao Dao, thus postponing the meeting to next week.

After midnight, Qi Yun stood on the balcony smoking, once again receiving new intelligence.

[Current intel points: 24]

[Today's Intel 1 (Green): Half an hour ago, a landowner from Alaska lost heavily at the Good Luck Come in Australia and intended to mortgage a 45,000-acre gold mine north of Fairbanks, Alaska to the Gambling House, priced at 20 million USD;

The Gambling House has yet to agree, searching for someone to appraise the land's value.

Near the southwestern corner of this land, a hill contains a large amount of unmined gold, totaling over 3 tons]

3...3 tons of gold!

Qi Yun rubbed his eyes, feeling somewhat incredulous.

This figure seems exaggerated...

However, Alaska is rumored to have abundant gold reserves, so 3 tons might not be that astonishing.

At the current gold price, one ton is worth nearly 900 million, meaning 3 tons would be 2.7 billion.

Even if the mined gold's purity is insufficient, refining it should at least fetch 2 billion.

Yet the other party only mortgaged it for 20 million USD; buying it would mean a huge profit.

But remembering the Americans once bought this treasure land of over one million square kilometers from Russia for merely 7.2 million—that was the real deal.

Qi Yun dared not delay, fearing that this guy might sell the land, promptly contacting Brother Hui from Hong Kong Island.

He doesn't know anyone in Australia; the closest person is Brother Hui there.

"Brother Hui, can you help me with something..."

"Yes, at Good Luck Come, that guy just lost a lot; have someone inquire about it, and you should find out."

"Okay, make sure you buy that land for me."

On the other end of the line, Brother Hui readily responded, patting his chest: "Don't worry, Brother Qi, I'll take a helicopter there now to settle this matter for you personally!"

"Alright, thanks a lot, Brother Hui. I'll visit Hong Kong Island in a few days to thank you properly."

"Hey, there's no need to be so formal among us. I'll get it done for you right away."

After concluding the call, Qi Yun let out a sigh of relief; from Hong Kong Island to Australia isn't far, and he should make it in time.

[Today's Intel 2 (Red): Three days ago, Ding Sanshi met with some big shot in Beijing, pleading for action against you. They've already reached a mutual agreement]

Ding Sanshi!

So it was this guy pulling strings in the background.

When Ji Kai left yesterday, he mentioned someone would target him; it's likely because of this.

[Today's Intel 3 (Red): Meng Sisi (Wei Yong's sister-in-law) recently got out from detox center, and under the temptation of a supplier, she relapsed into drug use]

F*** ...

Qi Yun frowned and cursed, an inexplicable anger rising, a bit disappointed.

Being such a good girl, why must she indulge in this kind of thing? Truly puzzling...

Yet, he soon calmed down.

Previously, Wei Yong asked him to check on Meng Sisi at the detox center, but he was too busy and later forgot.

Although Meng Sisi ended up like this, somewhat bringing it upon herself, it's not exactly what Qi Yun wanted.

He pressed his cigarette butt into an ashtray and went downstairs.

Outside in the business car, Eagle and Xiao Wu were on guard.

Since the night Qi Yun nearly got hit by a truck, at least two people are on duty even at night.

Qi Yun opened the car door and slumped inside, asking Eagle: "I had you watch that grain and oil store last time, what came out of that?"

Eagle turned back and replied, "After watching for a few days, it's confirmed; the place is just a distribution center."

"Every day, different people disguise as customers to buy goods, hiding the stuff in real flour, making it hard to detect even if checked."

"There's not just one such grain and oil store. Tracking their delivery trucks, I figured out several points."

Qi Yun nodded slightly, thought for a moment, and instructed: "I'll give you a task; accompany me tomorrow to see someone who's gotten into this stuff, and find the person selling to her."

"Okay."

After giving instructions, Qi Yun didn't rush inside, casually chatting with Xiao Wu, waiting for news from Brother Hui.

A bit over an hour later, the phone rang.

Qi Yun glanced at the screen, connected the call, and held it to his ear.

"Brother Qi, there's been a complication." Brother Hui's voice sounded somewhat unnatural over the phone.

Qi Yun's heart skipped a beat: "What happened?"

"That land has already been mortgaged to the Gambling House; I arrived right after they signed the agreement."

"Already mortgaged? Can it be redeemed with money?" Qi Yun frowned, as the opportunity slipped through his fingers.

"It's difficult." Brother Hui sighed helplessly, "The Gambling House owner is a foreigner with arrogance, won't even see me..."

"And I've heard when inquiring about the land's value, they've contacted an Alaskan mining company that's interested in purchasing it."

Qi Yun's expression darkened, unexpectedly someone got there first.

Given the situation, since communication with the Gambling House failed, he could only focus on the landowner.

"Wasn't the land mortgaged to the Gambling House? Offer that landowner 20 million USD to redeem it, then give him an additional sum to sell it to us, would that work?"

Brother Hui replied, "It's worth a try, but that guy's on a roll, lost several hundreds more, not even talking to me."

"Then wait for him to finish losing."

Gamblers are like that; in their frenzy, they only see the chance to win back.

Moreover, Qi Yun knew he couldn't rush things now; the more you show urgency, the more the other side will raise the price.

Offer him 50 million, and he'd dare ask for 100 million.

"Alright, leave it to me."

Chapter 624: You Want Me to Be Your Agent

The next morning, Qi Yun contacted Brother Hui again and found out that the landlord was still battling it out at Lucky Hits Casino.

That place has various entertainment facilities, with hotels and baths all included. With two million USD, it seems that guy could be there for two days.

You can't rush things, so we just have to wait for now.

After breakfast, Qi Yun went to Wei Yong's fruit supermarket.

He hadn't been there for a while, and the business of the two small supermarkets had been thriving, now bringing Qi Yun over a hundred thousand in monthly dividends.

"Hey, how come you have time to drop by today?" Wei Yong had just finished greeting a customer when he looked up and saw Qi Yun walking in, "Come, sit, we just got a new batch of Thai mangosteens. I was thinking of sending some over to your wife and kids to try tonight."

"Hey, darling, Old Qi is here! Quickly put a few boxes of mangosteens in his trunk..."

"No need for the fuss." Qi Yun waved his hand, glanced at Wei Yong's wife, then gave him a look, "Come on, let's go outside, I have something to tell you."

Wei Yong was taken aback, then quickly nodded, "Okay, okay."

The two went to the greenbelt by the roadside, and Wei Yong pulled out a pack of cigarettes to light one for Qi Yun.

Qi Yun took a couple of puffs, appearing hesitant to speak.

Wei Yong stared at him in confusion, blinking, and asked, "What's going on? What is it?"

"Sisi... how's Sisi doing lately?"

Seeing him suddenly ask about his sister-in-law, Wei Yong's expression changed a bit, "We just picked her up from the rehab a few days ago. My wife and I haven't let her work, she's recuperating at home.

Qi Yun nodded silently, and after a long time, he spoke again, "My people... saw her with those people."

At these words, Wei Yong felt like he'd been struck by lightning!

He knew exactly who Qi Yun meant by "those people," and his face instantly changed for the worse.

"What... what did you say!?"

"Your wife visits her every day, and besides staying home, she's with my wife at the market. How could she be seeing those people... could you be mistaken..."

Wei Yong's cigarette fell to the ground. Though he said that, he understood well that Qi Yun wouldn't deceive him, especially about something like this.

He just couldn't bring himself to believe it.

A young girl, not even married, gets involved with that stuff again and again; her life is ruined.

"I came specifically to tell you this. I'll handle those who sell her things; the rest is up to you two."

Wei Yong nodded, lost and dejected, his voice hoarse, "If you hadn't told me, I would've been left in the dark. If something really happened to her, my wife and I would never have peace in this life."

"Thank you, Old Qi."

Qi Yun sighed, patting his shoulder, "Among brothers, there's no need to say this. I've already informed the rehab; you can send her back anytime."

"Alright, I'm heading off. Call me if there's anything." Qi Yun turned and walked toward his car.

Just as he opened the car door, he heard Wei Yong shouting behind him.

"Old Qi!"

Qi Yun turned around to see Wei Yong standing by the greenbelt, asking with a complicated expression, "Do you... do you want to see her?"

Qi Yun hesitated for a moment but eventually shook his head, "No."

After leaving the fruit market, he first went to the district government office.

Dawn Technology needed to build a production workshop. The original factory area wasn't enough, so they needed to apply for another piece of land.

A few days ago, Tao Ziming had arranged for someone to submit the paperwork with the land bureau, but for some reason, it seemed to be stalled.

With no other choice, the matter was reported to Qi Yun, requesting him to step in and coordinate.

For such matters, with Qi Yun's connections, it would probably take just a phone call to resolve it in less than five minutes. But this time, he not only came in person but also brought along Zhong Rui.

The goal was to let Zhong Rui make an appearance in front of these people.

As business grew, Qi Yun found himself with more and more things to handle.

And in this land of favors and social bonds, Qi Yun didn't have much energy to maintain those middle-to-lower-level relationships, so he decided to groom Zhong Rui, so even in his absence, he could manage some issues.

At the entrance of the district government, three or four men in administrative jackets were standing on the steps talking. Seeing Qi Yun's Maybach driving up, the leader of them immediately came forward.

This person, in his fifties and slightly overweight, was precisely the top official in the district—Deng Gang.

Deng Gang had received a call from Qin Minghui's secretary ten minutes ago, knowing that Qi Yun was coming, so he personally brought people to the entrance to welcome him.

Although the call didn't specify the purpose of Qi Yun's visit, he understood its significance and had heard some rumors about Qi Yun, so he dared not show any negligence.

"President Qi, welcome, welcome!" Deng Gang approached the car enthusiastically, extending both hands to Qi Yun.

"I've been wanting to meet our province's outstanding young entrepreneur for a while, but never had the chance. Finally, today, the opportunity has come!"

Qi Yun wore a modest smile, shaking hands with him, "Haha, Deng Leader, you're too kind to trouble yourself waiting here for me."

"No trouble! No trouble!"

After some polite exchanges, Deng Gang introduced the people with him, then gestured invitingly, "President Qi, let's go to the meeting room to chat."

"Alright, please."

The group went to the meeting room on the third floor of the office building, where tea had already been prepared in advance.

Deng Gang sat at the head seat, smiling as he looked at Qi Yun, "President Qi, are you planning to invest in this area today? Our district government is very welcoming to entrepreneurs like you."

Chapter 625: Want Me to Be Your Agent_2

"As long as you are willing to come, land, policies, talent, the support our district can provide will definitely be in place!"

Qi Yun smiled, "I'm afraid Leader Deng doesn't know, actually I already have a company in our head district, it's called Dawn Technology."

Dawn Technology? Deng Gang's mind spun quickly.

The head district developed relatively late, and its geographical location and infrastructure couldn't compare to other districts. Currently, most of the companies settling here are state-owned, and among the private enterprises, Qi Yun's mentioned name was indeed unheard of.

His smile paused for a moment, instinctively looking at the director beside him, who also looked bewildered, evidently unfamiliar with this company.

Qi Yun noticed his confusion and explained, "Dawn Technology was registered not long ago and is not large in scale. We just rented an old factory for research and development; it's normal for Leader Deng not to have heard of it."

Deng Gang smiled awkwardly, "Oh, it's my usual lack of attention to private enterprises in our district! I didn't even know that a young talent like President Qi had already taken root in our head district for R&D!"

After saying that, he turned his head and instructed the director beside him, "Director Ma, later you arrange it, find some time, I have to personally lead a visit to President Qi's Dawn Technology! Learn some excellent management experience!"

Director Ma immediately nodded in acknowledgment, "Yes, leader, I'll handle it promptly..."

Actually, these words were somewhat overly flattering, even Qi Yun felt a bit embarrassed listening...

Outsiders might only know he has two companies, a gaming network company and a trading company, neither of which are big enterprises with management experience worth learning from.

As for the largest jewelry company in the province—Blue Sky Jewelry, he was just a major shareholder and wasn't involved in its management at all.

Qi Yun could only pick up his teacup and took a sip, using the action to conceal the awkwardness on his face.

"Leader Deng really flatters me, it would be more like you guiding us on how to develop."

Deng Gang laughed heartily, "Not at all, with an outstanding helmsman like President Qi, the company development can't be bad at all, so we will learn from each other, learn from each other!"

The two of them chatted for another ten minutes about some trivial topics, and Qi Yun got up to take his leave.

Before leaving, he pointed to Zhong Rui behind him and specifically introduced him to Deng Gang, "Leader Deng, I forgot to introduce, this is my assistant Zhong Rui."

"I'm not here much often; if Leader Deng has any requests regarding Dawn Technology, you can directly tell him."

Zhong Rui immediately stepped forward, slightly bowed, "Hello Leader Deng, I am Zhong Rui."

Deng Gang did not show any neglect just because Zhong Rui was an assistant; since Qi Yun specifically introduced him, he certainly could guess the intention.

He smiled and patted Zhong Rui's shoulder, "Is it Xiao Zhong? If Dawn Technology encounters any difficulties in the future, you can go directly to Director Ma."

"If there's something you can't resolve, you can also call me directly."

Zhong Rui quickly nodded, "Alright, thank you very much, leader."

The two sides exchanged a few more polite words, and Qi Yun led Zhong Rui to leave by car. Throughout the whole time, he never mentioned the matter of land approval.

But even though he didn't say it, Deng Gang and the others would ponder it themselves.

Watching the car leave the courtyard, the trusted Director Ma asked, "Leader, what did President Qi come for today?"

The smile had long vanished from Deng Gang's face, and he was also frowning in thought.

Given his rank, it would ordinarily be difficult to connect with someone like Qi Yun.

But since Qi Yun took the initiative to come and Qin Minghui's secretary had called ahead, it obviously wasn't just a simple chat.

"Go check if Dawn Technology is having any issues recently?"

Director Ma pretended to have a sudden realization, nodding repeatedly, "I see, I'll arrange it right away!"

The office director, frankly speaking, is specialized in providing services and is best at observing people's minds; how could he not see through this?

More than twenty minutes later, Director Ma came to Deng Gang's office to report.

"Leader, I asked around, and recently the only thing Dawn Technology has involved with our district government is that they applied for an 800-mu piece of land, located on the west side of the highway entrance, reportedly intending to build a factory."

"However, it's stuck at the land bureau, and hasn't been approved."

"Eight hundred mu? That's quite a sizable area." Deng Gang tapped his fingers lightly on the desktop, frowning as he asked, "I remember that's all industrial land over there, right? Why hasn't it passed?"

Director Ma leaned forward a couple of steps, lowered his voice, and explained, "Leader, I heard Jiu Ding Logistics is planning to build a distribution center over there, but the project hasn't started yet."

"I guess they want to reserve that land for Jiu Ding..."

"Absurd!" Deng Gang unhappily slapped the pen he was holding on the table, raising his voice a few notches, "Jiu Ding Logistics' project is still a long way off; he dares clasp the already submitted land application?"

"Are they following the regulations or acting based on the company's fame?"

"Call old Fang immediately! Get him over here now!"

Director Ma didn't dare say much, acknowledged, and then left the office.

If it wasn't Qi Yun with a strong background today, the final verdict might likely have been, "We have to consider the bigger picture; Jiu Ding is a key enterprise, etcetera..."

...

On the other side, inside the Maybach.

Qi Yun, smoking, started speaking, "Do you know why I brought you here today?"

Zhong Rui turned around from the passenger seat, "The boss wants me to be your proxy."

"Oh, that's a professional term you've got there," Qi Yun teased with a smile.

Zhong Rui, scratching his head awkwardly, "I've been learning from Mengmeng recently."

Chapter 626: You Want Me to Be Your Agent_3

"Hmm, not bad." Qi Yun nodded with satisfaction, "Learn from people with skills, and later I'll leave some matters that require communication with other departments to you."

Actually, when it comes to coordination skills, or the ability to deal with people, Xie Mengmeng, who graduated from a prestigious university and has an excellent resume, is clearly more suitable.

But compared to ability, Qi Yun values loyalty more.

He trusts Zhong Rui more and is willing to give him an opportunity to develop.

"Okay, boss!" Zhong Rui clenched his fists in excitement, "I definitely won't let you down!"

In just over six months, he transformed from a newly released convict, making a living from day jobs, and only able to stay at internet cafes as a "big man", to now earning tens of thousands monthly, known by others as Director Zhong.

And all this was brought to him by Qi Yun.

Therefore, he is incredibly grateful for this, with only one thought in mind, which is to follow Qi Yun well for the rest of his life and never betray this trust.

"Ding ding ding~"

The crisp sound of a phone ringing.

Qi Yun took out his phone and saw that it was a call from Zhang Dayong.

"Hello, Qi, we've caught the truck driver from that night at the culvert!"

Caught!?

Qi Yun's spirit lifted: "Where is he?"

"He's with me, currently being interrogated."

"Good, I'll come over now!"

After ending the call, Qi Yun instructed Zhong Rui to return to the company, while he headed to the New District Branch.

Ever since that incident, he had been wondering if it was because of that Eight-footed Jade Hook, and now there was finally some progress.

Half an hour later, inside the interrogation room.

Qi Yun looked at the screen's image, frowned, and asked, "Are we sure it's this person?"

Zhang Dayong held a report, looking a bit unpleasant: "I arranged two teams to retrieve surveillance within a fifty-kilometer radius, and that's how we captured footage of him driving near a suburban gas station."

"After abandoning his vehicle, this guy went into a village in the city, and we put a lot of effort into finding him."

As he spoke, he handed over the report, "This guy is very tight-lipped and refuses to admit anything."

"Moreover, the documents he used are fake, with no information on him in the database, definitely suspicious!"

Qi Yun glanced over the report, confirming it was indeed as Zhang Dayong said, revealing hardly anything.

After watching the interrogation process on the screen for over ten minutes and seeing no progress, Zhang Dayong decided to step in personally.

However, the result was still no breakthrough, no matter how he asked, even with surveillance footage shoved in the guy's face, he wouldn't respond.

Finally, Zhang Dayong reluctantly walked out from inside.

"Let's go, wait in my office. I've called two interrogation experts from the city bureau; he won't hold out for long."

Seeing no better option, Qi Yun nodded and followed Zhang Dayong to the office to wait.

They waited until nightfall.

The guy still didn't reveal anything, which frustrated Zhang Dayong so much his face turned green.

"Let's do this, since you don't have evidence, just let him go for now." Qi Yun suddenly said.

"Let him go?" Zhang Dayong was stunned for a moment, momentarily unresponsive.

After all that trouble to capture him, just let him go so easily?

But soon he understood Qi Yun's intentions, knowing he intended to take matters into his own hands.

Thus, he immediately instructed to release the person.

...

At the entrance of the New District Branch, Yuan Tian Taro walked out emotionlessly.

He didn't look around, nor did he contact anyone, simply walked along the sidewalk at a steady pace.

However, this calm demeanor itself proves he's not a regular person.

Inside a car by the roadside, Qi Yun pointed at the figure and instructed Old Ghost, "Go ahead, just don't lose him."

"If I lose him, I'll come back and face you!" Old Ghost made a sworn promise, opened the car door, and stepped out.

Qi Yun rubbed his chin, feeling confident about Old Ghost's abilities.

In terms of fighting and brawling, Old Ghost is definitely not as good as Chen Wei and the others, but when it comes to stealing, tracking, and scouting, he's the expert.

Chapter 627: Absolutely Unfazed

Evening, Hutao Villa.

Qin Minghui actively arranged to meet Qi Yun, delivering a very hidden message to him.

"There's something I don't know if you've heard about, a delegation from above will be coming down, and the schedule is set for tomorrow."

Qi Yun nodded, "Mm, heard it from a friend."

With a serious expression and a hint of implication, Qin Minghui continued, "If you don't have much going on recently, why not take a few days off, take the wife and kids on a trip."

Qi Yun was surprised, glancing at him. This was obviously a message with an underlying meaning.

Even a fool could tell it was a suggestion for him to run away.

It seemed this guy must have heard some rumors...

"Hehe." Qi Yun laughed as he picked up his teacup, "Thank you, Leader Qin, for your kindness. I appreciate the gesture."

"But I've got a lot going on at the company recently, can't get away for now."

Qin Minghui scrutinized him, deducing from Qi Yun's reaction that he already knew what he was talking about.

After pondering for a moment, he sighed, "I know you and that Director Xiao have a close personal relationship, but he is not part of this team. There's a saying: distant water cannot quench nearby fire."

"If they really want to make things difficult for you, there's no one here who can help you."

A flicker of emotion crossed Qi Yun's eyes, not surprised by the news itself, but by Qin Minghui's attitude.

For him to openly say these things showed that he genuinely wanted to stick with President Qi.

After all, if these words reached the ears of that person, Qin Minghui might also be dragged down with him.

"I'm very touched that Leader Qin could say these words. Thank you for your kind reminder." Qi Yun spoke sincerely, regardless of his intentions, he was indeed looking out for him.

Pausing for a moment, he put down his teacup and shifted his tone, "However, I'm just an honest businessman; I haven't engaged in any illegal activities, so I'm not afraid of being targeted."

Qin Minghui was taken aback.

These words sounded very naive; anyone with a bit of social experience wouldn't be so simplistic, let alone Qi Yun.

The only explanation was that he wasn't afraid, or he was already fully prepared...

Qin Minghui gave Qi Yun a deep look, raised his teacup to indicate, "Alright, since you're aware of the situation, I'll say no more."

The meeting between the two didn't last much longer; after finishing a pot of tea, Qi Yun took the lead in saying goodbye.

Back at Golden Collar Villa, the long-waiting Eagle came to report on the situation.

"Boss, I've figured it out."

Qi Yun motioned for him to come to the yard: "Let's hear it."

Eagle leaned in closer, lowering his voice, "Behind those few grain and oil stores is a man called Brother Qiu. It's said that Brother Qiu is one of Li the Eighth's men from the south of the city."

"Additionally, everyone spreading the goods to your friend has been caught. How do you want to handle it?"

Li the Eighth from the south of the city?

It turned out to be this guy.

The names Zhang Liang and Xu Qian involuntarily flashed in Qi Yun's mind.

That fitness coach Zhang Liang, who used to live upstairs from him, ended up escaping to Chang'an after having an affair with Xu Qian but was caught and has since disappeared.

The same happened to Xu Qian.

The last time Qi Yun went to Ku City in search of that Golden Rattan Chair, he accidentally ran into her; she seemed to be on the run as well.

And the mastermind behind this was this Li the Eighth, known in the underworld by this name.

This person was a generation older than Luo Yang and the others, made a fortune early, owned numerous businesses, and was unquestionably powerful, a big shot.

Back then, Xu Qian offered some valuable things to exchange for Qi Yun's help, but at that time, he was too weak to provoke Li the Eighth, so he had to cruelly refuse.

"This guy, really as greedy as a horse, you have so much money already, yet you still dabble in such heartless business..." Qi Yun murmured to himself.

After a bit of thought, he instructed Eagle, "Teach them all a lesson, leave them at the hospital's door."

"Then make a trip to the New District Branch, find Zhang Dayong, and hand over all the evidence you've gathered for him to handle."

"Understood." Eagle nodded and quickly turned to leave.

...

Lyon, the Gwen Clan's manor.

Alfred, the elder of the Gwen Clan besides old George and with the highest prestige, was pacing back and forth inside with a cane at this moment.

"De Gaulle, didn't you say that the space wasn't dangerous? Why haven't we heard any news from the people we sent for two days?"

De Gaulle had his arms crossed over his chest, face unmoved.

Since old George didn't attend the meeting today, he sat at the head by default.

"I've never said that the space was without danger, just that when I led people in, we didn't encounter any danger."

In response to his remarks, Alfred was visibly unsatisfied, the cane striking heavily against the marble floor: "Are you playing word games with me?"

He was already unwilling to accept De Gaulle sitting in this position, so he harbored hostility towards him, and now, using the pretext of the team's disappearance, naturally, he would make things difficult for him.

De Gaulle's expression remained calm, though his eyes grew colder: "Respected uncle, I will reiterate: I have not hidden any risks."

"You were the one who suggested sending people. I can't imagine what reason you have to argue with me here."

As he said this, all eyes turned to De Gaulle.

The future leader of the Gwen Clan was showing a firm attitude at a family meeting for the first time, no longer as kind and yielding as in the past.

"You!" Alfred was choked up, his face instantly turning ugly. Just as he was about to rely on his status to reprimand De Gaulle, a nearby elder interrupted.

Chapter 628: Absolutely Unafraid (Part 2)

"Alright, you two, now is not the time for a dispute." The speaker was an elder in the family, belonging to the lineage of Old George.

"That team hasn't reported back on time, there must have been some incident inside. We need to consider whether to send more people there to figure out what's happened."

Everyone around the round table nodded in agreement.

"We must send people, otherwise who will make up for the loss."

"I propose sending two groups directly, fully armed, flying from Nepal by helicopter."

"Agreed."

"Agreed..."

As everyone expressed their positions, De Gaulle, sitting at the head of the table, scanned the room and finally announced the decision: "Since everyone agrees, let's arrange people to prepare. We'll head out tonight."

Actually, he wasn't particularly interested in that place, Shambala. Since the map's secret had already been unraveled, why waste energy there?

It would be more practical to buy some oil fields in Zhongdongto and consolidate the family company's position in the energy market...

However, he currently lacked sufficient supporters in the round table meeting, so he couldn't oppose the majority's decision.

After the meeting dispersed, De Gaulle went to the office and dialed Qi Yun's number.

As soon as the call connected, he asked straightforwardly, "Qi, did you take care of that team?"

Qi Yun sneered, "What? Is Mr. De Gaulle here to hold me accountable?"

"Please don't forget, it was you who broke the agreement first."

De Gaulle was silent for two seconds, then sighed, "Qi, I don't wish to be your enemy."

Qi Yun wasn't buying it, his tone remained icy: "If you don't want to be enemies, then stop scheming for that place."

"Believe me, you won't gain anything."

...

On the other side, Old Eagle, following Qi Yun's orders, took care of those people and then drove to the New District Branch, handing a file bag to Zhang Dayong and explaining the situation.

Actually, last month Zhang Dayong also arranged for people to investigate the flour issue, but they only caught small fries, nothing big.

"Li the Eighth!?"

When Zhang Dayong heard Old Eagle mention this name, he raised his head in surprise.

Though he had only been transferred to Bird City for six months, the first thing they do in this line of work before starting is to understand the people in various local circles.

Li the Eighth wasn't from the New District, but he had heard of this name.

The other people in the documentation were passable, but dealing with Li the Eighth seemed tricky.

Not to mention the issue of cross-district law enforcement, just based on the person's identity, without the prosecutor's paperwork, they couldn't recklessly bring him back.

"What did Qi Yun say?"

Old Eagle shook his head, "The boss only instructed me to hand these evidence over to you; there are no other specific instructions."

Zhang Dayong frowned, no specific instructions meant he had to decide for himself...

"Understood, you can go back now."

Old Eagle said no more and turned to leave the office.

After he left, Zhang Dayong lit a cigarette and pondered how to handle this matter.

He naturally hoped to wipe out all these pests, since wearing this uniform, he should live up to his conscience.

But with the evidence Old Eagle brought, it's only enough to shut down a few grain and oil stores and catch Brother Qiu, but not enough to nail Li the Eighth down.

For now, the only plan was to first catch those below and see if they can be squeezed for information to bite Li the Eighth.

Once the evidence is enough to nail him, then they can study how to deal with him...

Having made a decision, Zhang Dayong immediately gathered a few top aides and started discussing the operational matters.

At eleven o'clock at night, after an hour of intense arrangements, once the scouting personnel relayed exact information, several squad cars roared out of the courtyard.

Because it was a sudden raid and the news was very tightly sealed, Brother Qiu and his people received no wind of it, and were directly all taken down.

Once the people were brought back to the station, Zhang Dayong immediately arranged for personnel to carry out expedited interrogation.

However, progress was not as good as expected.

Because flour, more than fifty grams, was essentially a death sentence.

Thus, those daring to work in this line are all reckless types licking their wounds at the edge of a knife, and their mouths are all firmly shut, even if evidence is thrown in their face, they still refuse to disclose.

With this, Zhang Dayong stayed up with them through the night.

The next day, as he left the interrogation room, just about to grab a bite at the cafeteria when the bureau's call came through.

Since Ge Dabao took that person away last time and still hasn't let him go, the one in charge now was indeed a temporary substitute, who didn't have the same hostile attitude as his predecessor toward Zhang Dayong.

"Old Zhang, I heard your New District Branch had some action last night?"

"Yes, sir, last night we received a tip from a concerned citizen..." Zhang Dayong briefly recounted the matter.

"Is the evidence fixed?"

"A very few hard-necked individuals haven't opened up yet, but with others' testimonies and some direct evidence, it's enough to convict them."

The other side paused after hearing, "Since that's the case, I won't say much more. I support your actions, but make sure you grasp the sense of proportion, understand what I mean?"

"Yes, I understand." Zhang Dayong said expressionlessly, clutching his phone.

He naturally understood the other side's meaning by sense of proportion, simply advising him to take it easy, catching Brother Qiu and those small fries was enough, no need to dig deeper.

But he didn't plan to stop here.

...

Past noon at twelve o'clock, not far from the airport's runway, two Coasters were parked, with seven or eight people standing beside them.

Old Hou, who had once met Qi Yun, and Shao Yuewen's father-in-law were among this group.

A few minutes later, a buzzing sound from the sky heralded the landing of a business jet on the airport runway.

With the cabin door open, several men wearing dark administrative jackets stepped off, led by an elderly man with gray hair and a face full of authority.

Trailing him by half a body length was also an elderly man, and if Qi Yun were here, he would find this man bore a resemblance to Ji Kai.

Old Hou hurriedly led the team forward and shook hands with the two elderly men.

"Hong BZ, Director Ji, it's been a long journey, welcome."

The man addressed as Hong BZ patted his arm, "Ah, Old Hou, we haven't seen each other for a while, you seem to be doing better and better."

Old Hou replied with a smile, "Haha, yes, it's been nearly a year, Hong BZ, you don't look bad yourself."

These two brief exchanges revealed their familiarity.

The Director Ji, conversely, said little after a brief greeting.

"Leaders, let's get into the vehicle first. They have prepared a welcome reception over at SF." Shao Yuewen's father-in-law interjected and invited the main ones into one of the Coasters, while accompanying personnel boarded the other.

The car doors closed, and the motorcade slowly moved away from the airport, heading toward the city.

Inside the lead vehicle, Hong BZ and Old Hou sat in a row, casually flipping through the industry handbook in front of him, "Old Hou, your leadership has seen ** develop remarkably well these past two years."

Old Hou chuckled and waved his hand, "The credit doesn't belong to me alone; it's the result of joint efforts from comrades."

Hong BZ nodded, "Yes, but I heard recently that the photovoltaic project didn't stay with you and went to Shanghai instead, which must be quite a pity for you."

At this mention, Old Hou got a bit flustered, "Oh, yes, it's a real pity. We originally had great advantages here."

"Hmm." Hong BZ casually continued, "I heard that the person in charge of the project was someone young named Qi Yun, right?"

...

Just half an hour after those two Coasters departed, Qi Yun also arrived at the airport in his Maybach.

Chapter 629: Fu Wentao Arrives!

Zhongshan Road, inside the magnificent office building.

As the brief welcome meeting concluded, a group of big shots all headed up to the meeting room on the eighth floor.

Everyone's expression was solemn, knowing that the heavy bomb was finally about to drop.

Hong BZ, sitting at the head of the table, took the file handed over by his assistant. After a glance around, he began to read it aloud with a serious expression.

"According to the disciplinary..."

The wording in the document was very harsh, not only announcing the decision regarding Old He but also criticizing Old Hou and another seven or eight individuals.

Hong BZ's voice echoed in the quiet meeting room, each word striking everyone's hearts like a heavy hammer.

Old Hou leaned back in his chair, his face turned extremely ugly upon hearing terms like "poor supervision."

This was why he didn't want Old He to get into trouble in the first place; even if he wasn't involved, some responsibilities are unavoidable when sitting in that position.

"...I hope everyone, as comrades, will deeply reflect and take it as a warning."

After Hong BZ finished reading the document, he placed it on the table and sharply scanned those who were named.

"Old He's issues have been around not just for a day or two; as colleagues, it's unacceptable that you didn't notice a thing."

"Well, that's all I have to say." Hong BZ turned to Director Ji beside him, "Old Ji, please say a few words."

Director Ji adjusted his glasses and slowly began, "Comrades, Old He's problems, on the surface, appear personal..."

"Next, our inspection team will establish a joint task force to thoroughly clear up these issues, ensuring the Western development plan progresses effectively."

At this, Director Ji's tone became serious: "I must emphasize this point, regardless of who is involved in this investigation or how high their position is, if there's a problem, we will deal with it seriously and show no leniency!"

This statement caused a trace of anxiety to flash in many people's eyes.

Old Hou took a deep breath, his tone heavy: "I accept the criticisms and will deeply reflect, thoroughly review my actions, and ensure that I do not commit similar mistakes in the future."

With his statement, the meeting essentially concluded.

That afternoon, a piece of shocking national news quietly appeared on major official platforms. The press release wasn't long but was weighty.

For the bystanders, it might not have much to do with them and was just a spectacle, but for some people, it was nothing short of a thunderbolt on a sunny day.

The suspended heart finally died.

In the temporary office, an assistant came in with a document.

"Hong BZ, this is the previously confirmed list. Please have a look, and if there are no issues, I'll notify the task force to start working according to it."

Hong BZ took the document and glanced over it. The list had quite a few names, densely packed, including Li Tongwei's name prominently.

"Add Qi Yun to it."

Upon hearing this, the assistant sneaked a glance at him and confirmed, "Hong BZ, should we inform Director Ji about this?"

"After all... Qi Yun wasn't in the initial scope of related personnel, and based on current clues, he has no direct involvement in Old He's case."

Leaning back in his chair, Hong BZ replied decisively, "Whether there's involvement or not, we'll only know after investigating."

"No need to specifically inform, I'll mention it to Old Ji when summarizing later."

"Okay, I'll notify them right away," the assistant responded, taking the list and leaving the office.

A few minutes later, Old You, a member of the joint task force, also received the list.

Upon seeing Qi Yun's name, his eyes flickered slightly, and he murmured softly, "Qi Yun..."

"Hong Zhenbang..."

After weighing things for a moment, he walked to the window and called his son-in-law, Shao Yuewen.

"Tell Qi Yun..."

...

On the street of the urban village, Old Ghost was leaning against a utility pole smoking, with a few other laborers by his side.

Opposite them was a row of old bungalows.

Although Old Ghost seemed to be casually chatting with the other guys, his eyes kept glancing at one of the houses.

Yesterday, as instructed by Qi Yun, he followed that guy, who cautiously went around most of the city after leaving the police station and took up lodging at a small motel last night, only sneaking to this place today.

The laborer next to him was complaining about not getting any cargo moving work today, while he responded absently, suddenly looking towards the other end of the alley.

Two men in tracksuits were walking briskly towards them.

Both had a canvas bag strapped to their waist. When they reached the bungalow's door, they first looked around, confirmed no one was watching, and then knocked on the door.

Noticing this, Old Ghost subtly took out his phone and sent a message to Qi Yun.

...

Meanwhile, in the office, Qi Yun was holding his phone, talking with Shao Yuewen.

"My father-in-law says, that person already didn't get along well with the Xiao Family, so you'd better prepare ahead..."

After listening to Shao Yuewen, Qi Yun suddenly understood the situation.

Previously, he was wondering how such a significant figure could easily help Ding Sanshi target him, but it turned out there was this layer of connection.

Is this what you call a disaster arising from an unexpected source?

"Haha, alright, I got it. Thanks, brother-in-law." Qi Yun replied with a smile.

After the call ended, he leaned back in his chair, lit a cigarette, and showed no trace of panic on his face.

"Ding ding ding~"

The phone screen lit up once more.

Qi Yun picked it up and saw it was a message from Old Ghost.

After reading the content, he immediately called Eagle's number.

"I'll send you an address. Go there and bring the person back. I'll have Xiao Wu go to assist you too."

Chapter 630: Fu Wentao Is Here! (Part 2)

"Okay, boss."

"Hmm, be careful."

Putting down the phone, Qi Chong was about to call Xiao Wu in, when he heard a commotion outside.

"Hey, hey, what are you doing?"

"Who are you looking for!"

"We're looking for your boss, Qi Yun!"

Qi Yun heard the noise and was just about to go out to check when Zhong Rui hurried in: "Boss, a group of people are here looking for you, they seem to be from the government..."

"Got it." Qi Yun extinguished his cigarette, his face revealing no emotion, and got up to walk towards the door.

Just as he reached the office door, he saw several people in dark uniforms standing in the hallway, being blocked by Xiao Wu.

Qi Yun guessed the visitors' identity, so he waved at Xiao Wu: "Xiao Wu."

Xiao Wu immediately backed down and moved to his side.

"Do this..." Qi Yun whispered a few words in his ear and patted him on the shoulder, "Go ahead."

Xiao Wu nodded without asking more and walked straight towards the elevator.

With him not blocking the way, the people in dark uniforms walked directly to Qi Yun.

The one in the lead took out an identification card and flashed it, speaking seriously: "Qi Yun, we are from ***, please come with us for an investigation. We ask for your cooperation."

"Alright, let's go." Qi Yun smiled and gave Zhong Rui a look.

...

Half an hour later, in the office building on Zhongshan Road.

Director Ji, upon receiving the news, had a trace of surprise in his eyes. Although Hong Zhenbang had not consulted him about the list, he couldn't oppose such a small matter, so he didn't stop it.

Unexpectedly, Qi Yun was really brought back?

What is this kid up to...

He picked up the phone and called his nephew, Ji Kai.

"The task I asked you to explain to Qi Yun, did you not tell him?"

"Ah?" On the other end, Ji Kai was surprised, "I did say, I even took Da Chuan to meet him that day."

Director Ji frowned upon hearing this, as if pondering something.

"What's up, uncle?" Ji Kai asked, confused.

"The kid was taken away."

"Ah? Taken away? Why didn't he go to Da Chuan?"

"You're asking me, who should I ask?" Director Ji replied irritably, "Alright, stay out of this matter."

....

In the office on the tenth floor, Old Hou was talking with Old You when the secretary knocked and entered, whispering a few words in his ear.

Old Hou glanced at Old You in surprise after listening, then waved his hand: "Hmm, you can go."

After the office door closed again, he smiled and said to Old You, "That Qi Yun got taken away."

Old You's face remained unflustered as he simply asked, "Really."

Old Hou nodded, took a sip from his thermos cup, and said meaningfully, "Isn't that kid quite close with your son-in-law?"

Old You chuckled lightly: "It's neither here nor there. A while back, Yuewen's kid was traveling abroad and ran into some trouble. Coincidentally, Qi Yun saved him."

"Oh? Is that so?"

"That's practically saving your grandson..."

Old You smiled and remained silent.

Old Hou squinted his eyes and suddenly said, "If it's inconvenient for you, I can give Hong BZ a heads up?"

"If that kid doesn't have serious issues..."

"Don't!"

Old Hou was interrupted halfway through his sentence. Old You declared righteously, "Public and private matters are separate; I can't break discipline for my own sake."

"If Qi Yun is truly innocent, *** will naturally release him. If there are issues, they'll handle it as they see fit."

Old Hou stared at his serious expression for a few seconds, then laughed, setting down his thermos cup, "Haha, I'm really pleased to see you have such awareness."

As the two were talking, the secretary who had left not long ago suddenly returned.

He hurriedly walked over to Old Hou to report: "Leader, the gatepost phoned in to report that Fu... Fu Wentao has arrived."

Old Hou abruptly turned his head, looking incredulously at the secretary: "What did you say!? Say it again?"

The secretary bent down and repeated, "Fu Family's Fu Wentao! His car is right at the courtyard gate now!"

"Fu Wentao?"

Old Hou's face was full of shock, truly not expecting someone like him to show up suddenly.

For someone accustomed to showing little emotion to become so startled, it spoke volumes about the weight behind the name Fu Wentao.

After a brief moment of shock, Old Hou seemed to connect some dots and suddenly turned to look at Old You across from him.

He saw the other still with an air of calmness, as if he'd anticipated the present situation.

"Did you know he'd come?" There was a hint of surprise in Old Hou's voice.

Old You chuckled and shook his head, neither admitting nor denying: "I heard Qi Yun and this Fu Family's second young master have quite a close relationship."

Old Hou was taken aback, realizing that his guess was right. He really had come for that kid.

Originally, Hong Zhenbang was going to handle that kid, which he was quite happy about.

After all, last time Qi Yun disregarded the bigger picture by handing the photovoltaic project to Shanghai and even triggered Old He, which made him a bit displeased.

But he hadn't expected this kid to be connected to Fu Wentao.

Seems like his plans are going to fall through...

Old Hou regained his composure, adjusted his attire, and said, "Let's go, they're already at the gate; let's go greet them."

He stood up, instructing the secretary beside him, "Go inform Hong BZ as well."

The secretary nodded and quickly left.

Old You followed suit, accompanying Old Hou down the elevator to greet the guests.

Even though Fu Wentao held no government position, his status was extraordinarily special.

Not only was he a giant in the business world, having contributed significantly to Country's development, but he also maintained very close ties with certain entities, being able to access places that others couldn't.

Many matters inconvenient for government levels to handle were often assisted by him.

Especially in parts of Europe, his words carried more weight than the yellow-hair from the United States.

However, not many people were aware of such hidden information; only those who reached a particular level could comprehend the significance of "Fu Wentao."

Old Hou and the others quickly arrived downstairs, and as soon as they exited the lobby, they saw a black May Bach parked there.

Seeing Old Hou and the others, the butler, Zheng Lin, opened the rear car door and invited Fu Wentao out.

Fu Wentao bent down to step out, glancing ahead, standing still, while adjusting his suit sleeves.

Old Hou's facial muscles twitched involuntarily, yet he didn't show any unusual expression, stepping down the stairs to greet him.

"Haha, Wentao, what brings you here? You didn't even give us a heads up so we could arrange to pick you up at the airport."

In contrast to the enthusiasm Old Hou showed, Fu Wentao's attitude was much cooler. He just casually smiled and replied, "Oh, I'm just here to see a friend, didn't want to trouble Director Hou."

Old Hou's smile froze for a moment, but quickly regained his enthusiasm: "Hey, Wentao, that's too formal."

"Come, come to my office for a bit; we're planning a new park here and would love your guidance."

Fu Wentao nodded and glanced at his watch: "All right then, I heard a friend of mine has been invited here as well, so I'll just wait for him."

Just then, Hong Zhenbang and others, having received the news, walked down the steps and heard this sentence, their expressions turning unnatural.

Because less than an hour had passed from confirming the list, and only one person had been brought back so far, who was President Qi...

The friend Fu Wentao mentioned was unmistakably obvious.

Hong Zhenbang quickly descended the steps, with an awkward smile on his face: "Wentao, long time no see."

However, Fu Wentao didn't even glance at him, bypassing him to greet Director Ji behind.

"Haha, Director Ji, you're here as well."

This unexpected action caught everyone off guard, leaving them all looking perplexed.

Especially Hong Zhenbang, whose face turned as black as the bottom of a pot.