

## **Middle Age 701**

### Chapter 701: Youthful Arrogance

The efficiency of the governance team was extraordinarily high; within just two days, they had thoroughly investigated the multiple companies under Qi Yun.

And indeed, the flawed approval procedures became a breakthrough point.

A steady stream of calls came through for Qi Yun.

First, it was someone from the development zone G land resources, speaking with difficulty and fear: "President Qi... We are truly sorry, but you should be aware that we are under significant pressure here..."

"Regarding the pre-trial and approval process for the Tianshan Ice Spring land, they have requested a re-review... You might need to provide more detailed supplementary materials from your end, which might take quite a long time."

Next came a call from the environmental side, a somewhat good relationship, but the voice over the phone was filled with helplessness: "President Qi, your source's environmental assessment report, although the final result is qualified, the process... was indeed somewhat special..."

"Now, someone is fixated on the procedures... Our bureau might need to issue a situation statement, which could mention that the procedures need regulating... We ask for your understanding, it's truly..."

Then came calls from head districts, water resources... all expressing great pressure in a roundabout way, indicating problems with previous procedures and asking for his understanding.

Even though it was anticipated, facing such comprehensive monitoring still induced a palpable, immense pressure.

Inside the office building, Qin Minghui reclined in his chair, listening to the secretary report the situation.

"Qi Yun's companies are all undergoing comprehensive inspections. Currently, the main issues focus on Dawn Technology and Tianshan Ice Spring's approval processes, indicating procedural irregularities. Head districts and development zones are experiencing significant pressure..."

Qin Minghui sighed deeply: "Looks like that person is determined to give him a hard time..."

"For one Wei Zhe, it's quite unnecessary to fall out with him..."

The secretary dared not respond, instead saying, "A call came from the head district earlier; they plan to issue a document pausing related business for Dawn Technology and are requesting your opinion..."

Qin Minghui opened his eyes, thought for a moment, then shook his head: "Let's wait and see; if there's no movement before the end of the day, instruct them to proceed as required."

"Alright, I'll inform them." The secretary turned to leave, only to be called back at the door.

"Wait a moment."

"Send a formal letter, in the name of city F office, to the governance team."

"The content should be... \*giving high priority to this governance inspection, requiring them to be legal, compliant, objective, and impartial, while also noticing the importance of maintaining the business environment."

"For the issues discovered during inspections, urge companies to rectify seriously, but... for major investment projects involved, make sure to be particularly cautious when proposing handling opinions..."

He stopped briefly and added: "The wording needs to be precise, keep the balance, do you understand my meaning?"

The secretary hesitated for a moment, then nodded: "Yes, I understand."

"Alright, go ahead then." Qin Minghui gestured him to leave.

With the office door closed again, Qin Minghui leaned back against the chair, muttering to himself: "Qi Yun, principles have to be applied contextually..."

This was the utmost he could do.

...

Meanwhile, Qi Yun, Liu Guangxin, and Zhao Weilin were in the office of Guanghui Group, sipping tea.

After seeing Qi Yun react oddly after answering several calls, Liu Guangxin took the initiative to ask the reason.

Qi Yun sighed, choosing not to conceal, he explained everything about Wei Zhe's situation.

The two listened, their expressions sour, although not overly angry, as similar occurrences were not uncommon.

"Would you need me to find someone to mediate it for you? I still know some people over there." Liu Guangxin proactively offered to assist in reconciling. Having risen to the top, he naturally possessed connections.

Qi Yun was grateful but still declined: "Thank you for your kind offer, Liu Chairman, but I don't feel I did anything wrong in this matter."

Liu Guangxin sighed helplessly, young people were still too impulsive.

"So how do you plan to resolve it?"

After all, Dawn Technology was about to become a common enterprise for everyone; if issues arose at such a critical juncture, it could significantly affect subsequent cooperation.

Qi Yun pondered briefly and then shared his thoughts with the two: "My plan is as follows..."

"I agree!" Zhao Weilin put down the teacup, voicing firmly, "If this issue isn't handled well, I think we can move the new company to Shanghai."

As the father-in-law, he naturally offered unwavering support at times like these.

Liu Guangxin's eyelid twitched slightly, but since the two had already decided, from personal or corporate interest, he needed to do something.

"Alright! I'll have someone start preparing!"

...

About an hour later, Guanghui Group was filled with a large number of reporters and social media figures.

On the podium, Liu Guangxin announced a significant decision: Guanghui Group, Maple Capital, and Dawn Technology would jointly fund the establishment of a new joint venture—New Source Power Technology Co., Ltd., dedicated to producing globally leading new energy vehicles!

Standing under the spotlight, Liu Guangxin was full of spirit: "We have initially planned an investment of no less than twenty billion yuan over the next year, establishing a base covering the entire industry chain of research and development and production, expected to create tens of thousands of jobs, and the annual output value is poised to break through one hundred billion yuan!"

The journalists below were in an uproar, flashlights lighting up.

This was indeed a super heavy news flash!

With Guanghui Group and Maple Capital joining hands, though Dawn Technology was somewhat obscure, cooperation with these two certainly indicated it had unique merits.

Chapter 702: Young and Ambitious (Part 2)

The target output value of a trillion is undoubtedly a deep-water bomb thrown into the new energy vehicle industry.

The information from the press conference instantly stirred up a thousand waves, as the news rapidly fermented through media and the internet, causing a sensation not only in the auto and tech circles but also reaching the ears of relevant departments and higher up.

Any enterprise with a scale of over a hundred billion is a significant presence locally, especially in manufacturing.

Not only can it contribute massive tax revenues, but it can also drive the development of related industrial chains and create tens of thousands of jobs.

If the scale could really be expanded to a trillion-level, it might even become a local business card—this is quite an impressive achievement.

...

Inside the F municipal building, the secretary once again quickly entered Qin Minghui's office.

"Leader, we just received news that Guanghui Group has held a heavy-weight press conference announcing its joint venture with Maple Capital and Dawn Technology to establish a new company producing new energy vehicles, with an investment of twenty billion!"

Qin Minghui paused in his handling of the files, looked up, with a trace of surprise in his eyes.

"This Qi Yun... really moves fast, adding weight to himself."

The secretary nodded: "The press conference was of high specification, attended by mainstream media, Liu Guangxin and Zhao Weilin personally endorsed it, and public attention is very high now."

Qin Minghui leaned back against his chair, lightly tapping the tabletop with his fingers: "Have you sent the letter I asked you to send to them?"

"Already sent it to the governance team."

"Mm, go find out what's happening over there."

The secretary immediately understood: "Got it, I'll go now."

...

On Zhongshan Road, Old Hou had also received the news, standing expressionlessly at the window.

Behind him, the head steward, Xu Yunliang, tentatively asked: "Do you think we should stop the work over there first?"

Old Hou did not answer immediately, only looked out the window, his gaze calm.

After a while, he seemed to have made a decision, slowly turning around.

"Why stop their normal work?"

"Stopping now would be telling everyone that we can be manipulated by capital?"

Xu Yunliang nodded slightly, cautiously reminding: "Could the influence be not very good?"

"Influence?" Old Hou picked up the teacup on the table, moving leisurely, "Their work is carried out legally and according to regulations, what bad influence? Should we not pursue past mistakes just because the company has new projects? That would be a real joke."

He sipped some tea, his tone undeniable: "Let them continue their work, investigate what needs investigating, ask what needs asking, follow procedures to whichever step they're at, but..."

"Handle things delicately, the final handling opinion must stand scrutiny, it should both serve as a warning regulation and contribute to the optimization of the business environment."

Xu Yunliang understood, summed up in one sentence, that they can't let others seize on small faults.

"I understand, I'll accurately convey the message to them."

...

On the other side, inside Dawn Technology's reception room.

The governance team temporarily paused their work, with the leader conversationally speaking to Tao Ziming, in a very polite tone.

"Really sorry, President Tao, you know, many things are beyond our decision-making capacity..."

Tao Ziming smiled and nodded: "Yes, I understand, everyone has been working hard, let's have some tea and take a break first."

"Haha, yes, yes." The person picked up the teacup and took a sip to disguise himself.

As the two were chatting, suddenly a staff member leaned over and whispered a few words.

The leader glanced at Tao Ziming after listening, his expression turning strange again.

"Is it confirmed?"

"Confirmed, the phone call came directly from the office."

"This..." An awkward look flashed across the leader's face, then turned to Tao Ziming, deliberating momentarily, "Sorry, President Tao, the investigation might need to continue..."

Tao Ziming was also taken aback, he shot a deep look at the other party, said nothing more, and got up to make a call outside.

In the reception room, the staff who had originally packed up intending to leave started working again after receiving a phone call.

Elsewhere, Qi Yun received the news immediately, showing surprise on his face.

Having thought the other party would retreat, unexpectedly their attitude was so firm.

After hanging up the call, he leaned back in his chair and quietly pondered.

The fluctuating attitude of the governance team clearly shows they received new, more explicit instructions.

This means, although Old Hou was influenced by the press conference's momentum, he has not completely abandoned applying pressure.

Really want to oppose me thoroughly?

"To F city." Qi Yun opened his eyes to respond.

Simultaneously, he took out his phone and found the number of Zhong Dong from Farmer's Three Punches.

"Chairman Zhong, some problems have arisen in our cooperation, I need your appropriate expression of stance..."

After briefly communicating, Qi Yun promptly called Liu Guangxin, Zhao Weilin, and President Bi...

If one were to bow and apologize in that office now, the matter would end immediately.

However, Qi Yun refused to do so.

If everything is done at the mercy of others, unable to follow one's own will, then life would be too stifled.

Previously, he lacked the ability to resist, but now that he has enough capital, why should he still allow himself to be manipulated?

...

At the entrance of the compound, Qin Minghui's secretary had long been waiting, guiding Qi Yun into the office.

The two sat down on the sofa, and after the secretary left after serving tea, Qi Yun spoke straightforwardly: "I need the support of your underlying resources."

Qin Minghui was taken aback by the words, surprised as he looked at him, his hand pausing mid-air while reaching for the teacup.

A few seconds later, seeing that Qi Yun was not joking, Qin Minghui's hand fell, he picked up the teacup but did not drink, only slowly said: "Your idea is a bit..."

"Not the type of support you're thinking." Qi Yun waved his hand to interrupt, "Listen to my plan first..."

Qin Minghui's brow furrowed slightly, but still gestured for him to continue.

"Tomorrow morning..." Qi Yun concisely elaborated on his thoughts.

The office fell silent for a moment, with only the steam rising from the teacup.

Qin Minghui furrowed his brow tightly, clearly deliberating.

After a while, he questioned in confusion: "Why are you complicating the matter? A simple phone call from the Fu Family should easily resolve it, right?"

Qi Yun did not reply immediately, lit a cigarette and took a puff before slowly saying: "Old Hou reprimanding me, isn't it because they think the Fu Family won't intervene in such minor issues?"

"Moreover, if I need their help for everything to clean up messes, in their eyes, I will forever be a role requiring care, rather than a worthy investment or equal cooperation partner."

"Even if you would think the same, right?"

Qin Minghui's eyes flickered, he had to admit, Qi Yun was right.

They are merely reprimanding you, not taking your life; if even such trivial matters need the intervention of the Fu Family's level of relationships, it does indeed appear lacking in capability and vision.

In the eyes of truly top figures, if such small issues can't be handled, how can one be entrusted with major responsibilities?

"Alright, if what you want me to do is just what you mentioned earlier, I can try to communicate."

"But once I do that, it means completely offending him, your favor is repaid."

"Hmm." Qi Yun flicked the ash from the cigarette, meaningfully adding, "I believe sometimes a bit of courage to burn one's bridges is necessary."

Qin Minghui smiled bitterly: "Our hands are dealt differently."

"The hands are different." Qi Yun nodded understandingly, flicking the cigarette's ash into the ashtray, "You have your concerns and rules, I understand, but sometimes the quality of the hand also depends on how you play it."

He said no more, stood up to bid farewell, "I'll be leaving now."

Chapter 703: Conceded

After leaving Qin Minghui's office and getting into the car, Qi Yun felt no great emotional turmoil.

Qin Minghui's attitude was both expected and understandable.

This man had ability and certain resources, but his biggest problem was the lack of courage to draw his sword at critical moments.

This was evident from the matter with Zhang Dayong.

People were blatantly targeting his people, yet he was still hesitating, afraid to offend one person or upset another.

This time is no different; since deciding to be on the same boat, there should be no hedging bets and pleasing both sides.

However, fortunately, Qin Minghui ultimately chose to stand on Qi Yun's side, although his support was hesitant and limited.

...

The next day, just as the workers were clocking into their jobs, a sensational piece of news began to spread rapidly online.

"Breaking news: Guanghai Group and Maple Capital, two giants, simultaneously announced that their upcoming new energy enterprise would be based in Shanghai. The specific reasons remain unclear. Furthermore, Guanghai Group declared that it is contemplating shifting its future development focus inland..."

"According to internal sources from Maple Capital, the group has issued the latest strategic adjustment, stating it will no longer consider project investments in J province in the short term."

"The latest announcement from Nongfu Spring's website states that due to obstacles in the implementation of new projects, it will gradually reduce its investment in J province, and may even cancel the preparation for the 'Tianshan Ice Spring' company..."

"The largest jewelry company in J province announced that it is considering moving its headquarters to Shanghai to better connect with international markets and capital..."

A series of earth-shattering news items burst out almost simultaneously. These enterprises issuing announcements held significant weight, and even if their scale didn't match that of Guanghai Group, the likes of Blue Sky Jewelry Company contributed nine figures in tax annually.

Their simultaneous announcement of such an issue suggested a clear expression of concern.

...

Zhongshan Road, in the office.

"Bang!"

Old Hou heavily slammed the briefing summaries of all related news on the mahogany desk.

His face, usually adept at concealing emotions, was now veiled in a layer of oppressive coldness.

The atmosphere in the room was heavy, making it nearly impossible for Xu Yunliang, who stood by, to breathe.

"Good... very good!" Old Hou's voice squeezed out from between his teeth, carrying an undisguised anger.

For decades, this was the first time he had encountered someone like Qi Yun, daring to ally with several heavyweight enterprises to almost overturn the table and push him to concede.

Xu Yunliang glanced at him, not daring to speak immediately, waiting until Old Hou's mood slightly calmed before he carefully spoke, "Before I came to your office, someone from above already called to inquire."

"It was the one in charge of investment promotion and industry who personally called, asking about the situation, and the tone was... very serious. They requested that we resolve the issue properly, eliminate negative impacts, and stabilize these enterprises, especially Guanghui and Nongfu Spring."

"They said... this is no longer a simple local matter, but one that affects the entire business image and development pattern."

Old Hou closed his eyes, his chest slightly heaving.

The reaction from above was expected, but being directly questioned and pressured still left him feeling stifled and... a bit powerless.

His face darkened, his heart mixed with various emotions; on one hand, he was shocked by Qi Yun's tactics, able to convince so many companies to apply pressure simultaneously.

On the other hand, he also realized his previous judgment was correct: this Qi Yun was an uncontrollable explosive.

A mere slight tap from him, and Qi Yun dared to retaliate so fiercely, this behavior amounted to confronting him publicly!

He felt not only anger but also a public challenge to his authority and a sense of humiliation.

In this region, it had been a long time since someone dared to so openly and assertively defy his will.

Seeing Old Hou remain silent, Xu Yunliang handed over his teacup, trying to console him, "Calm down, now is not the time to get angry."

"The phone call from above had a very clear message, the weight of Guanghui, Maple, and Nongfu Spring combined... is too great."

"If they truly withdraw collectively or shift their focus, the chain reaction it would cause is something nobody could bear. By then, it wouldn't just be a matter of the business environment..."

How could Old Hou not understand this reasoning?

He closed his eyes, took several deep breaths, trying to suppress his raging anger.

Rationality told him Xu Yunliang was right; if the situation escalated further, it would be very disadvantageous for them.

To suppress Qi Yun, to vent his anger, gambling the entire investment environment of J province and his political reputation, was not worth it.

But... to simply admit defeat? Where would his prestige go? How could he establish authority in the future?

This tearing between humiliation and the pressures of reality caused him inner anguish.

Observing his expression, Xu Yunliang cautiously suggested, "The most important thing now is to first calm the situation and stabilize the mood of the ones above and those companies."

"As for... the rest, there is time."

It's no wonder he managed to rise to the position of chief steward; his words effectively gave Old Hou an out.

"You said it was that person who personally called? Did he receive the news so quickly?" Old Hou did not comment, instead asking a seemingly unrelated question.

The situation had only occurred less than an hour ago; logically speaking, even if accountability was to be pursued... the call shouldn't have come this quickly.

Moreover, the call wasn't made directly to Old Hou, but to Xu Yunliang... this still left some leeway.

Chapter 704: Conceded \_2

Xu Yunliang immediately understood Old Hou's implication. Their eyes met, and a name flashed through both of their minds simultaneously.

"This Qin Minghui sure likes to stir up trouble," Old Hou said with a sneer.

Xu Yunliang remained silent. Some things were too complicated, and this time he was just an outsider. He didn't want to get too involved but only to fulfill his duties.

The office fell silent once again, broken only by the sound of Old Hou's fingers tapping on the table.

Xu Yunliang's silence was itself an attitude. He knew that Old Hou already harbored resentment towards Qin Minghui, but sometimes the clouds gather without it immediately raining.

After a long while, Old Hou exhaled a deep breath, as if expelling the frustration and anger pent up in his chest.

He lifted his tea cup again, seeming to have made a decision, and his face regained its usual calmness.

"Let them withdraw."

In just a few words, the incident was temporarily concluded.

Xu Yunliang felt as if a heavy stone was lifted from his heart and immediately responded, "Alright, I'll have the secretary inform them now."

"Wait," Old Hou called out to Xu Yunliang, who was about to turn around.

Xu Yunliang stopped and looked at him hesitantly.

Old Hou picked up the cup of tea but didn't drink it. Instead, he gazed at the tea leaves floating inside and slowly said, "Arrange for me to visit a few places today."

Xu Yunliang immediately understood what Old Hou meant.

This was a move to personally calm things down and to release goodwill, while also giving an explanation to those above.

Since they had decided to admit defeat, they had to put appearances aside completely.

Xu Yunliang nodded, "Sure, I'll make the arrangements."

...

Meanwhile, at Hutao Villa.

Qin Minghui was drinking tea and scrolling through his tablet. He hadn't gone to the office today but had come directly here.

"Don't you need to deal with these troubles?" Lu Zhaoxue brought over a plate of sliced fruit and placed it on the table.

Qin Minghui shook his head, "No need, someone else will handle it."

Lu Zhaoxue smiled gently and then changed the subject, "I know Qi Yun has a strong background over there, but I didn't expect him to be able to influence so many major capital players simultaneously."

Qin Minghui put down the tablet, rubbed his temples, and showed a hint of a complex expression on his face, "Yeah, I didn't expect that either. Originally, I thought his greatest support was from the Fu Family, but now it seems he has skills of his own."

"To have convinced Liu Guangxin, Zhao Weilin, and Old Zhong to express their pressure at the same time, it's not just a matter of face but shows that Qi Yun holds an unimaginable value and potential in their eyes."

Lu Zhaoxue nodded, "Do you think this will be the end of it?"

"It will. Old Hou just wanted to give him a warning, but he wouldn't go all out. He also has to fear the power behind Qi Yun." Qin Minghui said firmly, showing he had a good grasp of these matters.

"Moreover..." he picked up the cup of tea and watched the rising steam, "Qi Yun's counterattack this time was appropriate, giving Old Hou an out."

"If he didn't stop now, he would not only offend these few entities but also those above who are watching closely. He's smart; he knows when to advance and when to retreat."

Lu Zhaoxue was thoughtful, "So after this, Qi Yun will have firmly established his position in J Province?"

"From the day Fu Wentao came, he had already firmly established his position." Qin Minghui sighed, "But he's not one to play by the rules..."

But then he frowned, "Besides...he also planted new seeds of trouble this time."

"Oh? How so?"

"While his display of power might deter people from provoking him in the future, it also showed Old Hou and some others watching that he's uncontrollable."

"Someone who flips the table at the slightest disagreement...such an overt show of strength. It might intimidate rivals in the short term, but in the long run, it could make too many enemies and isolate himself."

"Hmm, you have a point, but..." Lu Zhaoxue took over the conversation, giving him a deep look,  
"Sometimes, displaying a bit of strength isn't a bad thing; at least it gives your allies more confidence."

"Since you've been here for quite some time, you've missed the best opportunity. If you're not content with stopping here, you might as well be more decisive..."

Her words were subtle, yet Qin Minghui understood the implication.

Yes, have I been too conservative?

Always thinking about balance, trying not to offend people, aiming for stability within the rules.

But sometimes, in a game of power, seeking stability too much can mean mediocrity...

If only he had done everything to protect Zhang Dayong last time... If he hadn't shown up at the hotel that day, would there not be a rift between him and Qi Yun...

He does have the ability to help me take that step...

Amidst his thoughts, the phone on the table rang. Qin Minghui glanced down, then smiled knowingly.

"Have we got a result?" Lu Zhaoxue asked.

"Yes." Qin Minghui nodded, "They've conceded."

...

Elsewhere, Qi Yun was at Dawn Technology discussing the company merger with Tao Ziming.

"I've secured a position of technical director for you in the new company, and your shares will be converted to match your current ratio. You'll also have a seat on the board."

Tao Ziming took the cigarette Qi Yun offered and smiled as he shook his head, "I'm not interested in power. Just making this project a success would be enough sign of accomplishment over the years for me."

"If possible, I would still like to be in charge of the battery business."

"That's no problem." Qi Yun patted his shoulder, making a solemn promise, "In the short term, the battery remains our core business and I'd need someone trustworthy like you in charge."

"However, you still need to take on the director position. It's a recognition of your status and contribution within the team, and it also helps better coordinate resources."

"When I'm not around, you'll represent me in exercising authority. Significant decisions can be relayed to me anytime."

Tao Ziming's hand paused slightly with a flicker of emotion in his eyes. He hadn't expected Qi Yun to grant him such authority and trust.

"Alright then, no more deferrals. This decision will advance quickly, and any internal personnel appointments can be discussed among yourselves." Qi Yun insisted.

"Alright." Tao Ziming nodded, glancing toward the door with some hesitation, "They..."

Qi Yun flicked some ash from his cigarette and replied calmly, "Ignore them. If nothing unexpected happens, they will leave soon."

Sure enough, as soon as he finished speaking, the person in charge of the governing group appeared at the office door.

He tapped on the door and bowed slightly, asking, "Hehe, President Qi, President Tao, may I come in?"

Qi Yun gestured slightly, "Please, come in."

The person in charge entered with a flattering smile and a document in his hand.

"President Qi, President Tao, sorry to interrupt."

"Our group's on-site inspection work is almost completed. After careful review and assessment, we believe the historical legacy issues in your approval processes are objective conditions of a specific development period. The company's overall operations are regulated."

"We've formed a preliminary opinion that suggests these issues can be handled by a limited-time rectification process that won't affect normal production and operations."

He handed over the document with both hands, "Here is our preliminary opinion report for your review. If there are no issues, we plan to withdraw today. Subsequent adjustments can be submitted as required, and we'll arrange for personnel to follow up."

Qi Yun took the document and casually placed it on the table, saying softly, "Thank you for your efforts. We will diligently undertake rectifications as required."

"It's our duty, our duty." The person in charge nodded repeatedly, "Then...I'll not disturb President Qi and President Tao's work any longer. Goodbye, hehe, goodbye..."

After speaking, he respectfully bowed again before turning to leave. His steps were light, as if he had been relieved of a heavy burden.

Tao Ziming watched as the almost humbly retreating figure exited the office, feeling not just astonishment but an unprecedented sense of awe and admiration.

He knew Qi Yun was powerful, but he hadn't realized how powerful.

Chapter 705: Jade Pendant of the Western Zhou

Just after the so-called governance group withdrew, Old Hou personally led a team to several companies for research, with quite a grand entourage, including not only a crowd of accompanying personnel but also many official media outlets.

Guanghui Group, inside the office.

Upon hearing that Old Hou was about to lead a team over, Liu Guangxin dismissed his assistant and then chuckled at Zhao Weilin across from him, "Little Qi's move isn't bad, huh? They came knocking so soon."

Zhao Weilin shook his head with a smile, "It's all thanks to your support, Director Liu."

Liu Guangxin waved his hand, "Hey, we're all going to be family in the future, no need for these polite words."

"Old Zhao, you've found yourself a good son-in-law."

Hearing this, Zhao Weilin's smile deepened, but his eyes carried a hint of imperceptible complexity.

"Ah, he's still too young and can't bend his back. Such behavior can only happen once; if it happens again, they'd really overturn the table."

Some rules of the game are implicit, and some bottom lines cannot be lightly touched; they can happen once but not again.

If anyone dares to do this again, regardless of the reason, it will cause a lot of discontent.

Liu Guangxin also put away his smile and nodded seriously, "This time is a special situation and cannot become the norm. Although Little Qi is young and impetuous, I think he is a man of discretion and very capable."

Zhao Weilin's brows slightly relaxed, and he unconsciously nodded along.

If it weren't for the future father-in-law's relationship, he would greatly appreciate Qi Yun's tactics, but precisely because of the close relationship, he hopes that the latter can proceed more steadily and go further, with fewer thrilling setbacks.

After all, a single lucky victory does not mean every time can avert danger.

In their conversation, the convoy also arrived downstairs at headquarters, the assistant came in to report, inviting Liu Guangxin to go down to greet them.

However, Liu Guangxin had no intention of standing up. He exchanged a look with Zhao Weilin and then instructed the assistant, "Ask President Ma to go, tell them I'm not at the company."

The assistant was stunned for a moment but still bowed and left.

Liu Guangxin didn't have much reaction and continued drinking tea with Zhao Weilin.

He was in legitimate industrial business, already reaching a very impressive scale, unlike Ji Liyang's kind of white gloves, did not need to humbly accompany anyone in an act.

This approach was not simply out of spite, but clearly telling Zhao Weilin and Qi Yun that he, Liu Guangxin, would stand firmly with them.

If intentionally not appearing only made Old Hou unhappy, then when he arrived at the entrance of Dawn Technology's factory area and found the gates locked, his blood pressure went through the roof.

Although he still maintained a gentle smile in front of the cameras, the coldness in his eyes was unmistakable.

The staff around him obviously felt the repressed anger, each as silent as a cicada in winter, even the accompanying media journalists subconsciously stepped back half a step.

"Sorry, our factory is undergoing large-scale disinfection and does not accept visitors temporarily." Niu Da, playing the role of security at the gate, was firm. No matter what Secretary Wang said, the answer remained the same.

Old Hou knew this was intentionally embarrassing him, awkwardly laughed, and said, "Since they have special circumstances today, let's come back another day." With that, he got into the car without looking back.

In the factory area office, Tao Ziming stood by the window looking out, "President Qi, could this offend them too much?"

Qi Yun, with a cigarette in his mouth, was editing a message, casually replied, "He's not afraid to offend me, so why should I be afraid to offend him?"

"Even if I went down and knelt to invite him in, it wouldn't change the fact that he's long held a grudge against me."

Tao Ziming was still a bit worried, "But... what about our future approvals, land, taxes..."

"There's nothing to worry about in these areas." Qi Yun chuckled disdainfully, "I said relocation is not threatening him, moving our factory inland will only lower production costs."

"Alright." Tao Ziming let out a long breath, "You're the boss, you decide."

...

The storm came quickly and ended abruptly.

Few people knew the inside story; such matters required being at a certain level to understand, like Xia Shaohua and Shao Yuewen.

In the evening, Qi Yun received a call from Shao Yuewen, inviting him over for a chat, and when Qi Yun arrived at the destination, he found not only Shao Yuewen in the private room but also his future father-in-law, and to Qi Yun's slight surprise, Ji Hongzhang.

"Ah, Little Qi is here, come, sit." Old You warmly got up to greet Qi Yun. Although they had already met, this was the first time they spoke.

Qi Yun was somewhat surprised, but kept a proper smile, greeted everyone, and sat in the reserved seat.

"We didn't invite you over for anything else today, just to chat casually." Old You personally handed Qi Yun a cup of tea, speaking warmly, "We've heard about recent events, personally, I support you."

"Haha, thank you, Uncle." Qi Yun took the teacup with both hands and thanked him.

Old You nodded, continuing slowly, "The governance group's approach was indeed excessive, really forcing companies away would be a loss to the place."

Qi Yun quietly listened without rushing to express an opinion.

He was somewhat puzzled, why was Old You bringing up such sensitive topics right away, and so bluntly, what was his intention?

"However," Old You shifted his tone, gently tapping the table with his fingers, "some rules are just rules, you can dislike them or even say they are unreasonable, but they are very hard to bypass."

Chapter 706: Western Zhou Jade Pendant

"Take today's incident as an example..."

"Did you feel satisfied when you put Old Hou in a difficult position in front of everyone? You certainly felt satisfied. But what was the cost?"

"This time he backed down due to various pressures, but it doesn't mean he will always back down."

Qi Yun looked up at Old You, waiting for him to continue.

Old You leaned forward slightly, speaking in earnest, "I just want to remind you, never assume such concessions are inevitable..."

Qi Yun nodded, "I understand your meaning, Uncle."

Old You patted his shoulder, saying no more.

Although the two hadn't directly interacted much before, Shao Yuewen was the link between them, including the security company set up for those gun licenses and helping Zhang Dayong out of trouble, all with Old You's influence.

So his words were not shallow by any means.

The group didn't continue discussing that topic, but instead talked about trivial matters, as if the banquet was really just to foster relationships.

After the meal, Old You and Shao Yuewen left in one car, while Qi Yun got into Ji Hongzhang's car.

In the back seat, Qi Yun loosened his collar and asked Ji Hongzhang, "Uncle, what was today about?"

Qi Yun wanted to ask about the purpose of today's meal; compared to Old You, whom he seldom interacted with, he had more trust in the relationship with the Ji family.

Ji Hongzhang turned his face, gave Qi Yun a meaningful smile.

"With your intelligence, you should be able to guess."

Qi Yun squinted his eyes, pondered briefly, then answered, "He stepped from the shadows into the spotlight... does he have something in mind?"

Old Ji nodded with satisfaction, "Exactly, he sees opportunity in you."

"Old You is not simple; though he's generally low-profile, he's actually quite strategic."

Qi Yun smirked, "Am I really capable enough to help him?"

"You are," Ji Hongzhang's tone was very certain, "You may not realize your bargaining chips are quite significant."

Qi Yun knew what he meant by bargaining chips, yet he was reluctant to get involved, so he didn't pursue the matter.

"Uncle, with him?"

Ji Hongzhang lightly shook his head and explained, "We simply share common goals regarding certain matters."

Qi Yun understood and refrained from further questioning.

...

The next day, a private jet landed at Chang'an Airport. After resolving the turmoil caused by Wei Zhe, Qi Yun hurried to meet Yao Yuzhong.

Colleagues of Guo An were already waiting by the runway. They picked up Qi Yun and his companions and took them directly to their office in Chang'an.

Arriving at the interrogation room door, Qi Yun paused and asked the liaison officer, Captain Wang, "Has he said anything these past two days?"

"No," Captain Wang shook his head, "According to your instructions, we haven't conducted any intentional questioning, just temporary detention."

"Alright, thank you for your efforts."

Qi Yun pushed open the iron door of the interrogation room, seeing Yao Yuzhong leaning back in his chair, asleep.

Hearing the commotion, Yao Yuzhong slowly opened his eyes and upon seeing Qi Yun, his face showed a complex expression.

Qi Yun sat opposite him, scrutinizing the old tomb raider who twice escaped his grasp and now voluntarily surrendered.

Yao Yuzhong looked much more haggard than before, seeming different, with an air of relieved composure in his eyes.

"Old Yao, let's talk."

Qi Yun lit a cigarette, without ceremony, directly addressing the matter, "What are you up to?"

Yao Yuzhong stayed silent for a moment, seemingly organizing his words.

"What I told you over the phone was all true; the reason I ran was because I wanted to see the tomb and confirm it was indeed King Zhou You's tomb."

"Now that my wish is fulfilled, I'm willing to go back to prison, or if you want to execute me, I accept guilt."

Qi Yun gazed at him for a long time, then took out a box from his pocket, opened the lid, revealing a pendant, a dragon-shaped pendant, exactly what Yao Yuzhong claimed he took from King Zhou You's tomb.

This pendant was entirely jade-white and felt icy cold, with finely carved dragon patterns on the surface, each scale clearly defined, the dragon's head slightly raised, exuding an indescribable dignity.

In ancient times, the dragon was an emblem of imperial power and destiny, so when Yao Yuzhong said he found the pendant in King Zhou You's coffin, Qi Yun had no doubt.

But... after careful observation, Qi Yun couldn't discern anything extraordinary about the pendant, it merely seemed to be just a pendant.

"Old Yao, are you fooling me with those words?" Qi Yun returned the pendant to the box, his tone slightly scrutinizing.

Yao Yuzhong smiled wryly, "Director Qi, at this point, what would I gain from lying to you."

Seeing his expression appeared genuine, Qi Yun temporarily suppressed his doubts and then asked, "Can you tell me what's special about this pendant?"

"Special...I don't know,"

Yao Yuzhong's voice was somewhat hoarse, "In the tomb, under dim lighting with just the headlamp...I opened the coffin, expecting to see King Zhou You's skeleton, but found this pendant instead."

"When I took this pendant...it seemed to move."

"Move?" Qi Yun raised an eyebrow.

"Yes, not actually move, probably... it was a play of light? Or maybe I was seeing things?" said Yao Yuzhong rubbing his temples, "It felt like the dragon's lines came alive, the eyes...yes, the eyes seemed to flash."

"It was very faint, but I saw it clearly at the time. Then, my head felt a bit dizzy, there seemed to be a low wind sound by my ears, mixed with indistinct voices..."

Qi Yun listened quietly, his brow furrowing deeply; before venturing to Kunlun, he'd surely have thought Yao Yuzhong was speaking nonsense, but now...his understanding of the world's boundaries had expanded.

Those ancient ruins, strange energy fields... all proved that phenomena and 'objects' existed that defied conventional physical laws and could not be fully explained by current science.

"Is there anything else you'd like to say?"

Yao Yuzhong hesitated, finally shaking his head slowly.

Qi Yun stood up and left the interrogation room.

After instructing Captain Wang, he went downstairs and dialed Qin Sizhi's number.

"Hello, Mr. Qi."

"Master Qin, where are you?"

"I'm at home preparing ingredients for that batch of snake gall wine; Mr. Qi, you've come to Chang'an?"  
Qin Sizhi, aware of Yao Yuzhong's circumstances, guessed Qi Yun's arrival when he received the call.

"Yes, send me your address, I'll come to see you."

"Alright, I'll send it right away."

...

Qin Sizhi's home was in a relatively secluded alley in the old city, a quiet spot amid the lively surroundings.

When Qi Yun arrived with Xiao Wu and Brother Quan by address, Qin Sizhi was already waiting at the courtyard gate.

"Mr. Qi, please come in." Qin Sizhi guided the three into the courtyard.

The courtyard was small but well-kept; a few bamboo plants grew by the wall, looking quite elegant. The house was traditional wood construction with a sense of history.

After settling in the courtyard, Qin Sizhi's apprentice Jin Bao served tea.

"Master Qin, you have seen that pendant brought out from the tomb by Old Yao, right?"

"I have seen it." Qin Sizhi knew Qi Yun's purpose for coming and responded while seated, "Old Yao stayed at my place overnight; I've examined that pendant carefully, contemplating it thoroughly."

"During the Western Zhou period, kings and nobles loved jade artifacts; that pendant is of superb quality, impeccable craftsmanship, fitting royal standards, and highly likely to be a Western Zhou burial item."

Qi Yun nodded, all within expectations. What concerned him more was whether Qin Sizhi noticed any special features of the pendant.

"I just met Old Yao; he mentioned he felt the pendant seemed to move while he was in the tomb. Do you think that's possible?"

Chapter 707: Request for Reinforcements

Chang'an.

Under Qi Yun's direction, Qin Sizhi conducted various experiments on the Jade Pendant, including soaking it in specially concocted solutions and observing it under different lighting conditions. The results, however, were perplexing.

The Jade Pendant showed no changes, remaining cool and smooth, without any anomalies.

Besides this, Qin Sizhi also used his connections to invite someone reputedly descended from a palace-appointed appraisal master. The result was the same; under conventional methods, it was just a top-tier Western Zhou ancient jade, with no anomalies.

"Could it be that Old Yao's experiences in the ancient tomb were really just illusions in a specific environment?" Qi Yun pondered to himself.

He put away the Jade Pendant, intending to hand it over to Xiao Hanguang for appropriate handling.

"Master Qin, thank you for your hard work, and also extend my thanks to your friend."

Qi Yun solemnly instructed, "Regarding the matter of this Jade Pendant, please ensure it remains strictly confidential and do not mention it to anyone else."

"Rest assured, Mr. Qi, we understand the rules." Qin Sizhi promptly assured.

"Hmm." Qi Yun nodded, then shifted the topic, "Besides dealing with Old Yao's affairs, I wanted to ask you about that cave you mentioned last time in Qinling."

Upon mentioning "Qinling," Qin Sizhi immediately tensed up, seeming somewhat restless.

Qi Yun took out another brocade box from his pocket and slid it in front of Qin Sizhi after opening it.

"Take a look at this first."

"This... what is..." Qin Sizhi's eyes flicked over the box, and they widened instantly as if seeing something terrifying.

Inside the box was that scale brought back by Brother Quan and his team from Kunlun, oval-shaped, crystal clear, about the size of a baby's palm, with a special silver sheen on its surface.

"Is it the same as the scale you saw back then?"

Qin Sizhi's hand trembled slightly as he carefully picked up the shimmering scale from the brocade box, examining it closely in front of his eyes.

His breath became slightly heavy, his eyes filled with incredulous shock, and a hint of deeply concealed fear.

The actual object was evidently more impactful than any photos he had seen before.

"It's so similar... too similar..." Qin Sizhi's voice was dry, "The patterns and material... are identical to what I saw in that cave in Qinling!"

"However... the luster of this one is purer, and the texture seems even... 'newer'?" He used a rather unusual word to describe it.

"I didn't tell you the origin of this scale before; actually, it came out of a space somewhere in Kunlun. I have consulted experts from the field of biology, and this scale is likely from some life form not in the known genetic database."

Qi Yun disclosed part of the information to Qin Sizhi.

"Kunlun..." he repeated the word with difficulty, looking at Qi Yun with a gaze that was not just stunned but also filled with a mix of awe and inexplicable dread.

"Mr. Qi, you... you actually went to such a place? And brought back this thing?"

Qi Yun frowned, observing his reaction, "What's the matter?"

Qin Sizhi swallowed, and spoke with difficulty, "In our trade, there's an unwritten rule... Kunlun is a forbidden zone!"

"Forbidden zone!?"

"Yes, forbidden zone! Not a single tomb raider dares to venture there lightly..."

He took a deep breath, trying to calm his emotions, then spoke slowly, "During the early years of the Republic of China, the warlords divided and ruled, there was a warlord leader named Yang Zengxin, whose reach was extremely far in order to raise military funds, even touching on our marginal trade."

"He somehow obtained a treasure map, claiming that there was a golden tomb in Kunlun, with endless gold and jewels buried inside. Yang Zengxin believed this deeply, offering high rewards, and recruited

over thirty of the top tomb raiders in the industry, while also dispatching his deputy with over a thousand elite soldiers, embarking grandiosely into Kunlun."

"But these people never came out... not a single one..."

"Among those thirty plus tomb raiders, was my master..."

"Since then, anyone in our trade who hears the name Kunlun will immediately turn away."

After hearing Qin Sizhi's story, Qi Yun remained silent for a long time.

He did not doubt what the other said, as Kunlun has always been an enigmatic and mystical mountain in Huaxia culture, closely tied to various myths and legends.

The fate of Qin Sizhi's master's group is probably just the tip of the iceberg, as he himself had set foot on that mysterious land.

"Master Qin, let's not talk about Kunlun for now; I plan to visit the cave you mentioned." Qi Yun brought the conversation back to the matter they discussed previously at Ai Lao Shan.

Qin Sizhi nodded slowly, "Alright, if Mr. Qi insists on going, I can accompany you once."

"However, the difficulty of getting there is not any lesser than the caves we've been to before; it requires thorough preparation and might take some time."

"Alright, let me know when you're prepared."

Qi Yun took out his phone and sent a number to Qin Sizhi, "Contact him directly if you need anything."

Qin Sizhi noted down the number, "Understood, Mr. Qi, I'll promptly list the necessary items."

"Alright, let's leave it at that for now." Qi Yun took his leave.

...

The group did not linger long in Chang'an, returning to Guo An's base, picking up Yao Yuzhong, and then heading to Beijing.

On the plane, Qi Yun was contemplating how to deal with Yao Yuzhong, whether to throw this old guy back into the hard labor camp or hand him over to the Government Office for processing.

After all, this guy was dishonest, having escaped twice, which legally amounted to the same as prison break, and also added a charge of tomb raiding...

## Chapter 708: Request for Reinforcements (2)

"Thank you, leader." Yao Yuzhong bowed deeply, still maintaining a calm demeanor.

"Don't think about playing tricks again, just stay in there obediently, and maybe you'll have a good end."  
Qi Yun advised.

"Yes, I understand."

At night, the plane landed at Beijing Airport.

Qi Yun asked Brother Quan to send Old Yao back to the Northeast prison, while he himself went to meet Xiao Hanguang.

It was still in the family compound of the Cultural Relics Bureau, Xiao Hanguang opened the door and looked at Qi Yun with surprise, "You kid, what are you here for again?"

"Haha, I'm here to handle some business and thought I'd drop by to see you." Qi Yun grinned and changed into slippers.

Xiao Hanguang pursed his lips and casually sat back on the sofa, "Make your own tea."

Not wanting to bother, Qi Yun took a bottle of mineral water from the fridge and sat opposite.

"Leader, there's something I can't manage myself, so I brought it here for you to handle." As he spoke, he took out the box with the Jade Pendant and placed it on the tea table in front of Xiao Hanguang.

Xiao Hanguang gave him a skeptical look before turning his attention to the box, "What is this?"

"You'll know when you look at it."

Xiao Hanguang sat up, opened the box, and with just a brief look, could tell that the Jade Pendant was extraordinary, "Where did you get this?"

Qi Yun didn't hide anything and recounted the whole story.

"The Jade Pendant of King You of Zhou!? Such things are indeed rare."

Xiao Hanguang marveled, "Although the museum has several jade artifacts from the Western Zhou period, this quality of Jade Pendant is making its first appearance... and it's dragon-shaped too..."

"Yes, I've had it appraised, and it's indeed from the Western Zhou period. I'm not sure how to handle it, so I'm leaving it in your care."

Qi Yun blinked and added, "Not many people know about this."

Xiao Hanguang turned his head and said with a smile, "Are you hinting at me? Trying to bribe me?"

"You put it that way, but I never do anything against regulations!" Qi Yun hurriedly waved his hand in denial, "I just thought this item was too precious, and I feared the local Cultural Relics Bureau might mishandle it, so I specifically brought it to you."

Xiao Hanguang glanced at him sideways but said nothing more, his gaze returned to the Jade Pendant in his hand.

As for Yao Yuzhong and his deeds, no one mentioned them, nor were they important.

Seeing that the other was quite intrigued, Qi Yun did not disturb further and got up to take his leave.

After leaving the family compound, Qi Yun originally intended to visit Fu Wentao, but since he wasn't in, he summoned Li Yaohua and made proper arrangements.

...

In the middle of the night, as Qi Yun was sound asleep, he was suddenly awakened by a phone call. He picked up the phone from the bedside table, and Zhong Rui's name was displayed on the screen.

"Boss, there's trouble at the gold mine." The first sentence brought bad news.

Qi Yun frowned and asked urgently, "What happened?"

"A local gang came to extort us, but Brother Wei drove them away. They were armed, and during the scuffle, two of them got injured, so the sheriff took Brother Wei away."

Zhong Rui briefly explained what happened and then added, "I just tried to offer them a hundred thousand USD to smooth things over, but they made an outrageous demand of two million."

"The lawyer I hired told me that the local sheriff is in cahoots with the gang and that they're eyeing our mine. Even if we pay the two million, they'll still come back."

Qi Yun immediately lost all sleepiness upon hearing this, his brow furrowing tightly.

"How's Brother Wei now?" he asked gravely.

"He's still detained at the sheriff's office. The lawyer has seen him; he hasn't suffered much, but the situation isn't good." Zhong Rui's voice was anxious, "The lawyer said that under the local law, they

could definitely charge him with assault with a weapon, for which Brother Wei could be sentenced to three to five years."

"Two million USD... quite the appetite." Qi Yun's eyes turned cold as he pondered briefly, "Pay the money, have the lawyer bail him out, and I'll head over first thing in the morning."

Relieved upon hearing that Qi Yun would come over, Zhong Rui replied, "Okay, boss, I'll handle it immediately."

After hanging up the call, Qi Yun wiped his face and dialed Li Yaohua's number.

A few minutes later, Li Yaohua appeared at the door, looking fatigued.

"What's happened? At this time of night?"

Qi Yun ushered him in and explained what had happened.

"I'm not too familiar with the United States; how is something like this usually dealt with over there?"

Li Yaohua rubbed his temples to clear his mind, "Such things aren't uncommon in the United States, especially when it involves Chinese people. In those desolate places, networks of power are deeply entrenched, with sheriffs, prosecutors, and gangs all colluding."

"To resolve this matter, there are essentially two options: the first is to accept it, pay for peace;

but this time, they're asking for two million USD, clearly intending to slowly swallow your mine, and once you've opened this door, it'll never end."

"The second is to go through legal channels. The Fu Group has top-notch legal teams in New York, but the problem is, the local judicial system has likely been infiltrated by them, dragging the case on for ages and employing various delaying tactics..."

"Or... you could try unconventional methods."

Qi Yun frowned, "Unconventional methods?"

Li Yaohua lowered his voice, "Make those pesky gang members meet their maker. They're all bullies who are easily intimidated. Once you show enough strength, they won't dare trouble you again."

"I can introduce you to a PMC. They specialize in handling these types of situations, and we've worked together in Africa before."

"You mean... mercenaries?" Qi Yun's pupils slightly contracted.

Li Yaohua nodded, "More accurately, professional security contractors. In the United States, such companies legally exist, handling a wide range of services."

"The company I know is called 'Iron Shield International', headquartered in Texas, specializing in overseas corporate security affairs."

"They also take such dirty jobs?"

"Of course." Li Yaohua chuckled, "The line between mercenaries and security contractors is very blurred, entirely dependent on how much clients are willing to pay..."

Qi Yun silently lit a cigarette, took a deep drag, and his eyes flickered uncertainly.

If he really needed to resort to force, he trusted his own team more; hiring those people might leave a trail.

"I'll head over to check out the situation first and contact you if necessary."

"Whew~" Li Yaohua lit a cigarette as well and nodded, "No problem. The boss is also friends with a certain senator in New York. While his influence might not reach a godforsaken place like Alaska, he can ensure your safety if you go to New York."

"Yes, I understand."

...

Alaska is the largest state in the United States and the world's largest exclave, located at the northwest edge of the North American continent.

This land was purchased by the Americans from the Russians in 1867 and initially was synonymous with harshness and remoteness.

Later, in the mid-20th century, as more oil and mineral resources were discovered, the area gradually developed, though it remained the most sparsely populated, climatically harshest region in the United States.

The gold mine Qi Yun bought is located in Anchorage, Alaska, more precisely, about thirty kilometers northeast of Anchorage, in the mountains.

This is a very common terrain in Alaska, where the city outskirts quickly turn into wilderness, and civilization and the wild are only a line apart.

When the plane landed at Stevens International Airport, it was noon in Alaska. Although it was only November, the temperature had already dropped to minus ten degrees Celsius.

All around was a snowy expanse.

"Boss!"

At the exit, Zhong Rui waved and quickly walked up to take Qi Yun's briefcase.

Qi Yun patted his shoulder, then looked at Chen Wei beside him, "Brother Wei, you didn't suffer in there, did you?"

Chen Wei shook his head, "No."

"Alright, let's go, get in the car first." Qi Yun called out.

Four SUVs left the airport; except for those remaining at the J Province base, all combat power was mobilized.

Chapter 709: Being His Lackey... Might Not Be So Bad

Fairbanks is the small town closest to Anchorage, and it was this town's sheriff who had his men arrest Chen Wei.

At the moment, several SUVs pulled up in front of the town's police station, and Qi Yun stepped out with Brother Quan, accompanied by the lawyer, Frank.

On the way, Qi Yun had already learned from Frank about the local situation: that day at the mine, the ones who attempted extortion were from an organization called the Aryan Brotherhood, whose base is in Anchorage, although they have members in the town too.

This Aryan Brotherhood is the largest gang in the area, with hundreds of members, often using various pretenses to specifically extort outside investors, especially Asian businessmen.

Moreover, smuggling and the flour industry are also their main income sources. In this harsh land, there are always plenty of people looking for amusement, and they collude with some corrupt local officials, forming a complete black industry chain.

"Sheriff Jack Miller is one of the Aryan Brotherhood's supporters." Frank said in a low voice, "Everyone in town knows, but no one dares to speak out. Last year, a reporter came to town to investigate, and later... disappeared."

The sheriff is the person in charge at the small town's police station.

Qi Yun nodded and pushed open the police station's door.

A mix of coffee and body odor hit him.

The police station wasn't big, and in the reception area sat a white officer with a face full of muscle, who was idly flipping through a magazine.

Seeing Qi Yun and his entourage, he lifted his eyelids: "What do you want?"

"Looking for Sheriff Miller, we have an appointment with him." Frank stepped forward to explain.

The officer sized them up, picked up the phone to say a few words, and then pointed toward the office at the end of the corridor: "The sheriff's in the office, go on in."

Qi Yun followed the direction of his finger, the office door was ajar, Frank knocked and after a brief communication, only then invited Qi Yun in, while he and Brother Quan stayed outside.

Sheriff Miller was on the phone; he hung up quickly, and a warm smile spread across his face: "Hello, friend from afar, please take a seat."

This was a man in his early fifties, white, somewhat overweight, with eyes so small they were almost invisible.

His smile did not give Qi Yun a sense of warmth; instead, he felt like he was being treated as a toy for breaking gold coins.

"Hello, Officer Miller." Qi Yun pulled out a chair and sat across from him.

Suddenly, a prompt lit up over Miller's head.

[Target can query intelligence count: 2, intelligence level: red, query?]

"Hmm? Sure enough, prompts will appear spontaneously."

Querying...

[Intelligence level (red): In June this year, Miller purchased a mansion in Miami and paid 4.9 million US dollars in full, the mansion registered under his lover, Micheal's name.]

[Intelligence level (red): A reporter named Glenn once uncovered criminal evidence of Miller's collusion with gangs; Miller brutally shot him and burned the body, burying it in the forest north of the town; he burned Glenn's phone and computer but forgot to clear the latter's cloud storage\*\*\*\*]

[Current intelligence points: 32]

Qi Yun withdrew his gaze, thinking to himself, sure enough, he's scum.

"Mr. Qi, welcome to Fairbanks." Miller, completely unaware, got up to the coffee machine, "Would you like some coffee?"

Qi Yun shook his head, declining: "No, thank you."

"Officer Miller, let's get to the point and talk about my mine."

Miller sat back with his coffee, his smile still fixed on his face: "Sure Mr. Qi, what can I do for you?"

"I want to know if Fairbanks' security allows a legal mine to operate normally."

Qi Yun relaxed, crossed his legs leisurely, and spoke calmly, "Why are my people defending themselves, yet you locked them up, while the real criminals are still swaggering on the streets?"

Miller didn't expect Qi Yun to speak so directly, and his smile finally faltered: "Mr. Qi, we are working according to the law; your men indeed injured someone, that is a fact."

"They broke into my private property to extort, that's the fact."

Qi Yun stared directly at him: "Why did you only detain my people and let the intruders go?"

"Furthermore, from what I understand, the two severely injured individuals showed up lively in the town's bar that very night."

The air in the office seemed to freeze.

Miller dropped his fake facade; his face suddenly darkened: "What do you mean by these words? I could consider this an insult to law enforcement!"

"Insult?" Qi Yun chuckled coldly, leaning back slowly, "Then I really ought to start insulting you."

"Do you know Miss Micheal? She asked me to say hello to you on her behalf."

Miller stiffened instantly, nearly spilling his coffee.

"You dirty flying pig, spending 4.9 million to buy a mansion for your lover, you're certainly lavish. Does your wife know?"

"Damn it! You dare to investigate me!" Miller's breath quickened, and he slammed the table, standing in rage.

The next second, the office door swung open, and Brother Quan stood at the entrance, coldly watching Miller.

That gaze froze Miller in place; unlike the fierce gang members, the man at the door felt more like a cold-blooded killer, as if he could die if the other wished.

He had no doubt; the guy was definitely someone who had killed many!

"Calm down." Qi Yun waved his hand, signaling Brother Quan to step out first.

The latter gave Miller a deep look before closing the office door again.

Chapter 710: Being His Dog... Maybe It's Not Such a Bad Thing (2)

Qi Yun took out a pack of cigarettes, leisurely lit one up, and showed no trace of nervousness on his face.

Having trained under Brother Quan for so long, along with daily herbal medicine, his physical condition had reached an exaggerated level, so much so that even the old black couldn't stand up to him.

Only a table separated him from Miller. At this distance, if the other party made any sudden move, Qi Yun was fully confident he could react instantly and subdue him.

Miller also regained his composure and sat back in his chair.

But Qi Yun could see his hands were trembling slightly.

The office was deathly silent, except for the tick-tock of the wall clock.

Finally, Miller spoke, his voice still filled with anger, "Do you think knowing all this can threaten me?"

"I can make sure you and your people never leave this police station!"

Qi Yun exhaled a puff of smoke, shaking his head slowly: "I don't know where you got the confidence to think you can keep me here. Even if your mayor were here, he wouldn't dare say that."

Miller was taken aback by his words, his eyes filled with uncertainty.

"Besides, what I just said was merely an insult. Now, I'm going to genuinely threaten you."

"That journalist you buried in the forest, perhaps he was called Glenn? Do you remember him?"

Miller's body went stiff, as if shocked by electricity.

The blood drained from his face visibly, and his lips started to tremble uncontrollably.

"You... what are you talking about..." His voice squeezed out from his throat, like a duck being strangled.

He had been extremely discreet about that incident. Fearing the evidence might fall into the hands of the syndicate, he had personally killed the journalist.

He could hardly believe how the guy in front of him knew about it.

Qi Yun watched him mockingly: "You don't know? Then it's fine, I'll dig up the unburned remains and notify the state police."

"Besides, I heard that journalist Glenn seemed to have found out something."

Saying that, he extinguished his cigarette on the desk and stood up to leave.

"Wait!" Miller almost bounced from his chair, reaching out to grab Qi Yun's arm, eyes filled with fear, "What... what do you want!"

Qi Yun paused, coldly glancing at Miller's hand on his arm.

Feeling like he'd been burned, Miller quickly let go but still blocked Qi Yun's way, breathing heavily: "Mr. Qi... we... we can talk."

"Ha." Under the pleading gaze, Qi Yun sat back down.

Miller also slumped back into his seat, covering his face with his hands, his shoulders shaking slightly.

After a while, he raised his head, his eyes bloodshot: "Mr. Qi, what do you want me to do?"

Qi Yun lit another cigarette without hesitation: "I actually don't care whether you're a righteous sheriff or a scumbag colluding with gangs. I just need you to be compliant and obey my orders, understand?"

Humiliated, Miller's face flushed red, but upon meeting Qi Yun's icy eyes, his anger was suppressed by fear.

He struggled to nod: "Yes, sir, I... I understand."

"Good." Qi Yun exhaled smoke, "Phew~ First, I hope my mine can operate normally in the future, and my workers remain safe."

"Of course." Miller hurriedly replied, "Your mine is within Fairbanks' jurisdiction, ensuring the safety of legal business properties is my duty..."

"That's not what I want to hear!" Qi Yun interrupted, looking sharply like a knife, "From today, no gang members are allowed to set foot in my mining area. If something similar happens again..."

He didn't finish his sentence, but the threat was written clearly on his face.

Miller swallowed hard, looking troubled: "Sir, the Aryan Brotherhood is eyeing that mine. They're... beyond my control..."

"I've taken their dirty money... and they have enough personnel to destroy this police station..."

"I'll handle them. In the future, this town won't have the Aryan Brotherhood."

Qi Yun's words came off lightly, yet they sent shivers down Miller's spine.

He stared wide-eyed at the calm Huaxia man before him, incredulous that he dared say such things.

"You're... going to handle them?"

"Sir, you don't understand. The Aryan Brotherhood has over a hundred people in Anchorage, armed, with a city councilman backing them!"

"I know." Qi Yun flicked some ash from his cigarette, "You don't need to worry about these things, just do what you're supposed to do."

Miller swallowed hard, realizing that for this Huaxia man to casually mention eliminating the Aryan Brotherhood, he must be a big shot.

Being his lackey... might not be such a bad thing...

"Yes, sir, what do you need me to do..."

...

An hour later, in a town house, Qi Yun distributed the documents he brought back from the police station to everyone.

"Tonight, act. Drive these guys out. If they resist, don't hold back, just kill them. The sheriff will handle the aftermath."

Brother Quan quickly flipped through the documents. The Aryan Brotherhood's stronghold in Fairbanks consisted of two bars, with roughly sixteen or seventeen people.

"Do they have weapons?"

"Yes." Qi Yun looked at his watch, "They should be here soon."

Before departure, he had contacted Harris and asked him to send some equipment over.

America was Harris Brothers' biggest market, they even received orders from the Guo Defense Department. Getting weapons was a piece of cake for them.

Just as he finished speaking, the sound of a car engine came from downstairs.

Everyone looked out the window to see two pickups parked at the door, with some burly men unloading several large boxes. After honking the horn, the vehicles drove off.

Brother Quan and his men went outside to move the boxes inside. The wooden crates were pried open, revealing an array of weapons, including M4A1 carbines, Remington 870 shotguns, Glock 19 pistols, and matching ammunition.

Even more shocking, Harris had even secured a rocket launcher for Qi Yun!

Did he think he was going to take down the city police station?

An Zai, obsessed with heavy firepower, immediately picked it up to examine, "Boss, can I play with this tonight?"

Qi Yun decisively refused; two bar raids didn't require such noise, fearing Miller couldn't handle it either.

"Go scout the place first, and have someone keep an eye on Miller."

After assigning the task, Qi Yun went to the temporary office upstairs, where Zhong Rui gave him a detailed report on the current state of the mine.

The mining area covers about 45,000 acres, with 99% being unexplored wildlands. The previous owner roughly surveyed it, believing possible gold deposits to be near the eastern river.

So only that area had been excavated so far.

However, Qi Yun's goal was opposite, as intelligence suggested the real gold reserves were at the mountain's base in the southwest.

Beneath that land lay over three tons of gold!

Three tons!

Keep in mind that Alaska's largest gold mine only extracts about ten tons of gold annually.

Furthermore, the gold was spread over 300,000 acres, requiring extensive surveying. Each zone required new mines, roads, and power grids, making their extraction far more challenging and costly than Qi Yun's mine.

So, buying this gold mine was a windfall for Qi Yun.

Quickly extracting the gold from that area and then flipping the mine for a quick profit.

Buying Evergreen Marine's shares nearly drained him, and he urgently needed funds.

Besides gold, the mine also had copper, lead, and zinc, all valuable ores that were effortlessly sold.

"All our procedures have been completed, and the mining equipment has been delivered, ready for installation, with operators already lined up by an agency," Zhong Rui reported.

"Mmhm." After hearing Zhong Rui's report, Qi Yun nodded with satisfaction, glad that the young man had matured and could handle things independently now.

"Contact a surveying company and start looking for gold in the mine tomorrow."

"Understood, boss, I'll handle it right away."