

Two Trillion 101

Chapter 101 Trouble_1

Early in the morning, Chen Daya was sulking in his own office.

He had slept there last night, with a camp bed and a quilt ready at hand.

On Sunday, they had put in an extra day of work on the project just to do one thing—inventory check and database reorganization.

The inventory included office supplies, tools, and materials, while the reorganization involved customer information. Once everything was checked, it just needed to be entered into the system.

Originally, Chen Daya thought this task was quite simple.

Even though it involved every department, each just needed to sort out its own matters and enter them into the computer. How hard could it be?

In his view, if every department put in a little effort, it could be done in a day.

In reality, this work had been assigned for half a month already and the progress was infuriatingly slow.

He had thought that Li Mingtong's opposition and difficulties were understandable while he was around.

But now, with Li Mingtong out of the picture and Bai Xiaosheng not managing this mess, Mr. Shang, as the top leader, had been frequently urging for the past few days, yet there was still no improvement.

Chen Daya was angry!

Overtime!

He wanted to see if anyone dared to slack off with him personally overseeing the battle.

As a result, even after a whole extra day of work on Sunday, the outcome was still meager.

Each department had excuses.

The logistics blamed other departments for not returning items they borrowed; when asked, they had no idea which departments items had been transferred to, making them impossible to locate in the end. The administration complained about the chaotic and heavy mess of physical records from the business development department, with many paper-based pieces of information not yet recorded. The property management blamed the construction for being too rough, with details on the project damaged and tools misplaced. Business development blamed logistics for lack of support, leading to customer loss and the invalidation of much information...

Every department was going in circles complaining, each seeming to have a valid point.

Chen Daya was so annoyed that he felt dizzy. When he woke up this morning, his mouth was full of sores, and he felt a bit of a chill at night, leaving him feeling really unwell.

At this moment, as Chen Daya was brewing a cup of bitter nail tea for himself, there was a knock at the door of his office.

"Come in."

Chen Daya said feebly, then saw Bai Xiaosheng walk in.

The two faced each other.

Bai Xiaosheng was startled; it had only been two days since they last met, yet Chen Daya's eye sockets were dark, his cheekbones sunken, his hair a greasy mess.

He looked really disheveled!

Upon seeing Bai Xiaosheng, Chen Daya was taken aback, and then his eyes lit up as if he had seen a savior!

This frustrating task could be handed over to him!

Chen Daya's eyes were even a bit red.

Although everyone there was "one of us," being one of us didn't mean being oneself. There were tasks to be done, and Bai Xiaosheng was new to his position and needed to "set three fires" to assert his authority.

Wasn't this perfect?

In an instant, Chen Daya decided to throw this tangled mess to him!

"Manager Bai, have a seat. I have something to discuss with you," Chen Daya said with a smile plastered over his face. He energetically dragged his sick and tired body to prepare a cup of fine tea for Bai Xiaosheng, one he himself was reluctant to drink.

The manner was as if he was welcoming Mr. Shang in person.

Bai Xiaosheng, curious but sensing something more, realized there was a hidden agenda.

Indeed!

After Chen Daya finished attending to his guest, he earnestly said, "There's a task on the project that needs your direct attention. It's like this..."

Chen Daya described it briefly, avoiding mentioning the trouble, keeping his tone low, completely in the manner of a consultation.

Even though they were both at the manager level, Mr. Shang had said that in the event of disagreements, they had to consider Bai Xiaosheng's attitude.

So, Chen Daya was also anxious, afraid that Bai Xiaosheng would refuse.

As soon as Bai Xiaosheng heard it, he understood.

This matter was troublesome, and no small matter at that!

Otherwise, Chen Daya wouldn't be so humble, so eager yet unwilling to outright push it onto him.

Troublesome work?

Bai Xiaosheng felt a surge of excitement inside!

He came precisely "to find trouble"!

The more troubles in work, the bigger the bonus, having tasted the sweet fruits of leveling up, Bai Xiaosheng looked forward to the next level with full expectation!

However, outwardly, Bai Xiaosheng pondered hesitantly.

Chen Daya watched anxiously, waiting.

"Brother, this time it's going to be tough on you! This favor... I've got it noted!"

Chen Daya even coughed a few times, his face tired, showing he was working despite being sick.

"Since you're not feeling well, alright then, I'll take care of this matter," Bai Xiaosheng agreed reluctantly, yet he was laughing on the inside.

If Chen Daya let himself be troubled, he at least had to acknowledge a favor.

"Bai, no, Manager Bai! I won't say anything extra, I've taken note of this kindness!"

Chen Daya repeated, patting his chest, "You go ahead and do what you need to do, if anyone doesn't listen to you, I'll be the first to not let them off the hook!"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, nodded his head, stood up to take his leave as he also needed to go back and consider how to arrange the work to be completed quickly and effectively.

If done well, I can also get quite a few points, right?

Bai Xiaosheng felt warmth in his heart.

Outside the door.

Originally planning to come in to clean, Nanny Zhang saw Bai Xiaosheng enter and just wandered around the door. Bai Xiaosheng "had a notorious reputation," and the aunty was curious about what made this fair young man so fearsome. When there were few people around, she sometimes pressed her ear against the door to eavesdrop.

The door was ajar, and from the doorway, one could only hear snippets of conversation vaguely.

The administrative supervisor came hurriedly, intending to report to Chen Daya about work. Seeing this scene, he frowned immediately and stepped forward to tap Nanny Zhang on the shoulder.

Nanny Zhang waved her hands twice and turned her face to see it was the administrative supervisor, quickly apologizing with a smile.

Seeing the leader about to explode in anger, she whispered slyly, "It's Manager Bai, discussing matters with Manager Chen!"

The leaders are discussing matters, and you're eavesdropping?

The administrative supervisor's first reaction was anger, but his expression changed shortly after.

Manager Bai?

That Bai Xiaosheng!

"Come with me, tell me what you've heard!" The administrative supervisor pulled Nanny Zhang away.

Just as they left, Bai Xiaosheng came out and returned to his own office.

In the hallway.

Nanny Zhang relayed the fragments she had overheard to the administrative supervisor, and to make her account seem coherent and emphasize the importance of the news, she couldn't help but add a bit of her own interpretation.

"You're saying, Manager Chen is using this as a pretext for Manager Bai to start off with a bang as the new official, to strictly regulate the project atmosphere?!"

The administrative supervisor repeated in surprise.

"Ah? Is that so..."

Nanny Zhang blinked, feeling that what he said didn't quite match what she had mentioned; it seemed somewhat true yet not.

The administrative supervisor also added his own interpretation to make sense of it, and now, he was deep in thought.

"So, I'm free to go, right? I'll take my leave then?" Nanny Zhang asked tentatively.

The administrative supervisor waved his hand, his face stern, "Don't talk about this with anyone else, got it!"

"Something big is going to happen?" Nanny Zhang's eyes lit up as she probed.

The administrative supervisor nodded absentmindedly, muttering to himself, "I need to hurry back and start work immediately, this first fire must not burn me! Li Mingtong has gone crazy... Bai Xiaosheng, that Devil, I can't afford to offend him!"

With that, the administrative supervisor left in a rush.

Hearing his muttering, Nanny Zhang's eyes practically shone, her breathing quickened.

"Does that mean I've heard some big news! No way, I've got to show off about this!"

Chapter 102 The Power of Imagination_1

"Have you heard? Manager Chen was really unhappy and angry about the overtime yesterday, he wants Manager Bai Xiaosheng to take charge of this task!"

"What? Bai Xiaosheng just became a manager, and now he's got to deal with this mess!"

"You don't understand, a new official enforces three fires, this can establish his authority. Manager Chen is clearly giving him an opportunity!"

"Apart from the Promotion Department, Bai Xiaosheng doesn't have a close relationship with any other department, he doesn't need to save face for anyone."

"You guys are behind the times, I heard Manager Chen is taking this chance to carry out a major overhaul, to crack down on the atmosphere!"

"No, no, that's not it, it's to use this opportunity to target Li Mingtong's faction, to show them what happens if they dare disobey!"

"Wouldn't it be more impressive for Manager Chen to handle it himself? Oh my God, don't tell me he's using this chance to purge even his own people!"

...

All kinds of rumors concerning Bai Xiaosheng and this task quickly spread throughout the project department like a storm, sweeping through every corner in a very short time, and were wildly speculated upon.

Those originally from Li Mingtong's faction were naturally panic-stricken.

Chen Daya's faction was equally uncomfortable; when the birds are over, the good bow is put away, and when the hares are dead, the hounds are cooked. They had indeed become a bit lax recently, thinking a leader with a good temperament would turn a blind eye, but who knew Chen Daya would use someone else's hand to knock on them!

Especially the person in charge of this task—

Bai Xiaosheng!

The man who was privately referred to as the Devil, the Madman.

What happened to Wu Qiuyan when she opposed him?

She resigned in less than a week!

What happened to Li Mingtong when he opposed him?

He went mad in just over a week!

People didn't even get to see how Bai Xiaosheng made his move before seeing his opponents fall tragically one by one!

Who would want to try that?

The thoughts chilled all the supervisors.

The head of the Administration Department hurried back to his own department, shut the door, pulled everyone together, and in a severe manner, allocated the remaining work to each person, even assigning fifteen-minute work intervals with specific targets to meet.

The people of the Administration Department might not be afraid of Chen Daya, the project manager, and they might not have a direct sense of the terror of Bai Xiaosheng, but they all knew too well what their immediate supervisor was like—unless you resign, if you push him too far, he's got plenty of ways to make your life miserable!

This is what they mean by 'the county official is no match for the current ones in charge'!

Under the watchful eye of their administrator, who wished he could whip them into line, they put their heart and soul into their work.

Some people even ran to the bathroom; if they lingered for two extra minutes, they would be met by a dark, scowling face!

The Administration Department's work became unprecedentedly efficient.

It was only after two solid hours that the head of the Administration Department nodded his head with some degree of satisfaction. Suddenly, he remembered that the head of the Logistics Department next door was quite amiable with him in private and often needed logistics support in the future. So he quickly went out to the Logistics Department to share this highly confidential information.

As he opened the door, the administration head was puzzled to find the normally busy corridor quiet, with none of the usual idle chitchatters to be seen!

Strange, too strange!

With this bemusement, the administration head walked to the Logistics Department and found the door slightly ajar. When he entered, the scene inside made him pause.

The head of Logistics had rolled up his sleeves and was holding a tablet, getting down and dirty himself, counting inventory in the storage room.

The logistics staff were all busy, with the person responsible for data entry typing away frantically.

When were the logistics people ever this diligent?

The head of the Administration Department was agape with astonishment.

"Wang, did you need something?" asked the Logistics head, coming over hurriedly after being alerted.

Slapping his forehead, the Administration head whispered, "I wanted to tell you, Manager Chen assigned Bai Xiaosheng to oversee the inventory. That guy is not to be messed with. I thought I'd remind you guys to hurry up, but I see now that you..."

He hadn't finished speaking when he felt something was off in the room; everyone stopped their work and looked at him peculiarly.

"There's no need to be sneaky about it, now even the cleaner knows, God damn it! He's hustling to scrub the toilets as we speak!"

The logistics manager said irritably, "I'm telling you, Wang, you're two hours behind with your news, and you still come here to take credit, I take my hat off to you. Get back to work, quickly!"

Even the cleaner knows?

The administrative manager recalled Nanny Zhang's solemn promise and was dumbfounded.

"You don't know? It's out, Bai is hell-bent on catching the bottom three!" the logistics manager whispered to him.

"What bottom three?" The administrative manager was utterly confused.

"The last three departments to finish get pulled out and, snap." The logistics manager made a neck-slitting motion and said ominously, "It's called 'killing the chicken to scare the monkeys.' Haven't you seen there's no one outside? The whole project is in a frenzy now, no one wants to be that chicken waiting to be slaughtered!"

The administrative manager listened with a sinking heart.

That's not the news I got!

"How will they be punished?"

"The punishment... hard to say, I reckon it will be departmental performance deductions, managers on assessments, I heard some of us managers might even be let go!" The logistics manager lowered his voice, asserting confidently.

As for the punishments, there were too many versions going around outside. The logistics manager picked the most severe one and added his own embellishments – anyway, it was all hearsay.

The administrative manager turned pale and walked away.

"See you, we've got to speed up!"

Bai Xiaosheng in the new office, was full of energy, drafting work procedures, how departments should cooperate, how to eliminate resistance, how to avoid redundant work.

He had the big picture, but the details still needed polishing.

After sitting and thinking for three hours straight, Bai Xiaosheng felt a bit tired, got up to stretch his legs, and wandered in the corridor.

Standing at the window in the hallway, Bai Xiaosheng furrowed his brows and blinked occasionally. Staring at the screen for so long can dry out the eyes. He simply looked for reference points to exercise his eyes.

Today, the corridor was unusually quiet, and Bai Xiaosheng was somewhat curious.

Finally, at the end of the hallway, a figure hurried by. Bai Xiaosheng looked over, his brow instinctively furrowing, his eyes narrowing slightly.

The property manager was rushing to his department, overwhelmed with work. He already experienced irregular heartbeat, and with all the commotion, it felt worse, he needed to go back and take his medication.

Then in the hallway, he caught eyes with Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng's brows were furrowed, his eyes dark, his gaze like daggers.

The property manager's heart skipped a beat when their eyes met.

Bai Xiaosheng blinked hard, wanting to greet the property manager.

Instead, he saw the man take off running as if he had seen some kind of devil.

Bai Xiaosheng turned around, puzzled, seeing nothing amiss.

"What's going on today?"

Bai Xiaosheng muttered to himself and turned back to his office.

He needed to complete the plan quickly, to get everyone working according to his ideas.

To be both relaxed and efficient.

To score points and to have everyone willing to accept it.

Bai Xiaosheng was full of confidence.

An infuriating rumor suddenly spread among the departments!

Bai Xiaosheng, the devil, had berated the property manager, almost causing his heart condition to relapse!

Though no one knew when the property manager developed a heart condition, everyone banded together in indignation!

And their hearts raced.

Bai Xiaosheng, truly a devil!

Chapter 103 Is It Finished?!

"This won't do, it'll make everyone feel burdened and exhausted, and it will also cause managers to have a resistant attitude. We need to optimize it."

Bai Xiaosheng muttered to himself, making revisions to the workflow he had drafted.

What he wanted was efficiency, but he also hoped to make the work as easy as possible for everyone. At least following his process shouldn't be too agonizing.

In this regard, Bai Xiaosheng put forth every effort.

"After all, this is the first time I've assigned work since becoming a manager, I need to leave a good impression on everyone!"

Bai Xiaosheng eagerly anticipated his endorsement and approval.

Soon after, he sneezed loudly three times.

Rubbing his nose, Bai Xiaosheng paid it no mind and continued to immerse himself in his work.

"This Bai Xiaosheng, he's simply a devil, torturing us endlessly ever since he became a manager!"

"Yeah, can this work be done in a day? I heard that he requires it to be finished before we leave at night, and if not, we have to work overtime all night!"

"You're outdated. I heard that if we don't finish, the entire department won't get a vacation this month!"

"It's sick! Even Mr. Li and Mr. Chen have never treated us like this!"

"This won't stand; we have to resist! Worst case, we all resign together, let's see what he can do about it!"

"Right! You lead the way, and we'll follow you!"

"..., uh, our department is almost done with the work, what am I leading..."

"Shameless!"

"The shameless one is Bai Xiaosheng!"

Across the project, departments were filled with complaints, cursing Bai Xiaosheng behind his back and bestowing various nicknames on him—

Vampire, capitalist, workaholic, tyrant...

Any employee could recite over a dozen unique labels.

The frantic pace of work continued without pause, with many departments even skimping as much as possible on lunchtime.

"This can't continue, I think we should talk to Manager Chen, after all, we are our own people, we can't be treated the same as those others, right?"

"Exactly, we've not only toiled but also suffered, are we really no different from Li Mingtong's old guard?"

"A visit might do some good, we all know Mr. Chen's temperament, even if we say something wrong, he wouldn't blow his top."

A few managers originally allied with Chen Daya agreed to meet secretly in a corner and finally decided to approach Chen Daya.

They tiptoed cautiously, passing by Bai Xiaosheng's office door to get to Chen Daya's office.

Their intention had been to slip in quietly so no one would be alerted.

But on Chen Daya's office door, there was an A4 paper with two lines of ten large characters.

The first line: Feeling a bit under the weather.

The second line: If there's an issue, see Manager Bai.

The managers exchanged glances and smirked.

It seemed that this time, Chen Zhongshi, Manager Chen, was truly impartial and indifferent to past connections!

Otherwise, why would he coincidentally "feel under the weather" at this time!

One manager tentatively pushed the door and shook his head at the others with a bitter smile, "It's locked!"

How ruthless, to have locked it from the inside! Not even granting an audience!

"Do you think, maybe Manager Chen is also scared of that Bai Xiaosheng?"

One of the managers swallowed hard, unable to help but speak up.

The two looked at each other and then glanced at the firmly shut door of Bai Xiaosheng's office, their eyes filled with deep wariness.

It wasn't impossible!

Rumors had been circulating; Shang Wenshu had declared that Bai Xiaosheng was the most powerful of the two managers!

It seemed Manager Chen was helpless too.

The three fell silent for a while.

One manager broke into a run.

"Where are you going?" the other couldn't help but lower his voice and urgently ask.

"Our department is the most behind in work; I can't delay any further, or we'll end up in the bottom three!" the manager replied softly.

The other two exchanged looks, fear evident in their eyes.

They couldn't afford to be in the bottom three either!

The other two supervisors did the same, running as fast as their legs could carry them.

In the hallway, there finally were hurried footsteps.

Bai Xiaosheng pushed open the door, poked his head out, and looked curiously around, but still, he saw not a single soul.

"Strange, could it be that I'm hearing things?" Bai Xiaosheng muttered to himself before withdrawing his head.

At this moment, his eyes brimmed with a sense of satisfaction and joy, for the entire work process was almost perfect.

Following my procedure, it would only take three days to get the job done!

Bai Xiaosheng was very pleased, even a bit smug.

Chen Daya's office.

On the camp bed, Chen Daya yawned a big yawn, sat up, rubbed his sleepy eyes, and stretched, feeling thoroughly relaxed.

Yesterday, he was too tired; this morning, he woke up with things weighing on his mind, feeling dizzy and heavy-headed. After taking some medicine and getting a good sleep, the feeling of a cold had disappeared.

The refreshed Chen Daya got up and moved around, opened the door to go out for a stroll, and right then, Bai Xiaosheng was coming in.

Chen Daya, having slept most of the day, was extremely grateful to Bai Xiaosheng.

"Bai, how did you manage the work?" Chen Daya asked.

"Let's have a meeting, I guarantee you'll be surprised!"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled mysteriously, wanting to show off his achievements in front of everyone.

Oh? This full confidence surprised Chen Daya a bit.

However, it had only been half a day, how much progress could there be? Chen Daya didn't say anything, but he wasn't very impressed inside.

"Alright then, I'll have the admin department call a meeting right away."

Chen Daya used the desk phone to call the admin department.

"A report now?"

On the phone, the supervisor from the admin department sounded a bit strange, somewhat surprised, and even a bit expectant.

"We'll have it now, all supervisors must attend," Chen Daya replied.

After hanging up the phone.

Chen Daya, laughing and talking with Bai Xiaosheng, headed to the main conference room.

In the main conference room, after chatting for a while, the supervisors began to come in one by one.

As they entered, both Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Daya were startled.

Why did they all look so weary, with feeble steps, as if they had overexerted themselves both physically and mentally?

Bai Xiaosheng felt that something was off; he always got the feeling that these people had some resentment in their eyes when looking at him, mixed with a bit of pride.

He couldn't put his finger on what that feeling was.

Bai Xiaosheng tried to fix his gaze on one to understand, but no one would meet his eyes; it seemed like they were all a bit scared of him.

"Regarding yesterday's work..." Chen Daya pointed at Bai Xiaosheng, "Manager Bai will take charge from now on."

"We all know that already!" someone immediately responded.

"That's right!" a chorus of people echoed.

They all knew already?

Bai Xiaosheng was a bit surprised.

Chen Daya thought Bai Xiaosheng had already spoken about it and didn't think much of it, gesturing for Bai Xiaosheng to say a few words.

"Good, then everyone talk about the progress," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

He was fine not speaking, but as soon as he opened his mouth, the supervisors seemed like they had been holding back and finally found a way to vent, their emotions running high.

"Our department has finished!"

"And ours too!"

"Us as well!"

One after another, their exclamations were forceful and resounding!

With pride.

Bai Xiaosheng was stunned.

Chen Daya was flabbergasted!

Finished?!

Chen Daya's face changed, and he looked at Bai Xiaosheng with trepidation. Was this the surprise Bai Xiaosheng had mentioned?

What had he done while I slept these past few hours!

Chapter 104 A Great Victory Over Devil Bai_1

"You really finished everything!" Chen Daya stared with wide eyes, asking again.

"Finished it!" The managers were spirited and confident.

Chen Daya didn't believe it!

And he couldn't believe it!

He had been the head of this project for so long, had some authority behind him, he personally oversaw the battle and busied himself for a whole day to complete just half of it, while these people were mushrooming around him.

How could it be that after Bai Xiaosheng had been in charge for just half a day, they had finished it!

This was a tremendous insult to my personal capabilities! Chen Daya felt suffocated.

No, he had to see for himself!

"Show it to me, and I'm telling you, don't even think about hoodwinking me!"

Chen Daya's eyes were a little red, and his gaze swept over each manager's face with hatred, thinking to himself:

You never treated me like this!

Now, Chen Daya wasn't targeting Bai Xiaosheng but aiming at the managers present. If anyone dared to play tricks, even a little bit, he would make their lives unbearable!

The managers were unfazed and unafraid of Chen Daya's scrutiny. Instead, they seemed less willing to make eye contact with Bai Xiaosheng sitting on the side.

Even though the work was complete, who knew if Bai Xiaosheng might find some unknown issue, it was as if this guy's results from the previous few occasions were so precise and perfect, they were almost perverse!

Better to not provoke the 'Devil.' Steering clear from Devil Bai and giving Manager Chen the trouble seemed like a better idea.

The managers stood up one after another, returning to their departments to get their results. Some couldn't wait to display their work publicly, eager to show off.

Bai Xiaosheng sat there, scratching his head, internally complaining about Chen Daya.

Didn't they say that this task was very complicated and troublesome, that everyone had great reluctance, that it had a high level of difficulty? How could they have finished it! With things turning out this way, what was the point of the perfect workflow that I tired myself out creating!

The key issue was the loss of points!

Bai Xiaosheng was not pleased.

However, Chen Daya probably wouldn't cause trouble for no reason. Maybe, just maybe, the managers' achievements weren't perfect and were full of flaws.

Yes, if they hadn't done the work properly, they would definitely have to redo it, and perhaps my workflow could still have a chance!

This thought gave Bai Xiaosheng some "anticipation."

Still, this kind of anticipation wasn't good, and Bai Xiaosheng felt a bit guilty.

Before long, the managers returned with a USB drive each. The technicians hurried to adjust the projection equipment.

"Shall we go by seating order?" The managers looked at each other, and someone suggested.

"Sure!" The others agreed.

"Then, I'll take the liberty of going first!" The administrative manager marched up excitedly, handing over his USB drive to the technician.

His department was the first to proceed with the work, and they had revised it several times after completion. He was brimming with confidence.

The moment the projection started, both Chen Daya and Bai Xiaosheng were startled.

Beautiful!

There was a textual overview, tables laid out, and remarks that were neatly detailed.

Even normal and abnormal consumption of office supplies, along with the causes and solutions, were explained clearly, considering every tiny detail.

The administrative manager couldn't wait to explain, talking non-stop for twenty minutes. Seeing Bai Xiaosheng's slight surprise, he felt very proud.

See, even Devil Bai is impressed by me! It's been a long time since I felt so spirited and exhilarated!

"These data are entered into the big database. Leaders can extract and check at any time, and I am responsible for any errors!" The administrative manager was filled with pride, thumping his chest.

He even attained a state of mind thinking, "This is how life should be, success should crush the mighty."

Bai Xiaosheng just nodded weakly.

To reach such a level, he had nothing to say, and the workflow for this part seemed unnecessary now.

Chen Daya stared at the administrative manager dumbfounded, his eyes glazed over.

Is this the same dithering Wang? How did he become a different person when he faced Bai Xiaosheng!

"Next!" Chen Daya gritted his teeth.

He couldn't believe it, had everyone changed their nature?

"Alright, Wang, hurry up and get down, it's my turn now!" The moment the logistics department saw Bai Xiaosheng's look of defeat and his approval of the administrative supervisor, they became anxious.

You can't let the administration take all the limelight; their logistics department had worked their fingers to the bone all morning too!

The logistics supervisor hurriedly went up to report.

The report that followed nearly made Chen Daya's jaw drop.

How meticulous was the work in logistics?

Even down to which department a screwdriver was borrowed from, when it was lent out, and when it was returned—it was all meticulously recorded.

Even more so!

They had someone specifically assigned to keep track, and if tools were overdue, there would be reminders and requests for return!

Chen Daya stared in astonishment. Was this the logistics supervisor who had vehemently complained about the difficulty with him just yesterday?

Had he, too, been taken down by Bai Xiaosheng?

After speaking for twenty minutes without any sign of stopping, the logistics supervisor began to be heckled by other supervisors. Unmoved, he persisted in asking Bai Xiaosheng, "Manager Bai, I've passed the mark, right?"

"Not bad, your department did very well," Bai Xiaosheng said weakly, barely managing a supportive smile.

Another part of the work process, gone to waste!

The logistics department nodded smugly.

So what about Bai Xiaosheng? Look, didn't he also fall at their hands? When he got back, he would surely have a good boast!

Seeing this, the other supervisors became anxious, scratching their heads, all wanting to have a turn at stunning Devil Bai.

Afterwards, the supervisors took turns on stage, each reporting their work.

Chen Daya was numb by now, his eyes red as he scanned the faces of those supervisors, gritting his teeth and feeling endlessly wronged.

You motherfuckers, just bullying me, huh!

Bai Xiaosheng was even more depressed than Chen Daya.

After everyone finished reporting, they all made a point to ask him, and any slight praise from him made them excessively proud.

Bai Xiaosheng was on the verge of tears; his operational process was completely ruined!

The other supervisors were inwardly pleased to see Bai Xiaosheng's dismay, some even openly smiling.

Even Devil Bai had his moments of defeat and had thoroughly fallen at their hands! The new official's first fires never got to blaze, what a relief!

This was their victory, an unprecedented triumph for the whole project against Devil Bai!

In this conference room where Bai Xiaosheng had often shone, today the supervisors felt they were the stars, having won magnificently.

In the future, long after this report, the supervisors would still discuss it with surging emotions and enjoyment.

At this moment, Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Daya exchanged complex looks, one unable to complain, and the other unable to be jealous.

After the report was finished, Bai Xiaosheng hadn't gained a single point.

Red Lotus's explanation was that the plan was good, but useless...

After this meeting, Bai Xiaosheng's personal prestige in the project truly peaked, earning unquestioned responsiveness, and Chen Daya also sincerely and completely accepted that fact.

Over the following week, Bai Xiaosheng tried his best to take responsibility for some matters to earn some points.

After all, he felt uncomfortable with zero points.

However, as soon as it was heard that he would get involved in something, the work efficiency for that matter would reach a shockingly terrifying level.

Bai Xiaosheng was miserable for a week.

Because, he still hadn't gained a single point!

Chapter 105 Visiting and Invitation_1

On Friday evening, Bai Xiaosheng got off work and had just entered his home when there was a knock at the door.

As he opened the door, Bai Xiaosheng was stunned.

Zhengdong Province, who had been "out of touch" for almost a week, was standing outside with a beaming smile.

"You dead fatty, can't you wait for your money to save your wretched life!"

Just as Bai Xiaosheng was about to hurl some abuse, he noticed two people standing behind Zheng Pangzi—Lu Wenqian and Wei Xuelian.

"Bai, I've brought some guests over," Zheng Pangzi said with a smile.

Bai Xiaosheng quickly let them in, settled them into seats, then signaled Zheng Pangzi to follow him into the kitchen to get some fruit and drinks.

Taking the opportunity, Bai Xiaosheng teased him with a mischievous grin, "Well, well, dead fatty, you seem too happy to think of home."

Zheng Pangzi didn't argue but simply chuckled in response.

After a moment of silence, Bai Xiaosheng asked again, "Do you know who she is?"

The "she" naturally referred to Lu Wenqian.

"I know now, my goddess... truly out of reach," Zheng Pangzi sighed with emotion. However, far from looking discouraged, there was a fighting spirit in his eyes, "So, striving for success in my career to win over my goddess has become the dream of my life!"

You've got ambition! Bai Xiaosheng gave him a thumbs-up.

"Though the difficulty of that is quite substantial!"

"Well, a person needs to have dreams, otherwise what's the difference with a salted fish."

Zheng Pangzi laughed, patted Bai Xiaosheng's shoulder, then took the drinks and went out cheerfully to bond with his "dream."

When Bai Xiaosheng came out of the kitchen, he saw Zheng Pangzi and Lu Wenqian chatting happily.

Upon seeing Bai Xiaosheng, Lu Wenqian's smile became reserved, and she stood up, putting her hands in front of her, and bowed deeply with proper decorum.

"Miss Lu, what are you doing?" Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback.

"Thank you, Mr. Bai! If it wasn't for you, my father would have been in danger," Lu Wenqian said gratefully.

Bai Xiaosheng just laughed.

"It was just a helping hand, and it just so happened to be Mr. Lu, you don't have to take it to heart."

Lu Wenqian beamed a smile and didn't say much more.

But she remembered this act of kindness!

"Alright, alright, listening to you two talk gives me goosebumps. 'Miss Lu, Mr. Bai', are you two acting in a TV drama or what?" Zheng Pangzi muttered, "Actually, if you ask me, we should all just be friends. Why so formal with friends!"

Wei Xuelian also added with a bright smile, "Exactly, we're all about the same age, why put on such a mature and steady front, talking like old fogeys. Wenqian, it's not your character to speak like this. If you keep it up, I won't be able to stand it."

Everyone burst into laughter, and the atmosphere immediately relaxed considerably.

Bai Xiaosheng laughed and said to Lu Wenqian, "I might be a bit older than you, so I'll take the liberty to call you Wenqian, and you can call me Xiaosheng, alright?"

"Xiaosheng," Lu Wenqian wasn't one to be pedantic and called out sweetly and openly.

"Hey, why don't you call me 'good brother' too!" Zheng Pangzi seized the opportunity to ask.

"I won't, you're just a bad fatty," Lu Wenqian huffed.

Bai Xiaosheng and Wei Xuelian exchanged glances, unable to hold back their smiles.

The group chatted idly for a while.

None of them were formal types, and they quickly became friendly.

Watching Zheng Pangzi and Lu Wenqian giggling and having a good time, Bai Xiaosheng noticed that Lu Wenqian obviously had a good impression of Zheng Pangzi.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but feel if it weren't for the significant disparity in their family backgrounds, these two were quite a match, quite like a pair of happy foes.

However, Lu Wenqian is after all the daughter of Lu Yun from Tengyun Group!

The disparity between them was like that between clouds and mud!

While Bai Xiaosheng wished them well, he also harbored deep concerns.

"But, if they truly reach that point, where they fall for each other and plunge into love, I, Bai Xiaosheng, will definitely give my full support! Even if there's a huge difference in status, so what? Lu Yun, Mr. Lu, friend of a trillionaire, would surely be worthy of your daughter!" Bai Xiaosheng silently vowed.

Dinner was takeout called by Bai Xiaosheng, who initially thought Lu Wenqian might not be accustomed to it.

However, he soon found that he had overthought it.

Once familiar, Lu Wenqian was quite relaxed, not at all like the pampered miss he had imagined. She wasn't picky at all, ate heartily, and had quite an appetite, looking every bit the foodie.

If they really did become a couple, Zheng Pangzi was in luck, at least his wife wouldn't be hard to feed.

Seeing this, Bai Xiaosheng smiled knowingly.

After a satisfying meal with plenty to drink, everyone continued chatting while snacking on fruits.

The conversation turned to that day, to Lola.

Lu Wenqian couldn't help but say a bit more.

"Xiaosheng, Lola was really impressed with you! She said that the two of you got into a disagreement, almost coming to blows. She's a former special forces soldier, has actually killed people. When she gets mad, her murderous aura is so overwhelming, even tough guys are afraid of her. Yet, you actually threatened her to her face, um, how did you put it?... That's right, 'You agree or you still have to agree!' Lola later told me that you looked so domineering at that time. Heehee, you've gained another admirer!"

Lu Wenqian's eyes were mischievous.

Wei Xuelian giggled and said to Bai Xiaosheng, "Doesn't it thrill you that a German beauty holds you in such high regard?"

Bai Xiaosheng just smiled wryly and shook his head.

He hadn't thought much of it at the time and didn't feel it was anything special now.

"That big parrot at your house is quite interesting, who's taking care of it?" Bai Xiaosheng quickly changed the subject.

"Polly? It's my dad's, he's had it for a very long time," Lu Wenqian laughed. "That bird is almost human now. When I got home, it kept squawking 'That guy is so handsome,' it's praising you too."

Being complimented by a bird wasn't exactly something to boast about.

Bai Xiaosheng suddenly felt that changing the subject was even worse than not changing it at all.

The others couldn't help but laugh heartily at his resigned expression, looking delighted.

They chatted for a while more.

All of a sudden, Bai Xiaosheng remembered something and said to Zheng from Zhengdong Province, "Tomorrow, send someone to Tiannan City Bank. I'll tell you who to look for. I have already arranged it. The money will be transferred, and I will officially become an investor in your training institution."

The five million was real, after all.

However, Zheng from Zhengdong Province didn't ask about the source, including how Bai Xiaosheng got the VIPs to lend their support at Mingzhu Tower that day. He also didn't ask, believing that friends should have their personal space.

If one day Bai Xiaosheng wanted to tell him, he would listen.

As for whether this money was Bai Xiaosheng's own or borrowed on his behalf, Zheng from Zhengdong Province would keep this show of friendship in his heart.

"Hey, I want to invest too, can I?" Lu Wenqian asked with sparkling eyes, seeming to find the idea intriguing.

"I'm currently short of a boss lady, are you interested?" said Zheng from Zhengdong Province with a smile, which earned him a playful beating.

As the evening went on, it was getting late.

Lu Wenqian and Wei Xuelian stood up to say goodbye.

"Oh right, Xiaosheng, actually, the main reason I came here was at my dad's request, to invite you. My father would like to invite you to a meal to thank you in person. Is tomorrow okay?" Lu Wenqian asked.

Bai Xiaosheng thought for a moment, then smiled and nodded his head.

"Good, then it's settled for tomorrow!"

Chapter 106: That Woman, Can Cry!_1

On Saturday morning, as soon as Bai Xiaosheng got out of bed and tidied up, there was a knock at the door.

Wei Xuelian brought breakfast.

She had figured out Bai Xiaosheng's daily routine, arriving on time. Breakfast was for two, and Wei Xuelian ate with him.

"Do you think I should bring something with me? Going empty-handed doesn't seem right," Bai Xiaosheng asked.

After all, Lu Yun was an elder who was recently recovering from a serious illness, it seemed only logical to bring something when he was inviting him over.

But the problem was, Lu Yun was too rich!

Whatever he thought of bringing seemed inappropriate, fruits would appear cheap, perhaps they only ate specially supplied ones.

"You don't need to bring anything. Uncle Lu doesn't like those things," Wei Xuelian said with a smile, teasing, "Besides, you are his life-saving benefactor. Just going is enough. This time, I'm coming with you, so I can also bask in your glory and have a big meal."

Bai Xiaosheng smiled in relief, "So, Mr. Lu, where will he treat me? Mingzhu Tower?"

Wei Xuelian shook her head.

"At one of his estates, Qiushui Manor."

Qiushui Manor?

Bai Xiaosheng's heart stirred, and Red Lotus quickly searched.

Qiushui Manor, located in the eastern suburbs of Tiannan City, covered an area of thirteen hundred acres, with a man-made lake at its center. So that belonged to Lu Yun!

The wealthy, for sure!

Bai Xiaosheng felt impressed and couldn't help but daydream.

When I become the president of Zhenbei, I don't want a manor, I will buy an island, plant ten acres of peach trees, place a couple of lounge chairs on the lush green hillside, and overlook the peach blossoms and sea with a beauty, how picturesque that would be.

Bai Xiaosheng chuckled, glancing at Wei Xuelian, imagining her sitting on the lounge chair next to him, wearing a striking swimsuit.

Wei Xuelian suspiciously looked at Bai Xiaosheng.

Why was he staring so intently, appearing lecherous with a drooling expression while eating?

She surely thought he was plotting something naughty!

Wei Xuelian glared at him fiercely.

After breakfast, Bai Xiaosheng and Wei Xuelian tidied up and chatted idly for a while.

At ten o'clock, there was a knock at the door, and Bai Xiaosheng went to open it, accompanied by Wei Xuelian.

Outside stood Cheng, with a beaming smile, and behind him followed a man in a western suit and leather shoes.

"We meet again, Mr. Bai!" Cheng said to Bai Xiaosheng with a beaming smile, and was extremely respectful to Wei Xuelian, "Miss Wei!"

Bai Xiaosheng and Wei Xuelian smiled and greeted Cheng, took their things, locked the door, and went downstairs with them.

Downstairs, the car that had come to pick them up was waiting.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at the car brand, a spherical triangle with two crossed M's inside—that car was a Maybach 62S, a custom version, a little twenty million.

Luxury!

Bai Xiaosheng sighed and sat in the back seat with Wei Xuelian, while Cheng took the front passenger seat and the large man was the driver.

Sitting in a luxury car was indeed a pleasure—fast and steady. Closing the car windows isolated all the noise from the outside world, and with gently spinning classical music playing, it was very comfortable.

After more than an hour, they entered Qiushui Manor.

As the car window lowered, Bai Xiaosheng felt a fresh breeze on his face. They drove on the wide double lanes of the manor, with neatly trimmed lawns on both sides connecting to the tree-covered hills at the edge of their view.

Nice place, big place, such a big place.

Bai Xiaosheng marveled.

After a good while, the car came to a stop and someone promptly came to open the door and respectfully invite them to get out.

In front of them lay an elegant and serene Chinese courtyard that looked huge, like a small palace.

Guided by Cheng, Bai Xiaosheng and Wei Xuelian walked inside, passing through layered courtyards, rockeries, flowing water, and bamboo groves. Every spot had its extraordinary scenery.

Passing by a courtyard,

Bai Xiaosheng suddenly heard a series of dull thudding sounds. Out of curiosity, he looked over.

In the yard, a slender figure was attacking a standing punching bag with frenzy.

That professional-grade punching bag, two meters tall and too thick for an adult man to embrace, emitted terrifying thuds and shook with each heavy strike.

The slender figure, with sweat flying, delivered a final punch, the heaviest of them all, and the entire bag staggered momentarily as her fist penetrated it.

Sensing someone watching, the slender figure stopped and looked over.

Lola, the German bodyguard!

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes brightened as he flashed her a smile and raised his hand to greet her.

Lola nodded woodenly, her expression one of utter dejection, and turned to leave. Bai Xiaosheng noticed that the white bandages on her hands were stained and reddening.

"This woman has been blaming herself; this is already the third punching bag she's destroyed this week." Cheng muttered, "Actually, Mr. Lu never blamed her at all. In fact, he comforted her a few times. The young miss did too, but she can't seem to get past it!"

Why bother, in Cheng's view, this woman, apart from being fierce, was also stubborn and obtuse.

All of a sudden Bai Xiaosheng turned to Cheng and Wei Xuelian with a smile, "Wait for me a moment, I'm going to have a word with her."

Wei Xuelian nodded.

Cheng was startled but agreed, adding, "Just make it quick, we'll wait for you for five minutes."

Bai Xiaosheng stepped into the courtyard and headed inside.

After all, Mr. Lu was Lola's boss, and a few words of consolation were probably just a formality. Lu Wenqian didn't understand why someone like Lola couldn't get over it.

Eventually, Bai Xiaosheng found Lola.

She sat on a railing of a corridor, silently staring into space, her hands wrapped in white bandages, bloodied and shocking to the eye.

"Hi," greeted Bai Xiaosheng.

Lola glanced at him, shook her head silently, clearly not wanting to talk, her whole demeanor dark and gloomy.

"Is everyone in GSG-9 as much of a... failure as you?" Bai Xiaosheng teased, speaking in German with a smile.

The atmosphere turned icy in an instant.

The next second, Lola looked up, her beautiful brown eyes brimming with murderous intent as she pounced like a cheetah. She grabbed Bai Xiaosheng's throat with one hand, her face icy cold, and through gritted teeth, spat out a chilling and terrifying threat.

"Say that again, and I'll kill you right now!"

For soldiers, honor is paramount, more important than life itself!

Lola couldn't untie this mental knot because she felt that she had almost caused her employer's death, nearly becoming a "murderer" instead of a protector. She couldn't accept it.

"So, you find it unbearable?"

Bai Xiaosheng's expression remained unchanged as he stared coldly into Lola's eyes, "Why was GSG-9 established? You know! Born from the humiliation of a failed rescue mission, it is a squad known for its resilience and worldwide renown! You have merely suffered a minor setback and yet you give up on yourself. The one really tarnishing its reputation isn't me, it's you!"

Those simple words hit Lola like thunder.

She trembled uncontrollably, releasing her grip on Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng struck directly at her most vulnerable spot, her Achilles heel.

"Actually, under those circumstances, what you did was completely right!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, gently patting Lola's shoulder, "GSG-9 wouldn't appreciate your evasion! Remember, be shamed into bravery! And... sometimes, crying doesn't mean you're weak!"

Cheng and Wei Xuelian waited outside the courtyard.

Suddenly they heard a loud wail—it was Lola's voice.

"Good heavens, that woman can cry!"

Cheng jumped in shock, exclaiming.

And then came the second realization.

"Good heavens, Mr. Bai just went in for two minutes and he's already made Lola cry!"

Chapter 107: A Bird_1

When Bai Xiaosheng came out again, his face bore a hint of embarrassment, and his shoulder was wet with tears.

Cheng looked at him in disbelief and awe, a hint of worship flickering in his gaze.

The woman in the yard, Lola, she was a former special forces member who really had killed people during her service.

Sometimes, Cheng would catch her eye and feel a bit terrified.

How ruthless she was, her delicate hands bloody and battered from hitting the sandbag, without so much as a whimper, she continued to strike.

Cheng once believed she didn't even know what pain was.

Crying, something so unimaginable, Cheng also thought that it was something impossible for Lola.

Yet, Bai Xiaosheng achieved it, and in just two minutes no less—this was simply—abnormal!

Cheng thought this and really looked at Bai Xiaosheng as if he were a freak.

That look made Bai Xiaosheng a bit sullen.

Wei Xuelian stood beside him watching with a playful look in her eyes, also somewhat curious.

Bai Xiaosheng shrugged at her, then coughed towards Cheng, "Should we be going now?"

His words snapped Cheng out of his daze.

"Oh, yes, it's time to go." Cheng hurriedly laughed and realized that his stare had been quite impolite. He, now filled with a mix of respect and an apology, led the way even more eagerly.

"It seems you have quite the knack for comforting girls," Wei Xuelian said teasingly as she walked beside Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng, unusually not joking around, sighed with a sense of emotion.

"The strong, their resilient hearts! If I can help, I will lend a hand."

His cryptic words earned an amused look from Wei Xuelian, who pursed her lips with a smile.

This version of Bai Xiaosheng seemed quite responsible.

Eventually, the three of them entered a large courtyard and stepped into the main hall.

"This is the place Mr. Lu reserves for meeting important guests. Miss Wei has visited before. Please feel free to sit down. I've just received word that the doctor is currently checking on Mr. Lu. I'll go and have a look," Cheng said with a smile, pointing to his ear, signaling the receipt of a message through his invisible earpiece.

The household staff along the way were also equipped for convenient communication.

Bai Xiaosheng noticed that Cheng's device was ringed in red, with a gold interior, which probably indicated a not-so-low status.

"I'm quite familiar with Lu's place; go ahead, no need to keep us company," Wei Xuelian said with a smile to Cheng.

Cheng nodded and turned to leave.

"It's much more comfortable with just two people," Bai Xiaosheng said, watching Cheng's figure disappear outside the archway. He let out a breath of relief.

As there was no one else in the yard, he stretched his body comfortably and began to wander leisurely around.

Looking here, glancing there.

Wei Xuelian, silent with a smile, sat down in front of an antique huali wood table that smelled of antiquity.

On the table was a complete set of Kung Fu Tea tea utensils, which Wei Xuelian started to handle skillfully.

"Ah, calligraphy and paintings by famous artists—is all of this real?" Bai Xiaosheng examined the landscape painting hanging on the wall and couldn't help but want to have a little scratch at it.

"Nothing in this room is fake," Wei Xuelian said with a smile as she arranged the tea set. "The one you want to scratch, I'd estimate is worth a few million."

Bai Xiaosheng paused his finger, withdrew it, and rubbed his nose sheepishly, muttering, "The rich really are different."

A painting worth millions—Cheng Pangzi would probably scream if he saw it. His training school, founded with blood, sweat, and tears, almost went under because of a three-million funding gap, while just one painting here would be enough for him to start anew, vying for his goddess.

The task of winning over his goddess was truly no small feat.

Bai Xiaosheng sighed to himself while wandering around.

Landscape paintings and calligraphy, porcelain antiques.

He guessed that each item must be of considerable value.

"Are you tired of looking? Come over for a cup of tea," Wei Xuelian said, holding the delicate teaware with her slender, jade-like hands. The pouring, cup warming, and tea sprinkling were fluid and graceful, a sight to enjoy.

Wei Xuelian's hands, which could only be described as impeccably white, cradled the small cup. Her delicate red lips took slow, thoughtful sips, and now and then, she brought the cup close to her nose to savor the aroma.

She was stunning.

If she were dressed in ancient clothing, she would look just like a celestial maiden.

Bai Xiaosheng was admiring the beautiful woman.

Suddenly, he heard a familiar and strange cry.

"Host requirement detected, activating the second auxiliary system—language conversion. Bird species detected—African grey parrot..."

Following that, Bai Xiaosheng heard a brazen and smug voice.

"Minions, follow your king on an inspection!"

Bai Xiaosheng looked towards the source of the voice.

Around a corner of the courtyard, an elegant cat appeared, its fur as white as snow without a single blemish. On the cat's back, proudly perched an African grey parrot—it was Polly!

And it wasn't just Polly; there were several other birds with exceptionally beautiful plumage—Skylark, Hwamei, Siskin, Acacia Bird—walking beside the white cat. What's more, at the back, there were even several pet dogs following along!

Bai Xiaosheng was dumbfounded.

With Red Lotus' help, he found out that the cat was a Chinchilla and the dogs were breeds like Shiba Inu, Bichon Frise, and Doberman. Even more surprising, there was also a strapping Bull Terrier!

What kind of troop was this!

From the adorable weaklings to the explosive combat power of hunting dogs, a mixed bunch.

And it seemed that all the pets were crowding around Polly!

That bird, like an emperor among pets, strutted with an air of arrogance that simply wasn't birdlike!

This bird was definitely enchanted!

Bai Xiaosheng was fully convinced and extremely curious about how Polly managed to "unify the underworld." The African grey parrot could mimic the sounds of other birds and mammals, but to achieve such a feat was truly amazing.

Wei Xuelian had just taken a sip of tea when she looked up and saw this scene, causing her to spray the tea out in a coughing fit.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at her and suddenly smirked mischievously.

"Beautiful lady, care to make a bet with me?" Bai Xiaosheng said cheerfully to Wei Xuelian, "I can command those animals to do something adorable for you."

"What's the bet?" Wei Xuelian was skeptical.

"The bet is a month of breakfast!" Bai Xiaosheng declared.

The last time, the bet had been a week's worth of breakfasts, which he greatly enjoyed. However, that was expired now, so this time, he aimed higher. He initially thought about proposing a year or even half a year, but he feared Wei Xuelian would not agree.

So he started with something smaller, a one-month term.

Wei Xuelian hesitated for a moment, but looking at the adorably innocent-faced pets, her heart melted.

"I'm in!" she exclaimed.

Bai Xiaosheng was overjoyed and rushed towards the pets.

The Bull Terrier was the first to notice Bai Xiaosheng, bounding to the front with an aggressive stance.

"Polly, do you remember me?" Bai Xiaosheng opened his mouth and chirped in a series of bird calls.

"Oh, that whistle sounds quite authentic," Wei Xuelian said from behind, surprised.

Polly cocked its head, examining Bai Xiaosheng curiously, seemingly puzzled, and spoke in bird language, "How can you speak my language?"

"Surprised? These are mere trifles. How about we strike a deal—you help me with a little favor, and I'll give you a great benefit!"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled slyly, tempting a bird.

Chapter 108. Trading with animals_1

For the first time, Polly was excited to communicate with a human in her own "hometown dialect," flapping her wings and flying directly onto the head of the Bull Terrier.

That feral hunting dog actually acted obediently, lowering its body and lying on the ground.

The other pets, either lying down or sitting, stayed silent in their places, very obedient.

This bird was too well-mixed among them!

Bai Xiaosheng witnessed this and was greatly surprised, feeling quite impressed inwardly.

"Just because you can speak my language, I'm very happy," Bai Xiaosheng heard Polly say. "As long as the conditions are right, I agree to cooperate with you."

Actually, Polly didn't make much noise, but her actions, translated into human language by Red Lotus, were quite expressive, complete with emotional intonations.

Bai Xiaosheng wasn't sure if this translation made any scientific sense. After all, modern science believes that birds lack a developed cerebral cortex, and the center for their chirping is located in a more primitive structure called the striatum, so they have no thoughts or consciousness, are unlikely to understand the meanings of human language, and cannot use these languages correctly in every situation.

Therefore, science considers that, although parrots can talk and argue, this is merely mechanical imitation, a behavior known as vocal learning.

However, no matter what, if it's translated out, she understands; if translated back, Bai Xiaosheng understands, and that's enough.

Science will have to solve its own problems later on.

"You make them perform well for that beauty. After the performance, tell me what you most want to eat, and I'll ask the owner here to prepare it for you. How does that sound?" Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

As he spoke, he whistled out a series of bird calls.

The pet cats and dogs didn't seem to have much reaction, but the birds became agitated. Bai Xiaosheng was curious, not knowing which birdcall had stricken their emotions.

Could it be that birds have no dialects? That's not right, clearly in the translation, there are different branches for the bird languages.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at the birds, all of them "experts" in mimicry, representatives of outstanding avian intelligence. They spent all their days with Polly, the boss, and it would not be surprising if they knew some of Polly's "dialect."

Thinking this way, it all made sense.

Polly called out loudly.

"Shut up!"

In Bai Xiaosheng's ears, it was a roar.

The birds immediately fell silent.

"Hmph, think you can bribe me with food?" Polly scoffed.

Bai Xiaosheng felt a bit guilty.

This cunning bird seemed harder to fool than a human.

"At the very least, you bring me two beautiful birds, not Skylark, Hwamei, or Siskin, but African Grey parrots, African Grey parrots!" Polly flapped her wings in a rage, "Scram, I want pretty ones!"

Bai Xiaosheng's breath hitched.

This inappropriate bird was actually asking for two mates, considering opening a harem...

"No problem!" Bai Xiaosheng choked a little but agreed.

Wei Xuelian sat on the side, watching curiously as Bai Xiaosheng called out a series of birdcalls to a parrot, and the group of animals quietly stayed put, which was incredible.

Then, the African Grey parrot actually raised her head and let out various sounds, including cat meows, dog barks, and bird chirps.

Even knowing that African Grey parrots can mimic the calls of a variety of birds and mammals, Wei Xuelian was still taken aback.

Flap flap.

Several birds with vibrant and beautiful plumage took off, flying into the garden, amazingly each carrying a bright little flower, flying towards Wei Xuelian, circling her, and showering the flowers over her head and body.

Wei Xuelian looked on in disbelief at the scene, feeling as if she was in a dream.

The cute cats and dogs came closer, cuddling up to Wei Xuelian, begging for hugs.

The Bull Terrier wasn't good at this act, so he ran in front of Wei Xuelian and began leaping about, performing tricks.

Wei Xuelian was full of disbelief and delight; she was nearly overwhelmed by the cuteness of these animals.

Wei Xuelian looked up and saw Bai Xiaosheng watching her with a smile, quite pleased with himself.

How did he do it!

Wei Xuelian's look towards Bai Xiaosheng carried a hint of admiration, and as she gazed at the adorable creatures before her, she felt a softness in her heart and couldn't resist playing with them.

"Kid, I've been helping you get on the good side of this woman, don't forget our deal!" Polly whispered from his perch on Bai Xiaosheng's shoulder.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, he couldn't possibly break a promise to a bird.

He took out his smartphone and opened a notepad app.

"Go on, besides the mate you want, what are your demands regarding food?"

asked Bai Xiaosheng.

Polly shook its head.

Then, Bai Xiaosheng heard a variety of food names, but the more he listened, the more he suspected that most of them were Polly's own favorites—nuts, fruits, nectar, berries, and some crop seeds.

Fortunately, it added some fish and meat in the end.

"Pleasure doing business!" Polly said, watching as Bai Xiaosheng saved the "recipes."

It was quite satisfied.

"Looking forward to working together again," Polly enthusiastically said. "Around here, you wanna mess with someone, we help you out! You want something, I get it for you! You wanna keep an eye on someone, we got eyes everywhere, no escape, no blind spots!"

What a bird with no morals but plenty of self-interest!

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but criticize inwardly.

But at the same time, he was struck by a thought. Through this collaboration, he had discovered the marvelous potential of language translation. These city animals, if used well, could become powerful allies!

"Today, I'm in a good mood, so I'm gonna give you a freebie. Aside from Old Man Lu, I can even give his son a lesson for you!" Polly exclaimed.

Why would I need to reprimand someone's son...

Bai Xiaosheng was caught between laughter and tears.

"Oh my, what's going on here?!"

A surprised cry came from outside the courtyard—it was Cheng's voice.

Bai Xiaosheng turned to look and saw Cheng staring dumbfounded at the group of animals acting cute.

Next to him, stood another man.

This man looked a bit older than Bai Xiaosheng, standing there with a presence that screamed "stable," like a pine standing tall and proud against the storm.

He had a buzz cut and wore a neatly ironed Zhongshan suit. Far from seeming outdated, it gave him a vibrant and handsome look.

Bai Xiaosheng calmly looked over, locked eyes with the man, and the two exchanged a polite yet somewhat emotionless smile.

"That guy, he's Old Man Lu's son, Lu Qingfeng!" Polly whispered.

Is that so, Bai Xiaosheng smirked slightly.

With Polly around, it was like having a guide.

"How did these animals..."

Cheng couldn't believe his eyes and wanted to move forward, but Lu Qingfeng stopped him.

Lu Qingfeng looked at Wei Xuelian, a gentle smile appearing at the corner of his mouth.

Wei Xuelian, surrounded by animals and with flower petals in her hair, was smiling beautifully, looking like a fairy.

"If Xuelian likes them, why not give them as a gift to her," Lu Qingfeng said with a smile.

However, his gaze soon shifted to Bai Xiaosheng.

Because watching Wei Xuelian, Bai Xiaosheng's eyes definitely held something more.

The two men still smiled at each other.

But their looks were not so friendly!

Polly suddenly shouted.

In Bai Xiaosheng's ear, it was one sentence.

"Now you understand, tell me loudly, should we mess with him?"

Chapter 109 You Don't Have Many Opportunities_1

Bai Xiaosheng ignored Polly.

Anyone who gave Wei Xuelian even a glance, he would deal with. Wasn't that utterly unreasonable?

Unless, that person was seeking death!

Cheng stood respectfully to the side, watching Lu Qingfeng, with an attitude no less deferential than when facing Mr. Lu Yun.

Lu Qingfeng gave a slight wave of his hand.

Without a word, Cheng bowed slightly, then turned and left.

"You must be Mr. Bai Xiaosheng. My name is Lu Qingfeng, the eldest son of Mr. Lu Yun. Thank you for saving my father," Lu Qingfeng approached Bai Xiaosheng, his eyes sincere as he extended his hand.

Humble, polite, stable.

From that previous exchange of glances, Bai Xiaosheng had thought he was about to face a snobbish dandy.

But Lu Qingfeng was not one.

Though there was a moment of hostility due to their mutual admiration for Wei Xuelian and a wariness upon sensing that the other was a standout among their peers, it didn't cause Lu Qingfeng to lose his rationality or politeness.

Based on that alone, Bai Xiaosheng found himself somewhat impressed with him.

"At that time, I just happened to be there, offering a modest contribution." Bai Xiaosheng smiled as he reached out and shook hands with Lu Qingfeng.

His attitude was neither servile nor overbearing, his demeanor calm and composed.

Lu Qingfeng smiled and nodded, feeling quite a bit of goodwill towards Bai Xiaosheng as well.

"May I know what high position Mr. Bai holds?" Lu Qingfeng asked.

"I'm just a working man, a project manager, nothing compared to Mr. Lu," Bai Xiaosheng replied with a smile, "I've heard that the young Mr. Lu of Tengyun Group comes from a military background, is proficient in multiple languages, and is a commercial prodigy—truly a young talent of our generation. Seeing you today, indeed, you are exceptional!"

This information had just been retrieved by Red Lotus.

Honestly, Bai Xiaosheng was also secretly astonished when he received the information.

This Lu Qingfeng was simply the perfect man.

In appearance, he was handsome and imposing. Standing as tall as pine, moving like the wind, carrying an aura of masculinity.

Looking at his resume, it was even more astonishing: conscripted during university, later joining the special forces. During his military service, he was awarded numerous honors both for technological innovations and for killing criminals. After leaving the army, he achieved repeated success in the business world.

He was both literate and martially skilled—truly well-rounded!

To be honest, Bai Xiaosheng was a bit stunned.

"Mr. Bai flatters me; many of my successes have been with the help of my father's resources. They're not really all that significant," Lu Qingfeng shook his head modestly, undervaluing his achievements.

Many children of wealthy families love to think their achievements have nothing to do with their family background, and are entirely due to their own efforts.

But Lu Qingfeng was different—he was honest and had no qualms about it.

Greatness comes from tolerance, strength from desirelessness!

Such a person was truly formidable!

Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

"Feng, Sheng, aren't you tired of standing and talking? Come sit down," Wei Xuelian said with a smile, holding a snow-white cat in her arms, adding a touch of elegance to her bearing.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lu Qingfeng exchanged a smile, and Lu Qingfeng suddenly stretched out his hand, flicking his finger towards the empty space above Bai Xiaosheng's shoulder.

"Polly, get down, it's impolite to disturb the guests!"

Oh, oh.

Polly let out two cries, fluttered its wings to avoid the motion, and then let out another loud cry after landing.

Lu Qingfeng thought nothing of it.

But Bai Xiaosheng was different; he was using the language translation. These simple cries were translated by Red Lotus, into a string of angry roars.

"You rotten kid, dare to lay hands on me, I'll remember you!"

The moment it touched the ground, "Bai Xiaosheng, if you want to clean him up, I'll help you for free!"

Bai Xiaosheng gave Polly a hidden smile, watching as it turned around with its butt wiggling, half-flying, half-running into the interior, and all the animals immediately sprang away from Wei Xuelian, even the snowy white cat leapt out of her arms.

The animals rallied again, with Polly jumping onto the Bull Terrier's head and leading the pack away.

This scene made Wei Xuelian unable to hold back a chuckle.

"A'lian, if you want them, apart from Polly, I'll give them all to you," Lu Qingfeng walked into the hall and said to Wei Xuelian with a joking smile, "Polly might be a bit troublesome, the old man has raised it for so long, it's almost become like his own child."

Wei Xuelian let out a giggle, "Thank you for your kindness, Feng, but I'm already finding it hard enough to take care of myself, let alone have the time and energy to care for these animals."

Bai Xiaosheng and Lu Qingfeng sat down opposite Wei Xuelian.

"Actually, why must you be so hard on yourself?" Lu Qingfeng seemed to say something unintentionally as he sat down.

Wei Xuelian smiled without responding.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at Lu Qingfeng.

This guy...

If it weren't for my being here, would he come out with something like "I'll take care of you"?

As a rival, this guy is too annoying, with both high EQ and IQ!

Should I take Polly's advice to strike first and wipe him out... Bai Xiaosheng silently thought to himself.

"Come, have some tea." Wei Xuelian poured a cup of tea for both of them.

Sipping the tea, the three of them chatted casually.

Bai Xiaosheng had thought that as such a successful person, Lu Qingfeng's hobbies must surely be studying business or business tactics, or maybe nurturing noble sports like golf. Our interests aren't on the same level, talking to him, there would definitely be some awkwardness.

Unexpectedly, from fashion to gossip, from ancient poetry to modern internet novels, Lu Qingfeng actually had a hand in everything.

Is this guy one of those rich tycoons who reads online novels and makes hefty donations?

Bai Xiaosheng contemplated inwardly.

Up until now, this is a man so perfect he seems invulnerable. Almost every topic we touched, he could keep up with, and his conversation was witty and humorous with unordinary insights.

While Bai Xiaosheng was surprised, Lu Qingfeng was equally astonished.

Bai Xiaosheng could keep up with any conversational point he brought up, some of which were deliberately obscure knowledge points that he had only recently come across and made a mental note of, yet to his amazement Bai Xiaosheng could speak on them effortlessly, with precision and detail far surpassing his own.

So scholarly!

Unaware of the existence of Red Lotus, Lu Qingfeng was becoming increasingly wary of Bai Xiaosheng.

After all, this could be a romantic rival!

This conversation was like a battle without smoke.

"Young master, Miss Wei, Mr. Bai, the old master is ready; please come over," Cheng's voice came through.

At that moment, he was standing outside the courtyard, beside him stood a striking figure—Lola.

"All right, understood," Lu Qingfeng replied, then stood up, "I'll trouble our distinguished guests to move, this time my father has prepared a banquet at Qiushui Pavilion, which has a nice view."

Bai Xiaosheng and Wei Xuelian nodded their heads and stood up.

Leaving the courtyard, Cheng led the way. Lola walked at the end, following beside Bai Xiaosheng.

After walking a distance and the formation stretched out, Lola suddenly tiptoed up to Bai Xiaosheng and whispered to him.

"Do you and Mr. Lu both have feelings for that woman?"

Bai Xiaosheng looked at her in surprise, was the dynamic between the three of them really that obvious?

While Bai Xiaosheng was curious, Lola shook her head with a sympathetic face and said to him.

"I'm not trying to discourage you, but he's just too outstanding; you don't stand much of a chance!"

Chapter 110: Seeing Lu Yun Again_1

"What does 'you don't stand much of a chance' mean?!"

Lola's words were not to Bai Xiaosheng's liking.

"Just look at our Master Lu Qingfeng - handsome and successful with an illustrious family background. In literature, he understands the ancient and modern; in martial arts, he is above me. I can see he has a special affection for that lady. Your odds of winning against him are really not high!"

Lola reminded Bai Xiaosheng with the typically rigorous, sincere, and earnest attitude of a German.

She was completely unaware that her words came across more like a bucket of cold water dumped over Bai Xiaosheng's head.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at Lola with narrowed eyes, thinking to himself and yelling inwardly at Red Lotus, "Red Lotus, when you translate for me, can you not use such flowery language and complicated four-character phrases? I don't like hearing them!"

"The 'language conversion' assistant comes with a fixed lexicon, which I cannot adjust in the short term," Red Lotus replied, sounding very sincere, "Please, Master, adjust your mood and exert more patience."

So that means - listen if you like, endure if you don't.

Bai Xiaosheng let out a long, frustrated sigh.

Whether in virtual reality or real life, sometimes women made him feel like going crazy.

Sometimes, their words were like stabs with a knife, aimed straight for the heart.

"Thanks for the reminder," Bai Xiaosheng said to Lola, his voice sullen, serious, and forceful.

There wasn't a hint of gratitude.

"I'm just trying to help you see reality and be mentally prepared so you won't get hurt," Lola shrugged, "I'm really have good intentions, and I thank you for that. Personally speaking, I am on your side."

Really?

Bai Xiaosheng scratched his face without expression.

At the moment, they were following a cobblestone path and moving forward.

As they turned a corner, the view suddenly opened up.

Above, the blue sky stretched vast and endless, with white clouds drifting leisurely. Below, the water was clear and the waves rippled gently.

Bai Xiaosheng had known the estate featured a man-made lake, but seeing it with his own eyes still left him stunned by the boundlessness. From this vantage point, the view was absolutely refreshing.

The cobblestone path beneath their feet led to a stone bridge which meandered toward the Lake Heart Pavilion.

Bai Xiaosheng looked in the distance and could make out the silhouettes of some people already there in the pavilion.

"Do all the big shots enjoy such scenery? Just for a meal, they travel this far, and besides, hasn't Lu Yun just recovered from his illness?" Bai Xiaosheng grumbled internally.

Lu Qingfeng paused in his steps, waiting for Bai Xiaosheng to catch up, and had Cheng go ahead first.

He personally guided Bai Xiaosheng and Wei Xuelian, explaining as they went.

Each stretch of the stone bridge provided an excellent viewpoint, where you could see the lotuses up close or watch wild geese playing in the water. Listening to his guidance felt like taking a scenic garden tour, which made the journey seem less lengthy.

Only upon entering Lake Heart Pavilion did Bai Xiaosheng realize it was bustling with chefs and attendants. Though there were many people, they were well-trained; even their walking was silent, clearly the result of rigorous training.

In one corner of the pavilion, there was a smokeless stove and teppanyaki grill, where several chefs stood at the ready, waiting to prepare dishes.

In the center of Lake Heart Pavilion stood a circular stone table surrounded by nine seats.

A figure sat there, holding a scroll in hand with a cup of tea placed before him.

This scene stirred the emotions and imparted a sense of elegance.

The person reading was Lu Yun.

As Bai Xiaosheng and the others stepped into Lake Heart Pavilion, Lu Yun put down his scroll and actually rose to his feet to greet them personally.

This was a truly influential figure from the internet empire!

Although he had seen him in the media, after all, it wasn't face-to-face.

Bai Xiaosheng had a brief encounter with him at Mingzhu Tower, but at that time, Lu Yun was unconscious.

Now, Lu Yun was walking towards him.

Up until now, Bai Xiaosheng had seen many influential individuals.

Apart from Master Song Kai, who was naturally carefree and unconcerned with details, figures like Shang Wenshu, Wang Ye, District Chief Wu Qibing, and Chen Ming had long held positions of power, each possessing a formidable presence; yet, none could compare to Lu Yun before him.

Bai Xiaosheng had originally thought Lou Qingfeng's every move was incredibly elegant, but now he saw that Lu Qingfeng didn't even have one-tenth of Lu Yun's aura.

Lu Yun did not deliberately pay attention to his own dignity, nor did he put on airs, but every step he took was as steady as a mountain range, his gaze friendly, his eyes smiling, yet there was a profound depth that seemed to see through everything, intimidating everyone in sight.

With Lu Yun's movement, the surroundings fell into a hushed silence.

The people who were already quietly working spontaneously stopped what they were doing, halted in their tracks, and turned their eyes respectfully towards him.

Mr. Lu actually stood up to personally welcome a guest who seemed to be of a much younger generation!

The way the people present looked at Bai Xiaosheng changed.

Bai Xiaosheng, feeling the pressure of Lu Yun's aura and the many eyes focused on him, found his breath momentarily catching.

"In the future, I shall be the trillionaire CEO, controlling a world-class conglomerate, with hundreds of subsidiaries and countless employees under me. I, will be a figure surpassing Lu Yun!"

Bai Xiaosheng silently repeated to himself, clenching his fists, letting his fingernails dig into his flesh.

In a few breaths, Bai Xiaosheng had regained his composure and was smiling as he walked towards Lu Yun.

This composure made people around him unable to help but silently applaud!

A glint of admiration appeared in Lu Qingfeng's eyes. He had seen many outstanding people of his generation, some of whom he even held in high regard, but they were still young, lacking the refinement of time and the enhancement of experience. Those people, upon meeting his father, would all be affected by his presence, some slightly nervous, others more humble.

Bai Xiaosheng, showed not the slightest change in color.

Still neither servile nor overbearing.

As Lu Qingfeng looked straight at Bai Xiaosheng's back, he silently reminded himself, "From now on, whether it's competing for Xuelian's affection or in business conflicts, I will go all out against him!"

The man who, in Lola's view, left Bai Xiaosheng with little chance of winning, was now inwardly committing to give his all against Bai Xiaosheng, unaware of what Lola's expression would be if she knew, surely it would be priceless.

Lu Yun also had a trace of admiration for Bai Xiaosheng, who was performing beyond his expectations.

Lu Yun smiled.

The reason he invited Bai Xiaosheng to dine, was firstly to express gratitude, and secondly to see for himself, the man extolled by Lola and Chen Ming of Mingzhu Tower, what kind of person he was.

If possible, then he would recruit him into his ranks.

"Although I've heard much about you, my life-saving benefactor is truly quite young," Lu Yun said with a humorous smile, reaching out his hand first.

The people around were surprised.

Mr. Lu taking the initiative to shake hands with a junior was simply unimaginable; the usually serious boss actually had a humorous side.

Bai Xiaosheng reached out his hand and smiled at Lu Yun.

"I am flattered, Mr. Lu, you look quite well."

Their conversation was as if between friends.

The people around couldn't help holding their breath, watching intently.

One hand was vigorous, the other steady, as the two hands clasped together.