

Two Trillion 1081

Chapter 1081: He Wants to Kill Me, I Want to Kill Him

Facing Shen Peishen, who seemed a mix of joy, madness, and anger, Bai Xiaosheng's expression showed only a bit of seriousness, yet none of fear, dread, or apprehension.

In fact, before he came, he had already anticipated the outcome of today's banquet negotiation.

A breakdown in talks was certain.

Shen Peishen could not back down, and neither could Bai Xiaosheng!

It was destined to end on an unhappy note, destined to face an enraged Shen Peishen.

But Shen Peishen's laughter, anger, and ferociousness, all mixed together in such an agitated state, was something Bai Xiaosheng hadn't expected.

He hadn't expected the other party to hold such a high opinion of him, almost as if seeing him as a confidant.

"Sir Shen, you're looking to advance further, which is right, and you want to replace Elder Xia, which is also right," Bai Xiaosheng said in a deep voice, "Sadly, you've taken the wrong path!"

"Hehe, my path is wrong, and yours is right? Or do you want to say we do not scheme together because our paths diverge!"

Shen Peishen's maniacal expression seemed to have lasted only for a brief moment, and now he forcibly suppressed it back down.

Only his eyes remained, shining brightly!

This was the emotional control of a person who had been a shrewd character in the business world for decades!

Something beyond the imagination of an ordinary person!

Shen Peishen sneered, "I admit, what you just said is not bad! Unfortunately, those things you say I'm after, including Xiahou Qi's position, are merely what I wanted ten years ago. Now, isn't it difficult for you, Bai Xiaosheng, a recognized genius, to see what I truly desire and pursue?"

"You're still too young!"

Shen Peishen did not shout these words; on the contrary, he sounded deeply regretful, even letting out a light sigh.

Like Bai Xiaosheng, just so-so, unable to guess what he truly wanted without his own deep hints.

Young, with little experience, even a genius could only reach so far.

Shen Peishen felt some regret.

At the doorway, Cheng Liu, Shen Peishen's absolute confidant, had been listening all along. Beyond being surprised at Bai Xiaosheng, he also sneered to himself.

Trying to interpret his own mentor, this kid was still green by twenty years!

"Your current desires and pursuits?" Bai Xiaosheng pondered for a moment, then suddenly his heart stirred. After a long while, he finally spoke leisurely, "Someone like you must have gathered a lot of problematic characters around you. These people will be your greatest aid in ascending to the presidency of the Greater China Region!"

"They must all look forward to the day of your success as the day their good times truly begin. Sadly, since ancient times, all heroic figures end up with 'birds gone' and 'good bows hidden.'"

Bai Xiaosheng chuckled, "One thing those emperors loved to do upon their accession was to sweep away their meritorious officials."

"Especially since the 'meritorious officials' around you are problematic characters!"

"To take over as president of the Greater China Region, and in a short time, sweep away all problematic individuals, eliminate chronic maladies, showing headquarters your capabilities. In that case, even further advancement beyond your current high standing may not be impossible!"

"Your true goal is not the presidency of the Greater China Region but reaching an even higher position within your lifetime!"

"Moreover, you desire a thoroughly cleansed Greater China Region!"

As Bai Xiaosheng deduced step by step, by the end, he couldn't help but feel a bit of admiration.

What a noble ambition, for Shen Peishen to still aspire to such heights at his age, unprecedented!

At the door, Cheng Liu was startled into silence. Bai Xiaosheng's words gave him a realization, an enlightening insight.

The heart of his mentor's aspirations was not just the presidency of the Greater China Region but—something even higher and farther!

Cheng Liu couldn't help but look towards his own mentor.

After Bai Xiaosheng finished speaking, Shen Peishen's eyes narrowed to the extreme, staring fixedly at Bai Xiaosheng, not blinking at all.

"Could it be, he guessed right!" Cheng Liu jumped in fright.

Shen Peishen pointed at Bai Xiaosheng, smiling privately as if with a grudge.

"Why, won't you stand by my side!"

"If I invite you once again and promise that within ten years, I will make you the president of the Greater China Region, would you be willing to join me?"

This promise from Shen Peishen startled Cheng Liu.

His own teacher not only had far-reaching desires but was actually intent on personally creating a president of the Greater China Region!

What kind of thinking is that, who else could have such visions!

Bai Xiaosheng was nonchalant, not touched by Shen Peishen's proposition in the slightest.

A joke?

President of the Greater China Region in ten years?

His goal was the chairmanship of the Zhenbei Group!

Although being the president of the Greater China Region meant being superior in one's domain, glorious and unmatched,

compared to the highest position, it was nothing to be taken seriously!

Under Cheng Liu's complex gaze, Bai Xiaosheng stood up and smiled at Xiahou Qi, "Thank you for the hospitality, but I think this meal is about enough. I have to go."

Shen Peishen watched Bai Xiaosheng intently.

He believed that Bai Xiaosheng knew that he could do it, yet still refused!

Could it be that even the position of President of the Greater China Region could not move this kid?

Shen Peishen's eyes faintly glimmered.

At this moment, he truly felt that the two of them were of the same kind.

Hearts soaring higher than the sky!

Bai Xiaosheng turned and left, taking several steps before suddenly stopping. Without turning his head, he asked, "Earlier, you seemed crazed and angry, saying you wanted to take care of me. Was that to scare me, to give me a second chance, were you trying to make me waver and eventually surrender?"

Characters as shrewd as him wouldn't easily show such emotional fluctuations.

Shen Peishen laughed, as calm and gentle, steady and dignified as ever, "What do you think?"

Bai Xiaosheng didn't guess.

He walked straight out, passing Cheng Liu and smiling at him.

Cheng Liu couldn't help but smile back at Bai Xiaosheng.

In the face of this young man, even Cheng Liu's eyes betrayed a hint of awe.

A demon!

His teacher often said this kid was a demon.

Hearing it often, he didn't think much of it, but upon seeing him recently, he understood the true meaning of being a demon—

Lost in the crowd, impossible to guess his thoughts!

Such a person is worthy of awe!

Cheng Liu personally escorted Bai Xiaosheng to the door, watching as others took him away before returning.

Shen Peishen poured himself a drink.

Regret was the predominant emotion in his expression.

"Why doesn't he stand with me!"

"When I succeed, wiping out the demons of the Greater China Region, won't it still bring about a clear sky?"

"Such a good path, why won't he walk it!"

Cheng Liu saw it clear, his teacher, he truly valued the talent.

That kind of feeling shown by his teacher, not even Lin Yu had it.

Cheng Liu didn't dare to advise, and kept silent.

After a long time, Shen Peishen finally looked up at him.

"Teacher, should we set up a death trap for Bai Xiaosheng?" asked Cheng Liu.

If not a friend, then an enemy!

Shen Peishen thought for a moment.

"What I said earlier was indeed to bluff and deceive him. Dealing with Bai Xiaosheng is not urgent, especially not at this time, not even in the near future! However, we can start planning."

"Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe, if they're lost, they're lost; they're insignificant."

"Even if Xiahou Qi knows that those people rely on me, so what, there's no evidence."

"Bai Xiaosheng is exceptionally intelligent, capable, but still has a shallow foundation. Even with Chen Yucheng on his side, it's not a threat to me."

Shen Peishen couldn't help saying, "People change, Lin Yu does, so might Bai Xiaosheng!"

"Of course, if Bai Xiaosheng crosses the line in the future, if he exceeds my bottom line, I wouldn't mind taking care of him ahead of time!"

Cheng Liu nodded.

Shen Peishen thought for a moment, his gaze flickering slightly, "That Yu Ying from the Business Department, she was quite close to Bai Xiaosheng today, wasn't she?"

Cheng Liu nodded again.

"Arrange it, I'd like to meet this girl," Shen Peishen said with a smile.

At this very moment, Bai Xiaosheng was leaving with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

Once out of the alley, Lin Weiwei couldn't help but look around and quietly asked Bai Xiaosheng, "Sheng, how did your talk go?"

Bai Xiaosheng thought for a moment and smiled.

"Very well."

"He wants to kill me, and I want to kill him."

Chapter 1082: A Draw?

Over the following few days,

the entire Affairs Department was enveloped in a unique atmosphere, one that was oppressive, excited, yet restless.

Many were busy, many were observing, and many were waiting for the outcome.

On the second day after Chen Yucheng returned to the headquarters, he formally applied and became a New-type Affairs Officer, enjoying some of the privileges of a Senior Affairs Officer.

In this way, he and Bai Xiaosheng, a New-type Affairs Officer with some privileges of a Senior Affairs Officer, and a true Senior Affairs Officer, had enough weight to organize manpower and resources to conduct inquiry investigations on Guo Yunxin, Sun Youhe, the provincial industry leaders, and the leaders of those twenty key enterprises.

It's worth mentioning that after Chen Yucheng officially became a New-type Affairs Officer, Lin Yu also applied and passed to become a New-type Affairs Officer.

Of course, if anyone else applied after that, it was like throwing a stone into the sea—there was no news at all.

The investigation officially began the next day.

However, it was far from smooth sailing.

Led by Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe, these people seemed to understand the severity of the situation and knew that the evidence at headquarters was conclusive, leaving them no hope of redemption.

Many resisted the company's investigation, and some enterprise general managers even fled Linshen.

Those who ran were shown no courtesy by Bai Xiaosheng and the others; they directly handed over the evidence to the judiciary and filed lawsuits.

For those remaining, Bai Xiaosheng and his team clearly stated that if they cooperated actively, their merits could compensate for their faults, and even if lawsuits were filed, the company would reach an understanding regarding some content.

However, even with such measures, the effect was minimal.

It wasn't until the third day, when Mr. Xiahou Qi invited Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng for tea, followed by adding Lin Yu to the investigation team, that a turning point appeared in the investigation!

With Lin Yu's involvement, the investigation suddenly made rapid progress, and Guo Yunxin, Sun Youhe, and the others became surprisingly cooperative.

The pace of the investigation also surged forward rapidly.

As a result, many affairs assistants, and even Affairs Officers at the headquarters, couldn't stop singing Lin Yu's praises.

"If you're talking about Officer Lin Yu, she's truly a model Affairs Officer. Now that she has successfully transitioned to a New-type Affairs Officer, her ability has been highlighted instantly. With her involved, the investigation has advanced by leaps and bounds in just one day."

"Yes! By comparison, Senior Affairs Officer Xiaosheng and Officer Chen Yucheng seem to pale a bit in this aspect."

"If Officer Lin Yu one day succeeds in becoming a Senior Affairs Officer, she will shine even more brightly, a fortune for our Affairs Department."

At the same time, many scoffed at these claims.

"Officer Lin Yu is Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng's beloved disciple, and Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe were once under Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng's wing, so in this matter, hmm, some things are better left unsaid..."

"The timing of Officer Lin Yu's involvement seems a bit like cherry-picking achievements, but since Elder Xia has given his approval, what can anyone else do."

"After such a big incident occurred, Sir Shen was initially out of it, maintaining a neutral stance. Now, he suddenly agrees to Lin Yu's involvement without avoiding suspicion, which is very intriguing."

Opinions varied.

Some were misled by the part, while some saw the whole picture.

But with truth and falsehood mixed together, it was truly hard to tell them apart.

After Lin Yu joined, Chen Yucheng went to Bai Xiaosheng, closed the door, and had a long talk.

"What surprises me is that this time Shen Peisheng completely didn't avoid letting Lin Yu get involved. I even heard this was actually his and Elder Xia's request. Shen Peisheng was never this type of person before!" Chen Yucheng expressed his doubts, "This time, he seems..."

"A bit too proactive, isn't he," Bai Xiaosheng sighed softly, "Shen Peisheng has invited me to dine before."

Chen Yucheng's eyebrows knitted slightly, but he remained silent and continued to listen.

"Shen Peisheng said Elder Xia hasn't been well lately," Bai Xiaosheng said.

Bai Xiaosheng picked out what he could tell from the dinner event and shared it with Chen Yucheng.

Chen Yucheng's eyes narrowed slightly, "Is Shen Peisheng thinking that when the time comes, he doesn't have to be restrained anymore, that he can openly seek power!"

Bai Xiaosheng just smiled.

At first glance, that seemed to be the case!

"However, Shen Peisheng has really made a smart move this time!" Chen Yucheng couldn't help but express his admiration, "We removed a small stronghold under his command, which is a loss. Even if it's far from debilitating, it still weakens his strength! But what does he do? He cleverly deflects the blow; since these people can't be saved, instead of having you and me claim these accomplishments, why not let Lin Yu have them! Hehe, this teacher... I even want to be his student!"

Shen Peisheng was allowing Lin Yu to reap the achievements; thus, with the addition of being a New-type Affairs Officer, challenging for the position of Candidate Great Affairs Officer wouldn't be difficult.

Although the term for a Candidate Great Affairs Officer is five years, given Bai Xiaosheng's quick promotion, it wouldn't be unreasonable to expect advancement ahead of schedule.

"Shen Peisheng truly doesn't disappoint as a mentor among the Senior Affairs Officers. Having been immersed in the corporate world for decades, this ability to turn adversity into opportunity is something we both have much to learn from!" Bai Xiaosheng even joked in good spirits.

"Here we are, watching half of our cooked ducks fly away, aren't you anxious?" Chen Yucheng asked, but the expression on his face was equally calm, as if he wasn't anxious either.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "We've also earned quite a bit, haven't you also gained the title of New-type Affairs Officer?"

"Lin Yu got it too, so it's still a draw," Chen Yucheng laughed.

"Without this large-scale investigation opportunity, could you have become a New-type Affairs Officer?" Bai Xiaosheng made his point seriously, "With Shen Peisheng's help, that title would certainly have been Lin Yu's!"

Chen Yucheng believed him.

"Lin Yu and I are evenly matched; this investigation uncovered so many people, with the credit going to you and me. In the later stage, Lin Yu taking away barely forty percent also counts as half a victory each," Chen Yucheng reflected, "Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng, indeed, is a master strategist, to be able to have an equal contest with us under such circumstances!"

"An equal contest?" Bai Xiaosheng looked at Chen Yucheng, his face wearing a smile that wasn't quite a smile, "Would I let that happen?"

Chen Yucheng, catching Bai Xiaosheng's expression, felt a sudden jolt in his heart and then laughed along.

"I just know with your calm demeanor, you must have a plan. Hmm, I've seen your tactics. Sometimes, I even think—"

"How lucky we are to be on the same side!" Chen Yucheng jestingly said.

Bai Xiaosheng, what kind of scheming you're up to, I have no clue!

However, I myself am quite looking forward to it!

Two days later.

In a small office at the Department of Affairs.

Guo Yunxin sat with a smile on his face, actively cooperating with Officer Lin Yu's questioning.

Actually, all the questions could have been answered at once.

Dragging it out for two or three days was, on one hand, to make the questioning seem more "reasonable," blocking some of the criticism, though it felt somewhat redundant.

Of course, what was more important was that there was ample time for the situation to evolve, allowing Officer Lin Yu's prestige to start growing.

This aspect of the "work" was something their side knew how to handle.

After answering Officer Lin Yu's last question, Guo Yunxin also breathed a sigh of relief, eagerly smiling at the student of Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng.

Officer Lin Yu was extremely satisfied and nodded at him. He didn't engage in further conversation, simply standing up and leaving.

As for why Guo Yunxin was willing to cooperate, whether the teacher had made any promises or given any benefits,

Officer Lin Yu didn't actually care.

He had changed a lot and only knew that the teacher wouldn't harm him; if the teacher had problems now, he shouldn't add to his troubles. Since the problematic person had confessed his issues, he had also taken responsibility for the group.

That was enough!

Officer Lin Yu believed that he could do these few things without any guilt.

Watching Officer Lin Yu leave, Guo Yunxin also prepared to depart.

Afterward, the corporation would sue him, yet he wasn't nervous but rather looking forward to it.

Because someone had told him that as long as he cooperated, they would hire the best lawyer for him. How many years he would get in jail would be as many years of compensation he would receive, a million a year.

Five years would be five million, ten years, ten million.

Guo Yunxin even found himself hoping to sit a few more years.

Just as Guo Yunxin stood up, the office door was pushed open, and a man and a woman entered—

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

"Don't rush off, Mr. Guo, we also want to have a few words with you," Lin Weiwei said with a smile.

"I've already told everything!" Guo Yunxin sneered coldly.

These two, were they Bai Xiaosheng's people?

What were they doing here?

All of the confessions had gone to Officer Lin Yu; even if they got something out, what use would it be?

"If everything's been said, you wouldn't mind talking a bit more, right?" Lei Ying laughed, "Don't worry, we won't detain you for too long!"

"Fine, fine, ask your questions," Guo Yunxin knew he couldn't avoid this and immediately adopted a careless and scornful laze.

Lei Ying looked at Lin Weiwei and said with a smile, "Weiwei, you go out first."

"What comes next is not for you to see!"

Lin Weiwei laughed and really left.

Lei Ying looked at Guo Yunxin with a smile, "You really are so willing to talk, and that's fantastic!"

...

Bai Xiaosheng didn't mind Officer Lin Yu joining the investigation.

For one, with Officer Lin Yu investigating, none of these people would miss out! It saved them the trouble!

Secondly, after Officer Lin Yu finished questioning, these people's defensive mechanisms would be at their most lax, thinking they had already spoken and it didn't matter to say a bit more.

Then, they would face Lei Ying's "non-violent" questioning!

...

When Lei Ying came out again, Lin Weiwei glanced inside.

Guo Yunxin was sitting there with a pale face as white as paper, his eyes vacant, his lips trembling, and fear filling his gaze.

"You can strike directly at the weakest and most fearful places in someone's heart without using force, driving them to madness. You could really teach this technique," Lin Weiwei couldn't help but admire Lei Ying, "You're amazing!"

Lei Ying replied with a smile, "You flatter me."

"Let's go, onto the next one. Officer Lin Yu does the first day, and we do the fifteenth. Xiaosheng's technique of Siskin following behind really comes in handy!" Lin Weiwei said with a laugh.

Mentioning Bai Xiaosheng made Lei Ying laugh too.

Bai Xiaosheng had told them not to worry about Shen Peisheng's moves, because he had plenty of counters!

Not afraid of them making a profit, because his side would gain even more!

Plus, there were plenty of ways to cause them trouble!

At this moment.

Bai Xiaosheng was in Mr. Xiahou Qi's office, not discussing business, but administering acupuncture to the elderly chairman.

"Although I still suggest you consider retiring at an appropriate time, dragging it out for another year or so shouldn't be an issue!"

Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile as he applied the needles.

Mr. Xiahou Qi lay comfortably in his chair, humming a word contentedly.

"Mm!"

Chapter 1083: Reaping a Bountiful Harvest

A week later, the Affairs Department at the Zhenbei Group Greater China Region Headquarters concluded its investigation into Guo Yunxin, Sun Youhe, and twenty other corporate executives.

Four people were demoted, eight dismissed, including the two Guo Yunxin, and lawsuits were filed against eleven!

The news caused a shockwave at the headquarters!

Such a scale of punishment was unprecedented!

Those likely to be most pleased by the unrest were the successors, who finally saw their day to step into new positions.

The newly appointed provincial industrial managers and company general managers were all profoundly grateful to Bai Xiaosheng.

Even if they belonged to different factions, that's what they all thought.

Without Bai Xiaosheng, even with support, they needed vacancies to rise to the occasion!

The headquarters also announced that the investigation had come to a successful conclusion.

Bai Xiaosheng, the Senior Affairs Officer, took the foremost credit, followed by Chen Yucheng and Lin Yu.

The achievements of the three were astonishing.

As the headquarters formally issued the notice of punishment to those individuals, Bai Xiaosheng heard the voice of Red Lotus in his mind, ringing out in a series like the chime of a bell.

"Identified four moderately negligent corporate management personnel, demoting them, and scoring one point each!"

"Identified eight seriously non-compliant management personnel, dismissing them, and scoring four points each!"

"Identified eight management personnel responsible for significant losses, filing suits, and scoring eight points each!"

"Identified three provincial industrial managers for lawsuits, scoring fifteen points each!"

"The total points earned this time are twenty-eight, currently equal to a Senior Affairs Officer level of twenty-eight points, needing seventy-two more to reach the presidency of the major region!"

Hearing the final scoring, Bai Xiaosheng was overjoyed.

Happiness came too unexpectedly!

He had completed more than a quarter of the progression in less than two months since his appointment as Senior Affairs Officer.

Such luck, what can you say!

Bai Xiaosheng was starting to get carried away himself.

Of course, his real gain was not just those twenty-eight points!

But rather the clues knocked out of the mouths of people like Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe!

Behind those clues lay a large number of problematic individuals, the real treasure!

The last blade was even pointed directly at Shen Peishen!

Bai Xiaosheng felt a surge of heat in his heart.

He just didn't know how many points a Shen Peishen would be worth!

In fact, even Shen Peishen himself probably hadn't expected Guo Yunxin and the others to spill so much.

And after they gave up their leads to Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, they knew that if they went back and told Shen Peishen, they might end up with nothing.

So, they actually unified their stories.

So much so that later, when Shen Peishen sent people to inquire, they all said they hadn't revealed anything.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying only interrogated them for twenty to thirty minutes afterward, such a brief duration indeed shouldn't have yielded much.

So Shen Peishen's side didn't pay much mind.

One reason that a cunning person like Shen Peishen could overlook these matters was another incident that occurred.

An incident that vexed Shen Peishen.

Elder Xia, Xiahou Qi, personally organized multiple meetings, severely criticizing the current problems, and praised Bai Xiaosheng and others extensively.

At the meeting, Elder Xia was full of vigor, showing none of his past sickly weakness, and even publicly thanked Bai Xiaosheng for the remedy that cured his chronic illness.

Xiahou Qi even joked with those present that he could still serve as their president for another five years.

Everyone was delighted, Shen Peishen was delighted, and even led the applause.

Bai Xiaosheng too was smiling and clapping, all the while watching Shen Peishen and nodding in acknowledgment.

Shen Peishen's smile was affable.

Shen Peishen returned home afterward, closed the door, and proceeded to smash all his favorite white porcelain tea sets to pieces.

"Bai Xiaosheng, you bastard!"

Cheng Liu even heard his teacher swear at someone for the first time.

After the commendation meeting, Chen Yucheng went to have coffee with Bai Xiaosheng again.

In fact, Chen Yucheng was extremely satisfied with the outcome. Even though Lin Yu ended up taking a share at the end, the lion's share was still in their hands, and his contribution was indeed more significant than that of Lin Yu's.

That was enough!

"Indeed, following Senior Affairs Officer Xiaosheng leads to good fortune. I look forward to the next Candidate Great Affairs Officer competition, where you can help me surpass Lin Yu."

Chen Yucheng even said it with a smile, half-jokingly.

"Of course," Bai Xiaosheng smiled back.

Chen Yucheng's assistance had indeed proved its strength.

Though he had received Elder Xia's support to freely use personnel, it was only in terms of deployment.

Whether someone was suitable, whether they were willing to get involved, or whether they could be trusted, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't guarantee.

But Chen Yucheng easily communicated with dozens of affairs assistants and affairs officers, who all did their utmost. That was truly formidable.

Despite the fact that it was Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying who later extracted more clues, it would have been extremely troublesome without the cooperation of those peripheral individuals.

"Here's something for you!" Bai Xiaosheng took something out and pushed it across to Chen Yucheng.

Chen Yucheng smiled as he picked it up, glanced at it, and then his smile froze. After flipping through a couple of pages, the smile completely disappeared.

Eventually, he looked focused, spending a good ten minutes looking at it, his eyes bright and alert.

"This is the real achievement of this operation. If we investigate these clues, perhaps today's gains will seem minor in comparison!" Bai Xiaosheng said earnestly with a smile.

Chen Yucheng looked up, gazing at Bai Xiaosheng.

He didn't expect that Xiaosheng would have discovered so many clues and that he would share them without reservation.

Although they had already formed an alliance and were in the honeymoon phase of their cooperation, Senior Affairs Officer Xiaosheng really did trust implicitly.

"I'll take care of these. I'll have someone keep watch," said Chen Yucheng, looking at Bai Xiaosheng with not a small amount of ambition, smiling, "I want to use this start as my steppingstone to boost my chances for the position of Senior Affairs Officer."

After speaking, Chen Yucheng added, "And, I want to help you, Bai Xiaosheng, take another step forward!"

Regarding Elder Xia's health, Bai Xiaosheng shared with Chen Yucheng that with his methods, he could only delay it for another year or so, depending on the actual situation.

"I've told Shen Peishen the same things that I told Elder Xia," said Bai Xiaosheng.

"What did Elder Xia say?" Chen Yucheng was curious.

Bai Xiaosheng's gaze flickered, "Elder Xia said—he's always known what Shen Peisheng is thinking!"

Chen Yucheng fell silent and nodded slightly.

After Chen Yucheng left, another guest arrived at Bai Xiaosheng's.

In fact, she had visited three or four times in the week, which was not infrequent at all.

"Xiaosheng, I've got a list of people who are close to Shen Peishen. Do you want it? Though it's only partial, it's very useful to you!"

"Xiaosheng, did you get anything else in this investigation? I can trade intelligence for intelligence with you!"

"Xiaosheng, do you have any thoughts on what's next? You can talk to me about it. If I'm happy, I might give you some clues!"

...

Yu Ying seemed to enjoy her frequent visits.

Weiwei didn't have much of a good impression of her.

But Bai Xiaosheng was quite patient, always smiling.

He even genuinely provided some clues in exchange for some information.

After the exchange, Bai Xiaosheng remained curious and smiling, "I've seen in movies; many spies are double agents. You, as an informant, surely aren't dealing with both sides, are you?"

Yu Ying maintained her smile, giving Bai Xiaosheng a charming look, "How could I be? I'm truly devoted!"

Bai Xiaosheng gazed into her eyes and laughed.

"Then you really do have professional ethics!"

Chapter 1084: Getting Off Halfway to Visit an Old Friend

Shangyun Province, Gaoyun City.

Three days had passed since the shocking investigation turmoil at the Zhenbei Group Greater China Region Headquarters.

Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng, the center of eager public attention, had once again quietly vanished from sight.

His whereabouts became a mystery.

It was likely that apart from a few individuals like Xiahou Qi and Chen Yucheng, no one knew where he had gone.

At this moment, thousands of miles away from Linshen, Bai Xiaosheng was strolling down the streets of Gaoyun City.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were following behind him.

While Gaoyun was not the capital city, it was the most economically powerful city in Shangyun Province.

But this place was not their intended destination.

They had disembarked from the car halfway through their journey.

"Xiaosheng, are we going to see Shang Wenshu, Mr. Shang, now?" Lin Weiwei asked.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

Shangyun Province's regional industrial lead, Shang Wenshu, was an old friend of Bai Xiaosheng.

Furthermore, it was said that Bai Xiaosheng once worked for his company.

Lin Weiwei thought this matter both novel and amusing.

After all, when Bai Xiaosheng first arrived at Zhongjing Media, he was the deputy general manager, a young and promising man with a very high starting point.

So much so that Lin Weiwei couldn't even imagine what it would be like for Bai Xiaosheng to be an employee.

That Shang Wenshu, not only was he an old friend of Bai Xiaosheng, but during Bai Xiaosheng's sprint towards headquarters, he had also made no small effort to help.

Unselfish, at that.

Thus, Bai Xiaosheng truly treated him as a friend, and he too was a person who valued past connections.

This time, acting on a whim, Bai Xiaosheng had led them off the car just to meet with Shang Wenshu and catch up on old times.

It had already been more than two years since they last saw each other.

"It's not just for the sake of catching up," Bai Xiaosheng told the two, "Our destination this trip is based on clues provided by Guo Yunxin, Sun Youhe, and others, which directly point to another one of Shen Peishen's trusted subordinates. But along the way, I felt the need to take a moment to really think about our next moves. After all, this time our opponent is Shen Peishen!"

Bai Xiaosheng's expression grew somewhat solemn.

They had already had a taste of Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng's tactics.

Even in adversity, he could turn a passive position into an active one and gain a profit.

"Such an opponent is very difficult to deal with. One misstep and we may be the ones at a disadvantage," Bai Xiaosheng murmured.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying nodded, agreeing wholeheartedly.

"Xiaosheng, could Shen Peishen already be plotting against us, taking some action?" couldn't help asking Lin Weiwei.

"The plotting is a given. Immediate action? I don't think so!" Lei Ying answered for Bai Xiaosheng this time.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded and said, "Yes, this time we've caused quite a commotion, becoming the focus of the entire Affairs Department."

"Making a move against us while we're in the spotlight would be too costly."

"Plus, with Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe carrying the markings of Shen Peisheng, once they are brought down and Shen Peisheng moves against us, public opinion will be fierce. Even he would find it difficult to silence the many voices! If his future goal is the presidency of the Greater China Region, or an even higher position, he'll want to be even more mindful of his reputation."

"Moreover, although they suffered significant losses on their side, Lin Yu profited from it, so they actually have earnings from Lin Yu's end."

"Without suffering a severe loss, revenge isn't something to rush at the moment."

After Bai Xiaosheng's analysis, Lei Ying nodded in agreement.

What's more, from the perspective of outsiders, Elder Xia's health was seemingly improving by the day, which was also a source of apprehension for Shen Peisheng.

"But what if!" Lin Weiwei insisted.

"What if?" Bai Xiaosheng glanced at Lin Weiwei and smiled, "Yes, we can't guarantee that there isn't one chance in ten thousand!"

"But if Shen Grand Affairs Officer makes his move, I, Bai Xiaosheng, will follow suit!"

Bai Xiaosheng spoke casually, but his confidence was palpable, exuding a bold spirit.

Such a statement instantly made Lin Weiwei realize her worries were completely unnecessary.

Her brother Xiaosheng, when facing others, when has he ever been at a disadvantage!

Bai Xiaosheng was also a Senior Affairs Officer, and right now Elder Xia's health was stable, plus there was the strong support of Chen Yucheng.

They were the ones not to be trifled with!

As Lin Weiwei came to this conclusion, she felt much more assured.

"However, Weiwei, your caution is indeed correct," Bai Xiaosheng said seriously. "I should also think about from which aspects Shen Peisheng would make his move against us. As the saying goes, 'better safe than sorry.'"

The group casually chatted as they walked along the bustling streets.

Gaoyun City, much like Zhongjing, had a lot in common, whether regarding urban planning or the level of prosperity, making it hard to tell them apart even as one walked among them.

In today's fast-paced urbanization, unless there is a significant north-south spread with obvious greenery differences, the general architecture of the cities no longer had any differences, which likely accounted for what is known as urban homogenization.

Seeing a tall Business Tower in the distance, Bai Xiaosheng pointed and said with a smile, "That's it."

The office location of Shang Wenshu—Dacheng Group Headquarters!

Dacheng Group was one of the top real estate companies in Shangyun Province and the core pillar of Zhenbei Group's entire industrial presence in the province.

Speaking of which, Zhenbei Group had industries in all provinces in the Greater China Region, especially the mainland ones, but the industrial layouts were biased.

In economically strong coastal provinces, each province would have a large number of group enterprises, with two to three, or even more, ranking within the top ten enterprises in the province.

For the central provinces, the groups were noticeably fewer, and it wasn't uncommon to see just one pillar enterprise, with the rest being small and medium-sized enterprises. One strong, many weak.

That was the situation in Shangyun.

The reason why Bai Xiaosheng was grateful for Shang Wenshu's past support was not only his selflessness but also because the opponent might have been wary of the headquarters and didn't dare to put in full effort, while Shang Wenshu fully supported him.

At the Dacheng Group, in the lobby on the first floor.

Two young, pretty receptionists sat stiffly at the front desk, not daring to slack in the slightest.

All because standing beside the front desk, there was a girl not much older than them.

The girl was about twenty-five or twenty-six years old, with fair skin, an attractive face, and a figure that would make her peers envious and the opposite sex stare.

Especially those legs wrapped in black stockings; it was hard for anybody to take their eyes off them.

Her name was Li Shiyue, one of Shang Wenshu's secretaries.

At that moment, Li Shiyue craned her neck, her bright eyes watching the entrance, waiting for someone.

Before the guest arrived, Li Shiyue's phone rang.

She answered in a hurry.

"Shiyue, has Mr. Lei arrived yet?"

From the other end, a pleasantly charming female voice spoke.

"Zhao, not yet," Li Shiyue replied truthfully.

"Keep an eye out, as soon as he arrives, tell me right away!" the voice from the phone instructed. "I have just finished setting up the banquet with Mr. Shang, and I will be back at the company immediately. In fact, according to the scheduled time, it won't take but a few minutes."

The voice paused for a moment, then continued, "This time, Dacheng Group's friction with the Zhang Family, Mr. Lei is coming to mediate. Mr. Shang has high hopes. However, you don't need to be too nervous, no need for any welcome ceremony; Mr. Lei is Mr. Shang's friend, not an outsider."

"Don't worry, Zhao," Li Shiyue said anxiously. "If Mr. Lei arrives early, I'll take good care of him."

After hanging up the phone, Li Shiyue looked up towards the entrance again.

Her expression grew more solemn as she was clear about the time arrangements.

At ten, Mr. Lei would arrive.

At eleven, the Zhang Family people would come.

At that time, an important meeting would take place.

Should there be any issues with the meeting, failing to reach an agreement,

Dacheng Group would be in peril.

Furthermore, the entire group's industry within the province would face a terrible upheaval!

Chapter 1085 Too Much

Li Shiyue's eyes were tightly fixed on the entrance of the hall, anxiously awaiting Mr. Shang's friend surnamed Lei, not daring to relax for a moment, though her heart couldn't help feeling a bit restless.

Shang Wenshu was the industry head of Shangyun Province, but they still habitually referred to him as Mr. Shang.

The pillar of industry for Shangyun Province's corporate sector was Dacheng Group. Not long before, Shang Wenshu had dismissed the former general manager and took over the role himself.

The previous general manager of Dacheng Group, for reasons unknown, took advantage of Shang Wenshu's absence on an inspection tour to start a conflict with the imposing Zhang Family from the neighboring province and even went as far as to initiate hostilities on his own initiative.

This caused the Zhang Family to unleash their wrath, launching fierce attacks on Dacheng Group and its enterprises in Shangyun.

War broke out in an instant.

Speaking of the enterprise strength of the Zhang Family, it was indeed terrifying.

Banding together all the various enterprises within Shangyun Province, they stood no chance and were suppressed and beaten every step of the way without the ability to fight back.

In just two short weeks, all enterprises including Dacheng Group were in turmoil, like leaves in a storm.

Shang Wenshu had no choice but to report to the corporation for help, and the group sent an administrative assistant to understand the situation beforehand, who was none other than Sister Zhao.

After Zhao arrived, the situation seemed to ease somewhat.

The Zhang Family didn't appear to truly want to wipe them out, and Mr. Shang also found an influential friend who agreed to come for mediation today.

If the mediation is successful, they might overcome the difficulty. If not, who knows if the Zhang Family will continue their actions?

This also had Li Shiyue extremely worried.

In fact, Shang Wenshu was a highly capable person and even more adept at discerning people's character. Li Shiyue was young when he promoted her, naturally not because of her exceptional appearance, but because the girl had the capability and a sincere dedication.

Especially the latter point, Shang Wenshu valued it greatly and even trained her to be his secretary, replacing the previous assistant.

Since the Zhang Family was also willing, the chances of a successful mediation today seemed quite high.

However, Li Shiyue still didn't have a good feeling about it.

Because early in the morning, the Zhang Family's representative sent a message, stating that the young master leading the delegation had specifically requested the location for the meeting and lunch, along with various other demands.

Shang Wenshu didn't dare delay, and early in the morning while there was still time, he went to the restaurant they demanded to make reservations and arrangements, even Sister Zhao went along.

"I hope Mr. Shang and Sister Zhao can come back soon, I hope today's mediation goes smoothly, and I hope the Zhang Family won't be too aggressive," Li Shiyue prayed silently.

However, when Shang Wenshu first received the phone call and learned who the Zhang Family had sent as the negotiating representative, his face turned grave.

Zhao had asked, and Li Shiyue clearly remembered how Shang Wenshu had answered.

"I've heard of that young master of the Zhang Family! In his thirties, extremely capable and exceptionally ruthless. He's successfully held his own and even engaged in several business battles, making a name for himself in the business world, especially in real estate," Shang Wenshu sighed heavily, "This time, it won't be easy!"

"I hope my friend can be powerful enough. After all, it was he who convinced the Zhang Family to attend this talk!"

That's what he said, but Shang Wenshu did not take any of the other party's requests lightly, rushing to the restaurant early in the morning to make preparations, trying his very best.

Li Shiyue sighed softly, calming her mind while waiting.

Suddenly, her eyes lit up.

Two strangers entered through the main door of the hall, heading straight for the front desk here, and even made eye contact with her from a distance.

One was a man, almost forty years old, very tall, with a well-proportioned body and a handsome appearance, carrying a briefcase.

The other, a woman, young and beautiful with an even better figure than Li Shiyue herself, exuded an allure and a touch of glamour that Li Shiyue couldn't match.

Behind the man and woman followed two men in suits and sunglasses, looking like bodyguards or perhaps attendants.

"That Mr. Lei should be younger, right?" Li Shiyue sized up the man, uncertain, and hurriedly approached.

These people seemed out of the ordinary. Whether they were from the Zhang Family or not, it was better for her to ask, to avoid any mishaps.

"Excuse me, what can I do for you?" Li Shiyue asked with a smile, very politely.

Between the two, the woman glanced at her coldly and frowned, "Who are you? Go, call your manager over here!"

Her tone was very domineering and impolite, as if Li Shiyue had no right to speak to them.

Li Shiyue was momentarily taken aback and felt her temper flare.

However, considering that the company was in turmoil, she still suppressed her emotions and managed a smile, "I am in charge. I'm Mr. Shang Wenshu's secretary. Do you know Mr. Shang Wenshu..."

Li Shiyue had no intention of flaunting, she just wanted to mention that Shang Wenshu was currently serving as the general manager of Dacheng Group, but his status was far superior to that of a general manager.

She was simply worried they might not be aware of this.

"Heh, Shang Wenshu." The woman scoffed, mumbling under her breath, not loudly, but just loud enough for Li Shiyue to hear.

"We're here to find him," the man eyed Li Shiyue with a hint of covetousness, but hid it well.

"You're here for Mr. Shang?" Li Shiyue was startled.

To call him by his name so directly!

"May I ask your names?" Li Shiyue asked, her displeasure barely concealed, yet still she spoke cautiously.

"My name is Wang Yingxue, and his is Liu Beicheng," the woman declared proudly. "We are Mr. Zhang Yudong's assistants!"

Zhang Yudong!

That young master from the Zhang Family!

Li Shiyue's heart sank.

Why had the Zhang Family people come!

Hadn't they said they would arrive at eleven?

Now, Mr. Shang's friend, Mr. Lei, the mediator, hadn't arrived yet, and they were already here!

Li Shiyue even felt a sense of panic.

The Zhang Family had caught them off guard.

Wang Yingxue smiled unkindly, her words still discourteous, "You know now? Where is your Mr. Shang? We're looking for him."

The implication in Wang Yingxue's words was clear: they expected Mr. Shang Wenshu to come and greet them!

Li Shiyue was quite displeased.

Their Mr. Shang, after all, was a provincial industrial manager, controlling more than thirty companies, and now these two assistants dared to call him by his name and seemed to expect him to come out and receive them personally!

The Zhang Family was overstepping!

Li Shiyue seethed inwardly, her expression frosting over slightly.

Of course, she couldn't allow her momentary anger to ruin everything. Taking a slight breath to compose herself, she said with a smile, "Mr. Zhang Yudong made a request early this morning, and Mr. Shang went to make the arrangements personally, as a gesture of sincerity."

This should be respect enough; even the Zhang Family couldn't find fault with that, Li Shiyue thought to herself.

"Already went to make arrangements?" Wang Yingxue's eyes widened, and she suddenly exclaimed, "Who allowed you to make arrangements on your own, acting recklessly! Even if we had requested specific dishes, drinks, utensils, and music, did you confirm the details with us? Even if you didn't know,

you could've called to ask! You don't know anything, and you just went ahead and did it! If our young master isn't happy, if you spoil his mood, can you bear the responsibility?"

"Our young master has high expectations, so we came over first," Liu Beicheng also seemed anxious, "Let's hurry over there. If something is not right, they can change it."

"I think they'll have to change everything!" Wang Yingxue chuckled coldly. "Mr. Shang Wenshu's taste, ha, I doubt it will be to our young master's liking!"

You people are too pretentious!

Even if you're from a prestigious family, lording your fussy whims over people, what's the meaning of this!

Li Shiyue's temper finally got the better of her.

"What are you standing there for, hurry up and show us the way," Wang Yingxue said angrily to Li Shiyue.

With a cold face, Li Shiyue replied firmly but respectfully, "I'm terribly sorry, Miss Wang, but my role here is to receive guests, not to escort you. I need to wait for our guests, and I'm afraid I cannot leave."

With such a defiant response, Wang Yingxue was furious.

"How dare you, a mere assistant, speak to us like this! What kind of people does Mr. Shang Wenshu hire! You believe if we make just one call, we can have Mr. Shang Wenshu fire you!"

Li Shiyue glared back.

Just then, she faintly overheard the security at the entrance asking someone's name.

"My surname is Bai."

"My surname is Lin."

"My surname is Lei!"

The last voice was especially deep and clear.

Li Shiyue was immediately thrilled.

Mr. Lei had arrived!

"Ladies, please excuse me, I must go to receive a distinguished guest!"

With a snort, Li Shiyue brushed past them and hurried to the entrance.

Chapter 1086: Big Misunderstanding

Bai Xiaosheng and his group had just entered the headquarters building of Dacheng Group when a man in a neatly tailored suit, carrying an air of cultured grace, quickly approached them.

He wore a smile and enthusiasm sparkled in his eyes.

This man was the head of the security team at Dacheng Group. Not wearing a uniform but a suit, he was in charge of security and some reception duties and also managed the front desk, somewhat like a lobby manager.

Therefore, internally, he was also called the "Security Manager".

As soon as the Security Manager arrived, he stopped them in their tracks.

However, what Bai Xiaosheng and his group received was not an interrogation but proactive, enthusiastic, and polite inquiries.

To the extent that Bai Xiaosheng and his companions secretly admired this service mindset of Dacheng Group—it was truly ahead of its time.

In reality, Li Shiyue had already alerted the staff early in the morning—

Any outsider coming today should not be underestimated or offended!

One mishap could potentially cause great trouble for the company!

Thus, the staff paid great attention, with the Security Manager focusing keenly and always keeping an eye on unfamiliar visitors.

Once Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng arrived, he noticed them, but Li Shiyue had stepped forward, so he stepped aside.

The conversation between Li Shiyue, Wang Yingxue, and Liu Beicheng wasn't pleasant, but since all were cultured individuals, they didn't argue loudly. Those slightly farther away couldn't tell whether their discussion was positive or negative and dared not come closer to gossip.

However, it was clear that Li Shiyue was unable to extricate herself.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng and his group arrive, the "part-time" welcoming Security Manager naturally went up to meet them and took the initiative to receive them.

With guests present, naturally, he had to ask how to address them.

Among the three, Lei Ying, with a martial background, had a deep and magnetic voice, the loudest of all.

Furthermore, Li Shiyue had been particularly sensitive to anyone "surnamed Lei" all morning.

As soon as Lei Ying introduced himself, his name could be heard on the other side.

Li Shiyue thought he was Mr. Shang's friend, Mr. Lei, and immediately left Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng to walk over.

In Li Shiyue's view, since Mr. Shang's friend could facilitate this meeting, he must hold a status equivalent to Mr. Shang and the Zhang Family people, higher than that of these assistants.

It is clear there's a hierarchy, which is not wrong.

Moreover, in Li Shiyue's view, Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng merely rode on the coattails of the Zhang Family, waving a big banner as a tiger's skin.

They were all assistants, and she hadn't really done anything improper, so let them be!

At most, they would report her to higher-ups or make her job difficult!

Wang Yingxue watched in astonishment as Li Shiyue walked away, her face displaying a "how dare she treat me this way" expression.

Liu Beicheng, on the other hand, watched Bai Xiaosheng and his two companions with a cold gaze. Seeing Li Shiyue as if seeing a savior, he sneered and softly said, "What big shot has arrived? Let's go and see too!"

...

There, Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei were amazed to find that from the moment Lei Ying introduced himself, the Security Manager's eyes lit up, and he instantly treated him with utmost respect, as though welcoming a most revered guest.

"Mr. Lei, you've finally arrived. We've been waiting for you all morning! You, you..."

The Security Manager wanted to say "Please come inside".

But Mr. Shang wasn't around, and Secretary Li Shiyue was occupied talking to others, so this "please"... where to?

However, not inviting such an esteemed guest inside and leaving him standing there might make Mr. Shang and Secretary Li blame him for neglecting a valued guest.

The Security Manager suddenly felt at a loss.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei looked at the Security Manager and then at Lei Ying, intrigued.

It seemed as though Lei Ying was the close friend or relative of Mr. Shang Wenshu...

No, a recognized Senior Affairs Officer!

Such treatment for distinguished guests...

Lei Ying looked bewildered and was tempted to ask the manager if he had mistaken him for someone else.

"Mr. Lei, you've finally arrived!" Another crisp, pleasant, and incredibly charming voice called out.

Bai Xiaosheng and his companions turned their heads and saw a strikingly beautiful woman approaching.

Dressed like a glamorous secretary, her eyes shone with immense warmth toward Lei Ying, radiating brilliance.

"I am Li Shiyue, Mr. Shang Wenshu's secretary. Mr. Shang is currently at the hotel, but he asked me to welcome you here. Please go to Mr. Shang's office and have a seat; he will be back soon!"

Li Shiyue extended her delicate hand to shake with Lei Ying and then nodded smilingly at Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei.

After speaking, Li Shiyue also gave a signal behind her and whispered, "The Zhang Family people have already arrived!"

Li Shiyue thought Lei Ying was the Mr. Lei, thinking he knew everything.

But Lei Ying was truly clueless.

He couldn't help but exchange a glance with Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei, then said seriously, "Miss Li, I..."

Lei Ying wanted to say he wasn't.

"Who is this?" A cold, mocking female voice came, interrupting Lei Ying's words and drawing everyone's attention.

Li Shiyue stepped aside, turned around, and Bai Xiaosheng and the others also looked over curiously.

Wang Yingxue, looking proud, walked over with her chin up.

Liu Beicheng followed beside her, smiling, yet his gaze slid over Bai Xiaosheng and the others with a hint of faint disdain.

In their eyes, the "honored guests" that Li Shiyue relied on were these two men and a woman?

The older man was in his forties, the younger one not even thirty years old, the woman as well.

At such ages, how could they be significant figures?

Or, were they from some wealthy family?

What a joke, in the nearby provinces, there are no families on par with the Zhang Family!

Wang Yingxue eyed Lin Weiwei coldly, feeling her temperament and beauty were somewhat more impressive than hers, which immediately annoyed her.

"This Mr. Lei is a friend of Mr. Shang Wenshu and also involved in the mediation, Miss Wang must know this," Li Shiyue said indifferently.

The other party was just an assistant, a secretary, it was one thing for her to show off her power.

Surely she wouldn't be discourteous to Mr. Lei!

Mr. Lei could speak with Zhang Family people, his status was naturally above them!

That's what Li Shiyue believed.

Lei Ying and Wang Yingxue were both taken aback, sizing each other up, both about to speak.

Lei Ying wanted to clear up the misunderstanding.

He was no mediator, and besides, on this trip, Bai Xiaosheng was the friend of Shang Wenshu, their Senior Affairs Officer.

Wang Yingxue wanted to ask.

Who is this?

The mediator's surname was supposed to be Gu, since when did it change to Lei?

Li Shiyue might not know that Shang Wenshu had asked her to meet the mediator, Mr. Lei, but there was a slight pause in her words, she even thought Shang Wenshu had been distracted at the time.

Little did she know that the mediator and Mr. Lei were two different people!

His friend Mr. Lei had found the mediator through connections and a substantial amount of money.

This misunderstanding was huge.

...

Lei Ying opened his mouth to speak but then felt someone tug at him from behind.

He looked in surprise, Bai Xiaosheng gave him a faint smile and shook his head slightly, clearly signaling him not to clarify.

Bai Xiaosheng had been listening by the side, gathering bits of information from the conversations and gauging the current situation.

Bai Xiaosheng sensed something unusual and found it amusing, hence he decided to observe.

When Wang Yingxue was about to speak, someone silently poked her.

Wang Yingxue glanced at Liu Beicheng beside her, who also smiled meaningfully.

A thought struck Wang Yingxue, "The people from Shang Wenshu's side are too arrogant! They find some random person and claim he's the mediator? Why should I enlighten them!"

An idea dawned on Wang Yingxue, and she sneered inwardly.

"Even the previous mediator had to come begging us, and with the Zhang Family's power, we really don't need to deal with them."

"However, haha, we just need this mediation!"

"It's perfect that an unknown person has come to participate in the mediation. If the young master wants to take advantage of the situation, he can flare up at any time!"

"We can also squeeze as much as possible from them, making them pay a bigger price!"

Wang Yingxue made up her mind and immediately fell silent. She glanced at Lei Ying again and felt that although this man had a decent appearance, his demeanor was mainly imposing, with a robust body and developed muscles, more like a "rough man."

She then disregarded him even more.

Li Shiyue introduced Lei Ying, suddenly realizing the atmosphere was a bit strange. The people from both sides seemed to be making faces at each other, but when she looked over, they appeared normal again.

This gave Li Shiyue a peculiar feeling.

"Is it my imagination?" Li Shiyue even wondered to herself.

"The issue of mediation, we as the servants don't manage. We only take care of the details of the arrangements to make our young master comfortable. If the luncheon is not well organized, it's us who will be blamed, not you all."

Wang Yingxue spitefully said to Li Shiyue, "Now, let's go to the restaurant, meet Mr. Shang Wenshu, and let him make the adjustments on-site."

Li Shiyue had long been reluctant to see them and nodded immediately, about to say something, but then she heard Lei Ying speak.

"Since Mr. Shang is over there, good, we'll go

Chapter 1087: Tensions Rising!

When Bai Xiaosheng and his two companions arrived, they immediately encountered a misunderstanding, with Lei Ying even being mistaken for some "mediator" Mr. Lei.

From the secretary of Shang Wenshu, Li Shiyue, Bai Xiaosheng heard snippets like "Zhang Family" and "mediation," and saw those supposed Zhang Family people, who seemed to be just assistants or secretaries, yet their demeanor was arrogant, their gaze haughty, as if they were superior.

Bai Xiaosheng was immediately filled with curiosity.

"Has there been a conflict at Shang Wenshu's place, that someone needs to find a mediator?!"

Bai Xiaosheng found it somewhat unbelievable.

After all, Shang Wenshu was the provincial industry head, managing over thirty companies within Shangyun province, including a very powerful real estate company—the Dacheng Group.

Even though it was not as developed as the coastal provinces, to say that there was a business conflict necessitating the mobilization of dozens of companies to mediation?

Especially when the other party came so domineeringly, making it seem as if this side was the one having to bow its head.

Who could have such strong capabilities!

Which Zhang Family?

Bai Xiaosheng's mind was brimming with questions, thus he hinted at Lei Ying that they should follow to meet Shang Wenshu and discuss matters in person.

"Mr. Lei, are you also going over there?" Li Shiyue thought for a moment, but did not refuse, "Alright then, I'll arrange the transport."

After speaking, Li Shiyue turned to Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng.

"Miss Wang and Mr. Liu probably drove here, do you need further arrangements?"

Out of courtesy, Li Shiyue asked one more question.

Those past unpleasantnesses were just that, past, one can't survive in business without good emotional control.

"You don't need to arrange transport for us, we Zhang Family people aren't used to sitting in a commercial vehicle worth a few hundred thousand. Moreover, it would devalue us to let people know we Zhang Family people are riding in a cheap car," Wang Yingxue said sarcastically with a curl of her lip.

"No need, we drove two Porsches, that's sufficient," Liu Beicheng said with a smile.

Though he was not as arrogant as Wang Yingxue, his words also carried a certain pride.

As if for him, Zhang Family people sitting in cars worth millions was the baseline.

Li Shiyue nodded expressionlessly, "Then, our commercial vehicle worth a few hundred thousand won't embarrass itself, you should know where the hotel is, you can go on your own."

Without waiting for Wang Yingxue and the others to respond, Li Shiyue smiled at Lei Ying and others, "Please wait a moment, I'll go arrange the transport now."

Bai Xiaosheng and his companions nodded.

Li Shiyue took her leave directly.

Wang Yingxue coldly watched her back, spitting out, "What an attitude, such people should just get lost!"

"Mr. Shang's secretary, it should be Mr. Shang who has the final say, this Miss Wang seems a bit too concerned," suddenly Bai Xiaosheng spoke with a smile.

Wang Yingxue, holding her shoulders, glanced at Bai Xiaosheng and then shifted her gaze away, scoffing coldly, "I don't talk to servants; it devalues me."

As she spoke, Wang Yingxue glanced at Lei Ying, with a mocking smile, "I just remembered, the mediator came with a Mr. Lei, who was nodding and bowing at my Zhang Family, quite respectful in front of our young master. I wonder what relation this Mr. Lei has with that one."

Lei Ying looked on coldly, silent.

This woman, anyone who didn't know better would think she was some wealthy heiress, but from the conversation just now, she seemed to be just an assistant or secretary, yet so incredibly haughty.

With such people, Lei Ying always preferred not to engage.

Moreover, to quarrel with a woman, was truly unbecoming of a man.

"Our Mr. Lei's relation with the one you mentioned is none of your business, if you want to know, let your young master come and ask personally! You, probably don't have the qualifications!" Lin Weiwei coldly huffed beside Lei Ying, "Don't think too highly of yourself!"

"You're just an assistant too, constantly talking about your Zhang Family, is your last name Zhang? Or perhaps you want to change it!"

"Also, may I ask. Are all your so-called Zhang Family people this impolite!"

Lin Weiwei was absolutely unmatched when it came to verbal sparring.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but secretly chuckle and gave her a thumbs-up.

It seemed that in the future, for uncomfortable confrontations that he and Lei Ying shouldn't face directly, they could simply let her insult the other party bloody.

Lin Weiwei's words left Wang Yingxue dumbfounded, then her face turned purplish-red, and her eyes blazed with fury.

Lin Weiwei laughed coldly, fearless.

From the moment Wang Yingxue demeaned Bai Xiaosheng, she had decided not to tolerate it!

"How dare you!" Wang Yingxue shouted angrily.

"That's enough!" Liu Beicheng added, his eyes turning sharp.

Zhang Family's dignity could not be infringed upon, especially not by a mere aide beside a nobody!

"Have you never felt that you've overstepped in what you say and do? Ha, Zhang Family, such grand airs!" Lin Weiwei scoffed.

Walking through the corporation with Bai Xiaosheng these past two years, what kind of major enterprises hadn't they seen?

Those within the group, and those external. The domestic top hundred, even the world's top hundred, were all too common!

And the number of impressive enterprise leaders they had personally dealt with was immense—they even led their own corporate sectors to oppose major external enterprises, consistently defeating them!

What was this Zhang Family thinking, daring to strut around and show off on their group's territory?

Could it be that they think Zhenbei Group has no one?

Liu Beicheng's face darkened like storm clouds.

Wang Yingxue was furious, yelling at the two bodyguards behind her, her voice piercing, "Are you two deaf? Did you not hear this wretched woman insulting our Zhang Family? Go tear her mouth apart! Go!"

The two towering men, nearly two meters tall, reacted swiftly, looking menacing as they moved to approach.

Bai Xiaosheng watched coldly, determined that if they dared touch even a single hair on Weiwei, he would definitely cause them severe injury!

Lei Ying looked on with equal coldness, a slight curve forming at the corner of his mouth.

Should the adversaries dare come closer, he wouldn't mind knocking them out for a couple of days and nights!

"Stop!"

At the critical moment, someone shouted loudly.

Li Shiyue had returned, followed by the security manager and two security guards.

"Miss Wang, Mr. Liu, what are you doing!"

Li Shiyue intervened between the two groups, furrowing her brows.

"These are the people you brought, with unbridled tongues, daring to insult my Zhang Family!" Wang Yingxue glared furiously, "Today, I insist on tearing her mouth apart, or else let you Shang Wenshu and your pathetic company just wait for death. Our Zhang Family won't even give you a chance to regret!"

Li Shiyue frowned and couldn't help but glance at Lin Weiwei, who was smirking. Mr. Lei's face was expressionless, but his eyes clearly flashed fiercely.

Li Shiyue was also immensely troubled.

"Miss Wang, I'm not sure what you discussed, but in just a few words, you've escalated to this point. But remember, this is Dacheng Group, and today is the day of negotiations between us. Why don't we take a step back? If there's anything, let Mr. Zhang, Mr. Lei, and Mr. Shang resolve it?" Li Shiyue said. "If you really want to start a fight here, wouldn't you make the Zhang Family appear intolerant and violent in front of everyone? Moreover, Mr. Lei is ultimately our guest, we can't just ignore if you take action."

Li Shiyue remained firm though she sighed inwardly.

While she dared to confront them coolly, she also didn't dare to be too forceful against the aides of the young masters of the Zhang Family.

Mr. Lei and his company had really been quite abrupt!

Even though this Miss Wang's words were extremely unpleasant, they should still be tolerated.

But then again, she was just a mediator, not constrained by the Zhang Family, why should she suffer in silence?

Yet, if this incited the fury of the Zhang Family...

Li Shiyue couldn't help worrying for Lin Weiwei and the others.

"Hmph, consider yourselves lucky!" Wang Yingxue seemed to also see reason, and Liu Beicheng gave her a meaningful look.

Only then did Wang Yingxue snort heavily, her cold gaze sweeping over Li Shiyue, Lei Ying, and Lin Weiwei.

"The attitude you showed today and those words, my Zhang Family will remember them all..."

"When the time comes for you to pay!"

Wang Yingxue said ominously.

Liu Beicheng's gaze was piercing, conveying the same message.

After dropping their threatening words, they prepared to leave.

Li Shiyue let out a sigh of relief.

"Did you really take down everyone's name? Including mine?"

Suddenly, another voice chimed in.

Lei Ying and Lin Weiwei stepped apart, and Bai Xiaosheng stepped forward, his smile brimming.

Wang Yingxue, Liu Beicheng, and even Li Shiyue stared at him in surprise.

This man, always unobtrusive, how could he suddenly make those two silent and retreat!

"Include me as well," Bai Xiaosheng smiled sincerely, "and make sure to highlight me."

"Because I've suddenly decided, I want Shang Wenshu to fight to the end against your Zhang Family!"

Chapter 1088: Bullying the Big with the Small, Don't Overestimate Yourself!

Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng's eyes suddenly narrowed, looking at Bai Xiaosheng with astonishment.

This young man, amiable and approachable when silent and smiling, did not show his true capabilities.

Just now, his casual teasing seemed light and breezy, nothing out of the ordinary.

But now, he had stood up.

In an instant, he seemed transformed.

That intangible aura, each glance, each movement exuded a momentum that made both of them feel faintly suffocated, their hearts pounding!

Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng found it unbelievable.

You see, even their own young master, the future helm of the Zhang Family, might not easily induce such a chilling effect.

Only the old master of the Zhang Family, who had dominated the business world for decades and stood at the pinnacle of power, could chill someone with a word or a look.

Could it be that this young man who had stepped forward, young as he was, could be compared to the Zhang Family's old master?

After their initial shock, Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng internally refuted their own judgment and found it utterly absurd!

"This must be my illusion!"

"Indeed, this is an illusion!"

Both silently recited this in their hearts.

At the same time, they also secretly breathed a sigh of relief, grateful that their companion did not know about the absurd illusion they had just experienced.

Otherwise, it would have been a huge joke.

Li Shiyue also instantly felt a pressing invisible authority from Bai Xiaosheng, making her subconsciously stand straight and hold her breath as she listened.

As if facing a supremely authoritative superior.

However, she soon hesitated, utterly astonished, not understanding why she would react with such respect,

Especially to a young man not much older than herself.

But seeing Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying standing behind Bai Xiaosheng, standing to his left and right respectively, both displaying a similar meek demeanor,

Li Shiyue grew more curious.

Why, even the mediator Mr. Lei had such an attitude towards this young man?

Who is he?

As Li Shiyue harbored this doubt about Bai Xiaosheng, Wang Yingxue had already suppressed that "absurd" feeling in her heart, furrowed her brows looking at Bai Xiaosheng, and directly asked, "Who are you? Just now you said, let Mr. Shang Wenshu fight my Zhang Family to the end? Ridiculous! Would Mr. Shang Wenshu listen to you? Do you have the qualifications!"

Perhaps because of that moment of submission to Bai Xiaosheng's awe,

Wang Yingxue spoke with particular iciness, both her words and expression filled with anger.

Her tone was naturally very aggressive.

"Exactly, here, when you speak, you need to take responsibility! Can you bear this responsibility? Miss Li, you heard it! If he is one of yours, I might consider this as provoking our Zhang Family!" Liu Beicheng said furiously, his words harsh.

Initially, Liu Beicheng had been relatively restrained, but now he was uncharacteristically aggressive.

His domineering manner, much like Wang Yingxue's, appeared fierce and rude but in reality—

It was all bark and no bite.

Li Shiyue looked at them with a complex expression, silently gave them a glance, and did not respond.

Ever since Bai Xiaosheng had stood up, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying had dismissed those two as inconsequential, now even more so as if they were hearing dogs bark, showing a dismissive attitude.

Bai Xiaosheng had not even bothered with those two but simply smiled gently at Li Shiyue, "Miss Li, is the car ready?"

"Oh, yes, it's ready," Li Shiyue hastily said.

"Then let's go," Bai Xiaosheng smiled at her.

His voice was very gentle, even tender, but Li Shiyue instinctively nodded forcefully, seemingly without any objection.

Then, Bai Xiaosheng looked at Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng, his smile fading, his tone indifferent, "I have nothing to say to you, let the real Zhang Family people come to see me."

"Also, I have a message for your masters from Zhenbei Group—"

"Bullying the less powerful shows a lack of self-awareness. Globally speaking, who has Zhenbei Group ever feared!"

Bai Xiaosheng looked utterly nonchalant.

He then strode away.

Lei Ying and Lin Weiwei followed, their gazes sweeping over Wang Yingxue and others, faces wearing peculiar smiles, the corners of their mouths curling in a way that seemed incredibly fanatical.

As if looking forward to a business battle!

This again made Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng's hearts suddenly pound.

Have these people gone mad!

How could they speak so lightly, so casually of a business war!

But the more this was the case, the less Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng felt they could measure their opponents, nor dare confront them.

After all, they were just mere assistant secretaries, two underlings, who counted for nothing in front of the real Zhang Family people.

They could strut around, but when it came to making decisions, especially on such a grand scale, they had no right to speak.

The two just stared, mouths agape, as they watched Bai Xiaosheng leave.

Li Shiyue's expression was complex as she thought about Mr. Lei, who, being a friend of Mr. Shang, showed such deference to the young man. Surely, the youth must be a formidable ally.

Perhaps he even had significant connections with the group.

Such confidence in his speaking must come from a secure backing!

In reality, in this dispute, people like Li Shiyue in the group, who faced compromising with the Zhang Family, were quite discontent, feeling their dignity compromised.

But what could they do!

At that moment, what Bai Xiaosheng had said.

Surprisingly sparked a sense of pleasure and excitement in Li Shiyue's heart!

Looking globally, whom should the Zhenbei Group fear?

Of course, beneath her excitement, Li Shiyue was exceedingly worried.

The Group was powerful, but its operations were too extensive, too large, becoming cumbersome to manage.

The current opponent was formidable and was right before their eyes—and their strength was concentrated!

The Zhang Family!

The long-famed Zhang Family!

With a host of family businesses, they effortlessly crushed over thirty corporate groups in Shangyun Province without them being able to fight back!

They wouldn't back down just because you chanted slogans!

The crux was that the bold statements of this young Mr. Bai might not be endorsed by the group, as he wasn't a senior leader.

Li Shiyue felt uneasy again, finding it somewhat unbelievable.

With a complicated heart, Li Shiyue hurriedly nodded to Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng and quickly said, "Both of you, let's face it, we are just subordinates, we don't make the decisions. You'd better head to the restaurant to see to the demands of young master Zhang first. Let the leaders handle the rest."

After speaking, Li Shiyue left them and rushed after Bai Xiaosheng and the other two.

Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng's faces went from pale to grim, clenching their teeth in a moment of silence but finding themselves unable to respond.

Finally, they exchanged glances and fiercely said—

"We must report this to the young master!"

"We can't easily forgive those who disrespect our Zhang Family!"

Wang Yingxue then sneered coldly, "We will go to the restaurant too and look for Mr. Shang Wenshu, to see if he also boasts so arrogantly! If he also thinks of confronting our Zhang Family head-on, then we'll be spared the trouble."

"If Mr. Shang Wenshu feels intimidated, then let him call those people to apologize to us in person! And to the Zhang Family as well!" Liu Beicheng sneered coldly, "But whether we forgive them is up to us!"

Thinking back to how Bai Xiaosheng stood up just now, overpowering them with his presence, if they could intimidate Mr. Shang Wenshu into bowing to them, it would be more than perfect!

Wang Yingxue's eyes gleamed with fervent anticipation.

Was there anything more satisfying than making a supremely proud person lower their head and lose face?

"Let's go, we must head there right away!" Wang Yingxue grew impatient.

Liu Beicheng was no less eager than her.

The two hurried off with their bodyguards.

In the hall, as the security manager heaved a sigh of relief, his face couldn't help but show immense worry.

"I hope it doesn't escalate to an uncontrollable extent, that's the Zhang Family after all!"

"That's the Zhang Family after all!"

In a driving Mercedes-Benz Vito, Li Shiyue sat inside, her mind somewhat chaotic.

When she had listened to Bai Xiaosheng intimidating Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng, she only felt surprised and invigorated, but once that excitement passed, her mind kept turning over information about the Zhang Family, leaving her feeling nothing but unease.

Honestly, Mr. Shang Wenshu was someone she greatly respected, managing a provincial group of industries with both intelligence and skills, acting decisively, without hesitation, and full of guts.

But even Mr. Shang Wenshu, controlling over thirty group businesses, could only withstand a few "rounds" against the Zhang Family.

The strength of the Zhang Family wasn't just hyped up by the news, but was earned through actual hard struggles.

Many of their subsidiary enterprises were among the top hundred in their respective industries nationwide!

And these powerful enterprises combined were the Zhang Family—a towering giant among strong corporations!

Li Shiyue found it hard to imagine such a formidable entity being threatened and forced to retreat.

The Group was like a fist, the Zhang Family like a nail; though the fist was powerful, a small nail wasn't necessarily afraid of it!

She couldn't help but look toward Bai Xiaosheng, and under her concern, a hint of reproach emerged.

Even if he was an external aid brought in by Mr. Shang, how dare he provoke war at the drop of a hat.

Is a corporate battle so trivial, started on a whim?

It was like throwing mountains of gold and silver at each other!

Moreover, to arrogantly splatter bold words on behalf of their group for free. If they still chose to compromise in the end, not only would they lose the initiative, but they might also lose the last bit of their dignity to the opponent.

Without actions, big words had already been spoken, was this really okay?

Li Shiyue currently utterly disagreed with Bai Xiaosheng's approach, even secretly regretting why she didn't stop him immediately, or at least clarify a neutral position, to prevent any misunderstandings from the Zhang Family.

Seeing Li Shiyue's solemn expression, as if mixed with grief and complaint, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but smile, "Miss Li, do you have something to say?"

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying also looked over.

Li Shiyue sighed deeply, "Mr. Bai, you were presumptuous, the Zhang Family should not be provoked lightly!"

Chapter 1089: The Zhang Family, Untouchable?

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but chuckle in silence. Li Shiyue had been watching him all along the way, on the verge of speaking several times but restraining herself, just to tell him this?

The Zhang Family, untouchable?

"The Zhang Family, are they that powerful?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with a smile.

Li Shiyue nodded emphatically, thinking Bai Xiaosheng was unaware of the details, and spoke seriously, "I used to work in finance, I've tallied the market value of ten public businesses under the Zhang Family."

Li Shiyue stressed again, "Mr. Bai, that was the Zhang Family from two years ago, just ten public enterprises, their public market value. At that time, the Zhang Family's total market value was at least two hundred billion, in US dollars!"

Li Shiyue added another sentence, "You're familiar with the Tengyun Group, Mr. Bai, right? Back then, it was worth four hundred and fifty billion US dollars! Bear in mind, Tengyun is an Asian internet giant!"

The market value of just a part of the Zhang Family's public businesses approached nearly half of that of an Asian internet titan.

This was what Li Shiyue urgently wanted to emphasize!

After speaking, Li Shiyue stared into Bai Xiaosheng's eyes, hoping he understood.

"Miss Li, let me tell you something interesting," Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "Two years ago, an old gentleman came to me and mentioned a world-class financial consortium worth two trillion. Back then, I had no concept of that amount. I thought, wow, two trillion yuan, how much money is that? Piled up, it must be mountains and seas of gold and silver."

"Much, much later, I came to understand what a world-class financial consortium was. That two trillion was not in yuan, but in US dollars."

"Moreover, the old gentleman was probably afraid of scaring me; what he told me likely wasn't even everything!"

"Add two years to such a colossal entity, even without aggressive expansion, just steady growth, where do you think it stands now?"

"What's more, its current development speed is truly unmatched."

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying listened so intently they couldn't help but gasp.

It must be what a financial empire looks like.

"What you're talking about is the Zhenbei Group, isn't it?" gentle and virtuous, Li Shiyue understood in an instant.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying also had sudden realizations.

Bai Xiaosheng laughed heartily, "Correct, it is indeed Zhenbei Group, and it's also your true foundation and support! A behemoth that was ten times the size of the Zhang Family two years ago stands with you; do you still fear the Zhang Family?"

Li Shiyue frowned, "It's not calculated like that, Mr. Bai!"

"A group is a group, with industries spread all over the globe, but dispersed. The Zhang Family is concentrated domestically."

"Moreover, why should we engage in commercial warfare with a formidable family group over a regional conflict?"

The Zhenbei Group may be an enormous fist or a powerful foot, commanding respect.

But the Zhang Family is a nail, a tough one.

Bigger fists and feet don't necessarily mean they can easily win over a nail without damage, nor are they necessarily willing to clash with it.

After listening, Bai Xiaosheng's smile remained unchanged.

Bai Xiaosheng countered, "If the Zhang Family dares to provoke a colossal entity ten times their size, why can't the group fight for dignity and profit?"

"But if minor compromises and concessions can lead to better outcomes, win more benefits, then why not?" Li Shiyue retorted unconvinced.

She felt that Bai Xiaosheng's words weren't entirely right, but also felt that her own reasoning wasn't perfect.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "Is it worthwhile, in the case of weakness, to compromise and retreat ten thousand steps without involving dignity, to exchange for long-term development? If other strong enterprises follow suit, what then? Do we retreat further, still retreat?"

"But declaring war over minor disagreements is also wrong!" Li Shiyue stood by her views, raising her voice.

Bai Xiaosheng was about to speak when Li Shiyue actually became a bit flustered, "Besides, who do you think you are? Are you a Zhenbei Group big shot? You can't make such decisions. You don't have that authority, do you?"

Li Shiyue was at a bit of a loss, genuinely flustered.

Her temper rose in layers, finding an outlet to vent.

Bai Xiaosheng just smiled, choosing not to argue any further.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying exchanged looks, their expressions strange.

Girl, your reasoning may be valid, but you got one thing terribly wrong.

Bai Xiaosheng really is a big shot in the group!

Seeing that Bai Xiaosheng remained silent, Li Shiyue still stared at him intently, waiting for a rebuttal.

Noticing this, Bai Xiaosheng laughed heartily, "It's just a chat, Miss Li, don't take it too seriously. Naturally, I can't make such a big decision for Zhenbei Group."

Bai Xiaosheng's words seemed to "soften".

Li Shiyue pouted, then after calming down a bit, she realized she had been petty.

The others were just making a casual remark and hadn't forced her to agree with anything. It was just that she couldn't win the argument, so she became unrelenting and eventually even rude, which was far from polite.

Feeling somewhat embarrassed, Li Shiyue still thought the root cause lay with Bai Xiaosheng, taking at most seventy percent of the blame.

After reflecting for a moment with her head down, she deducted one percent of the blame from herself, shifting it onto Bai Xiaosheng.

This was called gender balance.

However, bearing sixty percent of the blame still seemed like she was in the wrong.

She replayed the entire process in her mind.

It seemed...

Everyone else had been amiable, while she had become increasingly agitated.

"Mr. Bai, I apologize for my attitude," Li Shiyue took a deep breath and earnestly continued.

It was an apology for the attitude, not the viewpoint.

Bai Xiaosheng also smiled.

This stubborn girl did show some responsibility, which made him take a liking to her.

"Miss Li, you're too kind," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile. "Regarding this conflict you've had with the Zhang Family, I'd like to hear more about it."

Bai Xiaosheng naturally shifted the topic.

"Mr. Bai, you don't know?" Li Shiyue looked at Lei Ying in surprise.

In her view, this Mr. Bai, having been involved and even speaking on behalf of the group, should at least know the situation.

At the very least, Mr. Lei should have told him.

"I know some of it, but not all. Miss Li, don't worry about what I know. Just start from the beginning, and the more detail, the better. I get a different feeling when I hear information from different voices," Bai Xiaosheng said with a natural smile.

"That works," Li Shiyue nodded.

Then, she began to recount the story.

"It all started when I had just become Mr. Shang Wenshu's secretary, accompanying Mr. Shang on inspections of various city and district businesses."

"Then one day, suddenly, we received news that Dacheng Group and one of the Zhang Family's pillar real estate companies were at odds over a highly valuable piece of land in the Gandong Province capital, neither side backing down, leading to friction."

Li Shiyue hesitated for a moment before sheepishly continuing, "It was our Dacheng Group's former General Manager who colluded with several groups in Shangyun, tripping up the other party and ultimately securing the land."

"But that completely enraged the Zhang Family. The former General Manager of Dacheng Group also took it upon himself to negotiate with them, ending in discord. Consequently, the Zhang Family began an onslaught against our group's businesses in Shangyun Province."

"By the time Mr. Shang and I were informed, it was already over. When we rushed back, the situation was dire."

"The former General Manager of Dacheng Group, it's rumored he was fired in a rage by Mr. Shang. The truth is, they had a fight, and he resigned on his own."

Li Shiyue sighed, "In any case, that's the situation now. It's all on Mr. Shang to manage and hold the fort. Otherwise, our losses would truly be disastrous."

"Haven't you sought help from the Group?" Lin Weiwei asked curiously.

Logically speaking, facing such a big issue locally, they should have called for assistance from headquarters, and the headquarters should have sent support.

"We did ask for help. And someone did come, but it was an Affairs Assistant," Li Shiyue responded.

"Just an Affairs Assistant?" Lei Ying was somewhat surprised and glanced at Bai Xiaosheng, "At the very least, it should have been an Affairs Officer."

Bai Xiaosheng frowned, "What's the name of the Affairs Assistant who came?"

Li Shiyue gave Mr. Lei a curious look, not expecting him to be so familiar with Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region Headquarters, and even knew about the Affairs Officer.

"Zhao," when Li Shiyue, still surprised by Lei Ying's knowledge, replied to Bai Xiaosheng, she suddenly realized that Bai Xiaosheng knew who Zhao was.

Li Shiyue didn't think that even if she mentioned Zhao's real name, Bai Xiaosheng would necessarily know, so she quickly corrected herself.

"I heard her say her name is—"

"Zhao Qianze!"

Zhao Qianze!

The three, including Bai Xiaosheng, were all stunned at once.

An acquaintance!

Chapter 1090: Asking for Help is Useless

The old district of Gaoyun City in Shangyun Province is said to have a history of more than two hundred years, and to this day, many ancient buildings are preserved.

Even more, there are several centuries-old shops.

Among them is Drinking Moon Tower.

Hearing the name Drinking Moon Tower, one might think it is a tourist attraction, but in reality, it is a time-honored restaurant.

It is said that this restaurant has been in operation since the late Qing Dynasty, specializing in Huaiyang cuisine.

The dishes of this restaurant are finely crafted and elegantly styled, premises' signature dishes—clear-braised crab roe lion's head, crystal tender pork, squirrel-shaped mandarin fish, soft pocket long fish, broken herring's head, crystal tender pork, Wensi tofu, triple-layer duck—all have unique formulas and are made by veteran chefs, making them far superior to their peers, and thus extremely famous.

Today, Drinking Moon Tower was reserved entirely by the Dacheng Group.

Early this morning, Mr. Shang had been busy arranging the venue.

It was good that the Zhang Family had agreed to sit down and talk.

However, the representative from the Zhang Family who came this time—the Mr. Zhang—really had a lot of issues!

Three days ago, his secretary had contacted them and even sent a list.

The list not only designated this place as the venue for the meeting and luncheon but also was meticulous, demanding many things.

From dishes, drinks, tableware, music, and even environment decorations, everything was specified.

All these, Mr. Shang endured, he even personally came over today to double-check.

To see if the requirements had been met.

There was no choice, since it was they themselves Who had initiated the peace talk, they had to tolerate the other side's demands, even if they were unreasonable and excessive.

"Mr. Zhang really knows how to enjoy things," sniffed a sophisticated and commanding beauty standing next to Mr. Shang as she held a list, "Look, some of the key ingredients even have specified places of origin! If we get it from a different place than he requested, could he really tell?"

This beauty was none other than Miss Zhao.

Interestingly, she was also a "classmate" of Bai Xiaosheng.

Originally, she participated in the selection process with Bai Xiaosheng, and with his help, she eventually made her way to the headquarters as intended.

Although currently, Miss Zhao was only an affair's assistant, she was making quite a name for herself.

She had a budding reputation in the affairs department.

It was foreseeable that, given time, Miss Zhao's appointment as an Affairs Officer was not far off.

Bai Xiaosheng and she were old friends, but since he returned to headquarters, he hadn't seen her.

The reason was, over the past six months, Miss Zhao had also been on field assignments, staying in the west for several months.

Just as her fieldwork concluded and she was en route back to headquarters, she was reassigned here.

Her orders requested her to investigate the local situation and help address encountered problems.

But, after arriving here and understanding the situation from Mr. Shang, Miss Zhao realized.

The problems here were simply not something a mere affairs assistant could resolve.

The troubles were like a dark current, a vortex that could suck one in unawares, rendering self-preservation difficult.

Miss Zhao was no fool; after realizing the severity of the issues, she immediately submitted a report thinking to request higher-ups to send more people or to withdraw herself.

However, the headquarters' response was to have her continue observing.

After several orders, the directives from above only grew more stringent, and Miss Zhao understood.

There was intrigue involved!

It was either Mr. Shang had offended someone high up who wanted to end him.

Of course, having seen Mr. Shang's methods and his disposition, Miss Zhao dismissed this conjecture.

To say that Mr. Shang had offended someone high up, even made an irreconcilable enemy, she wouldn't believe it if you killed her!

Mr. Shang's subordinates found his command swift and decisive, and his decisions were highly accurate—he treated his subordinates kindly.

Towards his superiors, he was ever cautious and humble, showing great deference.

In a word, Mr. Shang's emotional intelligence was extremely high.

Such a person, how could he possibly make the mistake of antagonizing his superiors.

But reality was as such, the higher-ups clearly turned a blind eye and deaf ear, openly letting Mr. Shang deal with the nearly impossible troubles himself.

As if, he was being forsaken.

Miss Zhao felt, the most pitiful was herself, tossed into this pit out of nowhere, accompanied by incessant misfortune!

If this game were to kill me, it would send snow in June.

After spending some time here, Zhao Qianze got to know Shang Wenshu. She began to probe him with indirect questions.

Unexpectedly, Shang Wenshu was so depressed he was quite open with her, even laying all his cards on the table.

Shang Wenshu felt aggrieved himself, baffled and utterly unaware of why his superiors had "abandoned" him.

Even in death, one should be allowed clarity!

Regrettably, no one answered his question.

For a while, Shang Wenshu and Zhao Qianze became allies through adversity, truly becoming insiders.

At this moment, hearing Zhao Qianze's mockery of Mr. Zhang, Shang Wenshu gave a bitter smile after another.

"Miss Zhao, you might as well curb your curiosity. In these troubling times, just do as Mr. Zhang requests—and what of it?"

"To put it bluntly, we are now grasshoppers on the same string, please, please don't cause trouble for everyone. Just endure it, after all, who are we to call for help!"

Once he started talking, Shang Wenshu couldn't stop, as if he felt that if he didn't vent his frustrations, it might suffocate him.

"As the provincial industrial head, I'm supposed to manage all enterprises in the province. But in reality, I have little authority, wanting to gather all resources, desperate to confront the Zhang Family at all costs, I need approvals at every level. In the end, I lack the authority."

"Right now, it's clear that someone up there..."

Shang Wenshu ultimately didn't finish his sentence and just sighed.

"Forget it, 'calamity comes from the sky while one sits at home,' just hoping to be cautious and weather the storm together."

"Old sayings go, 'those who survive great disasters are destined for fortune thereafter'; just need to persevere, and there is always a future to look forward to."

Having said all this, Shang Wenshu was still optimistic, even more inclined to comfort others.

Such an attitude was really something!

Zhao Qianze sighed slightly and nodded.

Then, hesitatingly, Zhao Qianze said, "Mr. Shang, actually, I know some people at headquarters too!"

Shang Wenshu looked at her, understanding the implication of her words.

Seeking help?

Shang Wenshu gave a bitter smile and shook his head slightly.

If someone up there could block his appeals for help as the provincial industrial head, by sending only a minor affairs assistant from start to finish, it indicated no ordinary person was involved!

Who was this significant figure, and what was he plotting?

Shang Wenshu had no idea.

He only knew that ordinary affairs officers wouldn't be capable of this!

If an affairs officer couldn't manage, higher up would be the senior affairs officers...

Shang Wenshu didn't dare to think further.

In fact, not only had he sought help from the headquarters, but he also reported the situation to the regional head according to the procedure immediately.

Unfortunately, that regional head, and most of the regional heads inside the country, were overseas, participating in a year-long "Global Inspection Event" organized by Zhenbei Group, which meant observing and learning from group enterprises on other continents, leaving them no time to spare.

Shang Wenshu then gave up.

At this moment, Zhao Qianze was just a mere affairs assistant. The people she knew were likely at most another affairs officer.

Getting involved in this mess?

Shang Wenshu felt it was utterly unhelpful.

"Mr. Shang, you might not be aware, but although the friend I know is just an affairs officer, he is quite different and also knows a senior affairs officer!" Zhao Qianze said brightly as she mentioned him.

She had also been away from the headquarters for half a year now, just about to go back when she came here. And within the group's internal network, the affairs assistant has the lowest access rights, not qualified to stay permanently.

Therefore, Zhao Qianze did not know—

The affairs officer she spoke of had now become a senior affairs officer!

In the last two months, he had truly made a sensation!

He even dared to fraternally admonish Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng!

Shang Wenshu hesitated and then bitter-smiled, "Not to hide it from you, Miss Zhao, I also know a very special affairs officer, and I believe he would want to help me. But with this situation, I'm still bewildered, having walked into this quagmire without understanding... even if we seek help, even if we each think our friends have influence, can it really work!"

Zhao Qianze thought for a moment, her expression also dimming.

The two fell silent, each feeling a profound anxiety.

But what they didn't know was that the friend they were talking about was actually the same person.

And he was already on his way!