

Two Trillion 111

Chapter 111 Be as Plain as Boiled Cabbage_1

Bai Xiaosheng and Lu Yun, one young, one old, one obscure, one renowned throughout the universe.

The moment of their handshake was frozen in the eyes of everyone in the pavilion.

Those servants, now looking at Bai Xiaosheng, obviously saw him differently, with a hint of respect.

No matter what Bai Xiaosheng's status was, this meant he had caught Lu Yun's eye!

Lola watched from behind, looking at Bai Xiaosheng's back, her beautiful eyes twinkling with brightness.

This man had given her too many different feelings. Upon their first meeting, he used the pure accent of her hometown, which was somewhat intimate. In times of crisis, he was unyielding, showing a bit of dominance.

Not long ago, he had resolved her emotional troubles with just a few words. And now, he had become Mr. Lu's honored guest.

What kind of man was this, always bringing surprises to others?

"Lu, you look well today. It seems you can enjoy a few drinks," Wei Xuelian said with a smile from the side.

"Ha-ha, my great-niece is right. I am happy today; I should drink a couple of glasses," Lu Yun laughed heartily, commending Wei Xuelian as he looked at her.

He completely assumed the air of an elder, exceptionally amiable.

"Come, come, come, let's all take a seat," Lu Yun called out personally.

As everyone began to sit around the table, they heard a shout, "Wait, we're coming."

Curious, everyone looked over to see Lu Wenqian bounding toward them like a joyful little deer.

Behind her, Zheng Pangzi followed in hot pursuit.

Bai Xiaosheng had seen the courteous and well-mannered side of Miss Lu previously, beheld her gusto for eating, and heard some amusing stories from Wei Xuelian. Seeing this scene now, he didn't find it strange but felt that her straightforwardness and innocence made her even more approachable.

He only wondered if the fatso trailing after her—encountering the goddess's father and brother—would find himself at a loss. Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help a malicious chuckle internally, yet he was somewhat looking forward to it.

As Lu Wenqian ran into the pavilion, Zheng Pangzi followed suit. His expression was somewhat tense when he saw Lu Yun and Lu Qingfeng.

But, much to Bai Xiaosheng's surprise, Zheng Pangzi was doing much better than he had imagined!

This fatso, it turned out, could also show such composure. Under Lu Yun's formidable presence, he managed to maintain his calm, and Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback.

Wei Xuelian seemed to notice Bai Xiaosheng's surprise and whispered in his ear with a smile, "Surprised, are you? Do you know that this is at least the fifth or sixth time Zheng Pangzi has met Lu or Qingfeng? With such a performance, are you satisfied now? You don't know, the first time they met, your friend—my boss—was so nervous his brain practically short-circuited. He was completely incoherent and hilariously made a few blunders."

"What happened afterward?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with a smile.

He could imagine the comedic scene of Zheng Pangzi embarrassing himself yet he couldn't help but worry.

Lu Yun might be Zheng Pangzi's future father-in-law. Wouldn't that mean Zheng Pangzi was making a terrible first impression?

"Afterward? Strangely enough, this fatso's luck and natural charisma were off the charts. Lu didn't get angry at all but was quite happy, thinking Wenqian's new friend was very amusing. Plus, when he fell ill, this fatso had been quite helpful behind the scenes. Even Qingfeng thought highly of him."

That works?

Truly, everyone has their own fate!

Bai Xiaosheng felt a wave of emotion.

"We have guests here; how can you behave without manners!"

Lu Yun pretended to scold Lu Wenqian though there wasn't a trace of anger in his eyes, just a smile. It was clear he was very fond of his daughter.

"I'm very good friends with everyone here; there are no outsiders, no need for any pretense," Lu Wenqian chuckled, without a hint of artifice.

Lu Yun laughed helplessly, shaking his head at his daughter but refrained from scolding her any further.

Lu Qingfeng smiled throughout, never uttering a harsh word to his little sister.

"Mr. Lu, Qingfeng," Zheng from Zhengdong Province said nervously, his discomfort eased a bit as he greeted the familiar faces of Bai Xiaosheng and Wei Xuelian with a grin.

"Zhengdong, come, have a seat," Lu Yun said with a smile.

Zheng from Zhengdong Province obediently glanced at Lu Wenqian and then took a seat next to her.

Seeing that everyone had arrived, Lu Qingfeng gave a subtle wave of his hand.

The chefs and servants who had been waiting immediately sprang into action, moving swiftly and silently.

In no time, the table was laden with exquisite dishes.

The dishes looked ordinary at first glance, devoid of any rare or expensive ingredients. Yet each one was an extreme delicacy; the blanched cabbage in front of Bai Xiaosheng was tender and perfectly shaped, soaking in crystal clear broth, melting in the mouth at first bite, with the broth tasting rich and lingering.

"They say Sichuan cuisine is strong-flavored, known for its spiciness. But this blanched cabbage, which looks quite ordinary, is actually made with a broth simmered from an old hen, ham hocks, ribs, dried scallops, lean chicken breast, and lean pork. It seems plain, but it's actually full of depth and subtlety," said Lu Yun, unable to restrain his explanation as he saw Bai Xiaosheng enjoying it.

Then, with what seemed like casual intent, he turned to Lu Qingfeng and said, "The same goes for life; no matter how skilled you are, you should remain composed and low-profile, not showing off or revealing too much. Qingfeng, you're just too exposed; everyone can see at a glance how extraordinary you are. This, in fact, isn't beneficial for your future path. You should learn from your peer here."

Lu Yun gestured with a laugh toward Bai Xiaosheng.

Lu Qingfeng glanced at Bai Xiaosheng.

"Mr. Lu, if you praise me like this, I might become arrogant," Bai Xiaosheng teased, "What abilities do I have? In terms of accomplishments, I'm far from matching Young Master Lu."

"You're being modest. I've heard a thing or two about you," Lu Yun said with a meaningful smile, "Even Master Song Kai holds you in high regard!"

The famous architect, Song Kai? Lu Qingfeng's eyes showed a trace of surprise.

Song Kai was known not only for his achievements but also for his connections in both political and business circles.

Even someone like Lu Yun, given his status, made an effort to cultivate a good relationship with him. Such a person now looked upon Bai Xiaosheng with respect?

Lu Qingfeng scrutinized Bai Xiaosheng, his gaze curious and slightly competitive.

What virtues and abilities did he have to garner Song Kai's attention?

Bai Xiaosheng noticed Lu Qingfeng's eyes light up when looking at him and couldn't help but bitter smile.

Lu Yun was really good at stirring up enmity!

Was this his way of providing a sharpening stone for his dear son?

But this stone, they should know, had worn out quite a few knives!

Bai Xiaosheng touched his nose.

Since assuming his identity, those who had opposed him had all met with miserable fates.

"Mr. Lu is recovering, and I propose a toast to celebrate," Wei Xuelian said, sensing the slightly tense atmosphere. With a smile, she raised her glass in a casual gesture that helped relax the mood.

"Alright, cheers," Lu Qingfeng echoed, raising his glass with an admiring smile at Wei Xuelian.

Bai Xiaosheng was also smiling, clinking glasses with Lu Qingfeng.

Yet, inwardly, he couldn't help feeling indignant, "Nice one, Lu Qingfeng, still coveting Xuelian? Very well! If I'm a sharpening stone and you're the knife, don't blame me when you get unlucky and end up ruined!"

Chapter 112: Repayment!_1

After the rounds of wine and the variety of dishes, the meal had come to an end among laughter and conversation.

Lu Qingfeng slightly raised his hand, and Cheng immediately directed the well-trained servants to crowd around and swiftly cleared away the plates and bowls, replacing them with fruit, nuts, and several pots of fine tea.

Having just sipped some red wine, Lu Yun's face was slightly flushed, his spirits high.

After drinking tea for a while.

Lu Yun turned to look at Bai Xiaosheng, his smile slightly retreating, becoming more serious.

Bai Xiaosheng felt a movement in his heart.

Was Lu Yun going to speak to him?

As expected, Lu Yun raised his hand and lightly clapped twice.

The dining table fell quiet, and Cheng, who was at a distance, saw Lu Yun wave at him. He immediately took Lola and the other servants and quickly cleared out.

A moment later, within the entire Lake Heart Pavilion, only six people remained at the stone table, including Lu Yun.

What mystery was to be shared that warranted the withdrawal of all others?

Bai Xiaosheng felt a surge of curiosity.

Lu Yun looked him in the eye with a faint smile, "There are things I can say to you a few, and that's fine. I trust you, but if it gets out and reaches the ears of certain people, especially my rivals, it could expose some information. Even the tiniest details could be used to analyze my character and my way of doing business. Business, like the battlefield, must be safeguarded."

Lu Yun explained lightly, but Bai Xiaosheng immediately sensed a solemn undertone.

Is this what they call the loneliness at the top?

"The following, although mainly addressed to Sheng, you may all listen."

As he spoke, Lu Yun transformed, his unique aura re-emerging, prompting everyone to take on a serious demeanor.

Lu Yun's fingers interlocked upon the stone table, looking at Bai Xiaosheng with a smile.

"Sheng, I believe you must have learned a bit about me before coming here."

Bai Xiaosheng nodded without hesitation.

"I, Lu Yun, started from nothing and within a span of more than a decade, have built a formidable empire in the online business world that everyone looks up to. I can say that here in our country, I am the undisputed industry leader!" Lu Yun's voice was as steady as a mountain.

It was not even remotely boastful.

Tengyun's status in the domestic area of the Internet is well recognized!

"But who could imagine what my most difficult times looked like? Your modern youth often complain about being broke, claiming their pockets are cleaner than their faces. But do you know that, over a decade ago, when I faced setbacks in business, I went days without a bite to eat? I'm talking about a little more than ten years ago, not several decades. Back then, I was so hungry that I could barely walk and even fell ill. By sheer luck, I found a friend, and I collapsed in front of him. It was this friend who fed me, took care of me, and saved my life."

"He is my lifesaver!" Lu Yun emphasized heavily, looking at Bai Xiaosheng with emotion, "More than a decade later, you have assumed that role too! I have heard from the doctors that if the emergency care had been delayed, I would have been in life-threatening danger. You were the one who found the allergen!"

"Back to what I was saying. After I recovered from my illness, I borrowed some money from my friend, and with that money, I slowly worked my way back to the top, growing my business bigger and bigger!"

Bai Xiaosheng watched Lu Yun quietly, filled with admiration.

Lu Yun looked at Bai Xiaosheng seriously, "Do you know, after making a fortune, the first thing I did was give most of it to him!"

"He said, 'We are brothers. I didn't help you for money. You try to repay me with money; what do you take me for!'"

"I replied, 'You are my brother, but I, Lu Yun, do not owe anyone favors, especially not a brother. The money is unrelated to our friendship; you must accept it!'"

Lu Yun smiled and leaned back slightly.

"Sheng, do you think I did the right thing?"

This was, essentially, Lu Yun forcefully repaying a debt with money.

The others did not feel it was their place to comment and looked towards Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng fell silent for a moment, then smiled, "Right or wrong, do the judgments of others really matter?"

Lu Yun's gaze brightened.

This was not the first person he had asked, and each had given different answers, all taking a stand on whether it was right or wrong.

Bai Xiaosheng's reply was, surprisingly, aligned with what he himself had thought back then!

"Right or wrong are standards set by others. We can't control others; we do not seek approval from them but aim to be at peace with ourselves," Bai Xiaosheng said thoughtfully.

Lu Yun's eyes shone and he nodded slightly.

Zhengdong Province and Lu Qingfeng, both men couldn't help but nod along as well.

"Is this your view?" Lu Yun asked with a smile.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

"Indeed! Almost identical to what I thought back then!"

Lu Yun chuckled. "However, there's another layer to what I'm saying, perhaps too vulgar for you to have noticed."

"Oh?"

Bai Xiaosheng was curious.

Lu Yun stretched out his hand, and Lu Qingfeng quickly passed a slender piece of paper, which Lu Yun placed on the table and pushed towards Bai Xiaosheng.

"This is a blank check acknowledged by the five major banks, and you can fill in any amount you like!"

Lu Yun said, "I'll repeat what I've said before, 'this money has nothing to do with our friendship.' I, Lu Yun, never owe anyone anything, especially life-saving gratitude!"

Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback.

So, this was what Lu Yun meant.

To settle favors with money?

Bai Xiaosheng looked at the check.

The maximum amount for a blank check domestic is ninety-nine million nine thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine yuan.

Just one yuan short of a hundred million!

Lu Qingfeng had known this all along, so she wasn't surprised.

Zhengdong Province, on the other hand, was so shocked that he was lost for words.

As long as Bai Xiaosheng accepted it, he would have a hundred million!

That sum was something 99% of people would never see in their lifetime, enough money that an ordinary person couldn't spend it in several lifetimes!

To say he wasn't envious would be a lie.

Zhengdong Province watched Bai Xiaosheng intently, almost urging him—

Take it, take it!

Bai Xiaosheng looked at the thin piece of paper on the table; if cashed, it could probably stack as high as the table with red hundred-yuan notes, maybe high enough to cramp his hand from counting the money.

That wealth was enough for him to squander for a lifetime, or even for his children to waste away.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, and under everyone's gaze, he gently pressed his hand down on the paper that held promises of a happy future.

Everyone's eyes were encouraging, approving.

Under their expectant gaze, Bai Xiaosheng acted as anticipated.

It seemed like a happy resolution for all.

However, in the next moment, Lu Yun's smile froze on his face.

Lu Qingfeng and everyone else looked on in astonishment as they saw—

Bai Xiaosheng gently pushed the check back towards Lu Yun.

"I don't want this money."

"What!"

Lu Yun's brow furrowed slightly. "You, you think it's too little?"

A hundred million! Too little?!

"Compared with Mr. Lu's status, this hundred million might just be a minor goal," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

The young man, insatiable!

Lu Yun's eyes narrowed slightly, and his very favorable impression of Bai Xiaosheng began to change.

"But I've said it before, I don't save people for money. Saving you or someone else, it's always a matter of doing what's right at the moment," Bai Xiaosheng said, smiling at Lu Yun. "You have your principles, and I have mine!"

"I don't want this money!"

"But what if I insist on giving it to you?" Lu Yun's eyes started to show a trace of fierceness.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled without a word.

I simply refuse, what can you do about it!

A hundred million is not a small amount, but if I had to choose, I would rather have—

Lu Yun, owing me the gratitude for saving your life!

Chapter 113: What About This Manor? (Thanks to "Riding a Pig onto the Grassland" Alliance Hierarchy)_1

Lu Yun and Bai Xiaosheng looked into each other's eyes, both shimmering with a hint of defiance.

One insisted on giving the money, the other adamantly refused.

No compromises!

Refusing the money didn't mean Bai Xiaosheng was foolish, but once he accepted the huge sum of wealth, his relationship with Lu Yun would be almost "settled," even though Lu Yun had said, "it wouldn't affect the feelings between us."

However, quantifying the depth of feelings was a complex matter!

Claiming this one billion didn't shake Bai Xiaosheng's heart was obviously impossible.

It even provoked Bai Xiaosheng's desires!

"Lu Yun is a major player in the domestic Internet industry. If I don't covet, then that's that. But if I do, it won't stop at this one billion!" Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

Lu Yun looked at Bai Xiaosheng, "hating" yet admiring him like crazy.

This youngster was truly extraordinary!

A young man of this age, unexpectedly calm and collected in the face of a billion, and still having his own thoughts? Simply a prodigy!

Lu Yun asked himself whether he could have resisted such a temptation at Bai Xiaosheng's age.

The answer was no!

Lu Qingfeng, Lu Wenqian, and Zhengdong Province watched Bai Xiaosheng in amazement, utterly puzzled. Only Lu Qingfeng, after his surprise, had a flash in his eye, a glimpse of insight.

Wei Xuelian had been quiet from the beginning, watching Bai Xiaosheng with bright eyes.

"Money, after all, is a vulgar thing. To repay kindness with money, isn't my merchant's stench of copper ridiculed?" Lu Yun laughed.

He broke the deadlock, casually picked up the blank cheque, and handed it to Lu Qingfeng.

Seemingly conceding.

That's it? Zhengdong Province watched, feeling the pinch.

But since it was Bai's decision, he had nothing to say.

"Since you're here, don't rush to leave. Stay in my manor, have some fun, I'll have Qingfeng accompany you," Lu Yun mentioned nothing of the previous matter as if it never occurred.

Lu Yun personally pointed in various directions, explaining, "In my manor, over there is a golf course, over there is an ecological forest suitable for camping, over there is a picking garden with seasonal fruits ready to eat... Here, there are boats, later you can also row and fish in this water."

After saying this, Lu Yun looked at Bai Xiaosheng, as if incidentally, and asked everyone.

"What do you think of this place?"

The manor is amazing, with all-encompassing facilities for eating, drinking, and playing, plus the delightful scenery, it's virtually a paradise!

Everyone nodded repeatedly.

Here, playing for a day was nothing, even staying for several months without going out wouldn't feel boring.

Bai Xiaosheng was moved.

Qiusui Manor covered thirteen hundred acres!

Even though it was located in the suburbs of Tiannan City, such a vast piece of land was probably priceless. Any ordinary businessman would have developed it intensively, building factories and houses, and engaged heavily in real estate.

One couldn't help but say, Lu Yun really knew how to enjoy life, truly extravagant!

But observing Lu Yun's seemingly meaningful smile,

Bai Xiaosheng suddenly had a thought, reversing his previous judgment.

"Red Lotus, search for the latest policy news about this area!" Bai Xiaosheng urged in his mind.

"Certainly, master... Search complete. According to the 'Tiannan City Urban Master Plan (2017-2030)' issued a month ago, this area will become a new green ecological industry headquarters base."

Bai Xiaosheng caught his breath.

"When did Lu Yun purchase this land!"

"Search complete. The land was purchased by Lu Yun three years ago."

Three years ago!

Sheng's heart raced with shock.

Lu Yun had purchased this land three years ago and had astonishingly refrained from developing it, maintaining its natural state!

You must know, in recent years, real estate had been sizzling hot, with many seizing land and developing it straight away to become billionaires.

Why had Lu Yun delayed any action? Was it truly for enjoyment?

Sheng didn't believe it!

There was only one possibility, that Lu Yun had foreseen the present three years ago and had firmly believed in his judgment, waiting for the fruition of today.

The current value of this piece of land was unimaginable!

Sheng took a sharp breath.

Was this the vision of a top-notch businessman, an internet tycoon?

He looked at Lu Yun with newfound respect in his eyes.

To judge accurately and to have faith in oneself, with the patience to withstand the test of time, that was the path of a truly influential figure!

No wonder he, Bai Xiaosheng, was on a ten-year journey of inheritance; he likely still had a Himalayan-sized gap to bridge before reaching that trillionaire CEO status.

Lu Yun noticed the change in Sheng's eyes and the corners of his mouth curved up slightly in a smile.

The reason he asked about this place wasn't about the dining and entertainment, but rather a kind of test.

It seemed the lad had understood.

Truly, as generations change, new talents emerge! Lu Yun couldn't help but feel impressed.

"I don't have much of an understanding of real estate. Back then, I acquired this land at a very low price. No matter how hot the real estate market was, I didn't act. Instead, I planted trees, created forests, turned sinkholes into artificial lakes. Many called me foolish, saying I didn't know how to spend my money. What do you think, Sheng?" asked Lu Yun with a smile.

You don't understand real estate? Sheng thought wryly.

This Lu Yun truly mastered the essence of "water and cabbage".

"Mr. Lu, at the best time, spent the most appropriate price to buy the best piece of land, conserved it in the best possible way, and waited for the day it bore fruit. You say you don't understand, it would put so many to shame," Sheng expressed his admiration.

The others were a bit puzzled; the conversation between Bai Xiaosheng and Lu Yun jumped too much!

Weren't they talking about the manor? How did it come to real estate?

"Oh?" Lu Yun smiled radiantly, encouraging Sheng to continue.

"I'm not sure how much the price of this land has increased, how many times it's folded," Sheng sipped his tea and said, "However, Tiannan is striving to build a new type of green city and has also received substantial support at the national level. Tiannan doesn't lack money; it lacks a 'test field.' According to

the newly-released urban planning scheme, it's clear that this 'test field' has chosen the area we're standing on. The reason for its selection here, rather than other places, is probably because this environment is the best preserved!"

Sheng set down his teacup, looked at Lu Yun with admiration, and said, "The credit must go to Mr. Lu for preserving this clean land for Tiannan. Of course, the value of this land has also skyrocketed, making this a win-win situation!"

The bystanders were amazed.

So, this manor held such great value!

Lu Yun laughed heartily.

"From now on, don't call me Mr. Lu or Mr. Lu, call me Lu, can you?" Lu Yun offered proactively.

Even Wei Xuelian was somewhat surprised.

Lu Yun took personal relationships very seriously; otherwise, he wouldn't have insisted on "redeeming" with money.

This time, he actually took the initiative to develop a deep bond with Bai Xiaosheng!

Lu Qingfeng and Lu Wenqian looked at Bai Xiaosheng with eyes that clearly saw him differently now.

Sheng smiled.

"Then, I shall call you Uncle Lu," he said generously.

Lu Yun nodded with a smile, "Good. Sheng, Uncle Lu would like to discuss something with you, how about it?"

"Please, go ahead!" said Sheng.

Lu Yun smiled.

"If I give you this manor as a way of repaying you, would you accept it?"

Chapter 114 Please Make a Request_1

Compared to such a luxurious estate, that blank cheque, that casually offered one billion, was nothing!

Lu Yun, this business magnate at the pinnacle of the commercial world, actually had this side to him—never owing a debt of gratitude, obstinately to such an extent.

A grand estate, just given away like that?

Splurging money isn't done like this!

Yet, this incident had just happened!

All the juniors present were completely stunned and speechless.

Even Lu Qingfeng was dumbstruck, rendered speechless by his father's magnanimity in an instant.

Bai Xiaosheng's heart was once again fiercely shaken.

Apart from Lu Yun, he knew the value of this place better than anyone else!

Once accepted, it would be the pinnacle of life!

What about the ethereal, distant, and challenging path to becoming a CEO, does living need to be so exhausting?

With money, in this utopia, to live a leisurely life with the woman he loved.

This was simply, perfect!

Moreover, getting this estate wouldn't conflict with the journey to inheritance!

Accept it!

Even Bai Xiaosheng was inwardly persuading himself.

This was a demon of the heart, an obstacle.

It was like offering a comfortable, warm refuge to someone struggling to climb amidst the storm.

If I stop now, can I start again?

Bai Xiaosheng asked himself earnestly.

Having taken the estate and learned to enjoy, could his true heart still adhere, still start from the bottom and take orders from others?

Very difficult!

The ten-year journey to inheritance would thus become a hundred times harder, or even be completely ruined, would it be worth it!

Bai Xiaosheng recalled the past, and at this moment, he was marching resolutely towards his grand goal.

Every challenge, every reward he won, brought him surprise and a sense of satisfaction beyond mere money—achievement!

This was the life he craved.

My peak can only be attained by my own hands!

Bai Xiaosheng had figured out what he really wanted!

Shrugging off temptation, like looking down from a high place, Bai Xiaosheng saw many more things clearly!

Having this estate, could he really live out his days leisurely with the woman he loved?

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but glance at Wei Xuelian, if she only had a simple, ordinary family, perhaps it would be possible, but if not, then... it might not be enough!

Besides, what I want isn't just an estate, but an island! With the woman I love, to watch miles of peach blossoms, under a sky and sea of the same color!

Bai Xiaosheng's mind was utterly clear.

Thinking back now, there was a significant "pitfall" in Lu Yun's gift. He had mentioned an estate, not the land itself.

This was easy to confuse. Even this estate was far more than that one billion.

Lu Yun watched Bai Xiaosheng's every move closely, his eyes filled with immense anticipation for Bai Xiaosheng to nod.

Wei Xuelian, Lu Qingfeng, Lu Wenqian, and Zhengdong Province were also intently watching Bai Xiaosheng.

The atmosphere grew slightly tense.

Bai Xiaosheng became the focal point in everyone's eyes; every second of silence felt unbearably long.

"This truly is an irresistible temptation," Bai Xiaosheng sighed softly.

Listening to his tone, was he about to agree?!

Lu Yun was certain and began to smile.

The others also breathed a sigh of relief, as waiting was tremendous torment.

No matter the outcome, to get a definitive answer from Bai Xiaosheng would be a relief for them all.

"I don't want this estate,"

Just when everyone had breathed a sigh of relief.

Bai Xiaosheng said softly, his face regaining its usual calm smile.

Didn't want it!

In a single sentence, even Lu Yun was stunned.

This rejection was even more astonishing than his offer of a gift!

An entire billion, Bai Xiaosheng did not want;

A manor, Bai Xiaosheng similarly did not want;

So what did he want?

Almost everyone wanted to ask Bai Xiaosheng that question!

Lu Yun's gaze narrowed slightly, within just one day, he had been rejected by a young man twice!

Even the manor he had painstakingly presented, showcasing its value, could not win over this young man?!

Lu Yun felt a rising anger inside him, and his fighting spirit was stirred as well.

Business was like a battlefield. In his days of struggling in the business world, he had been almost the same age as this young man. Would he allow this youngster to thwart him?!

Lu Yun's face took on a seriousness as he looked at Bai Xiaosheng.

"Sheng, what do you want! Shares, I can give you even higher-valued shares. Status, I can even crown you as a king within my business empire, as long as Tengyun stands, your position will not change! Speak, what is it that you really want!"

Lu Yun opened up the options, letting Bai Xiaosheng pick at will.

Of course, even if Bai Xiaosheng chose a high position, he would still train him for several years.

Everyone eagerly looked at Bai Xiaosheng.

This temptation, surely it couldn't be rejected!

Bai Xiaosheng smiled. After experiencing the previous dilemma and seeing through the entanglements, these offers were merely illusions that clouded one's eye.

Whether he chose the shares or joined Tengyun, he would always be beneath Lu Qingfeng.

At that time, how could he compete with Lu Qingfeng for Wei Xuelian.

Even if Wei Xuelian chose him, what about her family?

"Lu, are you saying you would consider anything I want?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with a smile.

Lu Yun did not rush to answer but smiled as he looked at Bai Xiaosheng.

"Sheng, you are a smart man, and smart people always know their limits! Speak up, state your conditions," Lu Yun encouraged.

The message was clear.

You may make a request, and you can be bold about it, but everything has its limits. Greed can swallow more than one can handle, and the result might very well be that the snake bursts from overindulgence.

Bai Xiaosheng wasn't in a hurry to speak. He smiled and raised three fingers.

Lu Yun's expression turned curious, not understanding the meaning behind Bai Xiaosheng's gesture.

Lu Qingfeng, Wei Xuelian, and others also exchanged glances, curious as well.

"Before I make my request, there are three stipulations that I wish Lu to hear. If you find any of them unsuitable, my request does not even need to be voiced," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

"Speak!"

Lu Yun looked intently at Bai Xiaosheng.

"First, the conditions I propose will not affect the Lu Family's interests, including their wealth and honor," Bai Xiaosheng stated.

Lu Yun nodded.

"Second, my conditions will not put Lu in an awkward position, nor will they go against your fundamental principles of conduct," Bai Xiaosheng continued.

Lu Yun nodded again.

With just those two points, Lu Yun had made up his mind; whatever Bai Xiaosheng's conditions were, he was prepared to agree.

"And the third?" Lu Qingfeng asked.

"The third is that my request comes with a time limit, ten years. After that period, it becomes null and void, and the Lu Family may refuse to acknowledge it. I promise you and everyone here that, by that time, Lu will have repaid the so-called life-saving favor," Bai Xiaosheng said with a grin.

Oh?

A ten-year promise!

This was quite interesting, but it was yet to be seen, under these three stipulations, what exactly his request would be!

Everyone, including Lu Yun, was increasingly anticipating!

"How about it, Lu, why not consider it a bit," Bai Xiaosheng suggested earnestly.

Lu Yun laughed.

If it was based on these three points, he was relieved. There was nothing to consider.

"Based on these three points, I agree to all your conditions! Now speak, make your request!" Lu Yun declared with a hearty laugh.

Lu Qingfeng and Lu Wenqian also felt there was nothing inappropriate, since Bai Xiaosheng had already made it clear that if any of the three points were violated, the request could be denied.

"Thank you, Lu," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

"Thank for what, you haven't made a request yet,"

"But I just did," Bai Xiaosheng replied with a mischievous smile, "My request is 'that within ten years, you fulfill one request that I pose'!"

Chapter 115: This Person Should Be Made a Friend!_1

Lu Yun was taken aback.

He actually allowed Bai Xiaosheng, the young man, to turn the tables on him!

A ten-year promise.

It seemed that this favor wouldn't be repaid anytime soon.

Lu Yun reflected that from start to finish, he had believed he could dominate the conversation with his experience and methods.

He believed others thought the same!

However, in the end, it was Bai Xiaosheng who emerged victorious.

In this world, favors often diminish over time, but for someone with an extremely unique character like Lu Yun, and his status today, unrepaid favors and promises were like a "shackle" on his heart, only increasing in value over time.

Bai Xiaosheng, you're ruthless!

As Lu Yun looked at Bai Xiaosheng, admiration flickered in his eyes for the first time, stirred with emotion.

With each new generation comes new talents, each leading for hundreds of years!

It appeared that the era belonging to the young was about to arrive.

Lu Yun couldn't help but glance at Lu Qingfeng.

Lu Qingfeng gazed at Bai Xiaosheng, his eyes bright.

To the side.

The eyes of Zhengdong Province shimmered with excitement, his fists clenched tightly under the stone table.

Worthy of Bai!

Far from feeling indignant on behalf of the goddess's father, Zhengdong Province was instead overjoyed for his brother.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled slightly, glancing at Zhengdong Province.

This ten-year promise wasn't just for himself.

If Zhengdong Province was truly fated to join hands with Lu Wenqian, and if they truly faced obstacles from their families, then this ten-year promise would be Bai Xiaosheng's sharp weapon gifted to Zhengdong Province!

For a brother, Bai Xiaosheng was willing to use it.

After all, without Zhengdong Province fighting to get that diploma for him years ago, Bai Xiaosheng's life would have only been tougher.

It wasn't just Lu Yun who was obsessed with repaying kindness, Bai Xiaosheng was the same!

Of course, if Zhengdong Province and Lu Wenqian managed to have a smooth relationship, then this ten-year promise would be Bai Xiaosheng's ace in the hole for himself.

With the support of an internet empire's tycoon, he would have more confidence to vie for the ultimate position of president!

Although he did not know what kinds of difficulties and dangers lay ahead, Bai Xiaosheng always had a premonition that his journey to inheritance would be anything but simple!

That uncle of his—Bai Zhenbei, who in a message claimed to have taken in two children of similar age to him, likely held high positions within the group now, and when they met one day in the future, who knows what the scene would be.

Would they willingly let me inherit the entire Zhenbei Group?

Bai Xiaosheng mused.

"Sheng, your request is well made! To tell the truth, it has surprised me and earned my admiration! Since I, Lu Yun, have promised in front of you youngsters, my word will be as good as gold, and I will not go back on it!" Lu Yun said, looking at him earnestly.

As good as gold.

That was the magnanimity a man who stood at the pinnacle should have!

Bai Xiaosheng was somewhat impressed by Lu Yun's magnanimity as well.

"Thank you, Uncle Lu," Bai Xiaosheng said with a sincere smile.

At this moment, his heart was also incredibly light, after all, he had acquired a considerable trump card.

Next, everyone enjoyed the view and tea at Qiushui Pavilion, chatting leisurely about interesting stories, the atmosphere relaxed.

When there were no outsiders, Lu Yun would amusingly recount past events. The business wars he had weathered over the years also captured the fascinated attention of the younger generation, prompting hearty laughs from time to time.

Drinking too much tea, one inevitably needed to use the restroom.

Wei Xuelian and Lu Wenqian went first, followed by Bai Xiaosheng and someone from Zhengdong Province. Just as Lu Qingfeng was about to go, Lu Yun gave him a look and stopped him.

Once Bai Xiaosheng and the others were out of earshot, Lu Yun finally asked Lu Qingfeng, "What do you think of Bai Xiaosheng?"

This question seemed to have an evaluative undertone.

In fact, throughout Lu Qingfeng's life, Lu Yun had always placed great emphasis on his development, occasionally asking him for his opinions on certain people and matters, providing guidance along the way.

"This person possesses a maturity beyond his years, and he's learned and quick-witted! It's hard to imagine that he is just a minor project manager on a real estate project. Given his cunning and ability, I think... he's above me," admitted Lu Qingfeng candidly.

Lu Yun, somewhat taken aback, glanced at Lu Qingfeng and smiled, "Such words are rare from you! Normally you do admire those outstanding geniuses of your age, but you'd never admit to being inferior!"

"I'm sorry to disappoint you."

"No! On the contrary, I'm heartened," Lu Yun said with a smile, patting his son's shoulder, "Confidence is good, but long-term overconfidence is a hidden danger. You've succeeded too often, too easily. I fear that you have not experienced the volatility I have, and that your spirit may become frail to adversity."

Lu Qingfeng smiled sheepishly.

"Now that I hear you say this, I am relieved!" laughed Lu Yun, "Admitting a gap is not shameful, it is a sign of your progress!"

Lu Qingfeng nodded.

"However, Qingfeng, your impressions of Bai Xiaosheng are based only on your brief half-day encounter with him, which is one-sided," Lu Yun remarked thoughtfully, gazing in the direction where Bai Xiaosheng had departed, murmuring, "Knowing both your friends and foes is thought to apply to enemies, but it's equally applicable to those you find interesting and wish to befriend."

Lu Qingfeng became solemn.

"I've looked into Bai Xiaosheng, he was obscure before, working in a small company. A few weeks ago, he joined the leading real estate enterprise Century Construction in Tiannan, and in a key project, he climbed from a minor position to project manager in just two weeks! At Mingzhu Tower, he even forced a rising business star to kneel, not out of despotism, but all for a friend, that guy from Zhengdong Province."

"Such a person, loyal and righteous, I like that!" Lu Yun expressed with feeling.

That's a revelation!

Lu Qingfeng was somewhat surprised.

"So, I want to befriend him, and I also promised him this ten-year pledge, but in order to fulfill this promise, it will be you going, not me," Lu Yun said, looking at Lu Qingfeng, "I hope that you can become his friend!"

Lu Qingfeng nodded smiling, but then appeared a bit embarrassed.

"I too hope that we can be friends... but for now, we can only be 'enemies'!"

"Oh?" Lu Yun raised an eyebrow.

"He also likes Xuelian, and it seems she doesn't dislike him either," Lu Qingfeng said sheepishly.

With such an expression, he lacked the mature composure of his usual self, instead resembling a young man experiencing the stirrings of first love.

"Ha ha, a fair maiden is a gentleman's proper match; a little competition among you young people isn't a bad thing," Lu Yun laughed heartily.

Gazing in a certain direction, he couldn't help talking to himself, "This young man, Bai Xiaosheng, has boundless prospects. In the future... he really might be a match for A-Lian."

Even his own father had favorable views of Bai Xiaosheng, which stirred a sense of unwillingness and discontent in Lu Qingfeng.

"When he comes back, I want to compete with him in front of Xuelian, see who's better," Lu Qingfeng said in a low voice.

Lu Yun barely suppressed a chuckle.

Youth is wonderful!

"Good, this time Dad will support you! Give that Bai Xiaosheng a good challenge! Hmph, we can't let him come into our house and just take advantage," Lu Yun declared.

Chapter 116 Another Bet....._1

When Bai Xiaosheng returned to the Lake Heart Pavilion, he unexpectedly discovered that Cheng and a servant were there too, pushing a handcart with a half-person-tall wooden beer barrel on top.

Looking at the stone table, there were two enormous crystal beer mugs.

Drinking again?

But, six people, why only two cups?

Bai Xiaosheng felt a sense of curiosity, quite puzzled.

The others were already seated and waiting, staring at him.

Bai Xiaosheng's gaze swept over everyone's faces, noticing a strange phenomenon; they were all smiling, but each smile was different.

Lu Yun, the big shot, had a hint of a sneaky smile in his demeanor, which didn't quite fit with his status.

A sneaky smile, right!

Bai Xiaosheng suddenly understood the meaning behind that smile.

A sneaky smile from someone as important as Lu Yun felt truly eerie!

Looking at Wei Xuelian, he saw her smirking with her lips pursed.

Looking at the fatso from Zhengdong Province, his grin was sleazy, with a hint of schadenfreude, although when he looked at Bai Xiaosheng, his beady eyes blinked, as if trying to hint at something.

Lu Wenqian was still all smiles.

Lu Qingfeng's smile seemed relatively calm.

Something was not right.

Bai Xiaosheng looked around and felt a bit wary.

"Ahem, Sheng, you're back just in time," Lu Yun coughed. "It doesn't make much sense for us to just drink tea here. I've got a new batch of beer brewed on my estate, and it's the perfect time to give it a

taste. I hired craftsmen from a Belgian brewery, who improved the recipe with local experts, making the flavor superb, something you can't find anywhere else."

Beer? This is definitely beer!

Those big cups must hold at least a liter, right!

"But we are six people, and Lu, you have only two cups..."

Bai Xiaosheng pointed at the beer mugs on the table.

Lu Yun coughed again.

"This... I've just recovered from a serious illness. The doctor said no drinking for me, so I won't partake."

Lies!

Bai Xiaosheng would think it strange to believe that tall tale since Lu Yun had clearly drunk red wine just earlier.

This business tycoon, who was so calculated and meticulous earlier, couldn't even be bothered to come up with a convincing lie now...

"I don't like drinking beer," Wei Xuelian said with a smile, giving her reason.

"I'm allergic to this kind of beer," Lu Wenqian said cheerfully.

What an excuse!

So, is there an allergy running in your family then?

Bai Xiaosheng turned to his buddy, wondering what excuse the chubby friend could come up with.

"I..." Zhengdong Province's fatso seemed to be thinking on the spot.

You dare say you don't like beer, you dare say you're allergic too!

Bai Xiaosheng glared at him.

The chubby guy scratched his face, giving a sheepish smile, "They brought one cup too few."

...

What a great excuse!

"I'll drink with you!" Lu Qingfeng was the only one who didn't make up an excuse; instead, he looked eager and a bit like he was rolling up his sleeves for a challenge.

These two cups, they were clearly prepared for the two of us!

This was clearly a trap!

Bai Xiaosheng finally understood.

The question was, how did Zhengdong Province and Wei Xuelian end up getting turned...

However, Bai Xiaosheng was not afraid and smiled at Lu Qingfeng, "Just us two, drinking neat?"

"Drinking neat? That's no fun at all. We should make it interesting, don't you think so," Lu Yun said with a hearty laugh.

"Exactly!"

"Yeah!"

Everyone echoed in unison.

Make a drinking game interesting? Bai Xiaosheng was also curious about what they were going to play.

Cheng ran over, hugging a square blackboard in his arms, equipped with a magnetic eraser and a groove at the bottom holding some chalk.

What are they playing at, a drinking command game?

Bai Xiaosheng looked on in surprise.

"Sheng, I've heard you come from a liberal arts background, and you're proficient in math and science. You even won a week's breakfast from Xuelian. Truly versatile in both arts and sciences," Lu Yun said with a smile of praise.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at Zhengdong Province. That kid knew he studied arts. He glanced at Wei Xuelian again. That girl had lost a breakfast bet to him and had been brooding over it ever since.

It must have been those two who sold him out!

"I've also heard that you have a vast knowledge of history and anecdotes about famous people from all times, and you have unique insights into modern photography, fashion, and trends. I, for one, would like to see that for myself."

Lu Yun smiled and pointed at Lu Qingfeng, "This guy talked with you and was very impressed. He also likes all sorts of miscellaneous things. Since you guys are going to drink, why not have a competition?"

Oh! So that was the idea!

Bai Xiaosheng laughed, looking at Lu Qingfeng, certain that he wanted to defeat him in public for once.

At this moment, Bai Xiaosheng and Lu Yun had a ten-year promise. Their relationship could only get closer, not more distant.

Even though Bai Xiaosheng had previously wanted to get back at Lu Qingfeng because of Wei Xuelian, he couldn't really do so now. However, since he was offering himself up on a platter...

Then I'll just play with you!

Bai Xiaosheng, grinned mischievously.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng's mischievous smile, Lu Qingfeng felt a little uneasy for some reason. To say he was scared would be overstating it, but he felt a measure of caution and dread.

What's wrong with me? I have to win in front of Xuelian. I can't lose in terms of momentum!

Lu Qingfeng brimmed with a fighting spirit. In front of the woman he liked, his confidence soared!

"Since we're playing, let's make it interesting!"

Lu Qingfeng said to Bai Xiaosheng, "I asked Zhengdong Province, and since you enrolled late, you're a year older than him, so you're the same age as me! Let's not nitpick over months. Let's compete in three rounds, best two out of three. The winner gets to be the 'brother,' and the loser, the 'brother's boy.' How about it?!"

The crowd was astonished, even Lu Yun looked at his son in surprise.

This hadn't been discussed beforehand.

"What do you say? You wouldn't dare to refuse in front of Xuelian, right?" Lu Qingfeng smiled looking at Bai Xiaosheng.

Wei Xuelian blushed slightly as Lu Qingfeng's words made her, and she looked at Bai Xiaosheng with bright, beautiful eyes.

"I accept!"

In front of Wei Xuelian, Bai Xiaosheng immediately agreed, thinking:

I have to teach you, coveting your brother's wife is shameful!

"However, since you've made a request, shouldn't I make one too?" Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile brimming with meaning. "That would only be fair."

Zhengdong Province couldn't help but look at Lu Qingfeng, silently pitying him.

He knew too well the smile on Bai Xiaosheng's face. It always appeared just before he schemed against someone.

The outcome for the other party was always tragic!

Zhengdong Province had been thinking about Lu Wenqian; in his heart, he had long regarded Lu Qingfeng as his uncle. He couldn't bear to watch his uncle jump into a pit.

But on the other hand, there was his good brother, as close as a real brother...

So, uncle, I can't help you there. You'd better fend for yourself.

Zhengdong Province sighed silently.

"Speak!" Lu Qingfeng, bearing a military background, was straightforward by nature. In front of Wei Xuelian, he wouldn't let himself look hesitant or afraid of Bai Xiaosheng.

"My request is super simple." Bai Xiaosheng pointed smilingly at the one-liter beer mug, "During the three rounds we compete in, whoever loses drinks as many cups as the number of the round."

The loser of the first round drinks one cup, the loser of the second round drinks two cups, and the third time, that's three cups!

A one-liter beer mug, three cups make three liters, the same volume as a mini jug of drinking water!

That's pretty ruthless.

"Okay, I agree!" Lu Qingfeng declared earnestly.

He, Lu Qingfeng, would not admit defeat!

Bai Xiaosheng smiled with narrowed eyes, looking at the big cup.

He was quite looking forward to it...

Chapter 117 Who Let the Water Out for Whom_1

Lu Yun looked at Bai Xiaosheng, then at Lu Qingfeng, feeling a bit worried.

This kid Bai Xiaosheng is both righteous and wicked, seriously bad to the core, impossible to guard against.

Qingfeng, when it comes to overt strategies, might not be defeated, but he's too upright and lacks cunning, which puts him at a disadvantage against Bai Xiaosheng... his chances of winning are not high!

"No way, I have to give Qingfeng a hand," thought Lu Yun.

After all, he had just patted his son on the shoulder, saying, "Dad's got your back."

Now, it was time to deliver!

"Ahem!"

Lu Yun coughed, assuming an elder's posture, and with a smile said, "Have you two finished talking? Next, we're going to pose the questions, and I think it should be... Xuelian, Wenqian, and myself."

Zhengdong Province was kept out of it. Lu Yun gave him a smile, and the chubby man immediately became anxious, probably unable to come up with a decent question if his life depended on it.

The composition of the question-setters was so fair indeed!

Bai Xiaosheng raised an eyebrow.

Lu Yun remained unperturbed, his face not flushing—a feat achieved by years of experience, the steadiness was still there.

Lu Qingfeng felt a bit embarrassed. Among those setting the questions, one was his sister, the other his dad, both knew him through and through.

To win like this felt somewhat unsporting.

"Alright then, it's settled!" Bai Xiaosheng readily agreed, adding a clause, "Anyone who objects is conceding a round!"

These words made Lu Qingfeng pause.

This is my sister! This is my dad! Why does it feel like Bai Xiaosheng is acting as though he's the one at a huge unfair advantage...

"I'll start with the first question."

Wei Xuelian, with a beaming smile, stood up, glanced at Bai Xiaosheng, walked to the small blackboard Cheng was holding, and picked up a piece of chalk.

After a moment's thought, she swiftly wrote out a series of numbers, letters, and formulas.

"This question is from the graduate entrance exam for probability theory and mathematical statistics in business management. The first one to write the correct answer will be considered the winner," Wei Xuelian said with a smile.

Lu Qingfeng's eyes lit up, and he sent a loving smile towards Wei Xuelian.

Little sister Xuelian is really treating me well!

He, Lu Qingfeng, held a master's degree in business management. Solving this question was as easy as pie!

As for Bai Xiaosheng... he was an arts student!

An ordinary arts student, no matter how knowledgeable, couldn't compare with a bona fide science master like him, could they?

This round, I've got in the bag!

Lu Qingfeng smiled confidently at Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng, surprisingly, looked at the question on the blackboard and saw Wei Xuelian giving him a secret, mischievous wink. He couldn't help but feel a mix of laughter and tears.

This problem was exactly the one he had solved to win breakfast!

Back then, he had written three different methods!

She was helping me!

Bai Xiaosheng felt somewhat sweet inside.

However, right after that, he saw the smug look in Lu Qingfeng's eyes, which suddenly annoyed him.

Oh, this is your area of expertise!

So, you're flaunting it to me?!

Bai Xiaosheng saw that both Lu Yun and Lu Wenqian were also happy, as if Lu Qingfeng was sure to win all three rounds without any doubt.

After all, the first question was right up Lu Qingfeng's alley, and the following two would likely be the same!

Bai Xiaosheng, expressionless, rubbed his nose.

You all just enjoy yourselves...

A servant brought forward two large cups of beer that were darker than regular beer and emitted a fragrance of alcohol with a hint of fruitiness.

He heard it was an improved formula, privately brewed.

Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

Lu Qingfeng had already read the question twice, carefully, and was silently working it out in his head without any paper or pen—pure mental calculation!

Lu Yun couldn't help but nod slightly in approval.

As for Bai Xiaosheng, he appeared lazy, staring at the beer mug and counting the bubbles in the beer.

Was he planning to give up on this round?

Except for Wei Xuelian, that's what everyone else thought!

After all, this was a complex science and technology question.

Even Zhengdong Province felt it was over; Bai couldn't come up with the answer!

Wei Xuelian giggled to herself.

She guessed that Bai Xiaosheng must be waiting to swoop in at the last minute and write down the answer to show off.

This guy!

That's what Wei Xuelian thought, but she didn't feel the slightest bit annoyed, in fact, there was a faint sense of anticipation.

All of a sudden, Lu Qingfeng strode towards the little blackboard.

He had solved it!

Lu Yun and Lu Wenqian's faces immediately lit up with joy, while Wei Xuelian was startled, and she turned to look at Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng still showed no sign of moving!

Has he gone dumb? He could clearly win this!

Wei Xuelian couldn't help feeling a bit anxious.

Could it be he thinks that Lu Qingfeng might make a mistake? Impossible! Lu Qingfeng has a master's degree in management - he wouldn't step forward if he wasn't almost entirely sure!

They were going to lose this first round for no reason!

Wei Xuelian felt both anxious and annoyed.

Lu Qingfeng picked up the chalk and scribbled non-stop, completing his work in one go.

His handwriting was very beautiful, and his board writing was neat and clean.

After finishing, Lu Qingfeng glanced at his work, extremely satisfied.

This was his answer, absolutely correct! He had that confidence!

I've won the first round!

Lu Qingfeng turned around with a touch of pride, but his smile became somewhat stiff.

Because Bai Xiaosheng was tilting his head back, gulping down the last drop of beer.

"Refreshing! Delicious!"

Bai Xiaosheng took a deep breath and laughed with praise.

"Uncle Lu, later on, you have to let me take some home!"

Lu Qingfeng, stunned, looked at Bai Xiaosheng. He had intended to boast a little, but suddenly it all seemed so dull.

It was as if Bai Xiaosheng deliberately gave up this round just to savor that beer.

"If you want to drink, then in the following rounds, there are five cups. I'll let you drink to your heart's content," Lu Qingfeng snorted.

"I'll just have a taste. I'm used to sipping liquor with skewers. Downing beer like this, you can handle the next one!"

Bai Xiaosheng's smile was radiant.

"It's Wenqian's turn to pose a question now, right?" Bai Xiaosheng said to Lu Wenqian, then smiled at Lu Yun, "Uncle Lu must be the finale, anchoring the last game."

Lu Yun smiled without saying a word.

He had indeed intended so.

Lu Wenqian got up, and Wei Xuelian couldn't help but tug at the hem of her clothes from below.

She couldn't bear to see Bai Xiaosheng lose three rounds in a row; it would be nice for him to win at least one round.

Wei Xuelian wanted to signal Lu Wenqian to go easy.

Lu Wenqian, with a cheerful smile, ignored Wei Xuelian and walked over.

The little blackboard had already been wiped clean.

Lu Wenqian held the chalk, her eyes shining with clarity, as she had long decided what to write!

Bai Xiaosheng came from an arts background, right? She would pose a literary question. If her brother could beat Bai Xiaosheng in literature, wouldn't that be fabulous!

Lu Wenqian picked up the chalk and wrote down a line that seemed like poetry yet not poetry, like lyrics yet not lyrics.

Lu Qingfeng found it familiar and suddenly remembered.

This, was Yuan verse!

Lu Wenqian had a passion for literature and often asked him, her brother, about Tang poetry and Song lyrics. And the other day, out of the blue, she had even brought up Yuan verse.

The somewhat embarrassed Lu Qingfeng, who had been put on the spot, had specifically looked up information and restored his face the next day.

My sister is sending me points!

Lu Qingfeng recalled those words, waiting until he was absolutely sure before he would approach.

As for Bai Xiaosheng, even if he did have an arts background, he had graduated so many years ago. Besides, Yuan verse was so obscure, could he still remember it? Lu Qingfeng didn't believe it.

However, before Lu Qingfeng had finished thinking, he saw Bai Xiaosheng walk over.

In front of the little blackboard, Lu Wenqian was completely oblivious, still writing.

There stood Bai Xiaosheng, right behind Lu Wenqian, with a smile brimming in his eyes.

Chapter 118: The Death of the Well-Versed Pervert_1

Lu Wenqian was completely focused, writing on the small blackboard.

Her handwriting was beautiful, just like Lu Qingfeng's, clearly practiced.

"Regretting meeting so late, resenting the swift departure. The willow threads are long, hard to tie the jade horse, hating not to hang the oblique sunlight in the sparse forest. The horse saunters on, the carriage follows swiftly, yet they announce the retreat from Acacia Bird, parting ways too soon with the unfinished riddle..."

Initially, she had written quickly, but after a few lines, she slowed down.

It was understandable.

Yuan operas, unlike poetry and couplets, leaned more towards colloquial language and were tougher to memorize. Lu Wenqian was careful, not daring to make a mistake. If she, the examiner who posed the question, erred, it would be quite the joke.

"The 'cong' in 'jade horse' is wrong, it shouldn't contain a cross."

Fortunately, someone beside her gave a reminder.

Lu Wenqian looked back and saw the mistake. She quickly erased it, and couldn't resist uttering a cute thank you.

After saying it, she realized something was amiss.

Who reminded her?

Turning around, Lu Wenqian saw Bai Xiaosheng smiling at the blackboard.

"Not bad, the writing is pretty."

"What are you doing up here? I haven't said to start continuing the writing yet," Lu Wenqian couldn't help but exclaim.

This girl was just like Shi Xiangyun from the Dream of the Red Chamber—forthright, lively, talented, and unmatched in her cuteness.

Zheng Pangzi sat there, his elbow on the stone table, palm supporting his face, the more he watched his goddess, the more godlike she became to him.

"I saw you were writing too slowly, looked too tired, so I thought I'd write for you," Bai Xiaosheng teased, too, as he took the chalk and began scribbling away with remarkable speed.

His handwriting, once mocked by Wei Xuelian for being ugly, did not affect Lu Wenqian's amazement in the slightest.

Bai Xiaosheng continued from where she left off, without a single mistake:

"Hearing a farewell 'leave also,' the golden pins are loosened; gazing upon the ten-mile-long pavilion, thinning the jade complexion; who knows this sorrow?"

"Yuan opera, The Romance of the Western Chamber—Sending Off at the Long Pavilion, such a classic and well-known piece. Little Sister Lu, you've truly assisted me. Thanks for giving me the win on this round," Bai Xiaosheng teased.

As if I wanted to let you win!

Lu Wenqian had that written all over her face.

Watching Bai Xiaosheng tease the girl, Wei Xuelian couldn't help but chuckle with mirth.

"How do you know I wanted you to continue writing downwards? Maybe, I wanted you... to write upwards," Lu Wenqian said with a cunning glint in her big eyes.

It was a quick-witted response.

Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

"Azure Cloud Sky, Yellow Flower Land, the west wind tightens. The geese fly south from the north. In the morning, who has intoxicated the frosted forest? It's always the tears of the parted," Bai Xiaosheng recited leisurely.

Red Lotus followed him in sync.

Even if Red Lotus hadn't recited along, that passage was so widely known that Bai Xiaosheng remembered it very clearly.

"Whether you want to listen to the part before or after, or else, shall I recite the entire thing for you? How about that?" Bai Xiaosheng said with a grin, "If you need a translation, that's no issue either, as long as you have an answer for comparison."

With Red Lotus's cooperation, he could recite it backward if need be.

Lu Wenqian was flabbergasted.

Not just her, everyone else was speechless with astonishment.

Were all scholars this monstrous these days?

My silly girl, are you helping your brother or setting him up by choosing a Yuan opera!

Lu Yun couldn't help but shoot Lu Wenqian a look—he didn't know that just a few days ago, she had discussed these things with Lu Qingfeng, which should have given her an edge...

Lu Wenqian's face fell in dismay.

Lu Qingfeng managed a bitter smile.

His little sister had let him down, only to let a big "white" shark in instead, someone who could recite and translate the entire piece.

He couldn't win at all!

Rather than that, he might as well show some grace in front of Xuelian.

"This round, I concede," Lu Qingfeng admitted.

Then, he picked up his glass of draft beer and downed it in a single gulp.

The homemade beer at home luckily still tasted pretty good.

The servant by the side, quite "observant," promptly refilled Lu Qingfeng's cup.

But this second cup didn't taste as nice; after all, it was two pints of beer, chugging it down one after the other, it was equivalent to about four small bottles of mineral water...

Halfway through the second cup, Lu Qingfeng couldn't help but stop and catch her breath.

Her stomach felt a bit bloated.

"Why don't you take a break? It's also fine to spill it, or you could put the cup aside to raise fish," Bai Xiaosheng suggested very kindly, fanning the flames.

This kid was too malicious, knowing full well that Qingfeng had a straightforward temper and still baiting her!

Lu Yun couldn't help but sigh to himself.

Lu Wenqian gave Bai Xiaosheng a cold look.

Zhengdong Province watched Lu Qingfeng, holding back his laughter.

Wei Xuelian bit her lower lip with her pearly teeth, also trying not to laugh.

Sensing everyone's expressions, Lu Qingfeng gritted her teeth and poured the second half of the cup, about a bottle's worth of beer, straight down her throat.

With the last big gulp, she stared with her eyes wide open, puffing her cheeks for a good while before she could swallow it down.

Bai Xiaosheng was so happy that he laughed out loud.

I'll show you who's trying to outsmart me; I'll make him drink to his heart's content!

"Come on, the next round, don't even think you can win!" Lu Qingfeng slammed down her cup and declared.

"That will depend on the question Lu sets, whether it'll be as simple as Wenqian's or not," Bai Xiaosheng picked up the chalk eraser, wiped off Lu Wenqian's writing, then leisurely began writing a series of letters and numbers with the chalk.

"Or perhaps, as easy as Xuelian's."

As Bai Xiaosheng wrote, an incredulous look flashed through Lu Qingfeng's eyes!

In one breath, Bai Xiaosheng solved the problem Wei Xuelian had presented, this time with a cleaner and more efficient method!

Initially smiling, Wei Xuelian gradually, too, wore a face of surprise.

The method Bai Xiaosheng used this time was completely different from the past, another new approach!

Lu Qingfeng looked at Bai Xiaosheng with utter amazement.

It turned out that in the first competition, Bai Xiaosheng hadn't even thought about competing!

He, Lu Qingfeng, a proud masters graduate in STEM, had actually been given a concession in mathematical problems by a liberal arts student!

This deathly unpredictable scholar in both arts and sciences!

Although Lu Yun, Lu Wenqian, and Zhengdong Province did not understand Bai Xiaosheng's method, they could tell by the expressions of Lu Qingfeng and Wei Xuelian that it was astonishing and were equally shocked.

Bai Xiaosheng put down the chalk and leisurely walked back to his seat.

"Next up, it's Lu's turn to present the problem, don't make it too simple." Bai Xiaosheng yawned a long, seemingly bored yawn, "Ideally, leave us some time to think."

Lu Yun's gaze shimmered as he slowly stood up and made his way to the small blackboard.

Bai Xiaosheng looked on lazily, yet there was a clear trace of earnestness in his eyes.

Just now, his deliberate show of skill wasn't only to show off.

He knew that the question Lu Yun would set would definitely be tough, one that couldn't be found online with ready answers, and surely it would be advantageous for Lu Qingfeng.

Even with Red Lotus's searching ability, Bai Xiaosheng might not have an upper hand.

So, with that in mind, he'd do the opposite, displaying his peerless strength.

Let Lu Yun make the questions harder.

As long as it was difficult enough, providing both of them time to think, Bai Xiaosheng believed that with Red Lotus's help,

He could win this round!

Lu Yun pinched the chalk between his fingers, pondering in front of the small blackboard.

The question he originally wanted to set was discarded, as he began to rethink.

Why not use a real test to evaluate the abilities of the two young people?

Lu Yun suddenly found his interest piqued, setting aside his thoughts of going easy.

"Got it!"

His eyes brightening, Lu Yun started to write furiously on the blackboard.

Chapter 119: The Dad Who Was Tricked by His Son_1

Lu Yun wrote steadily and neatly, his characters full of strength and structure, remarkable for their near-perfect uniformity in size and spacing. With just this blackboard writing, he utterly eclipsed the younger generation.

Bai Xiaosheng touched his nose sheepishly, thinking that, compared to the Lu siblings, his writing was akin to "a dog's scrawl," no wonder Wei Xuelian always criticized his ugly handwriting.

Truly, without comparison, there would be no harm.

As Lu Yun wrote for an extended period, Cheng held the blackboard steadfastly, not daring to move a muscle. As time passed, his arms trembled from the strain.

Thankfully, a perceptive servant came over to help.

Lu Qingfeng, from beginning to end, observed intently—not the calligraphy, but the content, taking the time to scrutinize it closely.

What Lu Yun wrote was a story.

The story's protagonists were two individuals who pooled resources to start a business, expand operations, leveraging new promotional strategies to grow their influence, using public opinion to discredit rivals. Their company went public, raising finance through share listing, receiving injections of capital, but ultimately lost control as their equity was diluted, their shares bought out by competitors, leading to their exclusion from the board.

In just a few hundred words, the tale covered the entire arc from start-up to exit, complete with descriptive details and even some quantitative data.

Was this truly conceived on the spot?!

Bai Xiaosheng marveled.

Red Lotus had searched, and indeed there was nothing online!

The minds of successful people, how are they formed!

"Well, you now have ten minutes," said Lu Yun as he casually tossed the chalk aside. Without rushing to ask questions, he leisurely returned to his seat and slowly drank his tea.

Both Bai Xiaosheng and Lu Qingfeng took the task seriously, diligently reading every word.

Wei Xuelian, Lu Wenqian, and others from Zhengdong Province also followed suit.

Time ticked away, second by second.

As soon as ten minutes were up, Lu Yun stood up, approached the blackboard, and without saying a word, picked up the eraser and wiped away all the chalk writing.

"Lu Qingfeng, tell me, at the beginning of their entrepreneurial venture, what mistakes did they make?" Lu Yun asked, looking sternly at Lu Qingfeng.

Lu Qingfeng contemplated carefully and spoke calmly, "These two individuals, at the onset of their enterprise, lacked clear direction and positioning, blindly groping their way forward. In the midst of management adjustments, they made three fatal errors, which are..."

Lu Qingfeng spoke fluently, providing a comprehensive and detailed explanation.

Lu Yun nodded frequently, a slight smile on his lips.

"Bai Xiaosheng, tell me, in their promotional efforts, what were the highlights and what were the flaws? In the media battle to suppress their rivals, what did they do wrong?" Lu Yun asked.

Bai Xiaosheng organized his thoughts and said earnestly, "They boldly experimented with new media, which is commendable, but they were hesitant to fully embrace it, still prioritizing traditional media. In their attempts, they were a step ahead of others, yet often abandoned their initiatives midway. From a public relations standpoint, they failed to consider whether the spread of influence might backfire on themselves. In my opinion, there were three points of failure..."

Bai Xiaosheng's analysis was meticulous and profound, showing insightful personal views.

Lu Yun nodded in appreciation and then continued with his questions.

"Lu Qingfeng, I ask you..."

"Bai Xiaosheng, I ask you..."

Lu Yun posed six questions in a row, touching upon management, promotion, finance, law, and other areas.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lu Qingfeng were nearly neck and neck, with little to separate them.

However, the audience still felt that Bai Xiaosheng's analysis was somewhat more precise, especially regarding policies and legal provisions, where he could cite detailed examples.

"I am ashamed! Having been instructed and guided by my father for years, I have insights, but my knowledge reserve is insufficient, falling far short of him!"

Lu Qingfeng looked at Bai Xiaosheng with clear admiration in his eyes.

"Without Red Lotus's help, it wouldn't have been easy. Is this the reasoning ability acquired by the scions of wealthy families through various resources?" Bai Xiaosheng also deeply sighed, thoroughly impressed.

Lu Yun looked left and right.

Both young men pleased him immensely.

If only Bai Xiaosheng were my son! With the two of them together, they might reach the legendary heights of Bai Zhenbei!

Lu Yun felt a pang of wistfulness.

Up to this point, neither was superior, but in the end, there still had to be a winner and a loser.

Having been fair and unprejudiced, wishing to test the capabilities of the two young men, Lu Yun suddenly remembered his great mission—

Go easy on my son.

Almost forgot that!

That little rascal, Bai Xiaosheng, made both of us suffer, I must flood him with water to quench my anger!

Lu Yun made up his mind secretly but kept a stern face.

"The last question, a buzzer round! Whoever answers first, wins!" Lu Yun looked at the two competitors.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lu Qingfeng stared at him intently, both filled with a competitive spirit.

Wei Xuelian, Lu Wenqian, and Zhengdong Province, were also staring closely at Lu Yun, curious what sort of question he would produce.

"The last question is so easy that even a child could answer it, let's see who's mind is quicker," Lu Yun muttered, gazing intently at Lu Qingfeng.

No matter what, Bai Xiaosheng was just an arts student. Even if he was proficient in logic and reasoning, he naturally wouldn't compare to a genuine engineering master's student.

Son, this is as far as I can help you...

Lu Qingfeng caught sight of Lu Yun's expectation and hint, and was inwardly moved.

Normally, with his personality, he disdained such petty tricks, but the thought of outsmarting Bai Xiaosheng brought him joy.

Silence.

The entire Lake Heart Pavilion fell quiet, and Lu Yun, smiling slyly, suddenly spoke in a rapid voice.

"Now, add up all the numbers I've written down, each individual digit, the first to calculate it wins!"

Every individual digit meant treating multi-digit numbers as single digits to be added up.

Lu Qingfeng's heart leapt with joy.

Grandpa released the water perfectly!

He was innately sensitive to numbers and still remembered all of them clearly. It was simply a task of adding them up, as easy as flipping one's hand, even faster than a calculator!

Lu Qingfeng's mouth curled into a victorious smile, as if he could already see Bai Xiaosheng's misery, three big glasses of beer, that's three liters, if all that was poured down, sure to bloat the stomach...

"119!"

Bai Xiaosheng suddenly exclaimed.

Lu Qingfeng was stunned, staring blankly at Bai Xiaosheng.

Just now, he seemed to have shouted a number?

The others were also taken aback, Lu Yun included, somewhat surprised.

Lu Qingfeng's mind indeed worked at lightning speed; after a brief moment of bewilderment, he hurriedly calculated the number:

119.

His face turned ashen.

Was Bai Xiaosheng's brain human or a computer!

"Thank you, Red Lotus!"

"You're welcome, Master!"

Bai Xiaosheng grinned at Lu Qingfeng, nodding towards the oversized draft beer glass.

Lu Qingfeng had a look that was half-smile, half-cry, as he turned to look at Daddy.

Lu Yun avoided his son's gaze, looking instead to the sky.

They say it's classic to trick Daddy, but this time it seemed the son was tricked...

The "very insightful" servant quickly wheeled the cart over.

The atmosphere turned awkward for a moment.

Cheng, trying not to burst out laughing at the side, managed to suppress his mirth.

Suddenly, his expression turned solemn, and he reached to adjust his invisible earpiece, speaking in a hushed tone.

"Alright, alright! I've got it, I'll tell Mr. Lu. Have them wait a while!"

Chapter 120: A Visitor Comes - Part 1

Lu Qingfeng was literally fighting for his life to down those two huge glasses of beer, his face turning green as the beer kept welling up in his throat.

Out of concern for face, he firmly suppressed it.

For those who can handle their beer, this amount is nothing, but the key is, Lu Qingfeng can't drink.

Or rather, he had never drunk like this before.

At the usual banquets and family parties, the guests are always well-dressed and genteel, each holding a wine glass, and it would be good enough to drink a toast with them.

Of course, they've had barbecue parties and drunk beer before, but not with these oversized glasses.

The oversized draft beer glasses today were specifically dug out from the kitchen storeroom to deal with Bai Xiaosheng.

He never expected they would be used on himself.

Glass after glass, counting the two just now, there's one more left.

With four liters of liquid in his belly, Lu Qingfeng felt that if he drank any more, he would definitely burst; his stomach was already swollen.

Why do I have to mess with him, I'm literally asking for death! Lu Qingfeng held the finally empty cup, on the verge of tears.

That particularly "sharp-eyed" servant didn't say a word, took his young master's large glass, and deftly filled it up again.

What a skill!

The beer was level with the rim of the glass, any more and it would overflow. Watching the servant carefully bring it to him, the usually forgiving Lu Qingfeng deeply memorized his face and, in his heart, he resolutely decided that after today he would talk to Cheng and have this idiot pack his bags and get lost!

Lu Qingfeng desperately looked to Lu Yun, hoping his father would come to his rescue.

Lu Yun glanced upwards, inspecting the sky, and walked to the edge of the pavilion to gaze at the water. He couldn't bear to watch anymore, yet he was helpless.

A man's word is his bond; his promise is worth a thousand in gold. You win some, you lose some, but Qingfeng, we mustn't lose face.

Lu Yun silently admonished himself in his heart.

Lu Wenqian was both anxious and heartbroken as she kept poking Zhengdong Province, hoping he could help out.

Zhengdong Province was utterly helpless, he shrugged at her and turned his face away, silently bursting into laughter.

Wei Xuelian also felt a bit of pity and kept winking at Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't make a sound, just smilingly watching Lu Qingfeng.

As soon as Lu Qingfeng locked eyes with him, his stubborn nature flared up again, with a heavy heart, he lifted the oversized draft beer glass to his lips.

If death is what it takes, so be it, but I won't be disgraced!

Just as he was about to put the glass to his lips, his wrist was grabbed. He looked up in astonishment and saw Bai Xiaosheng's smiling face.

Bai Xiaosheng took the draft beer glass from his hand, sniffed the beer with its unique aroma and murmured to himself, "The beer your family brews really does taste good, I won't stand on ceremony, I'll have another."

Bai Xiaosheng guzzled more than half in one go, turned around, and walked toward the edge of the pavilion too.

Despite the lack of fine food to accompany the great drink, the view is good enough. Drinking just this beer has a charm of its own.

Lu Qingfeng looked at Bai Xiaosheng's retreating figure, his eyes filled with gratitude.

He could tell, Bai Xiaosheng had done it on purpose, stepping in at his most "desperate" moment to curry favor while also indulging in a bit of mischief.

However, Lu Qingfeng didn't feel the slightest bit annoyed but genuinely somewhat grateful.

This time, in terms of talents, wisdom, and even generosity in action, he fell just short of Bai Xiaosheng.

"Brother Bai."

Lu Qingfeng hesitated for a moment and then called out to Bai Xiaosheng's back, stepping forward to walk over.

He actually, truly addressed Bai Xiaosheng as 'brother'?! Everyone was surprised.

Zheng Pangzi was so shocked his mouth hung open wide enough to fit an egg.

Though willing to accept the outcome of the bet, Lu Qingfeng always seemed to have an elder brother's demeanor.

This call let everyone's brains struggle to accept it for a moment.

"Old Bai, you've made quite the impression this time!" Zhengdong Province couldn't help mumbling to himself, but then he frowned and said, "But wait, doesn't that make me the youngest little brother now?"

Lu Wenqian and Wei Xuelian were left speechless, and Lu Wenqian even gave him a severe glare.

Over there, Bai Xiaosheng was also leaning against a section of the fence, drinking and enjoying the view.

Lu Qingfeng came to stand beside him.

"This time I've lost, and I will publicly call you 'brother,'" Lu Qingfeng said earnestly, "However, when it comes to Xuelian, I won't give up easily. I only acknowledge you as a competitor, but I still want to compete with you fairly!"

"Then you are doomed to fail!"

Bai Xiaosheng looked at Lu Qingfeng very seriously and laughed, "Because I will definitely win her heart!"

"Don't be too confident, you've only beaten me once!" Lu Qingfeng laughed nonchalantly.

He wasn't a sore loser.

Recognizing the gap and confronting it, that's a frightening man too.

Bai Xiaosheng felt impressed inside, but he teased, "Believe me, there will be a second time!"

"You're too arrogant!"

The two argued stubbornly and then suddenly both laughed.

Lu Qingfeng reached out, grabbed the beer that Bai Xiaosheng had almost finished, and started chugging it down.

"Hey, can you even handle more drink?"

"In such a moment and such a scene, to have a competitor but no alcohol, it's simply spoiling the view!"

"Ha, you sure can put on a show. There's still half a barrel left there; if you've got the guts, make up for this Cup!"

"..."

Lu Qingfeng pretended not to hear.

Lu Yun, with his back against the fence, smiled and looked with anticipation at the two young men standing side by side.

Perhaps, in ten or twenty years, both of these young men could be renowned throughout the universe, becoming the new masters of the business world, and that would be something worth looking forward to.

Just as Lu Yun was lost in his thoughts, Cheng approached and whispered something in his ear.

Lu Yun's smile faded, and he regained his usual dignified demeanor and authority.

"This person wants to see me? If it's about business, he is not qualified enough, dismiss him," Lu Yun said, waving his hand dismissively, but then, he looked at Cheng with a hint of confusion.

As his personal butler and secretary, Cheng should know who was qualified to see him.

This shouldn't have required asking!

Under Lu Yun's inquiring gaze, Cheng lowered his voice and said, "The thing is, this person isn't here on official business but for a personal visit, and he brought a young man with him?"

A young man?

Lu Yun raised an eyebrow.

"It's his son, who also happens to be a university classmate of Miss Wenqian," Cheng glanced at Lu Wenqian and then continued, "I heard the young man is also the class president in Miss Wenqian's class. The visit is mainly about his son."

"Oh, is that so?" Lu Yun was intrigued.

A father and son visiting, riding on the son's coat-tails.

It sounded quite interesting.

Lu Yun thought it over for a moment.

Lu Wenqian was attending an elite school, and for someone to be a class president there, it meant the young man had to have some capability.

Today, Bai Xiaosheng had surprised him, putting him in a good mood, and he was full of anticipation for the younger generation.

"In that case..."

Lu Yun told Cheng, "Let's meet them after all. I want to see if I can discover another talented youth. Go arrange it, bring them here for the meeting."

"Understood."

Cheng nodded and hurried off.

What kind of young man would he be? Lu Yun was suddenly quite intrigued.