

Two Trillion 1151

Chapter 1151 Long Time No See

Bai Xiaosheng!

Hearing this name from Wen Yan's mouth, both Ruan Yu and Huang stopped their work and looked over in unison, their expressions carrying a hint of surprise.

They had heard this name before, more than once it seemed.

"We actually encountered him here!" Huang exclaimed.

"He actually used a fake name!" Ruan Yu frowned.

Wen Yan smiled, his index and middle fingers joined to tap gently on his forehead, speaking in a barely audible whisper, "Bai Xiaosheng, the surveillance group had been aware of this person for a while, but Mr. Situ personally erased the investigation materials about him and specifically warned me not to investigate him!"

"Mr. Situ said that unless this person climbs to a certain position, I'm not to even mention anything about him. Otherwise, it's off the table!"

"Furthermore, Mr. Situ cautioned me that if I conducted a private investigation into this person, the consequences I'd face could be quite severe..."

"Really, the more it's like this, the more one can't help but want to pursue!"

Amid his smile, Wen Yan seemed rather troubled, "My 'older brother' currently wields real power, while I supervise the global group's industrial inspection team. Yet there are still people outside his reach and mine that can't even be looked into. It really bothers me."

"This chance encounter might just be fate. Am I supposed to just turn a blind eye, deaf ear, and waste this opportunity?"

"What torture..."

Wen Yan sighed deeply.

"Young Master, why trouble yourself over it? Even if he is Bai Xiaosheng, the Senior Affairs Officer for the Greater China Region, it's just a tiny position. Are you really concerned? What's wrong with checking up on him? Even if Mr. Situ finds out afterward, what could he do to you? After all, you are..." Ruan Yu hated to see the Young Master troubled.

But before she could finish, a sharp voice interjected, "Ruan Yu, stop!"

With that interjection, half in English, Huang gave Ruan Yu a stern glare and spoke in an authoritative tone to Wen Yan, "Young Master, as your attendant, and as someone who holds a measure of guardianship responsibility, I am obliged to remind you. Rules are rules unless conditions are met, any overstepping is unacceptable! Even for you! If you truly insist on acting recklessly, it won't be good for your future! Please believe me, I absolutely, absolutely, absolutely don't want to see that happen!"

The servant, who was clearly European yet called Huang, spoke with utmost severity, yet also with earnest pleading.

It was as though he was advising, threatening, and begging all at once.

Ruan Yu snorted coldly, showing little regard for his words.

In her eyes, ten Huangs weren't worth one word from the Young Master.

Yet, Wen Yan seemed to sober up from the rebuke, showing no anger or annoyance, but instead replied with a smile, "Huang, I was just speaking off the cuff. How could I forget what Mr. Situ has entrusted to me!"

"As it concerns my own future, I would certainly not make any missteps. Because it's not just about me!"

"I will not investigate Bai Xiaosheng unless conditions allow for it."

"Moreover, I will continue to minimize the presence of the surveillance group in the Greater China Region, as previously agreed."

Hearing Wen Yan say this, the European servant—Huang—relaxed his expression and stood at attention, respectfully nodding to Wen Yan.

Wen Yan nodded solemnly in return, acknowledging the salute.

Then Huang went about his business.

Ruan Yu glanced at Huang and kept silent, busying herself with her own work.

Wen Yan sipped his tea leisurely.

Some things don't need to be said aloud; they can just be thought.

In the surveillance group, excluding the collective decision-making meetings of the older members, no one's authority exceeded his own.

And because of his identity, many old men subtly indulged him on numerous matters.

However, not all of them necessarily had his best interests at heart, and some might have been "older brother's" people, eager for him to slip up.

As for the "older brother," his status was only higher, never lower, and he wielded real, substantial power but with more constraints.

That "older brother" was nowhere near as easy-going as he was, even often described as volatile!

This year, the group Wen Yan managed had made moves in Europe and America which irritated the "older brother."

The accumulated resentments had recently erupted.

The details of the skirmish didn't matter. The upshot was that Wen Yan had traveled to the Greater China Region to "take refuge," as a chance to unwind, and also specifically to pay visits to over a dozen important figures in the Region.

This trip had to be free from any semblance of work.

Mr. Situ had told him that the surveillance group would not interfere with the Greater China Region's affairs for the next two years, and in the coming years, their presence there should continue to diminish.

He also mentioned a person who wasn't to be investigated by the surveillance group.

That person was Bai Xiaosheng!

Wen Yan had also heard that the "older brother" had been given the same strict orders.

"Well, that settles it, everyone is equal," murmured Wen Yan with a smile, his voice only audible to himself.

Wen Yan claimed he didn't pay attention to Bai Xiaosheng, and so he truly didn't.

Yet, if their paths were to cross again, whatever intersection arose between them would be beyond his control.

Wen Yan didn't deliberately avoid Bai Xiaosheng.

This, was it a brush with Mr. Situ and the higher-ups, a... gray area?

After tidying the room, Huang and Ruan Yu exchanged greetings with Wen Yan and left.

Wen Yan, meanwhile, leisurely browsed his phone.

On it were major confidential reports on the corporation's industries from around the world.

Even while on vacation, visiting friends, he, Wen Yan, wouldn't slack off in his work.

"Bai Xiaosheng, I hope that one day you'll reach sufficient heights, stand in a high enough position, so that, you'll meet Mr. Situ's conditions, and then, I can investigate you," the light flickered slightly in Wen Yan's eyes.

"Just your surname alone is enough to pique my interest!"

"Seeing you today, I feel a bit of kinship. Perhaps, in the future, we could be friends?"

"Or, allies!"

"Hey, maybe I should help you grow a bit, speed things up? 'Future friends,' after all, a favor in advance doesn't seem out of line," Wen Yan actually talked to himself with a smile on his face.

The warm smile on his face was genuine, truly warming the heart of everyone who saw him.

Regrettably, Bai Xiaosheng didn't see it.

At this moment, Bai Xiaosheng too was tired and went to bed early, sleeping soundly.

After all, tomorrow he was to visit Master Song Kai.

The night passed without incident.

The next day, Bai Xiaosheng got up early and, along with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, went to the restaurant for a complimentary buffet breakfast.

While eating, Bai Xiaosheng and his companions caught sight of Wen Yan and his group.

Wen Yan waved from afar, his face beaming with a sunshine-like smile.

Bai Xiaosheng also smiled faintly and politely nodded in acknowledgement.

Apart from that, there were no further friendly gestures between them, they didn't even sit at the same table for breakfast.

After breakfast, Bai Xiaosheng and his companions returned to their room to fetch their gifts and headed straight for Master Song Kai's residence.

Bearing both large and small packages, they also brought many things.

They included the locally famous Four Treasures of the Study, an album written by Bai Xiaosheng himself, a fan, and a seal carved from fine Gandong jade, along with local specialties and fruits.

Upon arriving at Master Song Kai's doorstep, Bai Xiaosheng called Wei Feng, the master's assistant.

Shortly after, Wei Feng came out to greet them personally, warmly welcoming Bai Xiaosheng inside.

"Is Master Song Kai keeping well recently?" Bai Xiaosheng asked while walking and chatting with Wei Feng.

"Very well, Master Song Kai is currently chatting with a distinguished guest who will stay for a couple of days. So, Master Song Kai has cleared all his affairs to accompany him. Hearing of your arrival, Master Song Kai is delighted, and the guest is quite happy too," Wei Feng replied with a smile.

A guest?

Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback.

Who could this be, someone worthy of Master Song Kai clearing all his affairs to receive, and also knew him?

Curious, Bai Xiaosheng also asked Wei Feng about it.

"You'll naturally find out once you get there," Wei Feng walked on chuckling, then suddenly pointed ahead, "Look, here we are while we're talking."

Bai Xiaosheng, guided by Wei Feng, entered the courtyard ahead.

In the lush, green garden, two people were sitting opposite each other, playing chess by the incense.

Their footsteps alerted the two chess players.

Both of them looked up with smiles and made eye contact with Bai Xiaosheng.

"Sheng, you've arrived!"

"Sheng, long time no see!"

Chapter 1152 Do You Have Something to Tell Me?

A tranquil little courtyard, clean and tidy, with bluestone-paved ground.

With masterful landscaping, there were patches of lawn interspersed with flowers and shrubs.

Beneath the plants, the grass was neatly trimmed and vibrantly green, a feast for the eyes.

Such an exquisite courtyard, with a rosewood table set up in the center, facing which two cushions were placed, a censer lit, a chessboard arranged, and a pot of fine tea brewed—it was truly an ethereal setting.

At this moment, two individuals of such refined taste who were enjoying their tea and chess, were smiling at Bai Xiaosheng.

Their gazes were warm and kind, as if they were looking at their most admired younger generation.

Upon seeing these two, Bai Xiaosheng was instantly surprised and delighted.

Not only was Master Song Kai there, but Mr. Lu Yun was also present!

Seeing Lu Yun, Bai Xiaosheng's happiness increased twofold.

In Tiannan, at the Lu Family Mansion, Bai Xiaosheng had once discussed life with this magnate, Lu Yun.

It had been two and a half years since then.

During that period, Bai Xiaosheng had more contact and interaction with Lu Qingfeng, with whom he shared a bond like that of brother and sister.

Towards Lu Yun, Bai Xiaosheng also harbored a filial respect.

After all, for such a big shot to have been willing to converse as equals with him, an unknown youngster at the time, even taking into account the favor Bai Xiaosheng owed him, it was indeed incredibly precious!

In the past two-plus years, Bai Xiaosheng had never seen Lu Yun again, nor had they been in contact.

After all, Lu Yun was the chairman and CEO of Tengyun Group, a man of high status, managing an internet empire worth five hundred billion US dollars two years ago, and certainly too busy with daily affairs that demanded his constant attention.

However, more than once, Lu Qingfeng had mentioned that Lu Yun had instructed him to be close and well-acquainted with Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng was also very grateful to Lu Yun.

And now, at this moment, to meet an old friend so unexpectedly, and to find Lu Yun at Master Song Kai's home!

Bai Xiaosheng was also very happy!

"Master Song Kai, Lu!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, quickly stepping forward.

Both were individuals who could be considered as benefactors to him, Bai Xiaosheng, and who were willing to offer their care and concern, so Bai Xiaosheng held them in genuine, heartfelt respect.

Master Song Kai and Lu Yun were already smiling and nodding, standing up one after the other to assess Bai Xiaosheng as he quickly approached.

"Bai, the Senior Affairs Officer, it's been a year since we met, and you truly stand out with exceptional poise. You are indeed the epitome of youthful charm!" Master Song Kai laughed heartily.

Bai Xiaosheng was promoted to Senior Affairs Officer, and Master Song Kai knew right away, even sending his congratulations through WeChat.

Lu Yun, too, was smiling, giving Bai Xiaosheng a sincere thumbs up, praising him with an emphatic, "Impressive!"

In Lu Yun's eyes as he looked at Bai Xiaosheng, there was also a mix of astonishment, admiration, happiness, and even a hint of awe.

Who would have thought that the young man he had taken an interest in had such potential, such fortune, and that his growth exceeded his expectations by a hundredfold.

In less than three years, Bai Xiaosheng had leaped to the position of Senior Affairs Officer for the Greater China Region of Zhenbei Group, reaching the level of Chen Jiutian from back then!

It should be noted that Chen Jiutian had spent a lifetime to reach that position.

Apart from these facts that Master Song Kai knew as well, Lu Yun was also aware that—

The business data company Zunbai Zhisheng, which dominated Asia, had Bai Xiaosheng possessing a significant amount of original shares and influence.

The recently powerful rising company in the business world—Xue Lian Wan He—was also backed by Bai Xiaosheng's investment.

Even the new group managed by his good son-in-law in Zhengdong Province—Shengsheng International—held a substantial amount of Bai Xiaosheng's shares.

All of this was achieved by a young man in less than three years!

As Lu Yun gazed at Bai Xiaosheng, he felt a mix of emotions and admiration.

Even at Bai Xiaosheng's age, he feared he would not compare!

"Indeed, the future of the business world belongs to these youngsters, and we're gradually exiting the stage," Lu Yun thought to himself, the corner of his mouth involuntarily revealing a smile.

He didn't feel sad about it, not at all, rather, he felt a sense of relief.

Because not only Bai Xiaosheng, but also Zhengdong Province and his son Lu Qingfeng, were all marching forward boldly in the business world, crafting their own glories.

Especially because Bai Xiaosheng's achievements also spurred Lu Qingfeng and Zhengdong Province to work even harder.

Was this not a good thing?

Lu Yun felt it was.

Facing Master Song Kai's teasing and Lu Yun's joyful praise, Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

"I dare not boast about my achievements in front of you two. Master Song, if you tease me again, I might just not give you the booklet and fan face I took the trouble to write before coming here," Bai Xiaosheng said.

"Oh, you brought your new calligraphy works? Show them to me quickly!"

In Master Song Kai's eyes, a fervor suddenly appeared, almost impatient.

Lu Yun looked on with surprise.

Bai Xiaosheng, he knows calligraphy too?

Master Song Kai had immersed himself in this field for no less than thirty years, so why was he so excited to hear that Bai Xiaosheng had written something?

Behind Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Weiwei obediently took out the collection of poems and the fan face Bai Xiaosheng had copied and handed them over.

Master Song Kai eagerly took them and his eyes brightened as he looked through them.

"Good, very good, even more refined, like an inspired hand!" Master Song Kai couldn't stop praising and didn't forget to look up at Bai Xiaosheng with a smile, "Kid, what are you doing in the corporate world? You might as well join the cultural scene. How about I arrange a calligraphy exhibition for you? This is already at the master level!"

Master Song Kai showed off the items to Lu Yun with pride.

Lu Yun took the paper fan face, on which was written "The Deer Cry" from the "Book of Songs • Lesser Odes."

The writing was extremely beautiful, with an indescribable elegance and flair between the strokes.

Lu Yun actually also loved ancient literature and paintings and calligraphy; his home was filled with many originals. Having seen plenty of fine things, he'd naturally become very discerning. But seeing what Bai Xiaosheng had written, Lu Yun fell silent for a moment, then suddenly raised his head and smiled firmly, not accepting any refusal, "Sheng, write me a fan face too!"

"Or, can I have this one?" Lu Yun looked towards Master Song Kai again.

"Are you crazy? This is mine, mine." Master Song Kai hurriedly snatched the fan face back from Lu Yun's hands, his gaze full of vigilance.

Just like a big kid.

This scene amused Bai Xiaosheng and the others instantly.

"Lu, I'll write another one for you," Bai Xiaosheng said with a laugh. "Or, if you want something else, that's fine too."

"Alright, alright, I'll give this one to you," Master Song Kai suddenly said, as if his earlier action was just a joke, and he even generously passed the fan face to Lu Yun.

Lu Yun was taken aback.

Master Song Kai ignored him and laughed at everyone, "Come on, let's not stand here, let's go inside and talk."

With Master Song Kai speaking, the group moved toward the house, and he took the opportunity to pull Bai Xiaosheng along, leaning in as they walked, "Kid, I just lost a fan face, so about what you just promised Lu Yun, 'or, if you want something else, that's fine too'—doesn't that mean I should get a booklet to make up for it?"

Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback, then smiled wryly.

So this old gentleman felt that was the real profit...

But looking at the man who was like a grandfather to him, Bai Xiaosheng nodded with a smile, "Sure thing!"

...

In the end, Bai Xiaosheng was invited into the main house, where he was pulled aside by Master Song Kai and Lu Yun for a chat.

Whether it was about calligraphy, cultural relics, or experiences and insights from the workplace, Bai Xiaosheng conversed with ease and enjoyment with the two seniors.

Compared to a year ago, Bai Xiaosheng had become more mature and steady.

And compared to two years ago, it was almost a complete transformation; his aura was now powerful.

Master Song Kai and Lu Yun only grew fonder of the young man as they talked more.

However, when they unintentionally learned that Bai Xiaosheng was staying outside, Master Song Kai immediately called Wei Feng to bring Bai Xiaosheng's luggage back from Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

"I know you were afraid of disturbing me late at night, but by being so distant, aren't you making me even angrier!" Master Song Kai said "huffily."

Bai Xiaosheng quickly apologized.

Naturally, Master Song Kai wasn't really angry and soon swapped to a smiling face.

To be so valued by Master Song Kai, indeed, no one else can match that! Lu Yun thought to himself.

He began to feel even more that Bai Xiaosheng was extraordinarily fortunate.

Actually, Lu Yun also knew that Mr. Xiahou Qi, President of the Greater China Region, had been helped by Bai Xiaosheng and particularly liked his writing...

Lu Yun felt even more that Bai Xiaosheng was like a lucky star.

The three of them chatted for over an hour still not fully satisfied, and then someone came to consult Master Song Kai, saying his personal doctor had arrived for a physical examination.

The old man actually refused on the spot, stating he would do it another day.

After persuasion from Bai Xiaosheng and Lu Yun, Master Song Kai reluctantly left.

But before leaving, Master Song Kai smiled again, saying he would go to the wine cellar in a bit and choose a bottle of his self-made wine for them to taste.

After Master Song Kai left, Lu Yun resumed chatting with Bai Xiaosheng and suddenly laughed.

"Sheng, do you have something you want to say to me? Since earlier, I've noticed that you not only have something to say, you might have a question too," Lu Yun said. "Ask away. Whatever I can tell you, I won't hold back!"

Chapter 1153 I Refuse Your Kindness!

Lu Yun's face was gentle, smiling at Bai Xiaosheng as if he were looking at his own child or nephew.

At Bai Xiaosheng's current age, such achievements filled him with immense gratification.

Especially since Bai Xiaosheng was under Xiahou Qi, a magnate that Lu Yun admired.

Lu Yun believed that for Bai Xiaosheng to have reached today's heights, he must have shown unparalleled talent.

Of course, that was only one of the reasons Lu Yun valued Bai Xiaosheng.

Capability.

What Lu Yun cared and marveled about even more was that Bai Xiaosheng, in their exchange, was neither hasty nor slow, neither arrogant nor impetuous. His unique perspectives were one thing, but more importantly, his mindset was calm and steady.

That kind of unshakeable mindset was truly rare and valuable, capable of making a person strong!

Lu Yun thought that even if one day Bai Xiaosheng were to lose everything again, with his mindset, he could rise anew!

Compared to capability, it was this quality that Lu Yun valued more in Bai Xiaosheng.

Mindset.

Lu Yun had even considered, just moments ago, the idea of offering Bai Xiaosheng a position of executive CEO at Tengyun Group to recruit him for his own.

However, Xiahou Qi was also one of the seniors he respected.

Moreover, since their two sides had a good partnership, it really wasn't appropriate to poach him.

Lu Yun had to restrain himself for a long time before he could suppress the urge to poach Bai Xiaosheng.

Now, noticing that Bai Xiaosheng seemed to have something to ask him, Lu Yun also adopted an earnest attitude.

"Lu, I really do have something I want to ask you. Actually, if you weren't here, I would probably have approached Master Song Kai," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

The reason he came to Guangyun was partly to visit Master Song Kai, but Bai Xiaosheng also had another purpose.

That was the question that had been weighing on his mind for nearly three years.

"Let's hear it," Lu Yun said.

As a person of his status, revered and wealthy, he would not guarantee success in everything, saying things like "Before me, your problem is not a problem."

Bai Xiaosheng organized his thoughts.

In Tiannan, Wei Xuelian had been to the Lu family with him; Lu Yun should know Wei Xuelian's identity.

Although Lu Yun had never told him, Bai Xiaosheng, to his face, Bai was certain.

At that time, from the way Lu Yun looked at Wei Xuelian and his tone of conversation, it all hinted at his awareness.

"Lu, I fell for Wei Xuelian at first sight, and you know that," Bai Xiaosheng said.

Lu Yun wasn't surprised, but his expression grew serious.

"Lu, you know, the difference between her and me was quite significant back then. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say it was like heaven and earth!"

"I've known for a long time that her family is distinguished, and I was reaching above my station."

"But still, when you like someone, it's just that—you like them. If it's because of her family background, then I'll work hard to bridge that gap, to grow stronger step by step, to get closer, to become worthy of her!"

"At that time, when her family sent someone to take her away, she left me a message, saying she would wait for me."

"And I also made a promise, that after three years, I would go to find her! This is our three-year agreement!"

"I remember my vow, 'Three years from now, I will come for you, and any problem that stands between us will no longer be a problem'! That was my promise as a man—I must, say it and do it!"

"So, over these past two and a half years, no matter how much I've missed her, thought of her, and even though I'm quite on good terms with her cousin Wei Moran, I didn't ask for her contact information, didn't reach out to her. But that longing hasn't faded one bit. On the contrary, the longer time passes, the deeper my longing grows!"

"It's quite miraculous, isn't it? Some people are bound for life, and even time can't stop it!"

"Over these two years, I've met many girls. They were all excellent and beautiful, even comparable to Xuelian, but my heart has never fluttered for them."

...

Bai Xiaosheng spoke at length, and Lu Yun listened quietly.

Bai Xiaosheng's yearning was deep in his bones.

From his words, his face, his eyes, it seeped through, pervasive everywhere.

Through those words, Lu Yun could feel Bai Xiaosheng's longing, like a babbling brook, quietly flowing like time, yet endless.

"Therefore, I want to know what the Wei family is like, exactly where Wei Xuelian is. The three-year agreement with her is fast approaching, and it's time for me to find her!" Bai Xiaosheng stated confidently.

Lu Yun looked straight at Bai Xiaosheng.

Truth be told, he really liked this young man.

To put it bluntly, if he had a daughter, he would want to betroth her to Bai Xiaosheng.

However, the more he liked and appreciated Bai Xiaosheng, the less Lu Yun could bear to tell him certain things.

But as he looked into Bai Xiaosheng's eyes, seeing the determination there, Lu Yun sighed.

Some things, those that need to be said, must eventually be spoken.

"Sheng, the things I'm about to say might hurt you deeply, and I hope you can be prepared," Lu Yun said.

"It's fine, Lu," Bai Xiaosheng replied calmly.

He was already prepared.

Even if he was the Senior Affairs Officer, second only to thousands below him, even if he could topple the leaders of twenty to thirty companies in a single day, he didn't feel qualified to be on par with the Wei Moran family.

It was a feeling, yet it felt very real.

However, Bai Xiaosheng didn't care.

Since he had promised a three-year agreement, he would surely honour it.

Even if it was a wall, he would bring it down.

Even if it was a mountain, he would move it.

This was a man's promise and a man's responsibility!

It wasn't worth shout about or scream for, but it was worth quietly striving for.

If the Wei family felt he wasn't qualified enough, he would ask them for a few more years. By then, Bai Xiaosheng would surely speak boldly and plainly before the Wei family elders to Wei Xuelian, "I like you, and that has never changed, whether it was yesterday, today, or tomorrow. Today, I come to propose to you, Wei Xuelian, because I have the qualifications. So, Miss Wei Xuelian, will you marry me?"

Bai Xiaosheng believed that he could hold on to love, and he believed that Wei Xuelian could hold on to him.

Some promises, once made, last a lifetime.

Some feelings, once given, also last a lifetime.

Lu Yun looked at Bai Xiaosheng, saw his persistence, his steadfastness, and he sighed deeply.

"The Wei family you're inquiring about is no small deal! They're incredibly significant!"

"They have gold mines in Africa, ranches in Australia, finance businesses in Europe, and strong industries in Asia."

"Just like some conglomerates you've never heard of and can hardly find in media or wealth rankings, they truly exist in this world and are extremely powerful. The Wei family is such an entity!"

"If this still feels vague to you, let me make a comparison. They are second only to powerhouses like Zhenbei Group, lagging by just a hairline!"

"Don't think that being a hairline behind means they are second-tier. In that case, my Tengyun Group would be at least third or fourth-tier," Lu Yun said with a wry smile.

Perhaps Lu Yun was being modest, or perhaps he was being truthful.

But this comparison truly made Bai Xiaosheng feel the Wei family's might.

Their power nearly rivaled that of Zhenbei Group!

Think about their global presence; it's terrifying!

Even if Bai Xiaosheng was prepared, he was still deeply shocked.

However, he wasn't discouraged.

Despite his surprise, Bai Xiaosheng's gaze became ever more resolute.

Likings should remain likings, not to be frightened off by reality. If the chasm is too large, then one must strive to cross it, for one is a man!

"And because, I am the future president of Zhenbei Group!"

Bai Xiaosheng clenched his fists tightly.

Lu Yun continued, "The Wei family is strong not only because the helmsmen of each generation, regardless of gender, are capable individuals—something I very much admire. But once someone becomes the head of the Wei family, Wei Xuelian's marriage is not something she can decide on her own, nor her parents, but rather the family as a whole, and it must be—to recruit a son-in-law!"

Bai Xiaosheng's heart sank.

"From what I know, Wei Xuelian's qualifications and abilities have been tested for over a decade since she was six, and she has been identified as the most important candidate for the future family head," Lu Yun said with a sigh, "Sheng, I'm not trying to discourage you. When Chen Jiutian wanted to discuss a

collaboration with me, I was reluctant to agree. Even if you now stand shoulder to shoulder with Chen Jiutian, and have achieved this in a mere two years along with additional assets, believe me, when the Wei family selects a son-in-law, regardless of family background or ability, your chances are... very slim!"

Bai Xiaosheng fell silent.

After some thought, Lu Yun said, "I, Lu Yun, owe you, Bai Xiaosheng, a favor. We agreed on a 'ten-year promise.' Now, if you want to use that favor, I, Lu Yun, will give it my all to help you, Bai Xiaosheng, give it a try! Regardless of success or failure, are you willing?"

Bai Xiaosheng remained silent.

Lu Yun didn't urge him but patiently waited for Bai Xiaosheng's reply.

"Your proposal..."

After a long while, Bai Xiaosheng snapped back to reality, apologizing with a smile to Lu Yun, his tone certain and firm.

"I refuse!"

Chapter 1154 Visiting the Song Family

Lu Yun wanted to use his promise to Bai Xiaosheng—the "ten-year pact"—to help him fulfill his "three-year agreement" with Wei Xuelian.

But Bai Xiaosheng refused.

Lu Yun sighed, thinking Bai Xiaosheng didn't want to waste the pact he had with the Lu Family.

In fact, on this matter, Lu Yun wasn't taking advantage of someone in trouble, nor did he intend to deceive Bai Xiaosheng and settle their pact prematurely.

Lu Yun was serious.

If Bai Xiaosheng had agreed, Lu Yun would have gone to great lengths, even at great cost, to win him an opportunity, a chance to be accepted by the Wei Family.

Of course, the final outcome would depend on Bai Xiaosheng, and even whether fate looked kindly upon this couple who felt destined for each other from their first meeting.

In this affair, the Lu Family would certainly honor their "ten-year pact."

"Give it more thought; using our pact on this matter wouldn't put you at a disadvantage," Lu Yun earnestly advised.

Because he valued Bai Xiaosheng, Lu Yun didn't mind the refusal and wanted to explain patiently instead.

"No, Uncle Lu, you misunderstand," Bai Xiaosheng began with a smile, "My turning down your help doesn't mean I'm reluctant to use the pact I have with you and the Lu Family."

"I just feel that a man's pursuit of a woman is entirely his own business. It would be wrong to have a friend's high status or wealth prompt her to agree; what would that count for? Friends can only add to the splendor, not be the main force. I don't want to develop the habit of depending on others!"

"All I want to know is the standing of the Wei Family and where they are. After that, I'll pursue it myself."

"I know that with my current identity and status, the Wei Family may look down on me, but what I seek is an opportunity!"

"After getting that opportunity, I will prove myself in the shortest possible time and show I'm worthy of their daughter!"

Bai Xiaosheng's words weren't impassioned but were delivered with utmost seriousness.

His eyes, bright when he spoke of this matter, were filled with belief and determination.

Lu Yun sighed lightly and smiled.

In truth, Lu Yun still had his doubts about Bai Xiaosheng's chances of success with the Wei Family.

Yet Bai Xiaosheng's courage and authenticity deeply moved him.

"Later on, I'll give you some information about the Wei Family. Take a look," Lu Yun said, "Sheng, I'll do my best to help you!"

The support from Lu Yun and the Lu Family shifted from "all-out effort" to "do my best," yet Bai Xiaosheng showed no hint of disappointment.

"Actually, it's not that there is no hope at all. After all, you, Bai Xiaosheng, have changed with the times and have many friends in the country!"

"With me, Lu Yun, Master Song Kai, and Mr. Xiahou Qi, although our influence is mostly in the Greater China Region, if we all come together to provide you with a stepping stone, entering the Wei Family's door won't be a problem," Lu Yun said with a smile.

The Wei Family's threshold was high and deep. Without an adequate stepping stone, Bai Xiaosheng, with his current status, might not even gain entry.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled gratefully; he naturally understood this.

"But from then on, it truly depends on you, Sheng! The opportunity given by the Wei Family sounds simple, but it's quite challenging—I know how hard it can be! Everything must be fought for by yourself!"

"If you change your mind and want the help of the Lu Family, my ten-year pact stands—I'll dedicate all my efforts!" Lu Yun said, still feeling compelled to emphasize this point at the end.

Zhenbei Group, a world-class consortium.

The Wei Family was on the same level.

The stratum these represented was a peak higher than the Himalayas, which would be extremely tough for Bai Xiaosheng to surmount on his own.

However, Lu Yun faintly hoped.

Bai Xiaosheng's words might just create a miracle!

"Uncle Lu, don't worry. A stepping stone is enough!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a laugh.

Lu Yun nodded and spoke at length about the Wei Family, which Bai Xiaosheng listened to intently and memorized.

Half an hour later, Master Song Kai returned gleefully, personally carrying a bottle of wine.

Accompanied by the overly talkative Wei Feng, it turned out the old master had just had a few key medical checks before running to the wine cellar to select this wine.

Despite being Song Family's own brew, in terms of raw materials, brewing techniques, and even the winemakers, it was on par with some of the major European wineries!

Manpower, equipment, cellaring—the cumulative cost was quite steep!

Master Song Kai had Wei Feng bring cups and then asked him to leave, leaving the three to taste the wine.

In between, Master Song Kai mentioned that Bai Xiaosheng's two assistants, Lin Yatou and the big fellow Lei Ying, had gone to rest in the restaurant. He had also sent them a fine wine to enjoy, assuring Bai Xiaosheng not to worry.

Bai Xiaosheng thanked him with a laugh.

Lu Yun was quite touched by this.

Just because they were Bai Xiaosheng's assistants, Master Song Kai still took personal care of them—this alone showed how much Song Kai valued Bai Xiaosheng!

"Then I can rest easy, Master Song Kai will surely agree to join me in procuring a 'stepping stone' for Bai Xiaosheng!" Lu Yun felt confident.

The more support, the better for Bai Xiaosheng!

While sampling the wine, Lu Yun, with Bai Xiaosheng's consent, shared with Master Song Kai Bai Xiaosheng's wish to visit the Wei Family and Wei Xuelian's request for a formal relationship.

"This matter isn't like any other. Relying solely on my face value as a stepping stone might not be convincing enough. Thus, I hope Elder Song, and even Elder Xia, will lend a hand to amass a strong stepping stone for Bai Xiaosheng!" Lu Yun stated.

Chapter 1155 Visiting Song Family_2

Although Bai Xiaosheng refused to use that agreement, Lu Yun's "at any cost" had turned into "try my best."

But when he said "try my best," Lu Yun really intended to "exhaust all efforts!"

This stepping-stone was not only to knock on the Wei Family's door but also to be placed under Sheng's feet.

Let the Wei Family know that this young man had the absolute qualifications to pursue their daughter, even if she was a candidate for the next Family Head!

"So that's it!"

Master Song Kai laughed heartily, drained the wine in his glass in one gulp, and said magnanimously, "This is a favor I must surely help with!"

"Not just me, but also Xiahou Qi, and a bunch of old fellows. I'll take care of contacting them! These old goods reaped plenty of benefits from Bai Xiaosheng's calligraphy on my birthday. Now, asking them for a small favor, a little help, who dares to be unhappy, they better not blame me for not showing them face!"

Master Song Kai was brimming with impassioned vigor, patting Bai Xiaosheng on the shoulder, "Kid, I didn't see that coming. You and the Wei girl have been exchanging glances and secretly plotting. That's great! Excellent skill! Ha-ha, a man should be like this! Whether it's career or love, one should forge ahead regardless of the obstacles ahead, just keep walking! There should be applause here, and wine too!"

Master Song Kai poured himself another half glass of red wine. The old man felt so spirited that he wanted to drink enjoyably, completely disregarding the fact that Wei Feng warned him before leaving, over and over, that Master Song Kai must not drink more than half a glass...

Bai Xiaosheng wanted to stop him but was stubbornly refused by Master Song Kai.

Life is meant to be fully enjoyed, how could one not drink?

Lu Yun's smile surfaced from the side.

With Master Song Kai, Xiahou Qi, and all their old friends on their side, the lineup was so impressive that even Lu Yun was astounded and filled with expectations.

No matter how deep the Wei Family's threshold was, with their high doorstep, this "stepping-stone" would surely shake them up!

"Master Song, I..."

Feeling grateful for Master Song Kai's help, Bai Xiaosheng immediately wanted to stand up to express his thanks.

"Sit down, don't get up! And don't even mention the word 'thanks'," Master Song Kai stopped him, forcefully pressing down on Bai Xiaosheng's shoulder and giving him a look, "I just thought highly of you, kid, don't start being sentimental now. I really can't stand that!"

Bai Xiaosheng was scolded, but deep down he truly felt warm.

Instead of standing up, Bai Xiaosheng raised his glass of red wine, solemnly showing his respect to Master Song Kai and Lu Yun, then downed the wine in his glass to express his gratitude.

Master Song Kai and Lu Yun smiled at each other, not saying much more.

The three chatted merrily for a while, until it was nearing noon.

Master Song Kai said that he had arranged a banquet.

The food was grown in the estate, chickens, ducks, fish, and shrimp, all raised in the estate, freshly prepared and absolutely delicious.

This meal was not only to welcome Bai Xiaosheng and wash away the dust from his journey but also to send off Lu Yun.

Because in the afternoon, Lu Yun would be leaving.

The meal included several dishes prepared teppanyaki-style, to be cooked and eaten on the spot, and the head chef was waiting on the side. Master Song Kai suggested they head over there first.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lu Yun naturally agreed.

The three of them got up immediately, intending to rush over.

Just as they had left the courtyard, Wei Feng hurried over and said to Master Song Kai, "Master Song, a guest has arrived."

Master Song Kai glanced at Wei Feng.

Wei Feng whispered, "The person has a special status; you may want to meet them."

With that, Wei Feng leaned over and whispered a few words in Master Song Kai's ear.

After a moment of contemplation, Master Song Kai finally nodded, "Then let's meet; have them wait in the front courtyard, and I'll go have a word."

Wei Feng quickly nodded and used his earpiece to notify the front courtyard to bring the guest over.

Master Song Kai smiled at Bai Xiaosheng and Lu Yun, "You two just wait here for a few minutes. I've got a guest, and I need to speak with them after all."

"Otherwise, we can go to the dining area first," Lu Yun said with a smile, "We can't have you accused of neglecting your guests, Master Song."

Bai Xiaosheng also nodded.

After all, if Wei Feng made a special report and with just a couple of whispers, Master Song Kai decided to meet this person,

Their status must be extraordinary.

It wouldn't be right for them to stay and keep Master Song from attending to that person.

Hearing Lu Yun's words, Master Song Kai contemplated for a moment.

"Although it's just a young person, a younger generation, and it's their first visit, if I were to let them stand in the courtyard and send them off after a few words, indeed, it wouldn't be right! Especially since he also..."

Master Song Kai seemed to be talking to himself yet gave Bai Xiaosheng a look, with an implied meaning in his eyes.

"But it's nothing much; after all, he's just here to visit me," Master Song Kai continued with a smile.

Before Bai Xiaosheng and Lu Yun could speak, Master Song Kai murmured, "But given that status, it's not good to brush him off lightly..."

Master Song Kai actually felt a bit conflicted!

Both Bai Xiaosheng and Lu Yun were somewhat surprised.

Especially Bai Xiaosheng, he was very curious about what the look that Master Song Kai gave him meant.

Could it be that the extraordinary guest had something to do with him?

"Let's do this; you guys head over first, and I will see him for the time it takes to drink a cup of tea, to give him enough face. It's always good to be kind," Master Song Kai said cheerily.

With that decision, Bai Xiaosheng and Lu Yun nodded in agreement.

"If that's the case, then we'll go ahead first. There's no hurry on your end," Lu Yun said with a smile as he walked away.

"Yes," Bai Xiaosheng also said.

Master Song Kai chuckled at the two and turned around without saying much more, heading back to the small courtyard they had left.

The visitor's status was indeed not ordinary, but they still weren't quite at the level to warrant him personally going to greet them!

Master Song Kai had thought of going to the front courtyard to say a few words, but for a longer meeting like this, it would still be the young person who should come to visit him.

Chapter 1156 Visiting the Song Family_3

Wei Feng wore a smile and gestured for a servant to lead Bai Xiaosheng and Lu Yun to the dining area as he awaited other guests by the courtyard entrance.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lu Yun followed the servant, heading deeper into the courtyard.

However, they slowed their pace almost simultaneously.

Noticing their steps were in sync, they exchanged knowing smiles.

They had a tacit understanding, both wanting to catch a glimpse of the guests from a distance to see what kind of person they were.

The one who could make Master Song Kai hesitate.

When Bai Xiaosheng and Lu Yun entered the next courtyard, the guest of Master Song Kai also finally entered the courtyard they had just left.

From a distance, Bai Xiaosheng and his companions saw three people arriving.

However, two of them stopped at the gate of the previous courtyard.

Only a young man headed straight for Wei Feng, who greeted him with a "please" gesture.

After a few words, the young man followed Wei Feng toward the main courtyard.

The young man walked with a light and elegant step, his demeanor exuding grace and style.

To Lu Yun, this wasn't very striking.

But Bai Xiaosheng paused in surprise.

He recognized this person!

Wasn't it Wen Yan, the guest who had given up his room yesterday?

He was visiting Master Song Kai?

And Master Song Kai had shown such hesitation and uncertainty in dealing with him!

What was the background of this Wen Yan?

Bai Xiaosheng was both shocked and intensely curious.

He thought since Master Song Kai had decided to meet him upon hearing his identity, he must know his details.

"I'll find out more about him later," Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

Little did he know, he was wrong!

In fact, Master Song Kai didn't know Wen Yan's true identity either.

It was only that Wei Feng had passed on a message, claiming the visitor was introduced by an old friend of Master Song Kai in America, and that both his name and identity matched the records.

The visitor also mentioned he was working at the headquarters of Zhenbei Group!

That was one of the reasons that influenced Master Song Kai.

Firstly, out of respect for his old friend and secondly, considering he and Bai Xiaosheng belonged to the same group, and his old friend Xiahou Qi was the president of the Greater China Region of Zhenbei Group, the visitor being from the group's headquarters meant he deserved an audience.

Then, Master Song Kai felt that just meeting him was insufficient—it wouldn't hurt to invite him for tea.

Thus, the current scene unfolded.

When Wen Yan was about to turn into the main courtyard with Wei Feng, he noticed someone standing in the distance and identified Bai Xiaosheng.

Wen Yan didn't seem surprised to see Bai Xiaosheng there; he simply smiled faintly and waved slightly as a greeting, continuing on his way into the main courtyard.

"You know him?" Lu Yun asked, surprised to see Wen Yan waving.

Bai Xiaosheng pondered for a moment and murmured, "You could say that."

Having seen the mysterious guest, Bai Xiaosheng and Lu Yun no longer lingered but followed the servant to the designated dining hall.

As they walked there, the topic of their conversation shifted from the Wei Family to other matters.

For Lu Yun, hearing about Bai Xiaosheng's work experiences over the past two years was interesting and inspiring—it indeed forged a person.

Just looking at Bai Xiaosheng's demeanor and the aura he exuded, one could tell those experiences had left a significant mark on him, which was indeed "greatly beneficial."

Even Lu Yun began to reflect on whether he should not have let his son, Lu Qingfeng, start in management but from the ground up instead—strength would come from such a progression!

For Bai Xiaosheng, Lu Yun, the great businessman and senior, seemed even more charismatic than two years ago. The natural charm and personality he exuded constantly provided a learning opportunity for Bai Xiaosheng.

Taking Lu Yun as a role model, Bai Xiaosheng gained much from their conversation in terms of perspectives and thought processes.

The two laughed and chatted, their bond deepening.

Master Song Kai arrived at the dining hall half an hour after Bai Xiaosheng and Lu Yun did.

Apparently, the guest had left.

"I came a bit late," Master Song Kai said apologetically to Bai Xiaosheng and Lu Yun, "The visitor, though young, is no less competent than Sheng. So, I was caught up chatting a bit more."

Bai Xiaosheng and Lu Yun expressed that it was no trouble.

It was just a half-hour wait, after all, not a long time.

"Speaking of which, your Zhenbei Group truly is a colossal entity! It's filled with outstanding talents. I was already amazed by you, Bai Xiaosheng, and now there's Wen Yan too," Master Song Kai exclaimed.

"He's also from Zhenbei Group?!" Bai Xiaosheng was greatly surprised.

"You don't know him?" Master Song Kai was astonished, "He said he's from the headquarters of Zhenbei Group, and he mentioned your name. I thought you knew each other and almost had someone call you over!"

Bai Xiaosheng pondered for a while and then smiled, "Then next time I see him, I really must get to know him well!"

There was one thing Master Song Kai didn't mention, and Bai Xiaosheng didn't notice.

That Wen Yan's name, the young man told Master Song Kai, was his alias.

Regarding Wen Yan, Bai Xiaosheng truly kept him in mind.

After dining, he had Lei Ying go back to talk with Wen Yan.

However, to their surprise, when Lei Ying returned, he found that the person had already left the hotel.

At noon, the luncheon at Master Song Kai's house was cheerful and lively.

Lu Yun left in the afternoon, while Bai Xiaosheng stayed at Master Song Kai's house for several days.

Information about the Wei Family was sent by Lu Yun to Bai Xiaosheng via the internet that evening.

After reading it, Bai Xiaosheng remained silent for a long while.

At this moment, there was still half a year left on the three-year promise.

And whether Bai Xiaosheng could create another miracle in this short time remained unknown...

What Bai Xiaosheng didn't know was that a conspiracy to entrap him was also unfolding.

After all, there's no such thing in the world as having one's cake and eating it too.

Bai Xiaosheng might be able to defeat his master with unpredictable moves, but Shen Peishen was definitely not an easy target!

Chapter 1157 Dayu Inn

Bai Xiaosheng had stayed at the Song family for six days. There were two reasons for such a lengthy stay; first, Master Song Kai was excessively enthusiastic and wouldn't stop urging him to stay, and second, both Master Song Kai and Lu Yun were helping Bai Xiaosheng prepare his "knocking brick."

Staying here also made it convenient for Bai Xiaosheng to gather information.

After Lu Yun had left, the next day, he sent over a batch of information regarding the Wei Family.

This batch of information was impressive. It was incredibly detailed, documenting a plethora of the preferences and habits of the Wei family elders.

Bai Xiaosheng hadn't expected the information to be this meticulously detailed.

Beyond the pleasant surprise, he had also devoted himself in these past days to study the information carefully.

Understanding a person's character and knowing their preferences.

Only then could he avoid saying what should not be said and doing what should not be done, preventing any accidental loss of face during his first visit.

As it concerned Wei Xuelian, Bai Xiaosheng was particularly diligent.

In fact, there were still six months to go until the appointed time with Wei Xuelian.

Bai Xiaosheng had also told Master Song Kai and Lu Yun that it would be at least another four months before he would visit the Wei family, and he wouldn't go sooner.

Regarding this, both Master Song Kai and Lu Yun were curious.

What was the significance of Bai Xiaosheng insisting on waiting another four months?

After all, Bai Xiaosheng was not someone who rigidly adhered to agreements without knowing how to be flexible, insisting on the three-year pact to the exact day.

In reality, hadn't he come to Master Song Kai's place six months early to seek clues about the Wei family?

Why then was he now intent on waiting a few more months, only visiting as the three-year term was nearly up?

Could it be that the young man was nervous? Shy?

Or perhaps he was unsure and wanted to prepare for another six months?

Or maybe, in their original agreement, the Wei girl had imposed some other restriction like a "three-year separation to test if the emotions were still the same"?

Master Song Kai and Lu Yun, representatives of the older and middle generations, couldn't fathom the thoughts of the young people and, after secretly exchanging thoughts, they let it be.

Since Bai Xiaosheng said to wait a few months, then they would wait a few months.

Of course, they weren't aware that Bai Xiaosheng was planning to spend the remaining half a year to make strides in the latter part of his ascent to top positions.

Once he advanced further, reaching the stature of Xiahou Qi, his chances of success in visiting the Wei family would be entirely different!

A man not yet thirty who was the regional president for Zhenbei Group in the Greater China Region!

His credentials were distinguished!

His potential, formidable!

Even the Wei Family would have to acknowledge that!

To others, it seemed madness to think of advancing to a Greater China Region president just under a year after becoming a Senior Affairs Officer.

Either he was mad or recklessly ambitious with no bounds!

But for Bai Xiaosheng, everything was possible.

In the first half of the year, he had already completed half of his promotion journey; maintaining momentum and aiming for the regional president position in the second half of the year was entirely achievable!

And his source of points... Bai Xiaosheng had his sights set on Shen Peishen!

One week had passed since incidents in Gandong and Da Qing, and Bai Xiaosheng, while staying at Master Song Kai's, was both seeking information on the Wei family and avoiding the storm, letting things simmer down.

Afterward, he would leave Guangyun to visit another person—Lin Ke in the semi-first-tier special district city of Nandu, where he would stay for a week.

Leaving Guangyun, and later Nandu, Bai Xiaosheng would intentionally leak his whereabouts so that Shen Peishen's side was aware of his movements.

This way, by delaying half a month and feinting before actually heading to Nanyu City, he wouldn't attract attention!

There, at another important "base" of Shen Peishen.

And it was there, Bai Xiaosheng hoped to earn the points required for his next promotion!

These grand strategies were the result of discussions between Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Weiwei, and Lei Ying.

However, over these days, since Lin Weiwei found out about Bai Xiaosheng's plans to visit the Wei family two days ago, she seemed somewhat listless and distracted, her smiles forced.

After all, Bai Xiaosheng was currently sparing no effort in preparing to visit another woman's home.

Lin Weiwei knew she shouldn't be behaving this way but still couldn't help feeling depressed and disappointed.

"Unrequited love grinds a person down, and secret loves do just the same."

Lei Ying, the rough man that he was, seeing Lin Weiwei like this, surprisingly uttered such a refined and poignant statement.

Of course, he spoke this as he passed by Lin Weiwei, seemingly unintentional, accompanied by an "accidental" glance.

Lin Weiwei angrily watched Lei Ying leave with a rolling of her eyes.

As for this matter, Bai Xiaosheng could only turn a blind eye.

Otherwise, what could he do!

Fortunately, in the following two days, Lin Weiwei's mood significantly improved, and she went back to normal.

After spending a few days at the Song Family's residence, Bai Xiaosheng proposed to take his leave.

Master Song Kai was extremely reluctant to see him go, and even joked with Bai Xiaosheng during their farewell, "I'll keep an eye on the preparations here. In four months, if I have the time, I could go with you to the Wei Family. Marriage isn't just about one person, the elders from both families should meet. Since it's too early for your family members to step in, let this old man act as half of your family!"

Master Song Kai was so sincerely invested that Bai Xiaosheng was deeply moved.

Finally, Bai Xiaosheng and his two companions left the Song's residence and boarded a plane to Nandu.

The plane tickets were naturally booked through the company's network, to "send a signal" to Shen Peishen.

As for this time, whether Shen Peishen would think Bai Xiaosheng was just making a feint remained unknown.

Sending false alarms twice could confuse the opponent.

The journey was uneventful.

When they arrived in Nandu and got off the plane, Bai Xiaosheng realized he had received several messages on his phone, all from Lin Ke.

It turned out that a large corporation directly managed by the group in Lin City was having issues, and Lin Ke had to rush over to handle them and couldn't come to receive them at the airport.

Bai Xiaosheng played the voice messages sent by Lin Ke one by one:

"I'm terribly sorry this time, I can't personally welcome Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng for your guidance, I am indeed very anxious."

"Just kidding! Who are we kidding, even if you were the president of the Greater China Region, I wouldn't stand on ceremony with you!"

"There's an urgent situation this time, I really need to head there first. It might take a day or two, and at most three days before I return."

"You can go ahead and stroll around Nandu by yourselves, and when I come back, I'll make sure you guys have a blast!"

"By the way, I know you don't like grand welcome ceremonies and you want to keep your travel secretive, so I didn't inform the local businesses. Don't worry, no one will be receiving us this time..."

Bai Xiaosheng smiled as he listened, then replied, "Okay, we'll wait for you."

Shortly after, Lin Ke replied, "Have you arrived yet? Great, go to Dayu Inn, that's where I'm staying!"

Dayu Inn?

Hearing this name from Lin Ke made Bai Xiaosheng think it was some sort of "fishing stop" and wondered what kind of place called by such a name would be like, worrying it might be too quirky.

With each word explained by Lin Ke, Bai Xiaosheng finally understood.

After getting a taxi and explaining clearly to the driver, Bai Xiaosheng found out that the hotel was actually very famous locally and was a five-star holiday hotel with special features.

"Lin Ke is quite good at enjoying herself, clearly she's on inspection duty but still doesn't forget to treat herself well," Bai Xiaosheng remarked with a laugh.

On their ride there, looking through the car window, Bai Xiaosheng observed the landscape of Nandu City.

This quasi-first-tier special zone city made him quite reflective.

Here, tall buildings were densely packed, roads were wide and smooth, and the city's greenery was excellent. In terms of infrastructure, it truly was not inferior to a first-tier city.

When they reached Dayu Inn, situated in a semi-suburban area, the three of them discovered that it was by a lake, encompassing a large residential area.

It wasn't filled with tall buildings but with small wooden houses, providing a pleasant scenery.

Upon seeing this, the three were extremely satisfied.

The hotel's entrance office building was only six stories high.

The three entered the hotel lobby, completed the check-in procedures, and then, following the service staff's instructions, made their way to their rooms.

The wooden corridors connected small wooden houses acre by acre, offering a unique charm.

As they walked along one wooden corridor, Bai Xiaosheng and his companions didn't notice that several wooden tables were placed at one end of the corridor where some people were resting.

At one of the tables sat a person.

A man, fairer and more beautiful than a woman.

As Bai Xiaosheng and his companions passed by, the man's phoenix eyes lifted from the newspaper he was reading and followed them.

After Bai Xiaosheng and his companions passed, the man put down his newspaper and walked in another direction.

His lips, curling into a thin smile.

As he walked past a small stall in the hotel, the handsome man reached out, took a mask, and walked away.

The stall owner just opened his mouth to speak, but a hundred-yuan bill fluttered down.

Seeing this, his eyes lit up, he quickly snatched the money, watched the man's retreating figure, and couldn't help muttering, "Damn rich! This pretty boy, looks better than ladies, tsk tsk."

The handsome man flipped over the mask in his hand as he walked.

It was a wickedly smiling Snake Spirit Mask.

He held it up to his face.

His lips then turned into a satisfied smile.

Chapter 1158 "Snake Spirit Disease" Attacks

Bai Xiaosheng and his friends found their own cabin, which from the outside looked robust with a wooden scent that intrigued them.

Once inside, the trio discovered it was very modern, equipped with all sorts of facilities and extremely comfortable.

The cabin had several rooms and a large living room, ample enough for the three of them.

"It really feels like a vacation," Lin Weiwei couldn't help but smile, "it's calm here, perfect for Xiaosheng to think more clearly about finding Wei in a few months."

During the last two days at the Song Family, Lin Weiwei had adjusted her mindset and even started helping Bai Xiaosheng analyze information and strategize.

This beautiful and kind-hearted girl took about two or three days to resolve her emotional dilemma:

Liking someone is a wonderful thing. Since it's wonderful, it shouldn't turn into something bad. Don't make yourself miserable just because you like someone. If you like them, you wish them well, you want them to be happy, even if they like someone else, it can still be a good thing.

"It must be said, kindness is a virtue, and sometimes it makes a silly girl seem unreasonable.

But that's what makes her even more loveable!"

Lei Ying smiled, feeling a new height of realization within his heart.

"It's a pity, I have such a high-minded perspective, and yet I can't share it with Bai Xiaosheng. That truly is a pity."

"If only I hadn't learned martial arts and instead focused on literature, perhaps I would have been a top student!" Lei Ying silently lamented.

Lei Ying also had a humorous side.

Bai Xiaosheng had mentioned it before.

...

"It's really nice, I must say, Lin Ke knows how to enjoy herself," said Bai Xiaosheng with a smile as he placed his things in the room he chose and wandered about, admiring the scenery outside.

In the distance, the lake's surface sparkled, the water clear and flanked by lush greenery, pleasing both to the eye and the mind.

On the lake, many fishing boats bobbed gently, with wisps of cooking smoke rising.

"Weird, are there that many fishermen here? Are they...preparing lunch?" Bai Xiaosheng wondered aloud.

They'd left early that morning and flown for several hours to get here, and it was indeed around noon, the perfect time for lunch.

Mentioning "eating," all three of them suddenly felt their stomachs growl.

"Let's settle our things and go have a meal. This place is a holiday-themed hotel and located in the southwest, there should be local delicacies." Lin Weiwei smiled and glanced at the others.

"Don't look at me, I've been waiting on you guys," Lei Ying said with a grin.

His belongings were few, tossed aside casually.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and moved towards the door.

Lin Weiwei, playful as always, lifted her hand like a white lotus and shouted energetically, "Let's go, time to eat!"

The three of them left the cabin and made their way back along the original path towards the hall to inquire about the restaurant location.

Privately, they didn't care much about formalities, and since the wooden corridor was spacious, they walked side by side.

Bai Xiaosheng in the middle, Lin Weiwei on the inside, and Lei Ying on the outside.

Laughing and talking, they had just taken a few steps when around the corner at the end of the corridor, someone suddenly appeared.

Bai Xiaosheng and the others initially didn't pay much attention, but when they looked, they were all startled.

The person was dressed in white, hands in pockets, walking with a light and elegant stride, very stylish.

However.

He was wearing a Snake Spirit Mask.

The elongated face of the mask, styled with a double-looped pile hairdo, large almond-shaped eyes with hollows revealing the human eyes behind, also brimming with spring, and thin lips pressed together on the mask, grinning mischievously as if plotting something treacherous.

Bai Xiaosheng and his friends were dumbfounded.

What kind of "Snake Spirit" was this, no, more like "Snake Spirit Disease"!

This kind of thing, children wearing it wouldn't seem out of place, but a grown-up wearing it, isn't it disgusting?

It might be okay for a woman, but you're a grown man...

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help wanting to facepalm.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying felt almost the same.

The "Snake Spirit" tilted its head left and right, seemingly sizing up the trio.

But it looked more like he was loosening his neck.

Lei Ying's expression suddenly turned cold.

Seeing the "Snake Spirit's" ensuing action reflected in his eyes, Bai Xiaosheng crouched slightly and with a powerful stomp of his feet, darted forward like an arrow released from a bow, lightning-fast towards him.

That movement was simply the "Flying Man" of a hundred-meter sprint.

"Ah!" Lin Weiwei was startled, yelping briefly.

The "Snake Spirit Disease" made a move, toward me?

!

Bai Xiaosheng felt absurdity and vigilance at once, but he had no intention of moving.

He certainly wasn't without a "bodyguard".

The moment the "Snake Spirit" moved, Lei Ying also charged out.

The two, one like an arrow off the string, the other like a frenzied war chariot, were about to collide in the blink of an eye along a corridor tens of meters long.

As they neared, Lei Ying struck first.

He twisted his waist and swept his leg across.

Fast as a gale, heavy as a thousand jun.

However, the "Snake Spirit" suddenly leapt, his body as if weightless, light as a drifting leaf, lightly stepping on Lei Ying's elevated leg to somersault over his head, like acrobatic gymnastics, simply incredible.

Lin Weiwei watched, dumbfounded.

It could be done like that!

At the moment of contact, Lei Ying actually missed and was even "utilized" by the opponent?

Bai Xiaosheng was also surprised.

The "Snake Spirit" landed, his feet spring-loaded, his whole body immediately soaring towards Bai Xiaosheng.

Fast!

On the "Snake Spirit", it seemed only one word could describe him, and that was "fast"!

"All martial arts in the world are invincible when fast"!

It seemed this moment was the very embodiment of that saying.

The "Snake Spirit" was already extremely close, Bai Xiaosheng could even clearly see the smile in his eyes, an ambiguous smile.

It seemed to say, Bai Xiaosheng, you're finished!

You see how fast I am, invincible!

The "Snake Spirit" reached out one hand toward Bai Xiaosheng, seeming to grab Bai Xiaosheng's face the next moment.

Bai Xiaosheng gazed at the opponent, neither dodging nor evading.

That hand was incredibly close but suddenly withdrew.

The "Snake Spirit," still mid-air, raised one arm and one leg to guard his side because a kick as fast as thunder, whirling with a fierce wind, was already upon him.

"Bang!"

A dull sound.

That "Snake Spirit" was kicked by Lei Ying out of the corridor, flying three or four meters away.

Immediately after, the "Snake Spirit" landed lightly, seemingly unhurt.

"Impressive, impressive."

Having steadied himself, the "Snake Spirit" looked at Lei Ying and earnestly praised him.

Lei Ying, with a dark face, poised to leap out and settle this "Snake Spirit Disease".

"Enough!" Bai Xiaosheng suddenly spoke, stopping Lei Ying.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at the "Snake Spirit," his eyes brimming with an emerging excitement.

Although he hadn't seen this man in two and a half years, and although he had heard his voice only once, without any personal connection,

Because of Wei Xuelian, Bai Xiaosheng remembered that voice very clearly with the help of Red Lotus.

"Liu Wudao!" Bai Xiaosheng's voice trembled slightly.

The man who had taken Wei Xuelian away and relayed a message to him.

The "Snake Spirit" lifted a hand, more delicate and fair than a woman's, removed the mask from his face, and smilingly looked at Bai Xiaosheng, "In the files, Bai Xiaosheng, you're quite the fighter, I wanted to test it, but unfortunately..."

"If you came..." Bai Xiaosheng's words stuck in his throat.

"The lady is here too, please go over," Liu Wudao knew what Bai Xiaosheng wanted to say, and said leisurely.

She's here!

Bai Xiaosheng clenched his fists, his eyes revealing an unprecedented shock and thrill.

Chapter 1159 You're here!

Liu Wudao led the way, with Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Weiwei, and Lei Ying following behind.

Each person harbored different emotions.

Bai Xiaosheng was a mixture of urgency and excitement.

In his eyes, the hard-earned composure, wisdom, and decisiveness of a Senior Affairs Officer had completely vanished.

It was replaced by an eagerness and desire blatantly visible to anyone.

At this moment, Bai Xiaosheng was simply a young man in the throes of passionate love.

Maybe to Lin Weiwei, he might even seem somewhat cute.

But if those corporate managing directors, group chairmen, Affairs Officers, and regional industry leaders whom Bai Xiaosheng had "taken out" could see him, they would probably cough up blood.

They had weathered so many years in the workplace, unyielding to challenges, only to be defeated by Bai Xiaosheng. To see him now, a young man infatuated with love, they would surely die with their eyes wide open!

Lin Weiwei noticed Bai Xiaosheng's expression, feeling happy for him yet also faintly sad for herself, with a hidden sense of loss deep in her eyes.

However, she was also very curious—curious about what kind of woman Wei Xuelian was, and what magic she had that captivated her Xiaosheng so deeply, leading him to love at first sight and remaining unwavering!

Among Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Weiwei, and Lei Ying, it was Lei Ying who was the calmest, merely a bit curious about Wei Xuelian.

However, he was also the most annoyed.

All along the way, Liu Wudao treated Bai Xiaosheng indifferently but was quite enthusiastic toward him, constantly talking to him as they walked.

"Your martial skills are not bad—fast in speed, strong in power, your moves without any unnecessary flair, you strike fiercely without hesitation."

"This isn't trained, it's killed out. You've killed before, haven't you? Carrying the burden of lives, still able to enter the workplace openly, I guess you used to be a soldier, and not just any soldier, but at least the Soldier King type, right?"

Liu Wudao's phoenix eyes smiled as they looked at Lei Ying.

Lei Ying glanced at Liu Wudao without making a sound.

He once adored martial arts as if it were his life and even went to the battlefield to sharpen his courage and skills. If it was the old him, upon encountering such a formidable opponent as Liu Wudao, he would have insisted on fighting him.

Unfortunately, over more than two years in the workplace, Lei Ying's training had made his heart more peaceful, lacking the competitive spirit he once had.

Besides, Liu Wudao looked too delicate, more feminine than a woman.

Fighting him would be pointless!

Lei Ying had no intention whatsoever of fighting with Liu Wudao.

"Actually, I didn't deduce this; I saw your file. You're quite the devilish figure in the foreign legion! I should have taken you on seriously from the start!" Liu Wudao said with a smile, then eagerly said, "Let's spar when we have time, how does that sound!"

Lei Ying responded with indifference.

"Liu Wudao, how much longer? Haven't we arrived yet?"

"How long have you been in Nandu?"

"How come you knew of our arrival as soon as we got here? Is this just a coincidence?"

"No, did Xuelian ask you to find us? You knew early on that we were coming?"

Lei Ying stayed silent, but Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but fire a barrage of questions at Liu Wudao.

Having walked for so long, the closer he got to Wei Xuelian, the more nervous Bai Xiaosheng became.

This time, it was Liu Wudao's turn to give indifferent responses, even casting a cold glance at Bai Xiaosheng.

To be frank, Liu Wudao didn't have a good impression of Bai Xiaosheng.

The only time they had met was two and a half years ago, and without looking at the profile picture, he would have completely forgotten the encounter.

These past two years, as he watched his young miss being strictly guarded and living without freedom, it was all etched in Liu Wudao's memory.

It was all this Bai Xiaosheng's fault.

The miss had been constantly thinking about him, holding onto her feelings.

But had he even once taken the initiative to try to contact the miss?

Even Wei Moran, who was related to the Miss, had contacted those with the surname Bai many times and had a good relationship with them. If someone with the surname Bai wanted to contact the miss and avoid prying eyes, was it really that difficult?

Liu Wudao was very dissatisfied with Bai Xiaosheng, even harboring some clear animosity.

This time, having gone through the files and seen that Bai Xiaosheng possessed "extraordinary" fighting abilities, Liu Wudao thought about giving it a try—if he went a little too hard, it would be considered venting for the miss.

At most, no hitting the face.

But it turned out he didn't even get his chance to vent.

How could Liu Wudao be in a good mood?

Seeing that Liu Wudao was treating Bai Xiaosheng poorly,

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying frowned almost in unison, while Bai Xiaosheng seemed oblivious and continued his "clueless" questioning.

"We're almost there, if you want to talk about something, say it yourself, I won't overstep,"

Liu Wudao's indifferent words caught Bai Xiaosheng off guard.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't get upset but merely gave a sheepish smile.

He wasn't upset, so Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying didn't feel it was their place to say anything either.

"There, that log cabin up ahead, the lady is inside. If you're in a hurry, go ahead on your own; we won't disturb you anyway," Liu Wudao said lazily, pointing carelessly.

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes burned with passion at the sight and he thanked Liu Wudao, "Thanks!"

Then Bai Xiaosheng quickened his pace, heading straight for it.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, listening and observing, also felt it was better not to disturb them, so they simply stopped in their tracks.

Liu Wudao didn't urge them to go any further but leaned against a pillar on the porch, arms folded, smilingly propositioning Lei Ying, "Why don't we take this opportunity to spar a bit?"

Lin Weiwei glanced at Liu Wudao annoyedly and walked on without a word, heading towards a rest area closer to the cabin to take a break.

Liu Wudao just looked at Lin Weiwei and said nothing more; then he turned to Lei Ying with a smile, "How about it, feel like having a match?"

Lei Ying passed by Liu Wudao with an expressionless face, "Not interested!"

"And, I don't fight women!"

"You!" Liu Wudao was taken aback as he watched Lei Ying walk past, craning his neck and bellowing, "You're so rude! That person is all man!"

All man?

And "that person"?

Lei Ying's face twitched with irritation but the Affairs Officer ignored him.

This Liu Wudao, as pugnacious as he was, still acted quite effeminately; he deserved a beating, especially when rolling his eyes at Bai Xiaosheng.

But the more Liu Wudao wanted to fight, the more Lei Ying felt he shouldn't give him the satisfaction.

He would consider it taking out Bai Xiaosheng's frustrations!

Further away, Lin Weiwei didn't look back but scoffed, feeling somewhat relieved.

However, watching Bai Xiaosheng in the distance approach the cabin, knock softly on the door, then push it open and walk inside, Weiwei felt a faint sense of loss.

In this world, what truly tests the heart is emotion.

No matter how much you think you've let go, it always finds a moment to knock on your soul and make you realize—

You haven't got it all figured out after all...

As Lin Weiwei watched, Bai Xiaosheng stood in front of the cabin, knocked twice on the door then, feeling too formal, he smirked awkwardly, pushed the door gently, and entered.

Directly opposite the door was a row of wooden windows flung open, offering a view of the distant lakes and mountains, a beautifully serene scene.

In front of the window, there was a wooden table.

And sitting to one side was a girl.

She held a scroll in one hand, but her heart seemed far from it, her gaze distant and dreamy as she rested her chin in her hand, her hair done up revealing her snow-white delicate neck.

Her profile, set against the backdrop of the outdoor scenery, was as beautiful as a fairy's.

Seeing this, Bai Xiaosheng was spellbound, the anxiousness in his heart settling into a peaceful calm.

Wei Xuelian started from her reverie at the sound of someone entering. She turned her head, and spotting Bai Xiaosheng, her face lit up with a delighted smile, her eyes twinkling irresistibly enchanting.

"You're here!"

Chapter 1160 Who Do You Tell Acacia Bird To?

Wei Xuelian stood up, smiling shyly and joyfully at Bai Xiaosheng.

Her stunningly innocent face, tinged with a shade of blush, could make any man's heart race.

"I'm here."

Bai Xiaosheng grinned like a fool.

Originally, he had planned to say these words at the Wei Family's door, openly to Wei Xuelian, but seeing her appear before him, seeing her eyes as clear as autumn waters,

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but blurt them out.

Time, truly a wonderful thing.

It can erode much, leaving things as mild as water, or it can ferment things, making them as rich as wine.

Meeting again, although they hadn't been in touch for two and a half years, not even a remote text exchange,

There was no gap between Bai Xiaosheng and Wei Moran; it was as if everything aligned naturally.

Only joy, only sweetness.

They walked toward each other, embraced silently, then sat together on the sofa facing the window.

It's unclear who spoke first.

But once the conversation started, it flowed.

Not overly cheesy love talk; rather, Bai Xiaosheng mentioned a lot of "irrelevant" things.

Bai Xiaosheng spoke of his experiences after they parted, meeting many people, encountering many things, and step by step, becoming the Senior Affairs Officer for the Zhenbei Group in the Greater China Region.

Wei Xuelian listened quietly, sometimes smiling, sometimes seriously.

Bai Xiaosheng had never been so talkative and never realized he was such a "chatterbox."

Towards the end, he couldn't help but feel a bit apologetic, gently saying to Wei Xuelian in his arms, skin as soft as cream, "Do you mind that I talk too much and don't want to listen to this?"

"No, I love to listen!" Wei Xuelian sweetly smiled.

Regarding everything about Bai Xiaosheng, Wei Xuelian had actually had Liu Wudao collect information; she knew a lot, felt joy and concern for Bai Xiaosheng's experiences.

But those words on paper couldn't compare to hearing it from Bai Xiaosheng himself.

She wanted to keep leaning in his arms like this, listening on.

"I never tried to contact you; do you blame me?"

"Even though Wei Moran is close to me, even though she hinted she could relay messages, I never tried to contact you."

Bai Xiaosheng seemed guilty, apologetic.

"Not that I didn't want to! But I felt that if my contacting you made your situation worse, I would be very upset."

"In these two and a half years, I had many experiences, and many times when I could have chosen not to be so aggressive, to just get by smoothly."

"But every time I thought of you, I couldn't be too lax, too comfortable."

"Because, if I'm not reaching high enough, standing far enough, then I'm even farther from you."

"Every bit of longing for you turned into a great motivation for me to move forward!"

"Every night, I'd pour myself a glass of milk, stand on the balcony, and glance next door, reminiscing about my beautiful former neighbor."

...

Bai Xiaosheng wished he could pour out all those feelings which had been hidden in his heart, and now he finally could.

Wei Xuelian's eyes, like autumn waters, stared straight into Bai Xiaosheng's eyes, smiling sweetly, she whispered softly, "I know, I know everything!"

Looking into her eyes, Bai Xiaosheng felt he could never see enough, feeling enormously inspired and motivated.

That visit to the Wei Family, even if it were through a path of thorns or a sea of flames, he must undertake!

No matter how many hardships or obstacles, he wants to be with Wei Xuelian!

Gazing into each other's eyes so tenderly, Wei Xuelian felt a bit shy.

If the Wei Family saw this, they would probably be astoundingly surprised.

Wei Xuelian used to be a gentle and lovely character. However, the polish of the past two years had gradually revealed her strong, career-driven side. Although she would never be as bold and careless as some, she was always calm and composed, appropriate in her responses, handling stacked up affairs efficiently almost instantly, she already had the air of a CEO.

It was really hard to imagine her in this shy, demure posture.

Any man would be completely captivated upon seeing her.

"By the way, why are you here? And how did you know we were coming, arranging Liu Wudao to pick us up? Wasn't it a wonderful random encounter?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with a laugh, then said, "I was in Guangyun yesterday, if I hadn't come today, I wouldn't have seen you for another half a year!"

Bai Xiaosheng expressed such thoughts, but Wei Xuelian just smiled without saying a word.

"Did you already know I was coming?" Bai Xiaosheng realized upon seeing her.

"Actually, the second set of materials that Lu Yun delivered to you, I instructed him to pass to you," Wei Xuelian gently explained, "I also asked him to keep an eye out for what you might need..."

So that was it!

Bai Xiaosheng instantly understood.

"I mentioned the next stops in our itinerary to Lu Yun," Wei Moran tells me, emphasising that he only mentioned their names briefly.

I had thought Lu Yun would never leak the information, but he ended up inadvertently revealing it to Wei Xuelian.

But this "leak" turned out to be a good thing!

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng a bit contemplative, Wei Xuelian timidly said, "You won't blame me for meddling, will you..."

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, ruffling her hair gently. "Silly girl, how could I ever blame you!"

Wei Xuelian smiled sweetly in response.

Afterward, the two nestled close and chatted at length.

Bai Xiaosheng shared his plans to visit the Wei Family, and the timing he had in mind.

He had reasons to delay the visit, but Wei Xuelian stopped him.

"I trust your decision!"

Wei Xuelian said just that.

Bai Xiaosheng then dropped the subject.

They moved on to other topics until Bai Xiaosheng's stomach suddenly growled.

People might forget to eat in their excitement, but their bodies wouldn't allow it.

His mouth said no, but his body was honest.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled sheepishly.

Wei Xuelian giggled behind her hand, pointing out the window to the boats on the lake, "Then let's go have dinner. I've booked a small pleasure boat; that boat acts as a 'private room' for this hotel, complete with a chef and cooking utensils."

Bai Xiaosheng then realized.

No wonder those boats looked beautiful, with smoke curling up from them; they were actually meant for serving meals to guests.

"Alright, let's go have dinner," Bai Xiaosheng said as he stood up.

It was only then they noticed, they had unknowingly chatted for an hour and a half.

Time truly flies in the eyes of lovers.

The two straightened out their clothes.

They didn't show excessive affection before stepping out, as there were "outsiders" around.

This meeting was already a significant "risk" for Wei Xuelian; if they were too intimate, word might reach the Wei Family, complicating Bai Xiaosheng's upcoming visit.

Thus, they acted just like friends.

No hand-holding, no endearments.

They opened the door and walked out one after the other.

Not far from the door, Liu Wudao, Lin Weiwei, and Lei Ying were already waiting.

As Bai Xiaosheng and Wei Xuelian emerged, the three approached to greet them.

"Liu Wudao, lead the way. We're going to eat," Wei Xuelian instructed.

"Yes, Miss," Liu Wudao replied with utmost respect, casting a sharp glance at Bai Xiaosheng as if assessing whether he had behaved properly.

This kid was with Miss for an hour and a half... Really just staying?

Liu Wudao thought to himself.

If I find out you've been disrespectful, I'd break your neck...

No, I'd castrate you!

Liu Wudao glared threateningly.

"Stop looking, lead the way!" someone suddenly snapped.

Then a large, fan-like hand landed on Liu Wudao's shoulder.

Liu Wudao flinched in pain and looked around.

Lei Ying glared at him.

Liu Wudao grinned, "Let's go!"

The group headed straight for the lakeside pleasure boats.

At that moment, at the dock, a crowd of people surrounded a young man with a stern, unpleasant face.

A portly, greasy middle-aged man was furiously speaking to the boat manager.

"How can there be none left! Unacceptable!"

"You should look at who this person is before asking for reservations!"

"I'm telling you, stop arguing and hurry up with preparing the boat and chef..."

"Really full? You're fooling around! Isn't that a boat right there!"

"I don't care who booked it, we're taking that pleasure boat!"