

## **Two Trillion 1171**

Chapter 1171 - This is a Conspiracy!

After the call with Cheng Liu, Wu Dazun hurriedly went to arrange the matters that their Wu Family enterprise was responsible for as both sides had come to an agreement.

In fact, whether the Wu Family participated in this scheme mattered little.

For the scheme already had a complete layout and it was at the implementation stage!

The involvement of the Wu Family enterprise was essentially just replacing the original "chess piece." They simply needed to follow orders methodically.

Hence, Wu Dazun and Cheng Liu sighed, Mr. Shen could indeed accomplish everything all by himself!

And Cheng Liu had also said,

Approaching the Wu Family was partly to avoid some troubles and potential risks. Furthermore, the Wu Family, being the strongest in influence near Nandu with well-established connections, acting as the final "challenger" would be both "fair" and "reasonable!"

Of course, if the Wu Family really refused this cooperation, they could still pull it off.

Wu Dazun was actually quite curious about which or what companies would ultimately be the challengers. He even probed a little.

But Cheng Liu just smiled without saying a word.

However, from the sound of it, those enterprises, though not belonging to the Zhenbei Group, had intricate connections with Shen Peishen's side!

Wu Dazun further inferred from the clues that those enterprises were very likely supported by Shen Peishen utilizing their group's convenient resources!

People who knew Shen Peishen considered him a highly positioned and weighty individual, impartial and selfless, even a likely candidate for the next president of the Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region Headquarters.

Who would have thought he'd have such a shady side too!

One could say that this matter was indeed a shocking secret!

However, it was of no value.

Even if it were disclosed to the Greater China Region Headquarters of Zhenbei Group, so what? Could it shake Shen Peishen in the slightest?

Besides, Wu Dazun had no evidence.

Cheng Liu had kindly reminded him—falling out with them would benefit no one!

At most, it would be a nuisance for their (Shen Peishen's) side, but for the Wu Family, it could mean the risk of collapse.

This wasn't intended to scare, nor was it alarmist.

If the Wu Family dared to capsize the boat, Shen Peishen's side would only need to put in some thought to have the Greater China Region of Zhenbei Group view the Wu Family enterprise as an "enemy." By then, what the Wu Family might face is being preyed upon by hundreds of enterprises!

Whether the Wu Family could survive that was one thing.

But should they suffer a severe loss of vitality and not recover for ten years, Wu Dazun could not bear that cost.

Shen Peishen had the role of Senior Affairs Officer, and "misusing public resources for personal gain" was the most terrifying weapon.

Wu Dazun was a businessman, pursuing profits was fine, but he wasn't looking for death.

"These maneuvers by Shen Peishen are nothing more than targeting a Senior Affairs Officer of equivalent rank in an internal power struggle!" Wu Dazun reminded himself as he went about arranging matters, "I only need to do my part well, to obtain the due benefits, as for the rest..."

"I don't know, and I don't want to know!"

From this one could tell, Wu Dazun was a smart man.

...

Family-run enterprises have one great advantage.

That is, under the command of the helmsman, the enterprise can be mobilized quickly and effectively without the need for meetings, research, or discussions.

Thus, in just one hour, Cheng Liu's side had received the message.

The Wu Family was ready to complete their end.

Cheng Liu was also simultaneously making some adjustments.

At this point, the arrangements were thoroughly in place.

For Bai Xiaosheng, he might be able to detect the problems within this scheme, but it didn't matter, for the pit they had dug was not for him to jump into, but to fit Lin Ke inside. So Bai Xiaosheng had to enter the pit despite knowing full well it was one!

After another two hours of "detailing,"

Three hours later, the "good show" officially began.

In Lin City's Qinggang City near Nandu, there was a large enterprise under the Zhenbei Group—Qinggang Yunhe, a real estate company with the same nature as Zhongjing Media. It was a directly-managed subsidiary company, not subject to the jurisdiction of the local provincial industry leaders, but was directly accountable to the headquarters.

Therefore, when there was an issue with Qinggang Yunhe that could not be resolved, Officer Lin, as the Affairs Officer, had to come over to inspect.

The issue with Qinggang Yunhe actually stemmed from a quality issue in one of their project developments. The office park that they developed had some quality problems which led to a sudden gathering of multiple independent office building owners this morning, demanding an explanation.

Regarding this matter, Qinggang Yunhe explained that it was due to the material supplier, that the quality issues were being resolved, and the compensation plan was also being developed.

Then, in the morning, some owners took the lead in storming the construction site, clashing with workers and security, ultimately leading to some minor injuries.

The injured insisted on taking legal and media action.

For Qinggang Yunhe, the issue had become serious.

The person in charge of Qinggang Yunhe knew that Lin Ke was in the neighboring city and therefore directly reported the incident to her.

Lin Ke also rushed over to help handle it.

From morning until three in the afternoon, she was busy seeing representatives of the owners, consoling the injured, and arranging follow-up matters.

In the end, eventually, everything was moving towards a better direction.

Lin Ke also returned to the general manager's office of Qinggang Yunhe to rest.

Exhausted in body and mind, Lin Ke had just sat down to take a sip of hot water when Gong Shuangyu, the general manager of Qinggang Yunhe, hurriedly knocked on the door and entered.

"Officer Lin, people from Wu Media Group are here, they would like to meet with you," Gong Shuangyu said deferentially.

Gong Shuangyu, nearly in his fifties, always cautious and meticulous, had finally taken the seat of general manager of Qinggang Yunhe through accumulated experience. The ability he demonstrated in handling this entire matter was seriously inconsistent with his position.

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If he weren't so tired now, with no time to attend to such a troublesome autumn, and considering the man's advanced age and his utmost respect and politeness towards himself, Lin Ke would have wanted to dismiss him right away.

However, after the matter is settled, Lin Ke still has to report about Gong Shuangyu's competence issue.

Some things could be tolerated on an emotional level, but, ethics are ethics.

Occupying a position without fulfilling its responsibilities is unacceptable.

"Wu Media Group? A company in the media industry? What do they want with me?" Lin Ke glanced at Gong Shuangyu and asked with a frown.

There are many media companies in the country, and they usually have news websites. Moreover, local media particularly love local hot issues and have a keen nose for them. Are they here to interview me?

In this troublesome autumn, we need media public relations, which is another headache...

"Wu Media Group is the biggest intended buyer for our project. They've reserved half of the office buildings in the second phase, and they also want to buy second-hand buildings in the first phase. Moreover, some of their people were among the injured this morning," Gong Shuangyu, the general manager of Qinggang Yunhe, said with a bitter smile, "So, they are not current owners, but they will be the biggest owners in the future. This time, their general manager has come!"

Lin Ke was stunned.

The general manager himself came?

That's not just for an interview!

And he's a future major client.

Can't not meet.

"Let's go." Without further ado, Lin Ke put down the teacup he had just sipped from and stood up to leave with Gong Shuangyu.

Walking towards the reception room, Lin Ke saw from afar a crowd of about a dozen people standing in the corridor, shadowy figures in the distance.

Lin Ke frowned immediately, "What are they all doing standing here? Disperse them."

At his words, Gong Shuangyu gave a wry smile, "Officer Lin, they are not our people."

Those were the editorial staff brought by Pi Dalei, the general manager of Wu Media Group, media people!

Lin Ke's gaze immediately turned solemn.

On the way here, Gong Shuangyu had already given her a concise introduction about Pi Dalei and Wu Media Group.

Lin Ke had already formed a rough impression.

Wu Media Group is a pillar company of the Wu Family in Nandu, owning a newspaper, two websites, and often collaborating with radio and TV stations, holding significant influence locally.

This Pi Dalei was a relative of Wu Dazun, the patriarch of the Wu Family, so he was not an outsider.

After all, in a family business, it's not surprising that family members hold key positions.

"Wu Dazun is a well-known speculative businessman, Pi Dalei is his protégé, influenced by him, they're all folks who won't get up if there's no profit," Gong Shuangyu continued to say.

On the way, Gong Shuangyu had mentioned —

Although Pi Dalei always claimed to be a media person, he was extremely profit-driven.

However, this time, if the benefits are sufficient, he might not only refrain from exposing the issue, but could even use his resources to help with "crisis PR."

"Officer Lin, as you know, this place is indeed going through a troublesome autumn. We really can't afford to offend Pi Dalei, otherwise the trouble and losses for us will indeed be irreparable. If he wants some form of cooperation or benefit, do you think we could..." said Gong Shuangyu tentatively, carefully watching Lin Ke.

Lin Ke remained silent, mouth slightly open, slowly exhaling a breath of turbid air.

"Alright, I understand. I'm not a stickler for tradition. If it's just to concede some benefits, then I will handle it," Lin Ke said.

The two walked over and then realized that many of the people standing in the corridor were carrying messenger bags and holding "long guns and short cannons."

There were two video cameras and cameras with long and short lenses.

"They came fully prepared. This is absolutely being fully prepared!" Gong Shuangyu whispered in alarm, "It seems that if Pi Dalei personally takes action, he's determined to reap something from us, or else... he'll make us news!"

This was a clear threat!

Lin Ke's eyes narrowed.

"Don't panic, I'm here!" Lin Ke said.

In the past, she would never indulge such behavior by the other party, but now, with troubles abounding, she also understood that patience was vital and she couldn't place the group's important assets at a disadvantage.

"The fact that a media boss has come personally means that he does want to talk. If there's something to talk about, then let's have a good talk with him," Lin Ke said calmly.

Approaching nearer, those people also noticed them and parted ways, holding their "equipment."

The media people tacitly did not raise their cameras or video cameras to take photos or footage.

This must have been instructed by Pi Dalei.

Facing many media people, Gong Shuangyu put on a smile that was not quite natural and parted the way for Lin Ke to pass.

Those media people looked at a young woman in formal attire with surprise as she walked to the reception room with a calm expression.

Even Qinggang Yunhe's General Manager, Gong Shuangyu, was extremely respectful.

Could it be that this young girl was some high-ranking figure?

There were those who did not know.

But there were also those who knew!

After all, since the morning, Lin Ke had resolved many issues and had not intentionally concealed her identity.

Those media people with occupational habits, whether they knew Lin Ke's identity or not, refrained from the urge to take photos and record videos.

Reaching the outside of the reception room, the door was open, and Lin Ke saw a man sitting by the long table drinking tea, his back to the door.

"That's Mr. Pi Dalei," Gong Shuangyu reminded in a low voice.

Lin Ke nodded to indicate that she understood.

"Since Mr. Pi is alone inside, then I'll go in by myself. Manager Gong, you should stay here as well and take good care of the guests here. It's not proper for everyone to stand outside," Lin Ke instructed softly.

The usually unrestrained and playful Lin Ke, once confronting serious matters, truly had a commanding presence.

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Gong Shuangyu hurriedly agreed.

Lin Ke strode into the reception room and casually closed the door behind her.

The person sitting there, Pi Dalei, was a round, pudgy man, looking to weigh at least 250 pounds, his face full of horizontal flesh, yet he had laughing eyes and smile. One could tell at a glance he was not a good character, and an odor of money emanated from him.

Pi Dalei was drinking tea, when he felt some movement behind him, turned his head, and saw a young girl dressed formally walking in.

He was initially startled, then immediately stood up with a smile, his expression showing no surprise.

"This must be Officer Lin Ke, I presume? Delighted to meet you. I am Pi Dalei," he said, chuckling, and even took the initiative to step forward two paces, offering his hand.

"You recognize me, Mr. Pi?" Lin Ke asked curiously, extending her hand to shake hands with Pi Dalei.

A soft, boneless, white and delicate slender hand.

A hand with five fingers short and thick like radishes, fatty and wide.

The two hands joined together were visually discordant.

"Officer Lin has been busy with so many things from morning until now. Even someone as out of the loop as myself should know about your presence. Besides, my people got hurt too," Pi Dalei said with a smirking smile.

Lin Ke gestured an invitation to sit and then seated herself opposite Pi Dalei, directly facing the door.

"I'm truly sorry that people from Mr. Pi's side got hurt. Regarding this, we will most definitely provide you with a satisfactory explanation. Additionally, concerning the several faulty office buildings, we are working overtime to address the matter, and we are also preparing a compensation plan that will be satisfactory," Lin Ke said with a smile.

This Pi Dalei, who was in charge of the Wu Media Group, was reported to have reserved half of the office buildings in the second phase of the project, and he was further discussing buying and selling second-hand properties in the first phase. Technically, if not an owner, he was akin to one, especially considering his unique status.

Lin Ke had politely treated him as an important client and personally responded.

However, she did not believe that her vague words alone would satisfy Pi Dalei enough for him to leave.

Since he came in person, the issue would not be that simple.

Lin Ke noticed a silver briefcase on the table in front of Pi Dalei.

The kind for holding money.

Lin Ke glanced at it but quickly averted her gaze.

Pi Dalei noticed Lin Ke's attention and smiled silently.

"With Officer Lin promising, I'm sure it carries weight, and we property owners will all feel reassured," Pi Dalei chuckled, "Moreover, the reputation of Qinggang Yunhe has always been good, otherwise, I

wouldn't have bought and invested in buildings here. Regarding the quality issues, and this morning's conflict, I, Pi Dalei, can assure you—I'll have a word with my media friends and ensure that neither Qinggang Yunhe nor our project suffers any loss."

Lin Ke politely thanked him.

In reality, Pi Dalei's words were even more nebulous than hers.

"If Mr. Pi is willing to help, we would naturally be very grateful. May I ask if Mr. Pi has any demands?" Lin Ke asked with a smile.

She was already tired after a busy day, both physically and mentally drained, and she wanted to take advantage of her remaining focus to see what Pi Dalei was really up to!

Pi Dalei chuckled and opened the briefcase beside him to show Lin Ke, revealing that it was full of money.

"Mr. Pi, what is this supposed to mean?" Lin Ke frowned slightly but still managed to smile.

What was Pi Dalei doing with so much money?

"It's nothing. We hope to use this money as a prepayment for some of the properties in the second phase, of course, we hope that the properties we buy will be cheaper than the market price," Pi Dalei said with an unchanged expression, still smiling.

A clever move by Pi Dalei; bringing all those reporters outside, offering help, and it turns out he was threatening them to make concessions.

Lin Ke remained silent.

"I've discussed this with Mr. Gong Shuangyu, and he has agreed. The amount of the discount will not actually cause you losses, and furthermore, we will give you two years of advertising for free. How does that sound? It's a win-win!" Pi Dalei picked up his teacup, chuckling, took a sip, and looked at Lin Ke.

"Right now, those media folks outside are chomping at the bit. If I don't hold them back, who knows what they might do."

"Officer Lin is a smart person, what do you think?"

Pi Dalei was clearly making a threat.

The true nature of this businessman is indeed an eye-opener.

Lin Ke pondered.

Frankly speaking, Pi Dalei's demand isn't too excessive, offering some concessions and two years of advertising.

The key is that it sounds like Gong Shuangyu agreed, but the final decision lies with me.

"I wonder how many percentage points of concession will satisfy President Pi," Lin Ke asked.

Pi Dalei spoke frankly and straightforwardly.

Lin Ke thought for a moment and nodded.

Not bad, not too excessive, acceptable.

I thought Pi Dalei would be more unreasonable.

Lin Ke couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief in her heart, but felt even more exhausted.

"The demand was mine, I didn't prepare a contract, but I had Mr. Gong Shuangyu prepare it, and I think he's standing outside with the contract right now," Pi Dalei said with a smile.

Lin Ke smiled, got up, and went to open the office door.

Outside the door, there was still a group of reporters with predatory looks.

Gong Shuangyu was extremely nervous, indeed holding a contract.

Lin Ke let him in, pointing to the object in his hand.

"Did you instruct someone to draft this?" Lin Ke asked.

"Yes, the terms are fine. However, it needs your signature, I'm afraid that I... this..." Gong Shuangyu gave a timid smile.

Still showing no sense of responsibility.

Lin Ke walked back to her seat, with Gong Shuangyu following step by step.

Pi Dalei directly reached out for the contract, and, to show sincerity, without even looking at it, he signed his name on the last page and handed it to Lin Ke.

"Do you want to check it, Officer Lin?" Pi Dalei said with a smile.

Lin Ke took it, glanced at him, looked at Gong Shuangyu, then silently flipped to the last page and signed her own name.

As the pen tip landed on the final stroke, before Lin Ke could lift her hand, the document was snatched away.

Lin Ke was startled, looking over in astonishment.

The one who snatched the document wasn't Pi Dalei, but Gong Shuangyu!

The timid expression on Gong Shuangyu's face at this moment gave way to an unusual smile, exhilarated, triumphant, as if all his timidity had been swept away.

"What are you doing?!" Lin Ke exclaimed.

Gong Shuangyu paid no attention to her and walked straight over, handing the document to Pi Dalei.

Pi Dalei received it with a beaming smile, cradling it like a treasure, and pushed the box of money in front of Lin Ke.

Then, Gong Shuangyu opened the office door.

The reporters outside, as if given a signal, surged in, snapping photos of Lin Ke and the box of money.

Lin Ke suddenly understood, her eyes widening in disbelief as she looked at Pi Dalei, at Gong Shuangyu.

"Gong Shuangyu, what did you have me sign!" Lin Ke shouted angrily.

This was a conspiracy, and the worst part was being betrayed by one of our own.

The weary Lin Ke had finally realized it.

Unfortunately, it was too late!

## Chapter 1174 - If You Dare, Hit Me

Reporters swarmed into the room, their cameras aimed at Lin Ke, frantically taking photos and recording videos.

The flashing lights were dazzling and blinding.

A group of people pushed their microphones and voice recorders directly to Lin Ke's mouth.

Countless questions crashed over her like waves.

"Miss Lin, there have been reports suggesting you tried to manipulate public opinion with money to cover up major issues in the Qinggang Yunhe project. How do you respond to this?"

"Miss Lin, some say you abused your authority in this project by arranging internal favours to gain large kickbacks. What do you have to say about that?"

"Miss Lin, what purpose does the money on the table serve? Why specifically choose a cash transaction? Does it involve financial crime?"

...

These reporters bombarded her with questions, giving Lin Ke no time to think or respond.

It seemed they wanted to drown Lin Ke in a sea of skepticism!

Anyway, as long as they got the photos and videos, the content...

Their company's well-paid writers could handle it, without needing her to say anything.

Isn't there a saying online?

Start with a picture, fabricate the rest...

For local and private media companies, traffic and hot topics are their relentless pursuits.

Professional ethics? Non-existent.

Moreover, these people were all "own people" brought by Pi Dalei.

Lin Ke, without uttering a word, angrily glared with eyes wide open, just giving Pi Dalei a glance then stared fiercely at Gong Shuangyu standing at the door.

Gong Shuangyu smiled and looked back at Lin Ke.

His face no longer showed signs of timidity or anxiety, but comfort, satisfaction, and even a bit of smugness.

Officer Lin Ke, she had a certain reputation back at the headquarters.

Initially, he had even investigated her for issues related to the accounts, being quite strict.

Well, how about that, now she's fallen into his hands!

Gong Shuangyu's smile was relaxed.

...

Lin Ke clenched her fists.

Normally, she would rush over and beat Gong until he couldn't be recognized. But facing the cameras and the media, even though she knew they weren't genuinely fair, using force was the last thing she could do at this moment.

"Miss Lin, we heard that all these actions of yours were instigated by your superior, a person named Bai Xiaosheng, and that you were coerced into obedience. Is that true?" Suddenly, a reporter asked this question.

The question struck like a thunderbolt, awakening Lin Ke.

She abruptly turned her head to look at the reporter.

Caught off guard, the reporter flinched but his eyes sparked with intrigue, pushing his microphone a bit forward.

He waited again, hoping Lin Ke would say even a word or even curse at him!

Unfortunately, Lin Ke, on the verge of exploding, forcefully restrained herself, looking towards Pi Dalei sitting opposite.

Pi Dalei, with a face full of flesh, overflowed with smiles; the hands adorned with golden rings and jade thumb rings, clutching a cigar, inhaled deeply and blew a smoke ring in Lin Ke's direction, casually waving the document Lin Ke had signed.

It did not need any thought.

All these so-called journalists' questions, the "evidence" was in this document.

Contracts, involving legal terms, are often too professional and many business owners may not fully comprehend them. They usually bring their trusted lawyers to check, barely glancing over it themselves.

This time, Gong Shuangyu, being one of their own, expressly stated that the contract was drafted by his side and checked by lawyers.

Pi Dalei didn't even look before signing.

All this left Lin Ke, mentally and physically drained, mistaken and led into a trap.

Even if Lin Ke had checked, the dense files interspersed with problematic clauses would be extremely difficult to detect.

Of course, once signed, it was signed.

No amount of regret or excuses could mend the situation!

With Lin Ke's personal signature, it became "ironclad" evidence.

Even if Mr. Xiahou Qi, the president, wanted to shield Lin Ke, faced with the evidence, what could he do!

In time—

The media secretly arranged by Shen Peisheng from the outside would relentlessly focus on this issue.

Inside, people arranged by Shen Peisheng would continuously "advise," urging Mr. Xiahou Qi to take strict actions.

Countless eyes from other parties are closely monitoring the situation, seeking maximum profit.

Xiahou Qi is also "helpless"!

Furthermore, if the impact of this matter were limited to a directly controlled subsidiary of a group, it would be bearable.

The key issue is the negative impact on the reputation of the Affairs Department and even the Greater China Region Headquarters, which would be severe!

Should it come to that, even Mr. Xiahou Qi might not be able to escape questioning from the headquarters.

In the end, public opinion is indeed terrifying!

Once exploited, it becomes a mighty weapon capable of annihilating gods and buddhas!

Caught on the edge of an outbreak, Lin Ke was awakened by the journalist's remark.

Such a grand scheme could not solely target a mere Affairs Officer!

And Bai Xiaosheng should not be involved in this trouble.

The fact that the journalist knew Bai Xiaosheng's name and entangled him was no coincidence!

It was inevitable.

This was a rhythm to tarnish Bai Xiaosheng!

"They are not targeting me alone, they are targeting Bai Xiaosheng!" Lin Ke, immensely intelligent, instantly came to this realization.

At the same time, it made her shudder.

Did the other party know that Bai Xiaosheng was in Nandu?!

Such timing, such means...

And with Gong Shuangyu, the "insider's" cooperation, making one exhausted and less vigilant...

Each move locks tightly into the next, forming a terrifying layout!

It seems only Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng, whom Bai Xiaosheng has always been dealing with, would have the capability to do so!

Key point, Wu Media Group is not a corporate enterprise, but has it been bought by Shen Peisheng's side?!

Lin Ke stared at Pi Dalei, this greasy middle-aged man.

To say, to take down a Senior Affairs Officer with just one event and a wave of public opinion attacks, that's underestimating the existence of a Senior Affairs Officer.

But, just as a thousand-mile dyke is ruined by an ant hole.

A breach is opened on a solid dam.

Then one side seizes this opportunity, desperately wreaking havoc, expanding their victories, eventually leading to the dyke's collapse, which is not surprising!

What Bai Xiaosheng will face may be countless exploitations and plotting.

By then, he will be deeply mired in a vortex of troubles, struggling to free himself is one thing, at the very least he will be utterly worn out, and might even...

Really collapse!

"Mr. Pi, I want to talk to you, how about that?" Lin Ke stared at Pi Dalei and earnestly asked.

Although she knew that breaking through from Pi Dalei, from Wu Media Group was extremely difficult, Lin Ke still wanted to give it a try.

Even if there was only a slight chance!

Pi Dalei, with a leisurely and effortless pose, exhaled a cloud of smoke and chuckled, "Talk about what, our collaboration? Sure, I was blinded by lard and made a mistake, I can still handle that responsibility. Miss Lin, do you also admit your own mistake?"

Beside him, many Wu Family reporters brightened their eyes, quickly stretching their recording pens forward, many scribbling hastily on their notebooks, apparently finding a "news angle".

"Nothing to talk about?" Lin Ke stared at Pi Dalei, clenching her fist.

"What? Are you going to hit me? Use your tiny fists to pound on my chest, or are you going to snatch my stuff?" Pi Dalei laughed and said.

It seems he is not prepared to talk!

Lin Ke sighed inwardly.

Right, if he were really bought by Shen Peisheng's side, she had no bargaining chip to make him reconsider.

Lin Ke, expressionless, directly pushed through the encirclement of reporters towards the door.

Staying any longer was meaningless, better to quickly inform Bai Xiaosheng and Xiahou Qi.

Numerous recording pens, cameras, video cameras followed her route, Lin Ke maintaining her composure expressionlessly as she walked.

"This young lady is impressive, still composed under such circumstances, is this the standard for Zhenbei Group's Affairs Officers!"

Even Pi Dalei exclaimed in admiration.

As Lin Ke reached the door, Gong Shuangyu stood there, chuckling and whispering to her, "In front of the camera, Officer Lin didn't act rashly, a very smart move."

Gong Shuangyu's smile carried a provocative look, his eyes conveying a forthcoming message—

How does it matter that you're an Affairs Officer, I've undercut you, what can you do in front of the camera!

I heard you, Lin Ke, are quite the fighter, come on, try hitting me!

Chapter 1175 - Henceforth, Farewell

Honestly, Gong Shuangyu is a real act. Despite being the general manager of Qinggang Yunhe, the moment Lin Ke met him, she got the impression that he was tame and incompetent.

Who would have thought that Gong Shuangyu was the true master of deception, even fooling Lin Ke herself.

Right now, Gong Shuangyu was provoking Lin Ke.

Although Lin Ke might keep her emotions in check in front of outsiders like Pi Dalei, facing betrayal by her own people is something most can't hold back against.

The moment Lin Ke loses her cool, the surrounding cameras would make sure she's done for!

Gong Shuangyu is trying to escalate the situation.

Usually showing a rather cowardly face, his smile right now is particularly annoying!

Lin Ke seemed as if she couldn't be bothered to even glance at this piece of shit, ignoring his words completely, not giving him a look, and kept walking outside.

She's leaving just like that?

Even Gong Shuangyu himself felt somewhat regretful.

Unexpectedly, just as Lin Ke was about to step out, she suddenly turned her head towards Pi Dalei with her pretty big eyes widening in disbelief and a hint of fright, as if she had seen something horrifying.

The reporters following her became alert upon witnessing the always "expressionless" Lin Ke showing such shock.

Everyone couldn't help but turn their heads to look.

Even Pi Dalei, unprepared to be stared at by so many people, was taken aback, quickly checking his surroundings to see if anything was amiss.

In that brief second, a piercing scream rang out.

"Ah!"

Loud and painful, mixed with a dull thud, as if something had just been smashed...

Everyone hurriedly turned back around.

There was Gong Shuangyu, with a grimacing, twisted, pained face, holding his crotch, slowly kneeling down.

The crowd exchanged glances, confused at first then quickly realizing what had happened and rushed to ready their cameras.

But by then, Lin Ke had already made her exit, her silhouette still poised and composed.

As if all that happened had nothing to do with her...

"Did you get it on camera?"

"No, did you?"

"That's too bad, I didn't either!"

The reporters shook their heads in regret and left the entrance.

Only Gong Shuangyu remained kneeling there, back arched, curled up like a shrimp.

Pi Dalei looked at him with a complex gaze, then towards the girl who'd just left outside, not being able to help but wipe the sweat from his forehead with a chubby hand.

Other than the empathy felt between men, he was also very relieved.

"Thank goodness, I'm not the person she hates the most in this room. That girl is ruthless..."

A reporter approached Pi Dalei and asked respectfully, "Mr. Pi, should we send out the news release?"

The press release was already drafted, only lacking photos, videos, and some additional details.

"Send it!" commanded Pi Dalei with a decisive voice.

He then phoned Wu Dazun to report on the situation.

Everything was proceeding smoothly. Wu Dazun was very pleased, offering words of encouragement.

After hanging up, Wu Dazun made another call to Cheng Liu.

In control of everything, Wu Dazun felt an extreme sense of satisfaction.

With Shen Peishen's strategy and the Wu Family's support, the potential gains after the fact were substantial.

Truly a worthwhile investment!

What Wu Dazun didn't know was that at that moment, his son Wu Yangwei and his group were already near Dayu Inn.

Thirty thousand in cash had brought in forty tough guys from the streets.

Wu Yangwei, not short on cash, also felt it was a profitable deal!

Much cheaper than tipping a live stream hostess...

To avoid drawing attention, they came in separate groups, following the tail's tip-off towards the current location of Bai Xiaosheng and others.

Dayu Inn.

Across the lake was a vast forest park, a beautiful scenic spot.

Bai Xiaosheng was strolling through the park with Wei Xuelian while Lin Weiwei, Lei Ying, Liu Wudao, and others were following at a distance.

"Miss, we still have two hours and fifteen minutes before the plane takes off. We should head there early," Liu Wudao reminded indifferently, without any expression.

"I know," Wei Xuelian replied without turning back, and continued chatting and enjoying the scenery with Bai Xiaosheng.

Lin Weiwei was also with Lei Ying and Liu Wudao thirty steps behind.

After witnessing Wei Xuelian's stunning beauty, extraordinary demeanor, and approachable nature, Lin Weiwei didn't feel the slightest jealousy. On the contrary, she felt that only such a woman was worthy of her Xiaosheng.

Now, watching Liu Wudao interrupt the two again,

Lin Weiwei's eyebrows frowned and she lowered her voice in anger, "What are you, an alarm clock?"

Liu Wudao was perplexed, "?"

"Do you really need to remind every ten minutes?!"

"Would you prefer I do it every five minutes instead?" Liu Wudao replied with a lazy smile.

Lin Weiwei really couldn't be bothered with him, and rolled her eyes in response.

Over there.

Bai Xiaosheng and Wei Xuelian, far from the crowd, were walking quietly.

This entire day, despite hours of conversation, it seemed as if there was still not enough said, not enough time spent together.

But unfortunately, it was time for Wei Xuelian to leave again.

For this encounter, Wei Xuelian must have put in a lot of effort.

Bai Xiaosheng knew.

"There's still four or five months left, I will come to find you then."

Coming to a small pavilion, Bai Xiaosheng took Wei Xuelian's hand, stopped, and said earnestly.

"I will make sure to clear all my affairs and just wait at home for you," Wei Xuelian blushed slightly but firmly held Bai Xiaosheng's gaze, "I'll wait for you!"

To her words, Bai Xiaosheng responded with a tender smile, "Okay."

No grand gestures, no lingering passion.

What they had was a simple promise, hardly a sweet nothing.

Fingers interlocked, eyes locked.

Lin Weiwei, watching from afar, felt moved and somewhat joyous, yet there was a hint of bitterness.

Lei Ying smiled.

Liu Wudao snorted, his expression stern and unamused.

Another direction, dozens of meters away.

Yangwei peered through a pair of binoculars, watching the scene. Although he couldn't hear what they were saying, he was consumed with jealous vexation.

Wang Nanbei said from the side, "Young Master, we have too many people right now, several dozen. It's too conspicuous and hinders our movement."

"One of the shadows reporting in mentioned, when he was close by, he inadvertently heard that particularly beautiful woman is apparently going to catch a plane. That effeminate guy keeps urging her."

"We should split into two groups, one to seek revenge on Bai Xiaosheng, and the other to intercept that woman."

"To deal with Bai Xiaosheng, we'll send twenty-five men; the remaining fifteen will follow you to block that woman. She only has that effeminate guy by her side. Although he's quite capable, considering his scrawny appearance, he definitely can't beat fifteen of our street fighters."

Wu Yangwei put down the binoculars, pondered a moment, and then nodded with a sullen face.

"Alright, we'll do as you said!"

Just as they were making their plans, Bai Xiaosheng's phone rang.

Releasing Wei Xuelian's hand with an apologetic smile, Bai Xiaosheng answered the call.

On the line was Lin Ke.

In just over a dozen sentences, Lin Ke described her predicament.

The smile on Bai Xiaosheng's face froze, and his expression turned grave.

Wei Xuelian noticed his change and felt curious.

On the phone—

"Bai Xiaosheng, I am in danger now. You need to be careful; this is targeting you!" Lin Ke's voice was calm, but the last sentence carried a weakness and guilt, "I'm sorry for causing you trouble!"

On this end of the line, Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

"Silly girl, what are you saying? It's because of me that you got involved!"

"I'll handle this matter right now. Rest well; I'm here for you!"

Bai Xiaosheng's voice was calm and collected. With just a few words, he had moved Lin Ke to tears.

She was also a woman, feeling physically and emotionally exhausted, and in need of someone to rely on.

"Bai Xiaosheng, I'll wait for you."

In the phone call, Lin Ke's voice was sobbing.

Ending the call.

Wei Xuelian watched Bai Xiaosheng with a smile, "Off to play the hero?"

Bai Xiaosheng replied frankly, "A good friend of mine is in trouble, and I need to deal with it. Someday, I'll introduce her to you, she's a really cute girl."

"Sure."

Wei Xuelian smiled, showing her pearly white teeth.

She had no doubts about Bai Xiaosheng's involvement with another woman; she trusted him.

"I'm sorry that I have to leave immediately and can't escort you. But we will meet again soon! Wait for me!"

Bai Xiaosheng boldly pulled Wei Xuelian closer and kissed her forehead.

Wei Xuelian's cheeks turned pink as she nodded earnestly.

There, Liu Wudao saw this scene and felt anger rising within him; he was ready to unleash his wrath.

However, he saw Wei Xuelian descending from the pavilion, approaching them, giving a smile to both Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, signalling him to leave.

At the same time, Bai Xiaosheng was waving to Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

The two groups were parting ways just like that.

Without a proper farewell?

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were curious but still bid goodbye to Wei Xuelian and went to join Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng waved farewell to Wei Xuelian once more, then succinctly briefed Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying on Lin Ke's situation.

Their expressions changed as well.

From a distance, Wu Yangwei, holding the binoculars, was visibly excited.

"Wu Shao, they've split up!" Wang Nanbei exclaimed eagerly.

"The opportunity has come. Let's move separately; Old Wang, you take people to trouble Bai Xiaosheng." Wu Yangwei had an excited and eager smile on his face, "The rest of you, follow me to block that girl!"

Chapter 1176 - The Might of Public Opinion, Killing the Spirit

After parting with Wei Xuelian, Bai Xiaosheng rushed towards the park's east gate.

Wei Xuelian and her group headed for the north gate.

Bai Xiaosheng was not very familiar with this area, but Wei Xuelian knew it well.

The route was also suggested by Wei Xuelian.

One towards the city center, the other towards the suburban airport, both were the best directions and routes.

Besides, the two had no attachment nor was there any need for it.

After all, if love lasts forever, what does it matter if we miss each other morning and night.

On Wu Yangwei's side, they split into two groups as well.

Wang Nanbei, with a group of men, rushed to teach Bai Xiaosheng a lesson, while Wu Yangwei himself led a group to encircle Wei Xuelian.

As for what Wu Yangwei would dare to do under broad daylight after catching Wei Xuelian, even he himself hadn't figured it out.

Perhaps he just wanted to act like a hooligan, to savor a kiss.

If he let such a beauty slip through without laying a finger on her before leaving his territory,

To Wu Yangwei, that would be a "sin"!

The two groups were strategically divided.

Wang Nanbei looked around at the dozen or so men, noting that they were much more ferocious than his own bodyguards.

Ten against ten, guaranteed to have his bodyguards completely subdued.

Wang Nanbei's confidence surged and he immediately led his men on their way.

For safety, Wang Nanbei pondered a plan on the road.

Later, these dozen men would attack Bai Xiaosheng and the big guy with him,

And he himself would head straight for the pretty little girl. With her as leverage, wouldn't Bai Xiaosheng and the others surrender willingly?

"Later, I should remind these ruthless guys to go easy when hitting. If that Bai guy really gets crippled, there'll be trouble. I think... just a beating until his nose is blue and his face swollen, with panda eyes, then take a photo for young master Wu, and that should suffice," Wang Nanbei muttered to himself.

As they pursued, they realized Bai Xiaosheng's group was moving very quickly. At this rate, with the distance between them, they couldn't catch up in the park.

It was still sparse at the east gate, as at the north gate, so it was best to make the move inside the park!

"Everyone, speed up and intercept them in the park!" Wang Nanbei was a bit anxious.

"We'll go ahead then and won't wait for you," a burly Baldhead with a meaty face grinned.

"Good, no need to wait for me!"

After Wang Nanbei agreed, the big guy led the dozen men and started running in that direction.

These muscular and fierce guys, once they really started running, were as fast as a strong gust of wind.

All of them were trained in street chases and being chased.

Suddenly, Wang Nanbei was left far behind.

"So, they can run that fast!" Wang Nanbei was surprised and then realized, "Turns out I was the drag..."

After the men ran off, Wang Nanbei was no longer in a hurry and switched from running to a brisk walk.

He was thinking, by the time he got there, Bai Xiaosheng's two men would be under siege, and he could calmly go over and capture the pretty woman.

Maybe then, I could take the chance to feel her up.

Wang Nanbei's smile became lecherous in an instant.

From a distance, Wang Nanbei saw his dozen men rushing over and surrounding Bai Xiaosheng's trio.

From afar, Wang Nanbei saw that it seemed like a fight was about to break out.

"I'm coming!" Excited, Wang Nanbei started to bound over.

Over there.

Bai Xiaosheng frowned fiercely.

This group of punks with their hair dyed various colors and tattoos on their bodies, brimming with a menacing aura, actually came up and surrounded them, demanding they kneel down with their hands over their heads.

The situation was very serious on Lin Ke's side, waiting for him to go and resolve it. Behind the severe circumstances, Shen Peishen's presence was obvious.

If Shen Peishen wanted to target him, Bai Xiaosheng, no matter how he was schemed against, Bai Xiaosheng wouldn't care; if defeated, it'd be his own lack of capability.

But if they targeted his friend to get at him,

Bai Xiaosheng's anger had been escalating all along.

Seeing that a bunch of people had appeared out of nowhere here, delaying their time,

Bai Xiaosheng was truly enraged.

He turned to Lei Ying and said, "Don't waste time with them here, settle this quickly, just incapacitate them!"

Lei Ying nodded.

His eyes, normally as profound as an abyss, became bright as a torch upon Bai Xiaosheng's clear directive,

And the corner of his mouth twisted into a ferocious smile.

You really think Lei Ying, after deep immersion in the corporate world, is easy to bully.

A tiger not baring its teeth is not a sick cat.

"Weiwei, just stand right here, Lei Ying and I will look after you," Bai Xiaosheng instructed.

"Be careful," Lin Weiwei said.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

"Go!"

Without any more waste of words, just a single command, Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying sprang into action.

Those street thugs, especially the leading big guy, actually heard Bai Xiaosheng's words.

He was still sneering.

Just you two men against our dozen street fighting experts, you dare to strike?!

Are you out of your mind?

Even without weapons, one punch from each of us could knock the shit out of you! thought the big guy.

"Kid, you're quite arrogant..." the big guy spat out.

But before he could finish speaking, he saw a blur before him, and the young man's face was already inches away!

"Red Lotus, increase adrenaline, assist in attack, help me target his non-lethal vital points!"

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes were sharp as he thought to himself.

"Okay!" In his mind, Red Lotus responded.

Bai Xiaosheng threw a punch that cut through the wind.

The big guy's eyes abruptly narrowed; he was adept in fighting and was a street bully, with a keen sense of danger, feeling the threat the opponent posed in an instant.

Unfortunately, the punch was so fast that he could only perceive it, but couldn't react in time.

Chapter 1177 - The Power of Public Opinion, Killing with Intentions\_2

A punch landed right on his neck pressure point.

"Fuck!" The burly man's vision went dark.

Bai Xiaosheng's second punch came swiftly, hitting his ribs, followed by a third punch.

After three punches, the most capable fighter among them collapsed limply.

The leader among these men was undoubtedly as strong as a bear and the best fighter, but Bai Xiaosheng knocked him down in an instant.

After the three punches, Bai Xiaosheng let out a breath, took a moment to breathe, and rushed towards the second person.

Lei Ying had already knocked down three.

For him, to fight, a punch and a kick were enough.

Bai Xiaosheng had seen Lei Ying punch through layers of paper, tied to a tree, a set of punches per quarter hour, lasting two hours.

A set of punches was enough to tear through the paper and peel off the bark.

And when kicking wooden stakes, Lei Ying's strength could break a solid wooden stake as thick as the rim of a bowl!

This guy was truly a fighting machine!

In the workplace, he's hidden his skills, but once he takes action, he's a god of war!

Wang Nanbei saw the fight erupt from afar and was delighted, thinking Bai was being beaten up.

By the time he ran over, in just that short span, he saw over a dozen people lying on the ground.

All of them were his men!

Running this way felt like his legs were filled with lead.

Seeing this scene, Wang Nanbei was gaping and dumbfounded, and even forgot to grab Lin Weiwei as a "hostage."

In the blink of an eye, Wang Nanbei saw five more fall.

The rest started to run.

In their eyes, money was important, loyalty was important, but life was more important!

Seeing those comrades wailing on the ground, who knew if they were severely injured or got knocked stupid.

Those two guys were not human; they were like hellish Asuras, beating them was like fighting children!

So what were they waiting for... just run!

The remaining men scattered like birds and beasts.

The only one left was Wang Nanbei.

He wanted to run too but was targeted by both Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying.

Those two pairs of eyes, one like an eagle, the other like a tiger.

Wang Nanbei felt like a rabbit.

Run?

He couldn't even move his feet, and his teeth were chattering.

"I know you!" Bai Xiaosheng's gaze was sharp, his voice cold as ice, he nodded toward the groaning people on the ground, "Speak up, what's all this about?!"

Wang Nanbei struggled to force a smile at Bai Xiaosheng, uglier than crying.

"I value my time, I'll give you one minute," Bai Xiaosheng said.

Lei Ying walked over.

"I'll talk, I'll tell everything!" Sweat beads the size of soybeans rolled down Wang Nanbei's forehead.

...

Compared to this side.

Wu Yangwei's situation was even more difficult to describe...

Wu Family's eldest son, along with fifteen people, confidently blocked people inside the entrance of the park.

Strangely, there seemed to be fewer people around than usual, much fewer.

But fewer people meant fewer spectators, fewer daring to call the police, making it easier to take action.

Wu Yangwei was quite satisfied.

Several men surrounded Wei Xuelian and Liu Wudao, each with a malicious smile looking at Wei Xuelian.

Liu Wudao felt an urge to gouge out their eyes and step on them.

Wu Yangwei stood opposite Wei Xuelian, his eyes roving up and down, with a smug grin, "Beauty, in such a hurry to leave? Young Master Wu is here and wants to get close to you! How about it!"

Wei Xuelian looked at him expressionlessly.

Liu Wudao's narrow eyes were icy cold, oblivious to the surrounding dozen or so people, focusing solely on Wu Yangwei.

Liu Wudao seemed utterly unconcerned about being surrounded, as if Wei Xuelian alone was truly in danger.

"That sissy, what are you looking at! Your eyes are on me, I've remembered it, I'll make your pretty face bloom later, and ruin your little white face!" Wu Yangwei glared at Liu Wudao.

With so many people around, they felt very confident.

"And that Bai Xiaosheng, I want him dead too, messing with me, Wu Yangwei, in Nandu; do they think the Wu Family is easy to bully?" Wu Yangwei boasted.

Liu Wudao didn't bother with him, glanced at the time, "Miss, the plane time is pressing, we need to hurry."

Wei Xuelian nodded, "In a moment, tell the driver to drive as fast as possible."

The two of them talked as if Wu Yangwei and those dozen men were just air.

"You still thinking about catching a flight, oh come on, try to leave Nandu first! And that Bai Xiaosheng, none of you are leaving!" Wu Yangwei continued shouting.

The men with Wu Yangwei sneered.

What were these people thinking, leaving? Could they even leave!

"Miss, I've said before, bring more people to ensure your safety. In this world, there are always some fools who are blind," Liu Wudao seemed to be blaming Wei Xuelian.

"A retinue of followers, right? Alright, stop complaining, let's rush to the airport," Wei Xuelian sighed and smiled at Liu Wudao.

As they continued to ignore him, Wu Yangwei became even more infuriated and was about to give the order to attack.

After Liu Wudao finished complaining, he raised his hand and gently tapped twice.

Seeing this, Wu Yangwei was puzzled.

Then, he heard a sound like drum beats.

Footsteps!

From the park entrance, more than thirty bodyguards in suits, wearing sunglasses and earpieces, rushed in.

Among them, many were Black and White.

"I know you are very capable; I can see that," Liu Wudao now shrugged and smiled at Wu Yangwei and those with him, now visibly nervous street thugs, "So, I want to see how many seconds you can last in front of this group of top MMA fighters and mercenaries!"

...

Moments later.

Liu Wudao led the way, two bodyguards in black trailing behind, protecting Wei Xuelian as they walked out of the north gate of the park.

Behind them, a series of miserable screams were touching.

Chapter 1178 The Power of Public Opinion, Killing Both Body and Heart\_3

After leaving the park's entrance, it became apparent that onlookers had gathered outside, watching a line of cars on the road.

Seven black Maybachs in formation, with a black Hummer leading the way at the front.

Wei Xuelian didn't like to be high-profile.

But when compared to Zhenbei Group, the slightly lesser world-class Wei Family, and as a candidate for future Family Head, even with low-profile intentions, what more could be done.

If it weren't for the recent flight restrictions to her destination, and with time pressing, she would have already taken a private jet.

Speaking of which, Liu Wudao felt irritated.

It was all because the young miss insisted on meeting Bai Xiaosheng, leading to the timing issue.

"That troublemaker Bai Xiaosheng, I hope that useless guy earlier will put some effort into dealing with him!" Liu Wudao muttered to himself.

Wei Xuelian got into the car.

The bodyguards that followed quickly ran out of the park and got into their vehicles one after another.

The motorcade set off, heading straight for the airport.

...

On Bai Xiaosheng's side, things had also concluded.

A panic-stricken Wang Nanbei made his escape.

The Nandu Wu Family was also noted by Bai Xiaosheng.

Once Lin Ke's situation was settled, he too planned to "visit" them.

Now with Wei Xuelian's contact information, Bai Xiaosheng made a call to inquire, and learning that she was unharmed, he could finally relax.

Leaving the park, they too called for a car, headed straight for Lin Ke's residence.

At this very moment, online, various reports about Lin Ke, chiefly propelled by Wu Media Group's platforms and with deliberate manipulation by those behind the scenes, were intensifying.

The headlines were each more sensational than the last.

They were deliberately linked to Zhenbei Group.

"High-level executive at Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region Headquarters embroiled in insider trading scandal!"

"International corporation executive so heartlessly corrupt, implicating higher-level participation!"

"A Zhenbei Group executive suspected of obstructing media fairness, involved in financial misconduct, secrets unveiled!"

...

This "explosive" news was spreading at a terrifying pace across the internet.

The public, even more so the business world, were deeply concerned with these gossips.

Within just an hour, hundreds of big Vs (social media influencers) joined in.

The presence of Zhenbei Group, visible in major cities across the country, meant that these topics were causing a storm.

After a phone call with Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Ke organized her thoughts and ten minutes later called Xiahou Qi, detailing the sequence of events.

By then, public opinion had already erupted violently.

Xiahou Qi was shocked and somewhat enraged by this event.

"Such despicable tactics!"

Over the phone, there was the sound of a desk being slammed, followed by a series of intense coughing.

It seemed that Elder Xia was also fuming.

The key issue was that even he couldn't suppress such manipulative tactics involving public opinion.

Moreover, these tactics were used against one of their own, clearly crossing a line, and could potentially bring disaster to the headquarters.

"It must be directed at Bai Xiaosheng. I'm looking at the news online, trying to direct trouble his way. They want to make a big issue out of it, like a snowball gathering size, and drag Bai Xiaosheng into the water!" Lin Ke was browsing the news while on the phone, analyzing the situation with remarkable calm.

She had grown complacent for a moment and found herself trapped.

But now, she wasn't worried about herself; her first thought was of Bai Xiaosheng's predicament.

"Bai Xiaosheng is in Nandu, right? What does he say?!" asked Xiahou Qi.

In the face of this crisis, like a flood breaking out, he was restless without a strong person to handle the situation.

"I just spoke to Bai Xiaosheng," Lin Ke hesitated, then continued, "He told me that if I report to you, I must let you know that he will handle everything properly and asked you not to worry, he has a way!"

On the other end of the phone, Xiahou Qi exhaled a long breath.

"I still trust Sheng! Well, tell him that if he needs any resources, he can ask me. Whatever I can provide, I'll give it to you all!" After saying this, Xiahou Qi spoke gravely, "But it must be fast! I'm afraid with Shen Peishen closing in step by step, he'll keep a close watch on the Group."

Over the phone, Elder Xia's voice was somber, "If that's the case, I'm afraid if it's too late, even I won't be able... to come to the rescue!"

Lin Ke's gaze was solemn.

Xiahou Qi's concerns had come true.

As Bai Xiaosheng rushed to meet Lin Ke, the incident was fermenting, and the entire headquarters were in an uproar.

With deliberate push from some, a torrent of opinions emerged—

There were calls for a clean-up of the affairs department, and if Lin Ke was indeed responsible, a push for severe punishment.

As Chen Yucheng's faction began to counter, they were immediately besieged by the masses.

This time, Shen Peishen had rallied all the forces he could muster, from inside and outside, and started a full-blown war of public opinion.

Not just Lin Ke, not just Bai Xiaosheng, not just Chen Yucheng; if possible, he would even "force a palace change" on Xiahou Qi.

Even within the headquarters, Shen Peishen had paid a significant price to have some of the neutral parties side with him!

In the corporate battlefield, words are knives.

To kill, and more so, to break the spirit!

Chapter 1179 So What If You Are Bai Xiaosheng!

Lin Ke, after being falsely accused, didn't leave Qinggang but found a hotel near Qinggang Yunhe to stay in temporarily.

When Bai Xiaosheng rushed from Nandu to Qinggang and finally to Lin Ke's hotel, it was already 7 o'clock in the evening.

Upon seeing her again, the once lively and mischievous little Lolita now seemed like a changed person, silent and grave, with eyes full of guilt and self-reproach interwoven.

Although Lin Ke was no longer of a young girl's age, that face, still youthful like a green almond girl's, wore such an expression that one couldn't help but feel pity.

Especially since Lin Ke had always preferred to be alone, and now, with not even an assistant by her side, her lone figure seemed all the more desolate.

The moment she saw Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Ke's mood plummeted even further, fraught with guilt and unease.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, seeing Lin Ke's reaction, exchanged a glance and sighed silently in their hearts.

On the way here, they had learned about the course of events, even from Feng Li and Chen Yucheng they had gotten wind of the headquarters' current situation, and were continuously monitoring the dynamics on the internet via their smartphones.

In just a few hours, it felt as though the sky had fallen.

And no matter how things would eventually turn out, no matter what calamity Bai Xiaosheng would face, Lin Ke was headed for the most helpless of endings.

Even if the truth was uncovered to clear her name, she would likely find it difficult to continue as an Affairs Officer.

Some things can't be neatly resolved just by uncovering the truth.

At the very least, when it comes to Lin Ke's issue, even if the group clarifies the details publicly, they would still be accused of whitewashing for their own people.

To mitigate the impact and silence the critics, the group sacrificing an Officer Lin wouldn't really count for much.

"Bai Xiaosheng, I'm sorry!"

Inviting Bai Xiaosheng in, Lin Ke couldn't hold back her tears any longer.

She had also been following the situation, knowing her own predicament, and felt deeply distressed to have dragged Bai Xiaosheng into this.

On the internet, a deluge of public opinions with phrases like "Bai surnamed executive", "youngest Senior Affairs Officer in history", "newly-promoted Senior Affairs Officer" had already undoubtedly targeted Bai Xiaosheng.

They started to smear his reputation with malicious claims!

The origin of this incident could be traced back to the Qinggang Yunhe real estate project.

Real estate projects have strong societal attributes.

In other words, they are prone to manipulation and can easily incite emotions.

Those writers and commentators deliberately mislead, confuse concepts, making a business real estate project seem related to residential issues, while also mixing in various public concerns about the real estate market.

Thus, the size of the audience and the fervor grew like a snowball rolling downhill!

In reality, the buyers of business real estate are companies and corporations; could they possibly suffer a loss? Hardly!

But one can't withstand the creative liberties these writers take.

Among those making significant contributions wasn't just the Wu Media Group alone; they didn't have that much influence.

It was Shen Peishen's side that mobilized substantial resources to participate.

Even multiple mainstream media outlets began publishing news, though mainstream media were still relatively objective and cautious.

But this also showed that the situation was even more complex and severe!

"Silly girl, sorry for what!" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but smile, rubbing Lin Ke's head gently, saying, "You're a victim too, no one owes anyone an apology! Rest assured, I'll take care of everything!"

After worrying for several hours, blaming herself for several hours.

Hearing the person she felt most guilty towards comforting her, Lin Ke couldn't hold it in any longer.

She burst into tears and threw herself into Bai Xiaosheng's arms.

As wronged as a little wife who had faced hardships outside, she had been holding on by gritting her teeth, but now that her man had come, the backbone of her resolve, she couldn't hold on any longer.

Bai Xiaosheng continued to console her.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying also joined in persuading her.

After a while, Lin Ke gradually regained her composure, and with reddened eyes and flushed cheeks, she looked up at the three of them, a bit embarrassed.

"None of us have eaten yet, right? We're also hungry after rushing over here." Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, "Let's go, let's eat first. Man is iron, food is steel, no matter the issue weigh, it can wait after meal. If the sky were to fall..."

Bai Xiaosheng pointed to himself and said with a smile, "You've got a tall guy to hold it up!"

Lin Ke was amused by his joke and nodded vigorously.

When they went out to have dinner, Bai Xiaosheng kept putting food on Lin Ke's plate, urging her to eat more, but she still seemed forced to eat.

After all, with the current situation, she wasn't in the mood for food.

Seeing this, Lin Weiwei put down her chopsticks and told Lin Ke, "Sister Lin, you don't need to blame yourself too much. In this case, it was an unwitting mistake being manipulated by our own people. It's an understandable oversight."

Lin Weiwei continued, "We've also dealt with public opinion crises, and we're well aware of the 'timing, degree, and effect' principles of crisis management. So on the way here, Xiaosheng already started making arrangements!"

Lin Ke took it as Lin Weiwei comforting her, but still looked towards Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng gave her a reassuring smile and began to get down to the nitty-gritty.

"In theory, when a crisis occurs, relevant information and reports will appear online within 2 to 3 hours, after 6 hours the news would be picked up by multiple media outlets, and after 24 hours, online public opinion will reach its peak. This is the 'golden 24 hours' in crisis management."

"But this event isn't a 'normal' crisis, and Shen Peishen's side won't allow the situation to 'slowly' ferment, so they used the entire network's force to drastically shorten this fermentation time!"

"As of now, less than four hours later, it has already caused an uproar across the entire network, with many media participating, and even mainstream media have voiced out. And their push has advanced to a new phase, beginning to target me directly!"

Chapter 1180 So What If You Are Bai Xiaosheng!\_2

Lin Ke listened intently.

Bai Xiaosheng slowly took a bite of his food before speaking.

"If there's a strong force behind this crisis, then we can't resolve it by the normal crisis handling principles! Otherwise, we'll surely fall into the opponent's rhythm and be led by the nose!"

"So, what's most urgent is not dealing with the incident itself, but rather understanding the various strategies and intentions!"

Bai Xiaosheng's words seemed to make a lot of sense.

But right now, everything is a complete mess; the situation changes from one moment to the next. How can we discern their intentions?

Are we supposed to call them and ask what their next move is?

Lin Ke was completely flustered and had no ideas at all.

If an observer could still think calmly, she, as a participant and even the trigger, could not calm her mind.

How can one think calmly!

Bai Xiaosheng smiled at Lin Ke and continued, "No matter how good and meticulous their plan is, it is still executed by humans!"

"Those articles guiding public opinion must have professional writers to pen them, and they need to grasp the entire course of thought before they can start writing! However, this also leads to them inadvertently revealing key details in their articles!"

"If we meticulously analyze enough articles and think carefully, we might even see through to their next stage, and even their future plans!"

Lin Ke was astonished by Bai Xiaosheng's words.

But in her heart, she felt not reassured, but even more solemn.

Bai Xiaosheng indeed provided a very good perspective.

But how to analyze?

There are hundreds of articles online!

Such an enormous amount, how to sift through, how to analyze!

The people doing this must have exceptionally strong logical thinking, be good at making connections, and quick-witted.

And besides, a small number won't do!

How many strong individuals are needed?

Dozens, or even hundreds?

Even if Mr. Xiahou Qi was in a normal situation right now, he couldn't gather so many people!

Moreover, on Elder Xia's side, it's like in chess he's the "King," closely watched by Shen Peishen with a multitude of chariots, cannons, plus pawns!

Currently, there's simply no way to provide assistance!

Lin Ke's face showed bitterness.

Bai Xiaosheng seemingly didn't notice Lin Ke's expression and continued, "Wu Media Group took the lead in making trouble, and in publishing articles, regardless whether those articles are 'original drafts' provided by Shen Peishen to them, or others, their articles are the most worth analyzing..."

"Then let's get started now!" Lin Ke couldn't help saying urgently.

Even if we start now, and work through the night, how much can really be done.

By then, won't the other party's articles for the next phase already be published?!

Time, and efficiency, are the deadliest issues.

There's not much time left for us!

Let's not 'waste' time eating anymore!

Lin Ke had decided, even if she doesn't sleep tonight, she'll go all out, considering it making up for her "mistake", even if she ends up sacrificing herself, she wants to win a chance for Bai Xiaosheng!

While talking, Lin Ke was about to get up.

Lin Weiwei grabbed her, speaking with a strange look, "Lin sister, you should eat first."

"Weiwei, what time is it now, how can I still think about eating!" Lin Ke incredulously looked at her, glanced at Lei Ying who was eating heartily, and said urgently, "This matter concerns only me, that would be it, but their goal is to target Bai Xiaosheng! How can you all still sit and eat?!"

Lin Weiwei smiled.

She didn't blame Lin Ke for her reproach, the more Lin Ke acted like this, the more it showed her concern for Bai Xiaosheng.

That means everyone is one of us.

"Starting now, I'll go analyze those articles! Whatever little I can do counts, then you find me after you finish eating, for this whole night, even if we analyze just a part, we could have a general direction, and not be completely in the dark." Lin Ke shared her thoughts.

Lin Weiwei still shook her head slightly, seemingly denying her.

Lin Ke thought about it, and also felt a pang of heartache.

The articles, there are too many!

Shen Peishen had invited hundreds of influencers and financial commentators for this "offensive"!

Each person doesn't even need to write much, a few articles each, plus those articles written by his trusted writers, it's overwhelming.

They're mixed together, it's hard to distinguish which article truly represents their inner thoughts, which articles truly contain substance!

Not to mention fully understanding them all, just the thought alone is a tremendous headache.

Moreover, it's not just about reading, but sifting through them, and many articles, many words, many contents, need to be compared and verified repeatedly.

The more Lin Ke thought about it, the more she felt a sense of exhaustion, hopelessness.

At this moment, thousands of miles away, in Shen Peishen's home.

Shen Peishen and Lin Yu were also discussing this matter.

"Bai Xiaosheng is astute, clever, extremely cunning, the trap we've set, ordinary people might need some time to see clearly, but for him, perhaps he could see the whole picture from the beginning," Shen Peishen said as he sipped his tea.

He still highly regards Bai Xiaosheng.

And regrets, such a person, why couldn't he work for us.

Or at least wait a while longer, see our success, then choose his side.

Why must he oppose us!

Shen Peishen sighed deeply.

Lin Yu smiled, "This time, even if Bai Xiaosheng notices any clues, what can he do by himself! On Xiahou Qi's side, Chen Yucheng's side, even Zheng Honghu, Li Haofeng's side, our men are watching, not giving

him any chance of external help. Relying on Bai Xiaosheng alone, even if he notices some clues, can he really defy fate."