

Two Trillion 1331

Chapter 1331 - Departure Day_2

Lin Weiwei nodded but also curiously asked, "Besides Feng Li, Lin Ke, and Xiaosheng, who else do you want to meet?"

Previously, Bai Xiaosheng hadn't mentioned any other names.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled at her, "This time, the gift for Xuelian's grandfather is already prepared. Her mother likes calligraphy and poetry, so I copied a book of poetry. However, the gift still seems too modest. I haven't prepared anything yet for Xuelian's dad."

It's the problem with the gifts again.

Lin Weiwei suddenly felt a bit distressed.

"However, I suddenly figured it out. Since Xuelian's dad doesn't have any specific likes, I should just prepare some stylish gift for the meeting. So, I asked Lu Yun, Lu to arrange one for me!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a laugh.

It wasn't really a sudden realization.

It was because, on the way here, Lu Yun contacted him.

Lu Yun informed Bai Xiaosheng that both he and Song Kai had rallied a group of friends to prepare an "entry wedge" or "stepping stone" for Bai Xiaosheng.

This would give Bai Xiaosheng the credentials to visit the Wei Family as desired, ensuring the Wei Family wouldn't dismiss him immediately.

For this, Bai Xiaosheng was extremely grateful.

He also happened to think of the gift issue, so he asked Lu Yun for this favor.

About the cost of the gift, Bai Xiaosheng brought it up, but Lu Yun was displeased.

Their friendship cannot be compared with money.

Actually, what Lu Yun truly wanted was the friendship between Bai Xiaosheng and the Lu Family, and with Lu Qingfeng.

He always believed that Bai Xiaosheng's future would ascend to greater heights and travel further!

It must be said, Lu Yun, being the domestic internet tycoon, has a sharp eye!

With Lu Yun stating this, Bai Xiaosheng, naturally not one to play hard-to-get, immediately ceased his thanks.

Upon hearing Bai Xiaosheng saying so, Lin Weiwei immediately nodded.

The trouble with gifts, if it's not a trouble, that's for the best.

She also felt a wave of relief.

Meanwhile, Lei Ying had already hailed a car, and the three of them boarded it, heading straight for the agreed-upon café.

At this time, it was still working hours, so the café wasn't crowded, and Bai Xiaosheng and his companions found a secluded corner.

The three of them had just drunk half a cup of coffee when Feng Li and Lin Ke arrived.

The two girls were also meticulously disguised, entering one after the other, quite cautiously.

Upon meeting each other, after not seeing each other for a long while, they exchanged greetings and banter, which made them appear much closer.

Feng Li and Lin Ke relayed the matters entrusted by Xiahou Qi to Bai Xiaosheng in detail, handed over the items they brought, and then hurried off without even drinking water.

According to them, there would be plenty of opportunities in the future, so why linger at this moment and create unnecessary complications.

Regarding this, Bai Xiaosheng and his companions did not hold them back.

After all, once they successfully return, there will be plenty of time to interact!

As soon as Feng Li and Lin Ke left, three people, two men and one woman, arrived.

Among them, the leader was a middle-aged man with a strong presence. Following him were a man and a woman, the man carrying a medium-sized premium business travel case, a high-end brand that looked very elegant.

Upon finding Bai Xiaosheng and his companions, the middle-aged man introduced himself with a smile. He was one of Lu Yun's assistants, having flown directly to Linshen on a special flight from Tengyun, all to deliver items to Bai Xiaosheng.

"These gifts are personally selected by Mr. Lu Yun, they will surely not embarrass Mr. Bai. Here is the list, please take a look." The middle-aged man said, smiling amiably while handing a paper to Bai Xiaosheng.

Lin Weiwei also received the travel case from his companion.

"Would you like to check?" the middle-aged man asked.

"No need, thank you for your efforts this time!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, "Please, have a seat and drink some coffee to rest awhile."

The middle-aged man smiled, "We appreciate your kindness, but we'll pass on the coffee. We need to hurry back."

Again, a group of people in a hurry, Bai Xiaosheng didn't insist, immediately smiled and said, "Please give my regards to Mr. Lu Yun."

The middle-aged man nodded with a smile, then, along with his two companions, took their leave.

After they left, Lin Weiwei opened the suitcase.

Inside, everything was neatly arranged, all were gifts.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at the list.

Fine porcelain, tea, top-quality Cuban cigars, custom items not available on the market.

A dazzling array.

The gifts arranged by Lu Yun were surely of substantial value.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but grin, "Uncle Lu really put his heart into this!"

...

After leaving the café, Bai Xiaosheng and his two companions searched for a hotel nearby and checked in.

Settling down, Lin Weiwei immediately booked tickets for a flight at 10 a.m. the next morning to Ganande, a rising city in Massachusetts, America, a full seventeen-hour journey.

Upon arrival, the three of them would likely endure the hardship of adjusting to the time difference.

Of course, that was a matter for later.

That day, there were no further discussions.

The next morning, after breakfast, when the time was about right, they went to the airport.

Just like their arrival, they left Linshen quietly, without leaving any trace.

Interestingly, at the time Bai Xiaosheng and his companions were rushing to catch their plane, someone was indeed mentioning them.

In the office of Shen Peishen at the Greater China Region Headquarters of Zhenbei Group.

Shen Peishen and his student, Lin Yu, were having breakfast.

Over this past month, Shen Peishen had noticeably lost weight and became more sensitive and fragile in spirit.

At this moment, he even seemed somewhat aged, with much grayer temples.

This led Lin Yu, sitting across from him, to sigh repeatedly.

Lin Yu thought, after so many years of planning, his teacher finally ascended to the position of acting president of the Greater China Region, consumed with worries and now seeing the fruits of his labor, only for Xiahou Qi, that old fellow, to wake up unexpectedly!

And moreover, after waking up, it was said that he was recovering very quickly!

Chapter 1332 - Day of Departure_3

Even Lin Yu felt depressed.

Speaking of which, Shen Peishen was on the brink of victory but came to naught. Moreover, he had to suppress his indignation and unwillingness, putting on a smile to accompany the leaders from above to visit the hospital.

Truly painful!

By the second visit, Xiahou Qi could even speak simple words.

The hospital allowed them to visit, but time was limited to within five minutes.

Shen Peishen was full of anticipation, hoping that by appearing in front of Xiahou Qi, the old man would burst a blood vessel on the spot because of his rage.

But heaven did not comply with his wishes!

Xiahou Qi was even calm in the face of Shen Peishen, saying that once he got better, he would strive to return to his post, almost causing Shen Peishen himself to have a stroke.

After returning, Shen Peishen smashed everything he could in this room.

That day, Lin Yu had to secretly find people to clean up the mess and urgently find a batch of replacements to put everything back in place. It wasn't expected to be a hundred percent identical but aimed not to look too different. After all, maintaining the original state of Xiahou Qi's former office was a show of respect to the old leader.

To hear that the old leader's condition had improved and then smash things up, what would that look like!

Shen Peishen's first emotional outburst also made Lin Yu feel that the teacher, under long-term pressure and in a state of high tension, seemed to have become irrational.

But these past two days, Lin Yu personally brought breakfast and accompanied the teacher to eat, feeling that the teacher's spirits had recovered quite a bit.

"How has Xiahou Qi been these past two days?" While eating, Shen Peishen picked at the fine strands of spicy pickle with bamboo chopsticks, suddenly asking.

A pick with the chopsticks, too much, and a few strands fall away.

Too little, and pick up a few more strands.

And so, after several tries, he still didn't put any in his mouth.

"They say his spirit is quite good, but it's difficult for him to get out of bed. A return to work is unlikely!" Lin Yu affirmed, with a hint of consolation in his tone.

"Even if he wants to, headquarters is unlikely to permit it!" Lin Yu added.

Shen Peishen paused with his chopsticks, seeming to ponder something for a moment.

In the end, he put down his chopsticks, losing interest in continuing to eat.

"After all, he is the official one, and I am still just an acting one!" Shen Peishen's gaze flickered uncertainly, "Sending that old man to the hospital has cost me no small price!"

Shen Peishen pointed at his head, telling Lin Yu, "That man's brain, cunning as ever! Must be on guard against him!"

Being able to steadily hold the reins of the Greater China Region for so many years, and being old and wily, Lin Yu couldn't help but nod deeply, agreeing completely.

"And he has a bunch of die-hards helping him, Li Haofeng, Zheng Honghu, Xu Youruo!"

"Fang Beijun, that old bastard, I thought he could still help me, but who knew he would roll back to headquarters so quickly!"

Shen Peishen exhaled a heavy breath of foul air, "Li Haofeng and the others are tough, but they are likely to use conventional methods. Bai Xiaosheng, however, is a guy who doesn't play by the rules!"

Out of everyone, the one Shen Peishen feared the most was still Bai Xiaosheng, especially after Xiahou Qi woke up.

Listening to this made Lin Yu feel bitter.

Back then, he considered himself a rival to Bai Xiaosheng, but look at him now, the man is a Senior Affairs Officer, even his teacher deeply dreads his tactics, while he himself...

Lin Yu felt indignant and reluctant, yet powerless.

Bai Xiaosheng, that freak, his growth rate was simply unnatural, and what's even scarier is that it seemed like even the heavens were helping him.

"But I believe, there will come a day! A day when I will surpass you!" Lin Yu silently vowed, clenching his fists.

Perhaps even he didn't realize that this determination of his clearly set Bai Xiaosheng as a benchmark, subconsciously accepting that Bai Xiaosheng was stronger than him...

"Where is Bai Xiaosheng now?!" Shen Peishen suddenly asked.

It's better to keep unpredictable factors within sight!

Lin Yu came back to his senses, saying, "Ever since we withdrew our surveillance last time, there's been no information on him."

"How can this be, send someone to find him for me, keep an eye on him!" Shen Peishen frowned, his voice stern, "How can we let such a dangerous fellow disappear from our eyes!"

Lin Yu silently nodded, but inwardly he felt critical.

It was his idea to keep watch on Bai Xiaosheng, but it was the teacher who decided to withdraw the surveillance, and now you're backtracking...

Shen Peishen didn't notice the subtle expression on Lin Yu's face, took a deep breath, and stated heavily, "First, have someone watch over the hospital closely for me. From now on, I want to know whoever visits Xiahou Qi! And also, keep a close eye on Feng Li and Lin Ke by his side!"

"It's been difficult to reach this step, and the ultimate winner must be me!" Shen Peishen stared with his bloodshot eyes, speaking fiercely.

The obsession of a person can greatly affect their mindset, emotions, and even personality.

Lin Yu nodded significantly and stood up to arrange the tasks his teacher had assigned.

At this very moment, Bai Xiaosheng, whom Shen Peishen was so preoccupied with, was boarding his flight in an orderly manner.

No matter how many people Shen Peishen sent, finding him would probably be extremely difficult.

"Hey, everyone, your brother Black is heading back to his country. I'll be live streaming from America for you guys, showing you the different local customs and cultures. If you want to see comparisons in certain aspects, leave a comment, love you all. Don't forget the red hearts!"

In front of Bai Xiaosheng, a fashionably dressed young black man was live streaming to his phone in remarkably standard Mandarin.

For that, Bai Xiaosheng just smiled.

In the context of widespread live streaming, conducting such cultural exchange comparisons was already quite positive.

Not to mention, a foreigner speaking Mandarin so fluently might inspire even more people in the future.

May there come a day when the whole world speaks Chinese.

The young black man turned around, gave Bai Xiaosheng a smile, his teeth shining white.

Chapter 1333 - The Item, Lost?!

Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Weiwei, and Lei Ying passed through security together with other passengers, heading for boarding.

On the way, Lin Weiwei walked slightly behind and close to Bai Xiaosheng, whispering, "We booked our tickets in a hurry this time. Not only are we not in business class, our seats in economy aren't even together. Maybe we can try to swap seats with someone after we board."

Seventeen hours in economy class can indeed be torturous!

Since our seats are scattered, it might be even lonelier.

But Bai Xiaosheng isn't some spoiled brat.

Back in his university days, he used to take the green trains that stopped at every station like a bus, and they were incredibly slow.

That's not even the worst of it.

During the Spring Festival travel rush, it was standing room only, packed like sardines.

Standing for seven or eight hours at a time!

It's not too bad if you're next to a beauty, but standing next to a rough guy who doesn't like to bathe? That kind of 'pleasure' is something only those who have experienced it would know!

Bai Xiaosheng is someone who's been through hardships.

Nowadays, with transportation so developed and high-speed trains running smoothly, it's hard for young people to imagine the difficulties of travel back then.

Bai Xiaosheng sighed a little.

"Economy class is fine, actually. It's quite spacious, comfortable, and the seats can recline a bit," Bai Xiaosheng reassured Lin Weiwei in a lowered voice with a smile, "Don't worry, I'm no pampered young master. It's not that big of a deal if I can't sit next to others. As for switching seats, there's no need. It doesn't make much difference whether we sit together or not."

With that, Lin Weiwei did not insist any further.

After all, we have to board the plane first and see what the situation is like.

Bai Xiaosheng and the others didn't carry much with them, since they checked in their larger bags and only brought a small bag each, appearing quite unburdened.

After boarding, Lin Weiwei's seat was at the front of the economy class, in the second row of a three-seat section by the window.

As passengers were still boarding, Lin Weiwei also had to go to her seat to sit down.

Bai Xiaosheng's seat was in the middle section of the economy class, one of two seats next to the window.

With a little window brightening things up, Bai Xiaosheng was actually quite satisfied.

Yet, looking over from Lin Weiwei's perspective, the distance seemed far, and it was unlikely that the person would be willing to swap their seat.

She sighed and decided to let go of the idea of switching seats for the time being.

Lei Ying was in the latter half of the economy class.

Their three seats were not just separated; they covered the front, middle, and back sections of the plane, completely scattered.

After Bai Xiaosheng sat down, a person who was stowing their luggage in the aisle sat beside him.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at him unintentionally, but was surprised.

Isn't this the African brother who was ahead of him in the security line? He happened to be his travel companion?

Noticing Bai Xiaosheng, the African brother's eyes flashed.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng's friendly gaze, he immediately grinned, showing off his pearly white teeth, and greeted Bai Xiaosheng, "Hey, man."

A very Chinese-style greeting.

Bai Xiaosheng also smiled back at him, nodding his head.

After that, both of them went about their own business.

Before takeoff, the flight attendants gave a safety briefing, and then asked everyone to turn off their mobile phones.

"Seventeen hours without a phone or internet, oh my goodness," the African lamented before conscientiously turning off his phone, yet couldn't help massaging his temples, looking utterly dejected.

For someone who enjoys live streaming and watching streams, being cut off from the internet is indeed tormenting.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled slightly.

He wasn't bothered; after all, Red Lotus had stored a large amount of audio-visual and literary material. As long as he closed his eyes and had Red Lotus play a movie or read a story, it would be a top-tier indulgence.

Soon, the airplane took off and entered a stable cruising phase.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at the sea of clouds through the window, then adjusted his seat, closed his eyes, and prepared to nestle in and sleep for a while. If he couldn't fall asleep, he would enjoy a story from Red Lotus.

"Hey, man?"

Bai Xiaosheng suddenly felt someone calling him and a light tap on his shoulder.

Bai Xiaosheng opened his eyes skeptically to look.

The African was grinning, revealing his snowy teeth.

In one hand, he also held a box of Chinese chess.

"It's a long journey. Aren't you bored? How about we play a few games?"

The African's smile was eager and his invitation sincere.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at him and suddenly felt inclined to play, immediately nodding with a smile, "Sure."

Anyway, there was nothing else to do.

Thus, between two small tray tables, a large in-flight magazine was placed, upon which they set up the chessboard.

The little chess pieces just about fit.

As the African skillfully set up the pieces, he said with a smile, "My name is Sun Jierui, Sun as in Sun Wukong, a Chinese name given by a friend. Twenty-five, currently a student in China."

The guy introduced himself before asking Bai Xiaosheng, "How should I address you, brother?"

His Chinese was indeed fluent.

Plus, with the young man's earnest demeanor and natural charm, Bai Xiaosheng rather liked him.

"My name is Bai Xiaosheng," Bai Xiaosheng answered with a smile.

"Nice name," Sun Jierui commended.

What was nice about it is something he probably didn't know himself.

It must have been just a compliment.

Sun Jierui, joyful and excited, looked at the set-up chessboard, his focus completely drawn to the tiny board, rubbing his hands together with evident self-assurance—

"I'm pretty good at Chinese chess; I hold the second ranking in the foreign language group of the university chess club! If you can't beat me, I can even spot you some advantages!"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

"Impressive, very impressive. I'm not that good. Please be forgiving, be forgiving."

...

Then, by noon, Bai Xiaosheng had won six games in a row.

Winning to the point where Sun Jierui began to question his life.

Chapter 1334 - Something's Lost?!_2

"Bai Xiaosheng, you must be a professional Chinese chess player, right? City level, or provincial level?" Sun Jierui insisted on getting the truth out of Bai Xiaosheng.

Beating you is barely the level of those old guys playing shirtless under the willow trees, that's enough...

Bai Xiaosheng complained silently in his heart.

He didn't even use Red Lotus's assistance at all.

The two are now both travel companions and chess buddies, and they get along well with each other.

They immediately hit it off and started chatting.

Sun Jierui is a bona fide Massachusetts native from Ganande City, so Bai Xiaosheng naturally asked him lots of questions about the place.

Massachusetts is a state in America, and according to Sun Jierui, it's one of the most powerful states.

Of course, that's what Sun Jierui claimed.

Education, healthcare, and the level of affluence in Massachusetts are among the top in America.

"Ganande is an emerging city. When I was little, it wasn't nearly as developed as it is now. My family lived near the old airport, which, even now, is a chaotic neighborhood. Luckily, when I got older, my dad made it, and we moved away from there. Otherwise, I'd probably still be loafing around the streets. The truly wealthy parts of Ganande are across, diagonally. In recent years, they added a Chinese District and satellite cities. It's developing so quickly. I believe that in time, Ganande will take off with the new areas and become the strongest in Massachusetts, and even one of the top cities in all of America."

Sun Jierui spoke of his hometown with undeniable pride.

To this, Bai Xiaosheng felt understanding.

Probably 99% of people think their hometown is the best, right?

"I heard there's a famous family in Ganande, do you know about them?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

Sun Jierui shrugged, "As far as I know, there are several large families over there. Asian ones, European ones, many. I can't possibly know all of them. But I'm familiar with the place, so I can take you around when we get there."

Bai Xiaosheng saw this as an opportunity to chat up a local guide and was moved by the idea.

"Great, it'll be convenient with you, a local, leading the way," Bai Xiaosheng immediately said with a smile, "I can pay you for your services."

Tipping culture is prevalent in America.

But Sun Jierui waved his hand, "No! I don't want a guide fee. I'm just taking a liking to you, buddy! We are brothers, who and who!"

Sun Jierui blurted out a sentence in English, and Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback.

The first half of his buddy's spoken English was passable, meaning, "We are brothers."

But what on earth is the second half?!

who and who?

Parsed word by word, "Who" "and" "who"?

"We are brothers, who and who?"

Bai Xiaosheng was speechless and inwardly critical—

You, an American using Chinglish, is that really okay...

As the two were chatting, the flight attendants came with the meal cart, serving lunch.

Bai Xiaosheng and Sun Jierui packed up the chessboard and each chose their meals.

Sun Jierui had the nerve to shamelessly ask for Lao Gan Ma chili sauce, and upon being informed they didn't have any, he looked like he was about to die.

The flight attendant's eyes became incredibly weird.

Bai Xiaosheng hurriedly pretended not to know him to avoid embarrassment.

However, the guy still complained pitifully in front of the flight attendant, "I fly with Sichuan Airlines, and they definitely have Lao Gan Ma. They didn't have any and wouldn't let me bring my own. Buddy, tell me, isn't that too much!"

Under the gaze of the beautiful flight attendant, Bai Xiaosheng could only give a wry smile, shrug his shoulders, and offer an apologetic look.

At that moment, Bai Xiaosheng had the impulse to beat Sun Jierui up.

...

In the afternoon, Bai Xiaosheng and Sun Jierui played Chinese chess for another two hours.

This time, to avenge the earlier embarrassment, Bai Xiaosheng won twelve games in a row, leaving Sun Jierui utterly defeated and wailing in despair.

Just like that, Bai Xiaosheng found himself with a travel companion in Sun Jierui and the journey became far from boring.

Chatting, playing chess, napping, eating.

The time during the trip passed quickly.

When the plane landed at Ganande Airport, it was two o'clock in the afternoon there.

But back in Linshen, it was almost midnight.

Everyone on the plane looked dead beat.

Jet lag is something that really needs sleep to recover from; you can't just brush it off.

Although Bai Xiaosheng could have Red Lotus adjust his hormones for alertness, sleeping is the healthiest way.

Bai Xiaosheng grabbed his things and got off the plane with Sun Jierui.

Upon landing, Lin Weiwei was already waiting there.

The moment he saw the beauty, Sun Jierui's eyes lit up, and he approached enthusiastically.

"Bai, this must be your friend, I saw you guys at the security check," Sun Jierui said to Bai Xiaosheng while introducing himself to Lin Weiwei with great enthusiasm, "My name is Sun Jierui, a young and promising fellow, currently studying abroad in China. My English is probably maxed out, and I have a second-grade A-level in Mandarin Chinese..."

Sun Jierui hit up the beauty with the enthusiasm of someone at a matchmaking session, and Bai Xiaosheng could only shake his head.

Lin Weiwei regarded him warily, maintained her poise while shaking hands, and kept glancing at Bai Xiaosheng with a meaningful look in her eyes.

Where did you meet this guy?

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't stand it anymore, interrupting Sun Jierui's fervor, squinting his eyes at him, and expressing suspicion, "I'm saying, my boy, ever since you saw Weiwei, you've deliberately got close to me. That's pretty scheming, isn't it!"

"Haha, do I look like that kind of person?" Sun Jierui laughed it off.

Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Weiwei conveyed with their eyes—

"Not just look like, you definitely are!"

While they were speaking, Lei Ying also got off the plane and walked over.

Seeing Lei Ying's stature and size, Sun Jierui couldn't help but exclaim, "Bro, are you a fitness trainer or something?"

Lei Ying did not respond, but gave Bai Xiaosheng a suspicious look, his eyes conveying one message—

"Who's this guy?"

...

Chapter 1335 - Did the Thing Get Lost?! _3

Bai Xiaosheng, Sun Jierui and others entered the airport hall.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying went to retrieve their checked luggage.

Bai Xiaosheng then chatted with Sun Jierui.

"Those two, are they your friends? Why do I feel like they treat you with great respect?" Sun Jierui couldn't help but ask.

"Of course, I am the big brother," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, unapologetically blunt.

Being influenced by this guy on the plane, his own skin had thickened a lot.

Sun Jierui did not continue questioning, instead he smiled and said, "Later on, I'll go home first, take a shower, and sleep for a whole day to deal with this damned jetlag. I'll leave you my number... never mind, let's just add each other on WeChat, it's so convenient! Having stayed in Huaxia for so long, I'm no longer used to it here... By the way, Bai, if you need anything in Ganande, need a guide or whatever, just call me, I'll help you for free."

"Okay."

Regarding this, Bai Xiaosheng just smiled, without any formalities.

The two of them added each other on WeChat.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying also hurried over.

Lin Weiwei was dragging two small suitcases containing purple clay teapots painstakingly crafted by Bai Xiaosheng, along with her personal belongings.

Lei Ying was dragging two large suitcases, containing their personal items and gifts Lu Yun prepared for Bai Xiaosheng, all consolidated in one place.

Having retrieved their things, and everyone being present, the three of them walked outwards together.

Bai Xiaosheng learned from Sun Jierui that Ganande had both old and new airports; they were at the old airport, the kind that would be dismantled and reconstructed in a few months.

Sun Jierui walked and warned Bai Xiaosheng and his group all the way.

This old airport is next to some low-cost housing areas where local police forces are limited, so extra safety precautions were necessary.

"After all, I used to live here; I grew up and often come back to see friends, so I'm quite familiar with this place and even know many street gang members."

"In expensive areas of Ganande, there are more police officers; if you encounter any problems, just shout for help, and passersby will assist, or call the cops. They'll arrive within two minutes. But here, it might not be possible, so you all must be extra careful!"

Sun Jierui imparted local safety knowledge to the three, and Bai Xiaosheng and his companions nodded frequently.

Standing at the taxi stand, as a taxi drove in, Sun Jierui gave it to Bai Xiaosheng and his group.

According to Sun Jierui, since they are guests, it is proper to give them priority.

This statement was very Chinese-style.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and did not refuse.

As Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were loading things into the trunk, Bai Xiaosheng said goodbye to Sun Jierui.

"It's all set, Xiaosheng, you can get in the car," Lin Weiwei clapped her hands, walked over with Lei Ying, and smiled.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded, his gaze sweeping around, when he suddenly noticed the taxi driver.

He was a brawny man, with a gloomy face, cold eyes, bald head, and tattoos on the back of his neck.

When Bai Xiaosheng looked over, the man also looked at Bai Xiaosheng, revealing a sinister smile and even gave Bai Xiaosheng the middle finger, with strange patterns tattooed on the tips of his fingers.

"Fuck you!"

Then, the driver let out a burst of triumphant laughter.

The taxi suddenly sped off, racing away.

Bai Xiaosheng's expression suddenly tightened, Lin Weiwei, Lei Ying, even Sun Jierui were all stunned.

What's going on?

The taxi driver swore at them and then took off with their luggage!

"Dammit! He's not a taxi driver!" Sun Jierui was the first to realize, shouting, "He's a thief!"

A thief?

Bai Xiaosheng and his companions were stunned.

They had only heard of pickpockets and bag snatchers, never of someone using a taxi to steal!

Sun Jierui was distressed, "These people steal taxis, use fake plates, then hunt for targets at the airport and hotels! Damn it, I thought this kind of thing had diminished, but it's resurged!"

"Our things are still inside, what do we do!" Lin Weiwei said urgently.

It wasn't just valuable items that Lu Yun had prepared, but also the purple clay teapots meticulously crafted by Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes immediately turned bloodshot.

Lei Ying's face was fierce.

"I'm going to call the police, but it might be too late," Sun Jierui hurriedly said as he saw that Bai Xiaosheng and the others were truly upset, knowing that there must be extremely valuable items in that suitcase, "I know a middleman here; I can inquire or even take you there. The rule here allows the owner to redeem their items, but at several times the original price!"

"Jierui, help us contact them!" Bai Xiaosheng spoke solemnly, "I am willing to pay ten or even twenty times the price to get our things back! On the condition that they don't open it, tell them not to touch anything!"

In fact, the suitcase containing the purple clay teapots was made of alloy material, not so easy to open.

Other things, who knows!

"Ganande oh Ganande, you really gave me, Bai Xiaosheng, a big unpleasant surprise!"

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes narrowed slightly.

A bunch of local small-timers, actually daring to mess with important items.

In an instant, Bai Xiaosheng's killing intent surged.

Behind him, Lei Ying was like a God of Killing, with sharp eyes.

Sun Jierui was busy contacting the middleman and did not see their imposing manner, otherwise he would have been shocked.

Their fierce aura looked even more terrifying than the most ferocious and scary people here!

Chapter 1336 - The Person Who Doesn't Intend to Play by the Rules

If it were just ordinary money or possessions that had been stolen, Bai Xiaosheng wouldn't be as anxious as this.

But among the contents of the luggage were gifts intended for the Wei Family, including a purple clay teapot that Bai Xiaosheng had put his heart and soul into crafting!

Right now, those items were Bai Xiaosheng's Achilles' heel!

Thankfully, with Sun Jierui there, the whereabouts of the items were somewhat accounted for.

After a brief two-minute call, Sun Jierui turned to Bai Xiaosheng and said, "Alright, the intermediary has been arranged. We just need to wait at the 'ransom exchange spot'!"

"Ransom exchange spot?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with a frown.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying looked at Sun Jierui, puzzled as well.

"This here is the notorious Fourteenth District in Ganande. It's a bit chaotic, but rules are highly respected here! You're allowed to redeem your own lost items here, but you have to go to a designated place—the ransom exchange spot. There are more than a dozen ransom exchange spots in the whole district, and the intermediary has informed me about the approximate location of the one we're headed to. I know where it is; just follow me," Sun Jierui explained.

"Will that intermediary show up there?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

Sun Jierui shook his head, "The intermediaries here never show their faces in front of us or the gangs. They always contact through phone calls to avoid any issues with the transaction, in case they need to be tracked down for revenge. If there's a big mess, the intermediary will disappear for a while, then

resurface with a new identity and continue their business. As for how exactly it works, I'm not too clear on that."

Finishing, Sun Jierui shrugged his shoulders with a chuckle, "Doesn't it feel like I'm rather familiar with this place, as if I'm part of the gang?"

Drawing closer, Sun Jierui lowered his voice and said, "Actually, I have a friend who works as an intermediary here."

"Anyway, you guys can rest easy. As long as you follow the rules of the district, there will be no problems with your stuff. You just need to pay them enough money," Sun Jierui said.

"Will they mess with our stuff? They don't know what's inside, how will they appraise it?" Bai Xiaosheng asked again.

What he was most worried about were those gifts, which could be dirtied or damaged by the street thugs.

"Those guys are cunning; they'll appraise based on the quality of the suitcase and the attitude of the owner," Sun Jierui reassured Bai Xiaosheng with a pat on the shoulder, "Don't worry, with me here, I won't allow them to make outrageous demands and rip us off!"

Sun Jierui thought Bai Xiaosheng was worried about the price.

"However, I haven't been here for a long time, so I'm not sure if the people here have changed. We need to take some safety precautions!" Sun Jierui muttered to himself.

Bai Xiaosheng wasn't clear about what Sun Jierui's "safety precautions" were, but truthfully, he didn't care. As long as the other party showed up with the items, that was enough!

The so-called street folk here probably weren't aware of whose stuff they had taken.

Then he and Lei Ying would give them a lesson — Asian faces aren't to be trifled with!

...

At this moment, in a deserted warehouse, five or six cars were parked in a row.

Over twenty individuals dressed in "trendy" fashion, dense with tattoos, were chatting and laughing—all of them bulky and robust.

Some technicians were busy modifying the vehicles.

Some modifications were for street racing, while others were for "sale."

An ear-piercing whistle suddenly rang out.

The chatting crowd, as if on cue, turned their heads towards the entrance.

A man with a sinister complexion and a bald head swaggered in, pulling along a large suitcase.

Two other people followed behind him, each dragging a suitcase and all wearing smiles.

"It's Martin!"

"Looks like he's hit the jackpot!"

"That smug look is rather annoying!"

"Keep it down, this guy isn't someone you want to mess with..."

The people present spoke in low voices, exchanging words quietly.

Martin, acting as if he heard nothing, continued to stride inside proudly.

"Martin, seems like you've landed a big haul!" Suddenly, a deep, composed voice filled the room, and the surrounding noise came to an abrupt halt, as if on command.

A bearded old man stepped forward, exuding a powerful presence.

Everyone looked at him obsequiously.

He was the boss here, one of the overlords of the district, known by the nickname— "Daddy."

The bald-headed Martin, who had swindled the luggage from Bai Xiaosheng and his companions, immediately cracked a grin and nodded to the old man, saying, "Daddy, this time, I've come across a group of fat sheep from Asia!"

While speaking, Martin tossed a set of keys towards a skinny man standing by the car, who caught them.

"Porcupine, take care of the taxi outside. If someone comes to redeem it within five days, sell it back; if not, strip it for parts! Hmph, thinking they can just get along in this district without registering with us, not so easy!" Martin ordered loudly.

The skinny man grinned, exposing his yellow teeth full of tartar, and only nodded after seeing that "Daddy" was silent.

"Road Tyrant" Martin wasn't known for nothing; he specialized in removing vehicles that didn't follow "the rules."

Not only was he quick-witted, but his skills were also formidable. Rumor had it he was a former MMA member who had joined the district with a few fierce henchmen, very domineering.

Sometimes, he even dared to challenge "Daddy" himself.

"Hey, who here knows how to pick locks without damaging anything? These suitcases are all designer brands, worth at least a few hundred bucks each!" Martin looked around at the crowd.

There was no shortage of talent here; surely there would be a "Locksmith."

A chubby man was about to step forward but was stopped by "Daddy."

Naturally, Martin saw this and frowned, looking at "Daddy."

"Martin," "Daddy" said with a smile, "I'm sorry, but you can't touch these suitcases."

Chapter 1337 - The Person Who Intends Not to Play by the Rules_2

Martin seemed to find it amusing, even shaking his head slightly, before turning his gaze to "Daddy," "Why?!"

Everyone present also looked towards "Daddy."

However, behind Martin, his underlings' eyes faintly revealed malice.

"Martin, I know you're a tough guy, and joining our neighborhood is certainly welcome. But, you must abide by the rules here," Daddy said with a smile, yet his eyes were dark, "Just now, the middleman called, the owner wants to buy back their goods. The price is negotiable, but you're not allowed to open or damage the items. That means, whether it's filled with Gold or jewelry and diamonds, you can't touch them."

"Got it?" Daddy asked in an "amicable" manner.

Martin's gaze flickered uncertainly.

The atmosphere here suddenly became a bit delicate, with everyone watching Martin.

There were only about twenty people here, but Daddy had two to three hundred under his command.

If Martin dared to break the rules to his face, no matter how big the Fourteenth District was, it could not accommodate him!

After a few serious seconds, Martin suddenly laughed, set down his suitcase, and spread his arms, "Everything by the book! 'Daddy,' you're the boss here!"

Even a ruthless guy like Martin caved in.

Big-bearded "Daddy" immediately smiled subtly.

There indeed was a redemption rule here, but there was no rule about allowing or disallowing opening the boxes.

But today, he wanted to make sure Martin didn't touch those boxes!

This newcomer didn't know the rules well, so it was his duty to let the rookie know who was the boss here.

"Daddy's" unspoken thoughts inadvertently ensured Bai Xiaosheng's suitcase would remain intact for the time being, but they also added a darker shade to Martin's look.

"Redemption, huh! Tsk, rules!" Martin swore in his heart.

Twenty minutes later.

Bai Xiaosheng and the others reached the so-called "redemption site," which from a distance was a dilapidated building, looking ragged beyond repair.

In Bai Xiaosheng's eyes, it qualified as a "dangerous building."

It was only upon entering that they realized, there were still many people living inside, with many chaotically constructed buildings where various old clothes were hanging to dry.

Although in Massachusetts and highly praised by Sun Jierui, Ganande also had such residential areas.

Not surprising, who says everyone in a big city must have a big house.

Any city in the world is constructed of low, middle, and high tiers.

As Sun Jierui took Bai Xiaosheng and the others over, the three thought the so-called "redemption site" should be indoors.

In their minds, it should be a room bordered with wooden planks nailed on the windows, extremely dim and filled with construction debris.

But unexpectedly, following the symbols marked on the wall, which allegedly only "those in the know" could understand, Sun Jierui led them onto a creaky, rust-stained elevator with iron railings as doors to the top floor, then climbed some stairs.

The corridor they passed was adorned with various heavy metal style murals, demons and skulls that were unappreciated.

Once the top floor's iron door opened and sunlight flooded in, Bai Xiaosheng and the others were stunned, only to discover upon stepping out that they had arrived at the rooftop!

The "redemption site" was not indoors, but on the rooftop!

While Bai Xiaosheng and his companions were surprised, they also noticed that the rooftop was not empty but rather occupied by a dozen or so people, even with ramps constructed.

Some were skateboarding.

Watching those boys and girls screaming, skateboarding back and forth, the closest only half a meter from the edge of the building, and some even tried stunts on the very edge.

Bai Xiaosheng and the others were really taken aback!

This wasn't seeking thrills, this was flirting with death!

A single misstep could literally end in a coffin!

They say the foreign population is small, and this seemed to make sense...

The arrival of Bai Xiaosheng and his group immediately drew the attention of those people.

Many eyed Lin Weiwei with ill intentions, entranced by such a beautiful Asian woman.

Lei Ying stood behind Lin Weiwei, his gaze fierce and menacing.

However, the others paid no heed.

Many of them were fitness enthusiasts, their muscular builds intimidating, and with their numbers, who would care?

Someone came over and whispered to Sun Jierui, glanced at Bai Xiaosheng, then left, signaling to their group.

When those with malicious intent learned that Bai Xiaosheng's party was there for redemption, they immediately withdrew their gazes and went back to their own business.

The rules of the Fourteenth District were clear, if you came for redemption, you were a "guest," and no one was allowed to offend.

Of course, this "guest" status had a time limit; twenty-four hours to leave after the redemption, and anything happening after that time was nobody's responsibility.

On the way, Bai Xiaosheng and the others had listened to Sun Jierui explain in detail, naturally understanding the rules.

Bai Xiaosheng even commented, "Whoever set these rules was definitely a talent!"

All went smoothly, and Bai Xiaosheng also believed in the rules of the place.

After greeting the people on the rooftop, Sun Jierui led Bai Xiaosheng and the others to sit on a bench and wait.

"No need to worry, the middleman said your items are on the way, they'll arrive soon," Sun Jierui reassured with a smile, "But considering the quality of your suitcases, it won't be cheap. At least a thousand to two thousand dollars. They even take cards."

After saying this, Sun Jierui paused, "If it's inconvenient for you, I can front the money."

An American, actually offering to front the money.

You have to admit, Sun Jierui has been quite "Easternized."

Bai Xiaosheng smiled at him, "If only money can solve the trouble, that's good enough. As for fronting it, there's no need. We brought nearly enough cash."

Chapter 1338 - The One Who Doesn't Intend to Play by the Rules_3

Before boarding, Lin Weiwei exchanged ten thousand dollars at a domestic airport, ready to spend it on the other side.

She was afraid that some places would require cash, and others would need tips.

Sun Jierui still thought that Bai Xiaosheng said he had two thousand on him and didn't pay much attention to it.

If he knew it was ten thousand, he would definitely be startled, probably urging Bai Xiaosheng to deposit it quickly; in Ganande, carrying such a large amount of cash is not only unsafe but may also lead to misunderstandings. Only illegal traders would prepare so much cash.

Of course, Sun Jierui was unaware, and he didn't ask.

Naturally, Bai Xiaosheng and his companions wouldn't say anything either.

The four of them patiently waited for about twenty minutes.

Finally, a line of people appeared at the top of the stairs, at least seven or eight of them.

When Bai Xiaosheng looked over, his gaze immediately narrowed – the leader was the taxi driver who had snatched their luggage!

Following Baldhead, three people were dragging suitcases that were clearly theirs!

Lei Ying also saw them and was about to make a move, but was held back by Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng shook his head at him.

Even if the two of them could take down everyone, what if the other side becomes desperate and decides to throw the items off, and what if they have accomplices down below?

Falling from the height of a dozen floors or more, who knows if the items would break?

Even if the box that holds the Zisha teapot is shockproof, it would likely get damaged from such a height!

Bai Xiaosheng was unwilling to take even the slightest risk.

If a bit of money could solve the trouble, he was willing to pay.

Lei Ying understood Bai Xiaosheng's intention and let out a soft sigh, then sat down again.

If it weren't for the items being in the hands of the others and deterring them, he alone could have taken down everyone!

And gotten those bastards sent to the hospital!

Martin approached with his people, and upon spotting Bai Xiaosheng and his group, he walked over with a mocking smirk.

When Martin came close, his gaze insolently wandered over Lin Weiwei's body.

"Hello, sir, we've come to redeem our own belongings. Those are the suitcases," Sun Jierui said to Martin with a smile in English.

Martin raised his eyes, gave a sneer looking at Sun Jierui, then spoke a string of peculiar language.

Sun Jierui was immediately taken aback.

This sounded like... Mexican?

Someone behind Martin sneered, "If you want to redeem your items, you have to negotiate with Mr. Martin. If you can't agree, then we might just leave."

Sun Jierui's expression suddenly turned unsightly.

He only knew Chinese and English; he didn't understand any Mexican.

"Can anyone here help translate?" Sun Jierui asked urgently the people behind Martin.

Everyone behind Martin was sneering, no one responding.

Originally, their intent for coming here was to make sure the redemption wouldn't go through!

Martin laughed sinisterly, said a few more incomprehensible words, and then turned to leave.

There was no need for negotiation, thus no need to discuss it.

By doing so, they could return with nothing for "Daddy" to complain about!

They came and went in a hurry, acting according to "Daddy's" orders, and failing to complete the redemption was like a subtle defiance against "Daddy."

Martin, of course, was pleased.

Sun Jierui's forehead was sweating, but he was helpless.

Even though he knew they were doing it on purpose!

However, behind Sun Jierui, the same language spoken by Martin was suddenly heard.

Even Martin was taken aback, looking over with suspicion.

Sun Jierui turned around in shock too.

Bai Xiaosheng had already stepped forward, his expression calm, speaking fluent Mexican, sounding even somewhat pleasant to the ear.

"Uh," Martin himself seemed at a loss for words, apparently at a loss.

In fact, his Mexican was half-baked.

He could mostly understand, but when it came to speaking, he knew only a little.

Now, pressed by Bai Xiaosheng, Martin's pretense was exposed; he suddenly widened his eyes and blurted in English, "Enough, let's talk in English then!"

Sun Jierui stared at Martin wide-eyed.

So the guy understands English, huh!

But Bai Xiaosheng is even more impressive; he knows it too!

And he's even forced the other party to have no response!

Sun Jierui looked at Bai Xiaosheng almost in admiration.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and pointed at the suitcases, "There's nothing truly valuable inside, but they hold sentimental value for us, we'd like to buy them back. We won't let you suffer any loss, so name your price."

Martin looked at Bai Xiaosheng with cold eyes, his eyeballs rolling, and with a stretch of his hand, he grinned, "Five thousand dollars!"

Five thousand?!

Sun Jierui jumped, disbelieving the amount.

Is this man mad!

Is this a genuine negotiation for redemption!

Five thousand dollars is simply outrageous!

Sun Jierui was about to refuse right away.

"Okay," replied Bai Xiaosheng bluntly, "We've brought cash, so let's just exchange the payment for the goods."

Sun Jierui looked at Bai Xiaosheng in shock.

They brought that much cash with them?

Martin also paused momentarily in surprise.

He sincerely did not want to negotiate for redemption, as this was an unspoken rivalry with "Daddy."

But he didn't expect the other party would actually carry so much money...

People say Asia is a place filled with gold; could the rumors be true?

Martin, too, felt a burning greed in his heart.

"Sir, I meant five thousand dollars for two suitcases, the other two will have to be the same price!"
Martin smiled.

These words left Sun Jierui incredulous.

Demanding such a price was outrageous!

Even Martin's followers were stunned.

Mr. Martin is being quite fierce today!

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying immediately became indignant, and Bai Xiaosheng suppressed the anger in his heart, took another look at the suitcases, and still nodded, "Ten thousand, agreed!"

With this statement, even Martin was shocked.

That is to say, they were carrying ten thousand dollars with them!

Martin's look at Bai Xiaosheng and the others changed, filled with intense greed!

Bai Xiaosheng, who had heard so much about the rules from Sun Jierui, really believed them.

But unexpectedly, he encountered Martin here.

A man who had no intention of playing by the rules!

Chapter 1339 - Trouble, Is That It?

Wealth should not be flaunted, a maxim that holds true everywhere, even overseas.

Bai Xiaosheng was actually a cautious person, but having heard too much about Sun Jierui's talk of rules, he felt that in the Fourteenth District, despite the strong gangster atmosphere, the more such a place emphasized rules as the foundation of life, the more one just needed to follow them.

Moreover, Bai Xiaosheng, along with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, really didn't see ten thousand US dollars as a large sum of money.

Before going abroad, Bai Xiaosheng helped Ron solve a problem, directly dropping half a billion!

For a purple clay teapot, he smashed down seventy million!

Of course, he didn't get the purple clay teapot in the end and even had to pay seven million in compensation.

However, habitually dealing with such large sums of money, anyone would become numb to the concept of money.

But in the eyes of Martin and those low-level street thugs, ten thousand US dollars was a tremendous amount!

Enough to make their eyes light up.

Imagine, carrying ten thousand US dollars with you and easily able to use it for ransom.

Then, wouldn't there be more money in his bag!

Wouldn't there be even more money in their cards!

This is no longer just 'easy prey', this is a mobile vault!

Thinking of this, Martin's eyes gleamed.

Additionally, Martin immediately thought of those suitcases he held.

What exactly is inside them?!

If they are worth ten thousand US dollars, it can't be... drugs, right?!

Martin's eyes brightened momentarily.

But he thought deeper and realized it is impossible. These people had just gotten off the plane, how could they carry any contraband.

What could it be?

Gold, silver, jewelry, or diamonds?

Or perhaps, the entire case is filled with money!

The limitless imaginings made Martin unconsciously swallow his saliva.

Bai Xiaosheng noticed the changing expressions on Martin's face and couldn't help but slightly furrow his brows.

Greed was surging in the opponent's eyes!

Would this Martin really dare to openly violate the rules of this district?

Bai Xiaosheng watched him coldly.

Fighting was not the best way at the moment, but if it couldn't be solved without fighting, he would not hesitate!

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at Lei Ying.

Lei Ying understood and nodded slightly, calculating that once they made a move, they would show no mercy, especially prioritizing the one holding the suitcase with the purple clay teapot!

However, that guy was positioned in the middle and quite towards the back.

If Lei Ying were to suddenly attack from his position, those physically robust thugs might temporarily block him.

What might happen during this time was hard to say.

Moreover, once they made a move, Weiwei and Sun Jierui would have no one to protect them. This was not a good situation!

"Mr. Martin, our intermediary has already spoken with 'Daddy'! Moreover, we totally accept your price, let's make the deal now," Sun Jierui suddenly spoke.

He was still holding his own mobile phone.

Sun Jierui's words were also a reminder to Martin.

This district has rules, and there is 'Daddy'!

Martin gave him a cold look, then glanced at Bai Xiaosheng, and smirked, "Rules? Haha, I naturally will adhere to the rules. This ransom, can proceed."

Martin's consent made Sun Jierui breath a sigh of relief.

However, Bai Xiaosheng noticed that the greed in the opponent's eyes hadn't diminished at all.

"However, before the transaction, we need to open the suitcase, you also can take a look, check the items, see if anything's missing!" Martin said with a smirk.

Previously, not damaging the suitcase was because it looked like a branded one, worth quite some money itself.

But now, it seemed that whatever was inside was more valuable!

So there was no need to be polite.

Hearing Martin suddenly say this, Sun Jierui's expression changed.

"Mr. Martin, there isn't such a rule. 'Daddy'..."

"These suitcases are mine now, I make the rules!" Martin coldly glanced at Sun Jierui with a menacing look.

Martin's followers, sneering, looked at Bai Xiaosheng and others, all of them were Martin's loyal followers.

Many of them opened their arms, revealing muscles as tough as black iron, akin to a pack of beasts.

"Either you give me the password and let my people gently open these beautiful suitcases, or, shall we do it our way?" Martin said with a smiling face, softly asking.

The so-called their way involved someone already pulling out a switchblade, steel pipe, ready for a violent break-in.

Sun Jierui's expression shifted, about to speak, Martin directly pointed at his nose, turning his face towards him and said coldly, "The rule of the district is 'ransom', and I'm here. Now, these are my rules! You, not going to follow? Challenge me! One-on-one, like a man! If I lose, we don't need to open the suitcases!"

Seeing that Martin's arms were almost the size of his own leg, Sun Jierui's face changed drastically, and he couldn't help but swallow his saliva.

Martin's followers started laughing raucously behind him.

"Someone wants to challenge the boss on WeChat, hehe, very good! We want to see a one-on-one, it's been a long time since Martin has broken someone's bones!"

"Little fellow, don't get cold feet, Martin used to be an MMA fighter, rest assured, he'll just kick your ass, he won't take your life!"

"Otherwise, play with us too, we also participated in MMA, we won't disappoint you!"

These people all participated in MMA fighting?!

Sun Jierui shockingly watched them, speechless.

Where did all these tough guys come from!

Fight them? It's likely not enough even if his side had several times more people!

Bai Xiaosheng coldly watched those people's laughter, smiled at Martin, "If you win, your rules can change? Does that mean we don't even have to pay, and can take these suitcases away?"

Bai Xiaosheng's words made Martin start, then he laughed as if he had heard a ridiculous joke, bursting into loud laughter.

Chapter 1340 - Trouble, Is It Over Just Like That?_2

"Then maybe you need to beat every one of us first!" Martin said with a grin.

The big guys standing behind him, all towering at over six feet, burst into laughter as well.

Some let out sharp whistles and casually took off their shirts, revealing their grotesquely muscular torsos.

Lin Weiwei's face reddened, and she quickly turned away.

Bai Xiaosheng coldly stared at them.

It was nothing but an intimidating display, meant to look scary.

"Are we doing this now?" Lei Ying asked in a low voice.

Both of their gazes dismissed the muscles as inconsequential.

What a joke. Thinking that sheer size and muscle equals dominance?

It's not lions hunting buffalo—more like buffalo trying to prey on lions!

A bunch of rabble!

Seeing the two Asians actually about to "give it a try," Martin's grin grew even wider.

If something kicked off, assigning blame would be tricky. If the deal couldn't go through, even "Daddy" wouldn't have room to complain afterward!

The willingness to fight surged simultaneously on both sides.

But just then—

"Hah, tah!"

A loud cry suddenly rang out, startling both Bai Xiaosheng and Martin.

The next moment, everyone saw someone leap out, landing squarely between the two groups, screaming "Woo woo" and striking a classic Bruce Lee pose.

Sun Jierui?

Bai Xiaosheng and Martin froze simultaneously, their eyes filled with astonishment.

This guy... what was he doing?

Sun Jierui rotated the brim of his baseball cap to the back, his expression solemn. Maintaining the classic stance, he raised one hand high—except that hand still held onto his phone.

Seeing everyone focus their attention on him, Sun Jierui held his pose an extra second, then retreated behind Bai Xiaosheng with deliberate seriousness, looking directly at Martin.

"Mr. Martin, you might not know, but these people here are from Huaxia! And they all know Kung Fu. Yes, Kung Fu!"

Sun Jierui spoke with great vigor.

The crowd opposite him, Martin's group, was dumbfounded.

Behind Sun Jierui, Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Weiwei, and Lei Ying stared at him incredulously.

To be honest, Bai Xiaosheng and the others appreciated him stepping up, but... wasn't this just a little ridiculous?

Was he trying to scare them?

Bai Xiaosheng felt at a loss for words. What on earth was going through Sun Jierui's head...

After a brief moment of shock, Martin's crew burst into uncontrollable laughter.

Martin himself doubled over laughing, slapping his thigh repeatedly.

"Ahaha, Kung Fu! Haha, this is killing me!"

"Come on then, give it a shot! I'm really scared, haha!"

"Does this guy think everyone from Huaxia is Bruce Lee?"

"What an idiot. Did you all see how silly his pose was just now?"

Martin's men let loose all kinds of jeers and taunts.

In their eyes, the three Asians—two men and a woman—were hardly threatening. The woman didn't count, and of the men, only one had a somewhat decent build. Even so, compared to them, the big guys, he was just average.

As for the other guy, he looked like a white-collar office worker. Odds were, two of their fingers could crush him.

Claiming they knew Kung Fu and were supposedly skilled?

What a joke!

"Jierui, what are you doing?" Bai Xiaosheng asked, half amused and half exasperated, lowering his voice as he spoke to Sun Jierui.

"Relax, I called for backup. This is just to buy time!" Sun Jierui whispered back, lowering his voice.

Backup?

Bai Xiaosheng was momentarily stunned.

Sun Jierui had been holding his phone the entire time, and the screen still displayed a messaging interface.

He had mentioned earlier on the way here about making some safety precautions...

Could this have been what he was referring to?

Just as Martin's group was laughing uproariously, they suddenly heard someone shout from behind, "Police!"

Everyone froze.

Martin's crew quickly turned around, as did Bai Xiaosheng's group.

The kids who had been skating on the rooftop were now fleeing down in a frenzy.

Many of the people fooling around here had murky histories. Dig deep enough and not a single one was clean—maybe not enough to lock them up, but close.

Chasing right after them were two police officers, one of whom was a middle-aged Black officer, hand already hovering over his holstered gun.

Rumor had it that when dealing with police abroad, you had to cooperate, and resistance wasn't an option.

But from the looks of it...

Turns out even they ran...

"You! You actually called the police!" Martin snapped back to his senses, raging as he yelled at Bai Xiaosheng and Sun Jierui.

His expression was seething with fury.

"Boss, we need to go!" someone from Martin's group said, trembling with panic.

Those guys had even worse records!

No way could they withstand scrutiny!

Martin gritted his teeth, threw a ferocious glare at Bai Xiaosheng and the others, and bolted.

The rooftop didn't only have one exit. The one Bai Xiaosheng's group had used to arrive was off to the side.

Behind Bai Xiaosheng, further away, there were several other exits to escape through.

As soon as Martin ran, his crew followed.

Perhaps finding it too cumbersome to drag their suitcases along, slowing them down, and considering the suitcases might serve as incriminating evidence if caught, Martin's men left their suitcases behind and fled.

Those suitcases, which had been the objective of the confrontation, were now abandoned.

Bai Xiaosheng was speechless.

Unexpectedly, this issue was resolved without needing to fight.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying went over to gather the suitcases.

Soon, the rooftop, which had been a chaotic scene moments ago, was left with only Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Weiwei, Lei Ying, and Sun Jierui standing there.

The two police officers arrived.

The Black officer stopped and gestured for his partner to continue the pursuit.

"Jack, just got back? Why are you hanging around here? Don't you know how dangerous this place is?"

The Black officer looked at Sun Jierui, scolding him angrily.

So his English name was Jack, Bai Xiaosheng mused.

Meanwhile, the officer cast a wary glance toward Bai Xiaosheng and his friends, saying, "Your IDs!"

After checking their passports, the Black officer's expression softened considerably. Returning the passports with a hint of a smile, he added, "Welcome to Ganande!"