

Two Trillion 1341

Chapter 1341 - Trouble, Is That It? _3

"Mr. Tom, I'm just helping a few friends recover their stolen belongings. They just got off the plane, and their stuff was swiped by someone in this district," Sun Jierui explained.

The Black officer glanced at Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, who were dragging back their luggage, noticed the airline tags on their suitcases, and nodded slightly.

Bai Xiaosheng, however, was intrigued by the way Sun Jierui addressed the officer.

Mr. Tom?

So Sun Jierui's English name is Jierui.

Tom and Jerry?

Seeing Sun Jierui's reverent, slightly fearful expression, Bai Xiaosheng suddenly understood.

Clearly, Sun Jierui's uncle had been strict with him growing up, laying down the law and leaving him terrified, like a mouse cowering before a cat.

"You guys need to leave now. I have to go back and support my colleagues!" Tom urged them hurriedly.

Before leaving, Tom didn't forget to sternly instruct Sun Jierui, "Now, immediately, go home. I'll deal with your trouble here."

With that, Tom ran off.

After all, his colleague was facing so many dangerous individuals on his own—any situation could spin out of control.

The originally bustling rooftop became desolate in an instant, with not a single shadow in sight.

Still, the stolen items were recovered, and the trouble resolved, so Bai Xiaosheng wasn't about to concern himself further.

"My uncle will handle the aftermath; everything will be fine. Man, I was so scared earlier. You guys don't understand—I've been afraid of seeing this uncle since I was a kid," Sun Jierui said, wiping sweat from his forehead, speaking in Chinese.

"I could already tell from your names," Bai Xiaosheng silently remarked to himself.

"Come on, let's get out of here. We don't want more trouble cropping up," Sun Jierui urged hastily.

The four of them, carrying their things, left the rooftop and hurried away.

Only after they reached a main street and took a cab out of the Fourteenth District did Sun Jierui finally let out a long breath.

"Where do you guys plan to go?" Sun Jierui asked.

"First, let's find a hotel to stay at," Bai Xiaosheng replied.

"Which hotel?"

"Anywhere's fine," Bai Xiaosheng said casually, gazing out at the foreign scenery outside the window.

Sun Jierui was stunned. "Ganande is so big, with so many districts—anywhere's fine?"

Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

"You don't have a destination in mind?" Sun Jierui asked incredulously.

Honestly, he didn't...

It was still over ten days before Bai Xiaosheng planned to visit the corporate headquarters, and several days before heading to the Wei Family.

Even then, Bai Xiaosheng only had rough locations for both places; he planned to refine the search once he arrived.

"Even if you're sightseeing, you should pick a destination first. Choose a hotel." Sun Jierui looked exasperated and waved his hand broadly. "Fine, fine, just come to my place. My parents are out of town; my house is big enough for you all."

Generous indeed.

Perhaps experiencing the peril they'd just endured together had built a deeper sense of trust and understanding between them.

Bai Xiaosheng and the other two exchanged glances and had no objections.

Thus, Sun Jierui gave them the location, and the cab drove them straight to his home.

When they stepped out of the car, Bai Xiaosheng and the others stared wide-eyed at the residence Sun Jierui pointed toward.

This guy was secretly loaded!

The standalone villa—if it were in a major city back home—how much would it cost?

"See that? My place costs forty thousand US dollars. But if you put it in Linshen, in the same area..." Sun Jierui initially tried to show off, but when he compared the numbers in his head, his expression fell flat. "Maybe it'd only buy a bathroom there..."

"Your houses are just way too expensive!" Sun Jierui grumbled, clearly feeling defeated.

Bai Xiaosheng and the others stifled their laughter.

"Let's go, let's go," Sun Jierui beckoned to the three of them.

On the way to the villa, Sun Jierui turned to Bai Xiaosheng and his friends, saying, "You guys better learn from what happened today! How could you seriously go head-to-head with these street punks? They're total desperadoes—dangerous as hell! I get that your stuff is important, but your lives matter more! Don't be stupid—you really think you've got skills or that you're tough guys?"

"You narrowly dodged disaster!" Sun Jierui said seriously, leading them into the yard.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying, the two men, exchanged a look and smiled without saying a word.

At the entrance, Lei Ying noticed two-finger-thick steel bars on the iron gate that had been bent out of shape. Casually gripping them, he exerted force and straightened them.

Bai Xiaosheng saw a neighbor's boy staring at this scene, his mouth forming an "O" shape, eyes looking at Lei Ying like he was the Hulk. Bai Xiaosheng chuckled, made a silly face at the boy, then offhandedly jokingly replied to Sun Jierui—

"Yep, someone dodged a disaster alright!"

Chapter 1342 - A Little Fellow Has Arrived

Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Weiwei, and Lei Ying followed Sun Jierui into his house.

Sun Jierui's house was a typical American-style home.

The living room was bright, with large floor-to-ceiling windows. Looking outside, the lawn, tall trees, and streets were all in plain view, offering an excellent panorama.

They say Americans love things with a sense of history, and they've truly mastered it. Sure enough, as soon as Bai Xiaosheng and the others entered the living room, they noticed various antique-style ornaments, wall hangings, faux-historical decor, and tiles.

Bai Xiaosheng was particularly fascinated by the large fireplace.

Lin Weiwei felt the same.

Lei Ying, on the other hand, seemed more intrigued by the deer head and vintage hunting rifle hanging on the wall.

"Sit wherever you like, make yourselves at home. I'll grab you something to drink." Sun Jierui tossed his bag onto the sofa and dashed into the kitchen.

Once the three had set their belongings down and taken their seats, Sun Jierui had already returned with beers and soft drinks, passing them out to the group.

Slumping onto the sofa, Sun Jierui sighed, "I still prefer Chinese-style parents. When their kid comes home, they're treated like royalty. But look at my parents. They stuck a note on the fridge saying they've gone out to play. Aside from these drinks, they didn't even leave me a single tortilla chip. And I haven't been back in ages—I'm their own son!"

Bai Xiaosheng and the others exchanged amused glances.

Old Sun might not get it—precisely because he's their own son, that's the kind of treatment he gets...

Actually, in China, when kids are away, parents constantly talk about how much they miss them.

For the first three days after their return, the kid gets treated like a treasure—dotingly, lovingly, and spoiled.

But after a week or two, things start to change.

The affectionate talk morphs into nagging.

Parents might even start complaining, "You little rascal! When are you going back to school or work? Hurry and get out of here..."

As they say, parents around the world are different in their ways, yet oddly similar...

The four of them sipped their drinks and chatted with Sun Jierui for a while, but soon they were all yawning uncontrollably.

Fatigue had set in.

After all, it was afternoon here, but late at night back in Linshen. If it hadn't been for their luggage getting stolen and the tense chase through a dangerous neighborhood, their adrenaline keeping them awake, they would've found a place to nap and adjust to the time difference long ago.

They weren't hungry anyway, having eaten lunch on the plane.

"There are two guest rooms downstairs and one upstairs. Let me show you to your rooms so you can rest." Sun Jierui let out a massive yawn. "I can't hold on much longer myself!"

The perks of having a big house: plenty of rooms, including enough guest rooms to give each person their own.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying stayed downstairs, each taking a room. Bai Xiaosheng accompanied Sun Jierui upstairs to the guest room.

Entering his room, Bai Xiaosheng noticed that the little guest room was only six or seven square meters. Despite its small size, it was cozy, with a soft bed and fresh bedding—very satisfying.

Exhausted, Bai Xiaosheng collapsed onto the bed and drifted into a deep sleep.

The nap was incredibly sweet.

In his dreams, Bai Xiaosheng seemed to see Little Red Riding Hood encountering the Big Bad Wolf in a forest, letting out a series of sharp screams.

Dreaming of such a culturally appropriate fairy tale right after arriving in a foreign land was quite fitting.

Though, it wasn't exactly a pleasant dream.

However, Little Red Riding Hood's screaming seemed to go on endlessly, until it gradually woke Bai Xiaosheng up.

Straining his ears, it felt as though there truly was a little girl screaming somewhere, followed by the sound of "thud, thud, thud" footsteps running up the wooden staircase, even passing right by his door.

Bai Xiaosheng blinked his eyes open in confusion, listening carefully.

It really sounded like someone shouting!

"Jack! Jack! There's a bad guy in your house—call the police now!" A little girl, speaking in an authentic American accent, was shouting while hammering on the door to Sun Jierui's room.

Did Sun Jierui have guests over?

Still groggy, Bai Xiaosheng yawned, thinking that Sun Jierui would surely handle it; as a guest, it wouldn't be proper for him to intervene.

As for the "bad guy" the girl mentioned...

Lei Ying was downstairs. Was there even a need to worry about him?

Even if it were ten or eighteen thieves, they wouldn't stand a chance.

With that thought, Bai Xiaosheng started to drift back to sleep.

But Sun Jierui wasn't waking up—the guy was truly a deep sleeper.

The pounding on his door was loud enough to make Bai Xiaosheng toss and turn restlessly, yet Sun Jierui remained out cold.

How could he sleep so soundly?

Finally, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't take it anymore. He sat up, shook himself awake, and walked over to open the door.

At Sun Jierui's door...

A little girl with a backpack and a head full of tiny braids was furiously pounding on the door. "Jack! Jack! Have you been killed?"

After shouting for a while, the girl suddenly switched to Chinese, speaking surprisingly well. "Sun Jierui! Sun Jierui, are you still alive? Say something! Open the door already!"

Pulling his door open, Bai Xiaosheng happened to catch the little girl switching languages, and he was stunned.

Was Chinese really so widespread here?

Even a foreign little girl could speak it so fluently?

He looked over at her.

The little girl, with her head full of tiny braids, suddenly heard movement nearby and turned abruptly, only to find an unfamiliar Asian man staring at her. Her jaw dropped in surprise, and her eyes showed a trace of panic.

Bai Xiaosheng noticed her skin tone, which was much lighter than Sun Jierui's, and the Asian features in her appearance.

She looked around eight or nine years old at most.

A mixed heritage?

That was Bai Xiaosheng's first thought as he offered her a gentle smile, his expression kind.

"Are... are you the bad guy, mister?" the little girl stammered in English.

Without waiting for Bai Xiaosheng to respond, she switched back to Chinese, "Are you a villain, big brother?"

Chapter 1343 - A Little Guy Arrives_2

Bai Xiaosheng was caught between laughter and tears as he listened.

How is a bad person supposed to answer such a question?

"I'm a friend of Sun Jierui. I'm staying as a guest at his house," Bai Xiaosheng said gently, smiling at the little girl.

The little girl looked Bai Xiaosheng up and down.

She thought this big brother's face seemed kind. Plus, he was tall, slim, and had quite a handsome appearance...

Looks are justice!

The little girl immediately felt that Bai Xiaosheng should be a good person.

"My name is Emma," the little girl introduced herself in Chinese. Then, looking nervously toward the staircase, she lowered her voice, "Did you and Sun Jierui not know? There's a bad guy in the house—it's someone really big, strong, and scary..."

As she spoke, the sound of footsteps came from the stairs, and Lei Ying walked up.

Little Emma was so frightened that she instantly grabbed Bai Xiaosheng's shirt to hide behind him, screaming, "Ah! It's him! The bad guy!"

Bai Xiaosheng stared at Lei Ying in shock.

Lei Ying looked at him innocently.

"I don't know how this little girl got in. I just went to the bathroom, and when I came back, I saw her rummaging through things. I scolded her sharply at that time—maybe my tone was a bit harsh," Lei Ying said sheepishly. "I was half-asleep and didn't control my volume. It wasn't intentional! Is she Sun Jierui's relative?"

As Lei Ying explained, Bai Xiaosheng understood.

It was all a misunderstanding.

Little Emma obviously understood Chinese, but she still looked at Lei Ying warily.

Lei Ying's build and the look in his eyes back then had truly been too intimidating.

"What's going on? Is there a little girl here?" Lin Weiwei walked up behind Lei Ying.

After a nap, Lin Weiwei's hair was a bit messy. She combed through it with her fingers as she walked—a simple action, yet somehow incredibly graceful and beautiful.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but admit that, at the moment, Weiwei radiated an air of goddess-like charm!

The little Emma behind Bai Xiaosheng's back lit up at the sight and stepped out.

"Are you with them, pretty sister?"

This little girl had suddenly become exceedingly well-behaved.

Lin Weiwei, upon seeing her, liked her immediately. "Wow, your Chinese is so good! My name is Lin Weiwei. What's your name?"

The misunderstanding was finally resolved thanks to Lin Weiwei's appearance.

It turned out that Sun Jierui's family had an adorable mixed-race relative.

After they asked, Bai Xiaosheng and the others learned that Sun Jierui was the little girl's cousin.

This time, Little Emma had heard that Sun Jierui was back in the country, so she came over to stay for a few days.

She had made the trip entirely on her own.

"No problem at all—you can stay in my room," Lin Weiwei said with a smile, clearly fascinated by the little girl's tiny braided hair.

"Really? Then I want to stay with sister!" Little Emma said enthusiastically.

"Why is your Chinese so good?"

Bai Xiaosheng asked with a laugh from the side.

"My dad is Chinese, so I've been learning two languages since I was little. To be honest, I think English is ridiculously hard!"

This foreign mixed-race child was actually complaining about how hard it was to learn English...

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but shrug his shoulders.

"I think so too—English is so hard to learn," Lei Ying chimed in, his face twisted in distress as he joined in the complaints with the little girl.

In truth, Lei Ying had participated in a mercenary group abroad and could speak not just English but also some French and Russian.

Among the three, only Lin Weiwei, the top scholar, was proficient in just Chinese and English.

Seeing the "big scary man" grimace and complain like this, Little Emma couldn't help but grin at Lei Ying, revealing a gap in her teeth, "Actually, it's not that bad. You just have to put your heart into it."

Lei Ying smiled back at her. "You're right!"

The gap between the big man and the little girl was finally bridged in this moment.

The three amused themselves with Little Emma for a while, but eventually remembered that such a cute guest had arrived, and yet Sun Jierui was still asleep?

"Could that guy be sleeping like the dead?" Little Emma asked. "Personally, I think we should call an ambulance—maybe when it arrives, there's still a chance to save him."

It seemed the little girl was quite bothered by not being able to knock open Sun Jierui's door.

Bai Xiaosheng chuckled. "Let me try knocking again to see what's going on."

Saying this, Bai Xiaosheng walked to Sun Jierui's door and lifted his hand to knock.

This time, before Bai Xiaosheng's hand could fall, the door opened by itself.

Sun Jierui came out, yawning widely, his head bobbing as he shuffled along. He was wearing noise-canceling headphones and hummed, "The most romantic thing I can think of is selling computers with you..."

These bizarre lyrics caused Bai Xiaosheng and the others to freeze in surprise.

"It should... probably be 'grow old with you,'" Lin Weiwei muttered, unable to hold back a comment.

Sun Jierui walked out and spotted Bai Xiaosheng first. He beamed, "Oh, you're awake! Are you heading to the bathroom too? Can't find it? Let's go together."

Seeing the headphones on his head, Bai Xiaosheng instantly understood and couldn't help but feel exasperated.

If Sun Jierui weren't in a rush to use the bathroom, Bai Xiaosheng probably wouldn't have been able to knock open the door!

"I'm not in a hurry for the bathroom—you've got a relative visiting," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

Sun Jierui froze on the spot.

Bai Xiaosheng stepped aside, revealing Little Emma behind him.

"Should I call you Jack or Sun Jierui, my dear cousin?" Little Emma asked with a smirk, raising her head to look at him.

"Whoa, holy moly!"

Sun Jierui was startled by the little girl.

His reaction left Bai Xiaosheng and the others stunned.

They silently wondered if Emma's name, when spoken affectionately, could somehow sound like "Whoa, holy moly"...

Or perhaps Sun Jierui's reaction was more fright than delight...

Five minutes later.

Everyone was sitting on the living room sofa, Little Emma with her backpack set aside, drinking juice.

Chapter 1344 - A Little Guy Arrives_3

Outside the window, night had fallen, and the city lights were just beginning to shine.

Sun Jierui emerged from the bathroom, rubbing his temples as he walked over. He glanced at Emma gloomily, then plopped heavily onto the seat opposite her.

"So my aunt arranged it, and now you're sent over to me to crash here?!"

Sun Jierui confirmed first, then decisively crossed his arms and said bluntly, "I'm sorry, that's not going to work!"

Sun Jierui firmly and swiftly refused?

He actually wouldn't agree to let such a cute little girl stay?

Bai Xiaosheng and the others were taken aback, completely unprepared for Sun Jierui's resolute attitude.

"Why?" Little Emma asked.

"Because... well, my place is already full!" Sun Jierui affirmed.

"You're lying!" Little Emma pointed at him, her tone even more certain, "There are at least two empty rooms. And besides, I can share a room with this big sister. She agreed!"

"But I don't agree!" Sun Jierui shouted.

"Then what am I supposed to do?"

"I could take you to your grandmother's place. How does that sound?"

"Doesn't sound good. I'm staying here!"

"This is my house, and I have the right not to let you stay!"

"This is my aunt's house, and she's already agreed!"

"Then get her here so I can confirm with her face-to-face! Over the phone? No way!"

The two foreigners, one big and one small, were arguing in Chinese, getting completely worked up.

Bai Xiaosheng and the others were at a loss for how to mediate.

After all, they were guests, and it wasn't appropriate to butt into family matters.

But for such a little girl to be denied even a few days' stay—Sun Jierui really seemed devoid of sympathy!

"Um..."

In the end, Lin Weiwei, unable to bear it, softened and spoke up.

Just as Sun Jierui and Emma were arguing themselves dry-mouthed, they took the chance to catch their breath and turned to look at her.

"It's already so late. Sending Little Emma away now wouldn't be appropriate. Why not let her stay in my room for now, and we'll deal with it tomorrow, okay?" Lin Weiwei said tentatively to Sun Jierui.

Faced with such a suggestion from a beautiful woman, Sun Jierui immediately forced a smile. "Well... it's not entirely impossible."

"Wow, I'll go put my things away! Thanks, Sister Weiwei!" Little Emma shrieked, grabbed her backpack, and dashed off.

Her quick reaction left Bai Xiaosheng and the others momentarily stunned.

Sun Jierui stared in shock, his mouth agape, then pulled a long face. "Do you think I want to play the bad guy? This little rascal is a devil! Don't even mention her ruining ten years of my collectibles; she dismantled my PS4 with her bare hands. Every time she comes, it's a disaster for me!"

Watching Sun Jierui's heartfelt "grievous complaint,"

Lin Weiwei discreetly stuck out her tongue, not daring to interject.

Bai Xiaosheng exchanged a glance with Lei Ying, equally unsure how to respond.

A moment later.

Little Emma dashed back in like the wind, sprawling dramatically on the couch. "Now, Sun Jierui, big cousin, go grab some juice and snacks! Oh, and I'm hungry. What are we eating tonight?"

Indeed, it was about dinnertime.

Watching Little Emma's behavior, Sun Jierui snorted angrily, "What to eat? You little glutton, still thinking about food? No food for you!"

As he finished speaking, Sun Jierui's stomach betrayed him, growling loudly with a "grumble grumble."

Little Emma looked at him with disdain, her mouth curling into a cold sneer, revealing a few adorable gap teeth.

Feeling embarrassed, Sun Jierui glanced at Bai Xiaosheng and the others. "At this hour, damn restaurants are pretty much closed. Nearby there's just one fresh produce supermarket and two fast-food places still open. But after eating your country's dishes so regularly, I honestly can't stand the fast food here!"

Already feeling guilty toward Sun Jierui, Lin Weiwei quickly offered, "Then how about we go to the supermarket and get some ingredients? I'll cook."

Sun Jierui froze for a moment, then his eyes lit up.

He slapped his thigh, almost jumping up. "That's right! You Chinese people are all master chefs! How could I forget? Great, I'll head directly to shop for ingredients! Although I don't know how to cook, I know what everything is and remember many seasonings. Wait for me!"

Sun Jierui bolted out the door like the wind, cheerful as a young horse.

There's nothing quite like a hearty Chinese meal to dissolve the day's annoyances.

"Such ignorance."

From the sofa, Little Emma glanced at Sun Jierui's departing figure with disdain.

Half an hour later.

In front of the sumptuous dinner, Little Emma held her bowl, eating enthusiastically and shouting, "This is so delicious!"

"So fragrant!"

Chapter 1345 - Ganande Financial Street

Early morning, at Sun Jierui's house, Lin Weiwei was already busy in the kitchen.

While a group of men were still indulging in their sleep, she had gotten up early to prepare breakfast.

Lin Weiwei had originally intended to let Little Emma sleep longer, but when the little one found out Lin Weiwei was going to cook breakfast, she instantly perked up. She insisted on watching how delicious Chinese food was made.

Unable to refuse her, Lin Weiwei brought her into the kitchen.

However, Lin Weiwei placed a chair for Little Emma to sit far from the stove, lest the little girl get hurt.

Bai Xiaosheng was someone who loved good food, so Lin Weiwei put extra care into the meal.

In the two or three years she had been with Bai Xiaosheng, her cooking skills had become increasingly refined.

A pot of congee, simmering for dozens of minutes, filled the kitchen with its fragrant aroma.

The rice Sun Jierui had bought yesterday was particularly good, so Lin Weiwei felt there was no need for additional seasonings—not even fresh vegetables. Simmering was the best method of preparation.

Congee brings out the purest flavors.

While making the congee, Lin Weiwei took out cucumbers and spicy pickled cabbage she had marinated the night before, using her own modified recipes. They had been chilled in the refrigerator overnight, coming out crisp, fresh, visually appealing, and perfect with rice.

Additionally, Lin Weiwei stir-fried three small flavorful dishes, emitting aromas so enticing they were mouthwatering.

Little Emma was captivated, her face full of admiration. "Weiwei Jie, you're amazing! Were you a five-star chef before? No, no—I think you must be a seven, eight, nine... ten-star! Ten-star chef! We've been to Chinese restaurants here, but none of their food compares to yours—it's just not good at all!"

Little Emma counted on her fingers and bestowed Lin Weiwei with the title of ten-star chef.

Lin Weiwei was making egg pancakes and chuckled at this. She instructed Little Emma, "Go call your cousin and Sheng to come down. Breakfast is ready."

Seeing the fragrant, soft, golden, slightly crispy egg pancakes coming out of the pan, Little Emma was reluctant to move her feet.

Lin Weiwei wrapped a piece of egg pancake in kitchen paper and handed it to the little one. Little Emma took a bite, and her eyes lit up instantly.

"So delicious!"

With the lingering sound of her declaration, Little Emma dashed upstairs, lightly knocking on Bai Xiaosheng's door. "Xiaosheng, wake up!"

Then she ran to Sun Jierui's room next door, kicked the door twice, and shouted, "Sun Jierui, are you dead? Get up!"

After a flurry of knocking and kicking, Sun Jierui opened the door groggily and angrily but was met only by the disappearing sound of footsteps "thud thud thud" down the stairs.

Bai Xiaosheng also opened his door.

An irritated Sun Jierui said to Bai Xiaosheng, "Did you see this? This is exactly why I didn't want that little brat staying here! Ugh—ah! I want to sleep!"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and stayed silent.

Sun Jierui turned to return to his room but suddenly froze, sniffing hard and turning his head in suspicion.

"What is it? So fragrant!"

Three minutes later.

Sun Jierui was seated at the dining table downstairs.

A hearty and delicious breakfast lifted everyone's spirits.

However, Sun Jierui and Little Emma were dissatisfied.

The reason? There wasn't quite enough food.

The reason for the lack of food? Their cousin sitting across from them ate too much!

"OK, I'm sending you to your grandmother's right now! Out you go!" Sun Jierui slammed down his knife and fork, addressing Little Emma.

"It's eight in the morning," Little Emma glared at her cousin.

"It's early, so what?" Sun Jierui sneered, "Anyway, I'm sending you back today."

Little Emma gave a cold chuckle. "Forgot to tell you, my unreliable and incompetent cousin, that my mom doesn't trust me staying here either. But my grandmother and her family are going out to catch today's flight at 8:15. If you think you can get me thirty miles away in fifteen minutes, I'll go!"

Sun Jierui was momentarily dumbfounded.

Then he angrily pointed at the little girl. "Why didn't you say so earlier!"

"Because I didn't want to!"

The two started bickering again.

Sun Jierui was driven to the brink of madness by Little Emma.

Bai Xiaosheng and the other two men sipped tea and coffee, completely uninvolved in the argument.

...

After breakfast, they rested for a while. Bai Xiaosheng decided to go explore near the Zhenbei Group Headquarters to see what a world-class corporate headquarters looked like!

With Little Emma staying behind and claiming she had extracurricular assignments to complete, someone naturally had to keep her company.

None of the men were suited for the task, so Lin Weiwei couldn't accompany them.

After Bai Xiaosheng and the others left, Lin Weiwei smiled and asked Little Emma, "Emma, what's your extracurricular assignment?"

"Everyone has a different goal. My choice is to visit the observation deck on the 105th floor of the 1,200-foot-tall Ganande World Trade Center Building and overlook downtown!" Little Emma said excitedly and proudly.

Lin Weiwei froze.

Then she chuckled helplessly. "Why didn't you say so earlier? Xiaosheng and the others are heading to Ganande Wall Sky Street. We checked the map earlier, and the two places should be close enough to visit together."

Little Emma was stunned when she heard this. After a moment, she mumbled, "I didn't know you were going to Wall Sky Street. Besides, who wants to go with that annoying Sun Jierui anyway."

Lin Weiwei was amused and exasperated as she looked at the little girl.

"Weiwei Jie, let's go by ourselves! I'll take you to see the view. After finishing my assignment, we can shop for clothes and look at pretty dresses." Little Emma grinned wide, revealing her gap-toothed smile. "Men definitely don't have as much energy as we do. They'll get tired from shopping quickly. My daddy is like that too... This is what my mom says."

Chapter 1346 - Ganande Financial Street_2

Lin Weiwei was amused by Little Emma, and she reached out to lightly tap her adorable little nose.

"Alright, let's go shopping on our own later."

...

Bai Xiaosheng and the others had just driven past two intersections when Lin Weiwei called.

Upon learning that the place where they planned to finish their tasks was very close to their own destination, Bai Xiaosheng was briefly surprised. He even considered asking Sun Jierui to turn back and pick them up.

Unexpectedly, Lin Weiwei said over the phone that they would move on their own and that they could all meet for lunch later.

After thinking it over, Bai Xiaosheng agreed and reminded them over the phone to stay safe.

"Don't worry about it. The places we're going and where they're headed aren't anything like yesterday's violent neighborhoods. Instead, it's the high-end business district—extremely valuable real estate. There's no exaggeration in saying there's a group of patrol officers every one hundred meters. There's no potential danger at all," Sun Jierui chimed in with a chuckle. "Letting them act on their own is better, isn't it? At the very least... it keeps me away from Little Emma, that little demon!"

Hearing this, Bai Xiaosheng felt reassured.

"Actually, I think Little Emma is quite cute," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile after ending the call.

Sun Jierui rolled his eyes in response.

As the car sped along smoothly, Bai Xiaosheng said to Sun Jierui, "We've looked at some information about Wall Sky Street. You're considered a local, right? Could you tell us more in detail?"

Sun Jierui replied while driving, "Well, this so-called 'local' spent most of his time in your country. Honestly, if you asked me about Linshen, I might know it better than here. That said, your country's development speed is simply mind-boggling. Linshen is almost a world-class metropolis already... Ah, I digressed."

Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

"Wall Sky Street is currently the most, most, most prosperous street in Ganande." Sun Jierui said with evident pride, emphasizing the word "most" three times. "Since 2000, it has risen swiftly to become one of America's three major financial centers."

"Many conglomerates and financial groups have chosen to set up offices there—banks, insurance companies, shipping lines, railroads—you name it. Ganande's Stock Exchange is also there; it's very famous!"

Bai Xiaosheng nodded in agreement. His knowledge aligned with what Sun Jierui was saying.

While Ganande isn't the strongest city in all of America, nowadays it certainly ranks among the top three cities.

Wall Sky Street is the epicenter of Ganande's core, often referred to as the Northeast's central hub in America.

The decision to locate Zhenbei Group's headquarters here was undoubtedly fitting.

Of course, the Zhenbei Group headquarters was merely an office space.

The true heart of Zhenbei Group lay in the family home of his elder uncle, Bai Zhenbei. However, its exact location remained a mystery to this day.

Still, the thought of finally seeing the reputed headquarters of Zhenbei Group stirred a fiery enthusiasm in Bai Xiaosheng's chest.

As Sun Jierui drove onward,

the closer they got to Wall Sky Street, the more skyscrapers loomed on both sides of the road. The central urban area of Ganande truly lived up to its reputation, having been shaped by repeated industrial revolutions. Historic buildings oozing with an aura of time and gravity were everywhere, giving off a profound sense of history.

Suddenly, the roar of powerful engines came roaring through the air.

Two cars "flew" past from Sun Jierui's side, barely leaving shadows behind. Narrowing his eyes, Sun Jierui exclaimed, wide-eyed,

"A Bugatti Veyron!"

"A Pagani Huayra!"

Gazing ahead, Sun Jierui looked dazed yet mesmerized, clicking his tongue in awe. "What amazing cars! Tsk tsk, when will I ever get to drive something like that?"

Bai Xiaosheng chuckled, "Well, keep working hard."

"Luxury cars worth over thirty million! How exactly should I work 'hard' for that?" Sun Jierui rolled his eyes at Bai Xiaosheng.

"Anyhow, even if they're luxury cars, they still can't fly out of traffic jams ahead." Finding a bit of solace in this, Sun Jierui snapped back to reality and realized something. "Wait a second—those rich jerks driving those cars—weren't they speeding? Those punks! I ought to call the cops!"

Despite his indignation, Sun Jierui didn't follow through.

As for the extravagant cars, they had long "flown" out of sight. There was no way to locate them...

Nor could a report accurately describe the situation...

So, Sun Jierui simply let it go.

As expected, the traffic ahead grew heavier, just as Sun Jierui had predicted.

The two luxury cars had inevitably gotten lost in the sea of vehicles, their whereabouts completely unknown now.

The sluggish pace of the congested traffic forced a crawl, but fortunately, Sun Jierui's familiarity with the area helped. Weaving left and right, he eventually found a parking lot.

"I suggest we walk from here. The area ahead has absolutely no parking spots," Sun Jierui suggested.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying nodded in agreement.

After parking the car, the three continued on foot toward Wall Sky Street.

As expected, the wide streets seemed to have a group of officers stationed every one hundred meters, just as Sun Jierui had claimed.

The security here was likely the best in all of Ganande and even Massachusetts.

As skyscrapers stood one after another, towering into the clouds with solemn and majestic stone façades adorned with flags, the sight was electrifying. The people passing through were all impeccably dressed in sharp suits, walking with sharp determination. Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but marvel in his heart.

The business energy here was truly palpable—a solemn gravity came built-in.

As one of America's three major financial centers, the prestige was undoubtedly well-deserved!

Besides having Sun Jierui as their local guide, Bai Xiaosheng also relied on Red Lotus to assist with navigation.

Finally, they arrived at their destination—

Zhenbei Group Headquarters Tower!

Looking up at the headquarters of this world-class financial conglomerate, a 112-story building, an overwhelming sense of smallness suddenly washed over them.

The skyscraper soared into the heavens, piercing through the clouds!

Here on Wall Sky Street, this very building was a powerful symbol in itself!

Bai Xiaosheng and the others stood gazing up, stunned into silence for a long while, unable to speak.

Chapter 1347 - Ganande Financial Street_3

This headquarters building houses various branches, including banks and insurance companies, but they all belong to the Zhenbei Group.

"Within ten years, I will take over this building and become its true master!"

As Bai Xiaosheng thought of this, he couldn't help but feel a surge of passion and grandeur in his heart.

To live a meaningful life, one must have a goal!

A goal so lofty that it demands relentless pursuit with every step!

A goal worth sweating for!

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help clenching his fist.

"Actually, my dad works on Wall Sky Street too, though I don't know which major conglomerate he works for. If it's one like this, that'd be super cool!" Sun Jierui couldn't help but say.

Unfortunately, neither Bai Xiaosheng nor Lei Ying paid attention to Sun Jierui's comment.

The security at the entrance of the Zhenbei Group headquarters was tight, yet it still allowed public access.

After all, this skyscraper comprised many businesses and industries.

"Let's go in and take a look!" Bai Xiaosheng waved his hand decisively.

Lei Ying nodded.

"Yeah, let's check it out!" Sun Jierui chimed in.

In fact, Sun Jierui had asked Bai Xiaosheng about the purpose of this visit. Bai Xiaosheng's reply was that he was here to handle some errands for someone, and Sun Jierui naturally didn't press further.

The trio crossed the street, heading straight for the Zhenbei Group's skyscraper.

At around the same time—

Lin Weiwei and Little Emma arrived at the Ganande Trade Center Building. The trade center was only four blocks away from Wall Sky Street. On Little Emma's suggestion, Lin Weiwei opted for the metro, skillfully avoiding the hassle of traffic jams.

The Ganande Trade Center is the tallest building in Ganande, standing at 130 floors high. The observation deck on the 105th floor featured wraparound terraces and sightseeing equipment like telescopes. Lin Weiwei took Little Emma up via the elevator, which took over 40 seconds.

The elevator was packed with people, all exiting on that floor, most of them tourists from various countries.

When they reached the observation deck, there was an even larger crowd.

Lin Weiwei held tightly onto Little Emma's hand as they strolled through the deck, making a full circle around.

With her recording pen, Little Emma jotted down her impressions as part of her homework assignment.

After finishing their tour of the observation deck, Lin Weiwei quickly escorted Little Emma out.

After all, there were just too many people.

Descending the Ganande Trade Center building, and at Little Emma's suggestion, Lin Weiwei asked locals for directions and headed straight for a nearby pedestrian street.

All the major American luxury fashion and backpack brands had storefronts there.

No tariffs, and the prices were very tempting!

Lin Weiwei couldn't resist the excitement, diving into shopping. She picked items not only for herself but also for Little Emma.

It didn't take long before they came away with their hands full, carrying numerous shopping bags.

Walking through the pedestrian street, the sight of this elegant pair—a mature beauty and an adorable child—turned many heads.

There was no question about Lin Weiwei: the quintessential Eastern beauty, her looks stunning, and her aura exceptionally refined.

Little Emma, being of mixed heritage, was exquisitely adorable to the extreme, clearly a future beauty in the making.

Before long, it was noon.

"The time looks about right. Let me give Xiaosheng a call to figure out where to meet." Lin Weiwei placed her shopping bags by her feet and began dialing Bai Xiaosheng.

Little Emma waited patiently at her side.

As Lin Weiwei waited for the call to connect, she unintentionally glanced across the street.

Over there, two stunning luxury cars were parked.

One seemed to be a Bugatti Veyron, while the other appeared to be a Pagani Huayra?

Lin Weiwei couldn't help but take a closer look.

Beside the supercars stood a group of people. At the forefront were two individuals—one with Asian features, the other Caucasian.

The two young men were lively and had a certain charm to them, even a dash of handsomeness.

They chatted and laughed when the Caucasian man noticed Lin Weiwei, who was making a phone call across the street.

"Qiaosi, look! Such a beautiful Asian woman!" The Caucasian man exclaimed. When his eyes fell on Little Emma, his expression lit up even more. "And an adorable mixed-race beauty! So cute! Hmm, judging by their ages, they don't seem to be mother and daughter. Sisters, perhaps?!"

"William, it seems your taste in beauty has improved quite a bit!" Qiaosi, the Asian man, also looked over and couldn't help but agree with praise.

Then, his eyes flickered with an idea, and he smiled, "We didn't settle who won in today's street race, and these cars might get towed away. So no race today, it seems. But if we don't find a way to determine the winner, how can that be?"

"How about this: we make her the target and see who can win her favor first to settle the score. What do you say?"

Qiaosi smiled, looking as though victory was already assured.

"I think I've got this in the bag!"

William grinned confidently and uttered three words in crude Chinese, "We'll see!"

Chapter 1348 - Not as Good as Him Alone?

Standing on Ganande Street, Lin Weiwei probably didn't expect that just by pausing to make a phone call, coupled with a casual glance at the luxury car across the way, she would already be eyed by two wealthy young men as a "prey" to compete over.

At the moment, Lin Weiwei put away her phone, bent down with a smile to Little Emma, "Xiaosheng and your cousin over there are already done with their business. They were supposed to meet us, and now they're on their way. Let's head to the restaurant to wait for them."

Little Emma nodded, curiously asking, "Did they make a reservation? Which restaurant are we going to?"

"Pinus ponderosa," Lin Weiwei said the restaurant's name, finding it rather novel, "Does it mean 'yellow pine'?"

In America, names that are quirky or eye-catching like this really aren't unusual.

Upon hearing this, Little Emma immediately sighed, "It must have been suggested by Sun Jierui, right? He probably told Xiaosheng, 'Oh, Pinus ponderosa has the best waffles I've ever had. You absolutely need to try them.' This guy—he's always so boring!"

Little Emma imitated Sun Jierui's tone and demeanor, doing so with such accuracy that Lin Weiwei covered her mouth to laugh, her gentle elegance as an Eastern woman shining through even more.

"Anyway, let's head over and wait for them first. If you want to eat something else later, we can discuss it," Lin Weiwei reassured her.

Little Emma nodded and prepared to leave with Lin Weiwei.

"Hey."

A voice suddenly greeted them from the side.

The two beauties, one tall and one petite, turned to look.

They saw a handsome, energetic white man walking toward them with an air of elegance and charm. His striking blue eyes were especially captivating.

It was William.

Lin Weiwei looked at him in surprise, her gaze inquisitively asking for his intentions.

Little Emma gave him a skeptical side-eye.

"Ladies, you're both so beautiful. May I have the honor of giving you a ride to your destination?" William asked politely, speaking in a magnetic, flawless Ganande accent. As a gentleman, he gestured toward the three-million-dollar Bugatti Veyron across the road, extending a sincere invitation.

William's mesmerizing blue eyes radiated confidence as he awaited Lin Weiwei's response.

Would this Eastern beauty accept with delight, or would she display a cool and reserved demeanor?

William was keen to find out.

Having navigated the playing fields of love for years, he was already a seasoned veteran.

Among the women William had dated, more than 90% couldn't resist the allure of a handsome man with a luxury car. Most surrendered by the first round.

Truthfully, William was quite curious to see if this Eastern woman would be different.

Even if she was different, at most, it would just mean she'd put on an air of aloofness.

Women who feigned aloofness were usually a bit clever. They understood that men like William, who came from wealthy families, didn't value anything that was too easily obtained.

So, although they were willing inside, they'd outwardly put on an act, projecting aloofness and uniqueness.

Of course, William was already bored of the aloof type.

In his twenty-something years of life, he had dated dozens of women—if not more—of all types. There wasn't much he hadn't seen!

While beauties with Lin Weiwei's Eastern elegance were rare, they weren't entirely unfamiliar to him.

William merely wanted to savor the experience again and, more importantly, beat "Qiaosi!"

Earlier, regarding who would make the first move, they even added a round of "rock, paper, scissors."

William had won the "first strike" privilege, so naturally, he intended to make full use of it and leave Qiaosi no chance at all.

At the thought of triumphing over Qiaosi, William's smile grew even more enchanting.

"Thank you for the kind offer, but we're just going somewhere nearby. Walking will be fine," Lin Weiwei responded with a calm smile.

Her demeanor was serene yet courteous.

This left William momentarily stunned as he stared into Lin Weiwei's eyes.

There was no trace of desire in her gaze—neither for the luxury car nor for the handsome man—and she didn't exhibit any pretense of being aloof either.

Her response was utterly natural and polite.

This reaction was beyond what William had anticipated.

"Well, where are you headed? I can accompany you. I know this area very well," William said with a smile after a brief moment of surprise. "Even if it's nearby, we can walk together."

Lin Weiwei's unexpected behavior had piqued William's curiosity and interest even more.

A handsome man offering directions and companionship wasn't an excessive request, after all.

Little Emma squinted her eyes slightly, scrutinizing William.

"No need," Lin Weiwei said with a smile, firmly declining as she pulled Little Emma along to leave.

She was really leaving?!

This wasn't just an act?!

A faint sense of disappointment and frustration, something William had never experienced before, welled up inside him. Strangely, this unfamiliar feeling refreshed and invigorated him.

"It seems this beauty is no ordinary woman!" William thought to himself.

Lin Weiwei led Little Emma forward, but William followed after them again.

"Excuse me, do you have a boyfriend?" William suddenly blurted out, asking this very direct question.

For Americans, being this straightforward wasn't unusual.

But for William, such bluntness was rare.

In the past, he had never felt the need to ask so openly.

"Ah, so you're here to hit on her!" Little Emma exclaimed, as though she'd just cracked the case. She yelled, "My sister isn't married, but she'll never like you!"

Not married!

William's lips involuntarily curved into a smile.

"Little girl, do you even know what hitting on someone means?" Feeling amused, William reached out, intending to pinch the little girl's cheek.

Such a beautiful and spirited little girl was utterly endearing.

"Sir, keep your hands off me. In Benzhou, doing something inappropriate to a child carries a prison sentence of at least seven years, with a maximum punishment of death," Little Emma retorted coldly. "And Benzhou hasn't abolished the death penalty yet!"

Chapter 1349 - Not as Good as Him Alone? _2

William's hand froze in mid-air, his smile stiffened as well.

This little girl, how sharp-tongued she is!

"My apologies."

Lin Weiwei apologized politely to William on behalf of Little Emma, then pulled her away. Little Emma didn't forget to make a funny face at William as they left.

William snapped back to his senses, but they had already walked far away. Instead of chasing after them, he cracked a highly intrigued smile and rubbed his chin while watching Lin Weiwei's departing figure.

"An interesting woman! I like her!"

Lin Weiwei held Little Emma's hand and turned the street corner, where a young man of Chinese descent appeared walking toward them.

He was very young, slim, tall, and slightly handsome.

When he spotted Lin Weiwei, his eyes lit up, and he dashed straight over.

"Hello, are you from China?" he asked in fluent Mandarin, his pronunciation very standard.

Qiaosi entered the stage.

In fact, Qiaosi had been closely watching the situation on William's side the whole time. He was quite tense, fearing he might lose today's contest.

When he learned that William had failed, Qiaosi was elated and came running to take over.

He employed a more indirect strategy.

There's an old saying: when fellow countrymen meet, it's often deeply emotional.

Imagine crossing oceans and borders, encountering someone from your hometown in a foreign country—it's bound to feel intimate.

Qiaosi didn't only speak Mandarin; he also spoke Japanese and Korean. As long as the other party mentioned their nationality, the sense of kinship was inevitable.

"I am."

Lin Weiwei nodded with a smile.

"That's great, so am I!" Qiaosi exclaimed with pleasantly surprised delight, then laughed bashfully, realizing he might have appeared too enthusiastic. "It's already noon now. Are you looking for a place to eat? Are you familiar with this area? I've been trying to find somewhere to rest, but unfamiliar surroundings and a tricky GPS have made it tough."

Perhaps because of Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei, Little Emma seemed to have a slightly better impression of Qiaosi, this "fellow Chinese," than she did of William.

"We're heading to Pinus ponderosa, a not-so-great restaurant, to eat waffles. Do you want to join us?" Little Emma answered directly on Lin Weiwei's behalf.

Qiaosi's heart skipped with joy.

He cleverly acquired information about their destination—this was a promising start!

"William, just wait to lose!"

Qiaosi couldn't contain his inner excitement, some of which showed on his face. He immediately nodded. "Sure, I'd love to!"

Seeing Little Emma agree, Lin Weiwei naturally had no objections.

Qiaosi enthusiastically offered to carry their belongings for them. Lin Weiwei declined, but Little Emma brazenly handed everything to Qiaosi, piling it all up in his hands. "A man who helps ladies carry their stuff is a true gentleman."

With that one comment from the little charmer, Qiaosi instantly felt like a gentleman. Carrying bags in both hands, he even felt energized.

The trio headed straight toward their destination, passing an intersection on the way.

From afar, William had been tailing them, watching intently.

Seeing Qiaosi triumph, William gritted his teeth in frustration.

William's crew and Qiaosi's group, however, seemed utterly unfazed.

The rivalry between these two was nothing new; it only strengthened their bond over time, leaving no reason to worry.

...

The three of them continued walking. Qiaosi was enthusiastic while chatting with Lin Weiwei, but didn't instantly show signs of romantic interest or intentions to pursue her.

"William is a veteran in the art of seduction. I know all his tricks. If even he couldn't succeed, it means this woman isn't the type to be rushed. Luckily, she's single. For me, there isn't even the slightest obstacle!"

Qiaosi was more calculating than William. As they walked, he observed that Lin Weiwei wore a decorative ring on the index finger of her left hand—confirmation that she wasn't married.

Qiaosi was a scion of an aristocratic family, a true elite. Even though he was the least accomplished among the younger generation in his household, his sharp observation and meticulous thinking still set him apart.

"Qiaosi" was merely a nickname he used among foreign friends—it was just a casual moniker for blending in.

Qiaosi's gracious mannerisms and humorous conversation quickly earned Lin Weiwei and Little Emma's appreciation.

Before long, they arrived in front of the restaurant.

Looking at the large sign reading "Pinus ponderosa," Qiaosi smiled and said, "Thank you for showing me the way. How about I treat you all to lunch?"

"That won't be necessary; we're meeting some friends shortly," Lin Weiwei said with a polite smile.

She exhibited poise, good manners, and remained unaffected by William's usual schemes.

The longer one interacted with Lin Weiwei, the more one could sense her unique charm!

She was captivating, like a floral fragrance that lingered, impossible to resist.

As his walk continued, Qiaosi's initial playful mindset grew more subdued.

"That's fine, too. We're all here, so it's fate. Making friends is good, isn't it? This meal is on me." Qiaosi offered with a sincere smile.

"You should return our things now," Little Emma insisted abruptly, moving to retrieve the bags Qiaosi had been carrying.

"How could I let you two ladies carry all this? I can manage just fine." Qiaosi stepped aside to dodge, smiling warmly.

Little Emma stubbornly insisted, and even Lin Weiwei reached out for the bags. Reluctantly, Qiaosi returned the pile of shopping bags to them and immediately felt a sense of relief.

The clothes and shoes they'd bought weren't heavy, but carrying them all this way had still worn him out a little.

"Let's go inside together." Qiaosi offered, preparing to lead the way into the restaurant. However, he suddenly noticed the two beauties, both big and small, standing still in place, not following him.

Qiaosi's expression shifted to one of curiosity.

"This is as far as we go," Little Emma said with a cold smirk, her attitude seemingly changed.

Qiaosi paused in confusion.

"Big brother, you were trying to hit on us, weren't you? Using women's sympathy? Saying you didn't know where to eat—what a joke. Let's not even talk about how you survived before today, but just judging by your behavior while walking with us, you seem to know the area very well!" Little Emma pointed out sharply. "And you're probably teamed up with that guy from earlier, right? Back-to-back attempts to hit on us—what's the idea here? Do you think we're idiots?"

Chapter 1350 - Not as Good as Him Alone? _3

Qiaosi looked at the mischievous little girl in surprise, then glanced at Lin Weiwei, trying to explain.

"Actually, I saw you and that gentleman standing in front of two luxury cars."

Lin Weiwei smiled lightly and shut down Qiaosi's attempt to cover things up with just one sentence.

"You've already helped carry our stuff over, and we're very grateful! Now we're waiting for a friend—if you also want waffles, just don't sit at the same table with us, okay?" Little Emma stuck out her tongue at Qiaosi, made a funny face, and then pulled Lin Weiwei toward the restaurant.

Qiaosi stood there watching the two beauties walk in, feeling both exasperated and amused, crossing his arms.

"Qiaosi, looks like you hit a wall too!" William sauntered out from the corner, laughing as he stood shoulder to shoulder with Qiaosi, looking in the same direction. "I thought our Mr. Qiaosi was quite the expert—managed to strike up a conversation. Turns out you carried their stuff all this way and got seen through from the beginning!"

Qiaosi let out a cold snort, not bothering to engage in verbal sparring with William. His gaze, however, remained fixed on the restaurant, filled with interest.

"Then let's reintroduce ourselves to those mysterious beauties," Qiaosi said, smiling as he gestured toward the restaurant sign. "Go check—does this place belong to your family or mine?"

Pinus ponderosa, Huangsong Restaurant.

Lin Weiwei and Emma sat at a six-person table, waiting with drinks they had ordered.

It was lunchtime, and the restaurant was quite busy with diners.

Little Emma glanced out the window, spotting Qiaosi and William, and immediately exclaimed, "Look! Those two guys really are in cahoots!"

"Are all those people standing behind them part of their group too?"

Little Emma turned to Lin Weiwei. "Even if they tried to flirt, Sister Weiwei, why not give them a chance? Look, they're so handsome, they drive luxury cars, and they must come from rich families. They're totally a good match for you!"

Lin Weiwei couldn't help but flick Little Emma's nose, gently scolding her with a laugh, "You little rascal, how do you know everything?"

"Of course, I know everything! I'm not some seven- or eight-year-old brat anymore—I'm nine this year!" Little Emma declared with pride.

As they chatted, Qiaosi and William had already entered the restaurant.

The people behind Qiaosi went straight to the manager and whispered something. The manager immediately stood beside them with utmost respect, and the way he looked at Qiaosi completely changed!

Qiaosi smiled and walked directly to the counter, slapping the call bell on the counter a few times.

Immediately, all the diners turned to look!

"Excuse me, ladies and gentlemen, your dining time is over," Qiaosi announced, scanning the room.

His words drew stunned gazes, followed by commotion and even protests!

"If you leave now, all your meals are free, and each of you will receive \$1,000 in compensation," Qiaosi said calmly.

Free meals and \$1,000 on top of that?

The restaurant patrons were dumbfounded. Even the burly men who were about to make a scene froze.

What kind of day is this? How did such an unbelievable thing happen?

"Is this for real?" an elderly lady with graying temples and a wrinkled mouth couldn't help but pick up her purse and ask.

The restaurant manager already handed her a thousand dollars.

The old lady was thrilled, expressing endless gratitude as she left with the money in hand.

With someone taking the lead, the restaurant burst into excitement.

In just under five minutes, the place was cleared out.

"What are they doing?" Lin Weiwei frowned.

"Should we leave too? \$1,000!" Little Emma's eyes practically sparkled with the glow of dollar signs.

Lin Weiwei, however, wasn't interested. "We won't leave. We're staying here to wait for Sheng and the others!"

Little Emma could only give up.

The owner saw Lin Weiwei and Little Emma still sitting there and was about to ask them to leave when Qiaosi stopped him.

"These two are honored guests of this establishment! Go clean up the entire restaurant for me, and also get a band in here. Oh, and call over the head chef from the Michelin 3-star restaurant next door to cook," Qiaosi commanded with a smile.

The manager immediately nodded like a pecking chicken, fully aware of Qiaosi's status. To him, none of this seemed excessive, and he quickly went to make the arrangements.

The world of the wealthy is nothing if not capricious.

William found it normal as well, though he couldn't help but regret that this restaurant wasn't part of his family's business—otherwise, he would be the one stealing the show here.

Qiaosi and William smiled as they approached Lin Weiwei and Little Emma.

Money and handsome guys' charm offensive didn't work?

Then they just hadn't spent enough yet!

Money might be a vulgar thing, but it can be used for romantic gestures and to show the utmost sincerity!

Such as clearing a restaurant, hiring a live band, or bringing in a Michelin star chef!

Persistent pursuit, extravagant gestures, and sincere displays of wealth.

After all, women are emotional creatures. If something is romantic enough and sincere enough, they can be moved.

Qiaosi's face radiated confidence.

At the restaurant entrance, Qiaosi's people stood guard, politely turning away unwitting diners who tried to enter.

"Now, let me formally introduce myself, Miss. My name is Qiaosi, and my Chinese name is..." Qiaosi walked to Lin Weiwei's table, smiling.

Before he could finish, he noticed Lin Weiwei giving him a perfunctory nod, her eyes drifting toward the door—and then lighting up.

What was that expression... admiration?

Seeing this, Qiaosi was instantly taken aback.

A voice already came from the doorway.

"Sorry, sir, this restaurant is now closed to the public!"

"I'm here to find someone!"

"But, sir..."

"They're right there!"

Lin Weiwei immediately smiled and waved in greeting.

Qiaosi and William saw it clearly. The woman they tried so hard to impress was showing warmth and admiration toward the newcomer!

In their hearts, a flurry of emotions arose as they turned to look.

They even felt a faint pang of jealousy.

Just who was the man that even they couldn't measure up to?