

Two Trillion 151

Chapter 151 All Mine!_1

"This is the raw stone you've chosen?" The staff member was also a bit stupefied.

"This is definitely a piece of fine material!" Bai Xiaosheng held it in his hand, examining it closely, extremely satisfied.

Even when the Ice-type Imperial Green was unveiled earlier, he hadn't praised it this much.

As the staff member took it over, no matter how they looked at it, it seemed to be nothing but a solid rock, the green showing through the skin was pitifully sparse.

Silently, the staff member took it to be cut.

Bai Xiaosheng especially cautioned, "Be careful with that, I'm counting on it to beat Old Sun."

The corner of the staff member's mouth twitched.

Counting on it to beat Sir Ran?

And... Old Sun?

The staff member sneaked a glance.

It seemed as if Sun Yiran's face turned as dark as if it could wring out water upon hearing Bai Xiaosheng's words, clearly burning with rage.

That staff member quickly pretended to be deaf and dumb, holding the raw stone that Bai Xiaosheng regarded as a treasure, and rushed towards the workshop station.

The raw stone selected by Sun Yiran had also arrived, and as each was placed on the workbench, it was like the ugly duckling meeting the white swan.

Sir Ran's raw stone, upon having its skin rubbed for inspection, revealed a swath of extremely vibrant green, but the quantity of "meat" inside was unknown.

However, according to the gambling agreement, it was about unit value, and regardless of quantity, Sir Ran's odds of winning were great.

"Let's start with Sir Ran's piece first."

The skilled worker carefully started to cut Sir Ran's stone.

Sawing and grinding, dust splattered everywhere.

The crowd gathered around the workbench didn't mind it at all, each of them fixated with eager anticipation.

Many of them had been sent by jade stone shop owners to wait for news.

"Ice-type, Imperial Green!" The worker paused his hands and exclaimed in disbelief.

Another explosion of color!

Two top-quality materials in one day!

"Ice-type, Imperial Green!"

The people nearby also started to exclaim in amazement.

As the news spread, it swept through the crowd like a storm.

Xie Youxin and Boss Zhou immediately stood up, wishing they could leap out and run over to snatch it for themselves.

They were promptly blocked by other shop owners.

"You guys snatched the good stuff last time; this time, it won't do!"

"Indeed, it's our turn this time; how come only you all get to run off with the good deals!"

Other shop owners were up in arms.

Xie Youxin and Boss Zhou were scratching their heads in frustration but knew they couldn't offend the crowd.

"What do you say, Elder Sun?" Xie Youxin quickly called for reinforcements.

Sun Tianli was all smiles, sitting back and biding his time.

His grandson was assured to win this time; even though this was Yushi City, producing two top-quality materials in one day was a rare occurrence even in his decades of experience!

With the outcome nearly certain, he had to consider how to maximize the profits.

"Gentlemen, no need to argue. Once victory is determined, we shall bid," Sun Tianli said.

At his words, the crowd quieted down.

Xie Youxin and Boss Zhou, looking sour, sat down.

"Ice-type Imperial Green is worth a fortune. I must bid more and win it when the time comes!"

Not just Xie Youxin and Boss Zhou, but other shop owners were also secretly resolved.

Sun Yiran's jade, after being cut and polished to remove its stone skin, was brought over.

The jade material was flawless, free from foreign colors and cracks. Just one glance was enough to tell it was something special!

"Look, doesn't this look like an old sage holding a longevity peach? Fine material, a piece of divine craftsmanship!" someone exclaimed.

"This piece, I'm setting my sights on it!" a shop owner declared.

"Well, that depends on whether you have the means!" another rubbed his hands in anticipation.

Xie Youxin and Boss Zhou's eyes were green with envy, salivating and barely holding back.

They were all so excited, and the onlookers around were taking out their phones to snap pictures.

Under the flash, the green was intoxicating.

"It looks like I've won this time!" Sun Yiran looked from afar, his face full of pride as he arrogantly walked over to Bai Xiaosheng.

"Not necessarily," Bai Xiaosheng replied, unflustered, with a smile.

He had great confidence in Red Lotus.

Just now, Sun Yiran took fifteen minutes to choose a stone; Bai Xiaosheng took three minutes.

Although the time seemed short, it nearly burnt out Red Lotus's brain.

Twenty seconds to pick out Ice-type Imperial Green, what could come out of those three minutes?

Bai Xiaosheng looked towards the workshop table, anticipation secretly growing in his heart.

"Sun Yiran, has he selected an Ice-type Imperial Green?"

On the other side, Han Shuying's face changed slightly. Although she didn't understand jade, her own piece had been fiercely contended by two cunning shop owners, as if they were cutting flesh. Coupled with the exclamations around her, she clearly understood that it was a top-quality piece.

And now, Sun Yiran had taken the lead in revealing a premium piece.

For Bai Xiaosheng to win, his piece had to surpass in quality.

But was that possible?

"Brother Bai, I don't know what stone you've selected," Zhang Min said, her expression tense.

"You have no chance now, Ice-type Imperial Green—our 'stone meetings' sometimes don't yield one even after three or five tries. This time, two have appeared in succession. Do you think this is cabbage, that you can find it everywhere? Let me tell you, it's impossible! He can't wi..." Zhang Xiaoqiu said with a sneer.

Before he could finish his sentence, a piercing scream suddenly came from over by the workshop table.

It was almost heart-wrenching.

"Glass-Type, Glass-Type, Imperial Green!"

The craftsman screamed as if he had seen a ghost, his voice completely changed!

The whole place went silent.

Those who didn't know were confused. In the VIP seating, a group of bosses wore expressions of terror.

Even Sun Tianli was dumbfounded.

To think a piece of gambling stone could reveal Glass-Type Imperial Green!

This news was enough to shock the whole Antique Jade City, and even the antique circle in Tiannan!

In judging jade, it's all about the "type," "color," and "water." "Type" refers to the texture, "color" indicates the hue, and "water" is the degree of transparency.

All being Imperial Green with complete saturation, there was no difference in ranking.

But Glass-Type surpasses Ice-Type!

The block of jade selected by Bai Xiaosheng was being processed for a full half an hour as everyone waited silently and honestly.

Sun Yiran's face turned deathly pale, as if struck by lightning, standing there in a daze for half an hour.

A palm-sized, completely integral piece of Glass-Type Imperial Green raw stone was placed on a velvet tray, carefully brought over.

Its color was a deep and pleasing green, without any off-shades, perfectly green, fiercely green, and though the color was intense, it still maintained a delicate beauty and the translucence of glass.

All of a sudden, it attracted everyone's gaze.

"Good stuff, good stuff!" Xie Youxin kept repeating this phrase, his lips trembling.

It had been a long time since he had seen something so beautiful, small yet seemingly commanding everything.

Just for this palm-sized piece, how much could it be valued at?

Tens of millions, or perhaps several tens of millions?

And that was just the raw material price; if it were crafted into a finished product, it would be priceless!

Thinking of the value, those bosses' eyes turned green with envy.

"You've lost," Bai Xiaosheng said calmly as he walked past Sun Yiran.

"Being overconfident, thinking you're the only one who can 'feel' the jade with empty hands; better do some real work in the future," Bai Xiaosheng added without turning back.

Sun Yiran staggered, his face pale as he nearly fell over.

Bai Xiaosheng, before the watching crowd, walked over, picked up the velvet, and wrapped the Glass-Type Imperial Green, holding it close like a miser, as if afraid someone would take another look, muttering, "Mine!"

Afterward, he waved over Han Shuying, pointing to the piece belonging to Sun Yiran.

"Package this up for me!"

This is mine, too!

Chapter 152 This Grandson Deserves It_1

Han Shuying ran over adorably and picked up the piece of Ice-type Imperial Green belonging to Sun Yiran.

This piece was even bigger than the one she had sold.

The appraisal value wouldn't be less than 1.3 million!

Of course, this value couldn't compare with the palm-sized piece of Glass-Type Imperial Green in Bai Xiaosheng's hands!

Sun Tianli's brows furrowed as he watched Bai Xiaosheng with a sharp gaze.

Sun Yiran had lost in the divination stone competition against an unarmed opponent!

This young man had actually gambled out a piece of Glass-Type Imperial Green!

Where on earth did this Bai Xiaosheng learn such skill!

Such thoughts in Sun Tianli's mind were fleeting as he saw the foolish-looking Sun Yiran on the side, with a face full of confusion and helplessness, which suddenly pained his heart.

Whether in divining stone or anything else, one needed to have confidence, as this would make one seem divinely assisted.

From birth until now, Sun Yiran had been sheltered by his family, everything going smoothly for him. He had become "Sir Ran" at a young age without ever experiencing any setbacks, and the consecutive defeats were too much of a blow for him.

Sun Tianli watched Bai Xiaosheng with cold eyes, adjusting his emotions, preparing to have a "good talk" with him shortly.

The surrounding bosses had been restless for a while.

Xie Youxin was the first to speak as usual.

"Young brother, are you selling this piece of jade? I'll make a high offer..."

"I'll offer even higher!" Boss Zhou refused to be outdone.

"So will I."

"We will too!"

Once this started, a crowd swarmed up and surrounded Bai Xiaosheng.

"What, are you planning to rob me?" Bai Xiaosheng joked with a laugh.

No one was robbing, but each one of them had their eyes sparkling, fixating on the red velvet cloth in Bai Xiaosheng's arms like hungry wolves eyeing meat.

"There's no hurry for this. Is anyone interested in the piece of Ice-type Imperial Green in Han Shuying's hands? Highest bidder wins," Bai Xiaosheng said, nodding towards the jade in Han Shuying's hands.

At that moment, Han Shuying's face was flushed with excitement, and she looked at Bai Xiaosheng with eyes filled with admiration and a touch of obedience.

She didn't mind playing the role of a model at all, holding the jade up to show everyone.

It was also a piece of fine material!

Although it was not as stunning as the Glass-Type, it was still supreme quality!

"I bid 1.3 million!"

"I bid 1.32 million!"

"I bid 1.35 million!"

The price soared in an instant, making the bystanders feel amused, as the stone gambling scene turned into an auction event.

In the end, the piece sold for 1.55 million to Boss Zhou.

Bai Xiaosheng handed his bank card to Han Shuying, asking her to take care of the transaction.

Having gained a great benefit from Bai Xiaosheng, Han Shuying dutifully went with an employee of Boss Zhou to handle the matter without a second word.

Boss Zhou himself did not dare to leave, for Bai Xiaosheng still held an enormous treasure in his hands!

"Alright, I know you all want the piece of jade I have here," Bai Xiaosheng spoke loudly, "But I'm not selling it!"

He looked resolute, his tone brooking no further discussion.

The enclosing bosses suddenly seemed disappointed.

"However!" Bai Xiaosheng raised his voice, "I would like to invite a capable Jade Stone Shop to find me a master who can craft this piece into jewelry, jade bracelets, and pendants. After it's done, I only want a pair of bracelets and two pendants. The rest can be considered the craftsman's fee and a reward for your troubles. Is anyone interested in collaborating?"

Bai Xiaosheng held onto the jade, his heart already having agreed with Red Lotus.

After calculating with Red Lotus, the material inside could make a pair of jade bracelets, with at least five or six small pieces remaining. He would pick a pair of pendants, and there would still be a few leftover small pieces.

This is a Glass-Type Imperial Green jadeite. Even a small piece of jewelry, if handled well, can fetch an extremely high price!

All of a sudden, the owners of various Jade Stone Shops perked up, each eager to volunteer their services.

"Let's hear it, what are the names of your shops?" Bai Xiaosheng called out loudly.

The names of eight or nine shops were reported, and Bai Xiaosheng had Red Lotus filter through them.

Selecting those with the best reputation, the least negative news, and the finest craftsmanship.

And the one chosen in the end turned out to be Xie Youxin.

This Old Xie, Bai Xiaosheng watched with a cold eye, had originally thought him to be a slick and cunning merchant, but it turned out his reputation was excellent, even once receiving a banner for returning tens of thousands in cash to a tourist.

Bai Xiaosheng was surprised, but also quite satisfied.

"Brother Bai, Min has worked in legal affairs before, let her help you with this." Zhang Min, who had been watching the commotion from the side, suddenly called out.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at her and nodded with a smile.

Min's gaze towards Bai Xiaosheng was complex, containing surprise as well as admiration.

"Don't worry, I'm a professional."

Leaving that statement behind, Min hurried off with the jadeite in tow, accompanied by Xie Youxin.

Seeing that there was nothing more for them to do, the other shop owners, filled with regret, began to disperse slowly.

On the outskirts of the crowd, Sun Yiran glared fixatedly at Bai Xiaosheng, his eyes nearly bursting with rage, his fists clenched so tightly that his knuckles turned white, and his nails dug into his flesh, as if harboring a deep and abiding hatred!

Sir Ran in all his glory.

Now reduced to a nobody, the people at his side weren't even looking at him, and those who did were whispering lowly about his failure and mocking his incompetence!

That's what Sun Yiran believed.

An endless shame churned within him, and the man responsible for all of this was that very man!

"Sir Ran, don't take it too much to heart. It's just that the kid got lucky for a moment," Zhang Xiaoqiu said somewhat awkwardly, trying to console him.

Even he felt his own words were dry and hardly convincing.

"Hmph, just a fool who doesn't know when he's out of his depth. He doesn't realize the reach of our Sir Ran's family. If Uncle Sun speaks out, he won't be able to get a foothold in Tiannan!" Chen Xue said indignantly.

"Enough!" Sun Yiran suddenly snapped in a low growl, his voice deep and frightening as it squeezed from his throat.

Zhang Xiaoqiu and Chen Xue immediately shut their mouths, not daring to utter another word.

Over there.

Sun Tianli stood up and walked straight towards Bai Xiaosheng. It seemed he had given a signal, for those shop owners immediately moved far away, and the staff began to persuade onlookers to leave.

Now, only the elderly and the young man remained.

"Young man, you've done well with the divining stone," Sun Tianli said with a smile.

"You flatter me," Bai Xiaosheng smiled in response.

He was well aware of what the old man truly meant to say.

"In your eyes, all this is nothing but good luck," Bai Xiaosheng laughed, "and I'm sure you didn't come over specifically to tell me that."

Sun Tianli nodded with a smile.

"You see, I have a thing for antiques and jade, and Mr. Yiran shares this interest, though his father isn't into these things. He's a businessman with some reputation in the Tiannan business world. I'm thinking of offering you a great opportunity. Do you want it?"

A great opportunity! What grandiosity!

Is such arrogance innate in this family?

Bai Xiaosheng's eyebrows quirked. "I wonder, what should I trade for this great opportunity you speak of? Do I need to admit defeat to Mr. Yiran openly?"

"That would be too fake," Sun Tianli shook his head and lowered his voice. "I want you to say that all of today's events were prearranged by you and Yiran, just a harmless farce between young people, and that the Glass-Type was actually selected by Yiran long ago!"

Bai Xiaosheng laughed heartily.

Sun Tianli frowned.

"Old man, there should be a limit to indulgence! If I had lost earlier, I reckon all you people would only laugh at me for overestimating myself! Would there be any sympathy?" Bai Xiaosheng said with a laugh. "When interacting with others, one should be responsible. After all, not everyone in this world is his grandfather who needs to indulge him! So—"

Bai Xiaosheng sighed deeply, "This grandson deserves his comeuppance!"

Chapter 153 Let's Go Save the Damsel in Distress!_1

If Sun Tianli hadn't spoken like that, Bai Xiaosheng wouldn't have been so tough.

The old man loved his grandson to bits, so much that it bordered on spoiling him, but Bai Xiaosheng could understand that.

Yet, he kept throwing around the Sun Family name, flaunting Sun Yiran's father's high-status in Tiannan's business circle as if it loomed over Bai Xiaosheng's fate, as though Bai Xiaosheng had no other choice.

This ticked off Bai Xiaosheng in an instant.

Do I lack money, am I begging you? Bai Xiaosheng sneered inwardly.

This Mr. Sun really overestimates his family!

Ever since Bai Xiaosheng left Tian Hai Media, he had decided that for the rest of his life, he would never grovel before anyone!

Even when facing Song Kai or Lu Yun, it was the same!

Moreover, he came to the Antique Jade City just this once, and he probably wouldn't have the time to indulge in such things in the future, so he felt even less need to be wary of them!

"Sorry, Old Mr. Sun, I, myself, am an upright and honest person, I don't lie, and I have no reason to lie. Besides, I'm not short on money!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

His voice was steady, his confidence solid.

Sun Tianli's gaze narrowed slightly, he had forgotten that Bai Xiaosheng had once walked away with two pieces of Ice-type Imperial Green jade raw stones, worth millions.

The last piece, the Glass-Type Imperial Green valued at tens of millions, he wouldn't even sell, as he intended to have it made into jewelry for his own use, which was the epitome of extravagance!

In Tiannan, when had such a character emerged, a junior from which household?!

With a piercing gaze, Sun Tianli reassessed Bai Xiaosheng, and, amid his anger, actually let out a laugh, "Very good, very good indeed. Young man, you have no fear, but do your family members feel the same? I'm afraid your parents might not think the same as you! I worry that by the time you regret it, it'll be too late!"

My parents?

Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback for a moment, almost bursting out laughing.

My parents are still back in my hometown; you, a wealthy magnate from Tiannan, can't threaten them.

However, this did remind me, it's been a long time since I've been home, I should pay a visit, after I get through this busy period! Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

The project was about to launch, and with Wang Ye coming to stir up trouble, it was probable that he couldn't take time off.

Bai Xiaosheng gave Sun Tianli a detached glance.

Are you done with your threats? Unfortunately for you, they mean nothing to me!

"If there's nothing else, I'll take my leave." Bai Xiaosheng saw Han Shuying and Min coming back, gave the old man a light chuckle, and turned to walk away.

Sun Tianli's face turned white with rage.

This young man was too arrogant!

"Boy, I've got my eye on you!" Old Mr. Sun gritted his teeth.

As Bai Xiaosheng was leaving, he noticed Sun Yiran staring fiercely at him.

Bai Xiaosheng gave him a cold glance and walked away gracefully.

"Everything is taken care of; the money has been transferred! And the two hundred thousand you advanced me, making a total of one million seven hundred and fifty thousand. You already have over eight hundred thousand in your account; now it's two million and sixty thousand," Han Shuying handed the card to Bai Xiaosheng, carefully reporting the finances, then noticing that his arms were empty, she exclaimed, "Did you sell that piece of jade as well?"

"No. I had someone make it into jewelry," Bai Xiaosheng shook his head.

"Turn it into jewelry... That was, what, several tens of millions' worth of jade!" Han Shuying was somewhat incredulous, even flabbergasted.

Bai Xiaosheng actually had the heart to do it!

If he had sold it, think of the things he could do—no need to work, travel the world, enjoy fine food and drink!

Han Shuying sighed with emotion.

"As per your request, it's been taken care of." Min brought Zhang Min over and handed Bai Xiaosheng a stack of documents, "Once the items are ready, they'll be sent directly to the address you provided. If there are any issues with the color, quality, or craftsmanship, you can take this and sue them into bankruptcy."

Impressive!

Bai Xiaosheng gave a thumbs up.

Min just gave an indifferent smile and told Zhang Min, "Alright, you've been out and about for the better half of the day; it's time to go back, there's a lot to do."

Zhang Min stuck out her tongue, nodded, and apologized to Bai Xiaosheng and Han Shuying, "Thank you both, I should head off now. See you later."

Saying 'see you later', but not leaving any contact information.

However, neither Bai Xiaosheng nor Han Shuying minded; they were but ships that pass in the night, and their paths would diverge as fate willed.

Zhang Min followed Min as they left, turning her head back to wave at Bai Xiaosheng and the others from a distance.

Bai Xiaosheng watched them leave and then said to Han Shuying, "Let's go too."

Glancing around, Bai Xiaosheng saw that Sun Tianli and Sun Yiran were no longer there; they must have left, and the crowd had thinned considerably, but there were still some people pointing at them.

That day, their harvest was rich, and it was inevitable to arouse jealousy—it was safer to get back quickly.

This logic, of course, was understood by Han Shuying as well.

Under the watchful eyes of the onlookers, the two of them hurriedly left.

As they walked, Bai Xiaosheng suddenly noticed a familiar figure in the distance, speaking in a very odd accent with a muscular man walking beside him at a rapid pace.

"What dialect is that?" Bai Xiaosheng wondered.

"Language translation initiated," Red Lotus's voice rang out. "Amplify sound source by ten times, noise cancellation, searching... Dialect identified..."

Bai Xiaosheng had learned before that in China, just the Chinese language itself is divided into seven major dialect regions. Within the complex dialect regions, some can even be further divided into several dialect subgroups, and sometimes the speech of a certain county, town, or village can be completely different.

It's even possible for someone to use their hometown dialect to discuss private matters in public without worry of being understood by bystanders.

Clearly, these two men were doing the same.

At this moment, Bai Xiaosheng was too far to hear them clearly and their rapid speech would be unintelligible to anyone else.

But with Red Lotus, none of that was a problem.

In an instant, the translation was completed.

"Hurry up, those two women are going to disappear."

"What are you worried about? We need to find a place with fewer people to make a move!"

Bai Xiaosheng's heart stirred slightly, and his brows furrowed.

One voice, transformed into Mandarin, he recognized it.

It was Scarface from the market entrance!

They had just seen him standing by Sun Yiran, stopping them.

What were these two men up to now?

Two women...

Zhang Min and Min?!

Bai Xiaosheng gasped.

These two men were planning harm against Zhang Min and her group!

For money? That should involve me!

Bai Xiaosheng furrowed his brow, then realized that although he had a full purse today, it was all transferred electronically, with no cash on him, so even if those two were greedy, they wouldn't dare to kidnap him.

In Min's purse, however, there was a substantial amount of money, and Scarface had long coveted it. Whether to rob or steal, the risk was smaller!

Zhang Min and her group were in trouble!

"Let's go!" Bai Xiaosheng commanded in a low shout and quickly chased after them.

"Ah?" Han Shuying was startled by him and didn't understand what was happening, but she hurried to catch up.

They were too far behind, trailing a hundred meters away, and Bai Xiaosheng and Han Shuying could no longer see the men.

Once again, Scarface's voice echoed in Bai Xiaosheng's ears.

"Why did they enter a dead-end alley?"

"These two probably wanted to take a shortcut, great, now I don't have to pickpocket, I'm going to rob them outright!"

The voice stopped abruptly.

Bai Xiaosheng's gaze turned steely.

Search!

He was pulling Han Shuying, searching for the alley.

"What on earth is going on?" Han Shuying asked, somewhat out of breath, "What are we doing?"

"Playing the hero to rescue the beauty!"

"What?!"

Chapter 154 The Slap is Loud_1

"We can't get through here, and that guy still told us we could pass, leading us astray!"

Min looked at the high wall before her, feeling indignant.

They had hoped to take a shortcut but ended up in a dead-end alley. Not only was it dark, but it also stank with a lot of garbage scattered around.

"Let's go back," Zhang Min said as she covered her nose and mouth, "It stinks to death!"

They had barely turned around when they saw two figures approaching head-on.

"What's the matter? Lost, are we? I know this area well!" Scarface laughed wickedly.

The man beside him also sported an evil grin.

"It's you? What do you want!" Min, sensing hostile intentions, quickly shielded Zhang Min and shouted at Scarface.

Zhang Min turned pale and clung tightly to Min's arm.

"What do I want?"

Scarface, who was picking his nose, said arrogantly, "It's time to collect a debt! You broke my south red agate bracelet worth ten thousand! Do you really think paying two hundred yuan will do? You think you're fobbing off a beggar?"

You're not a beggar; you're a hoodlum!

Min's eyes narrowed, and she coolly said, promising rapidly, "We'll pay the money!"

"Why should we?" Zhang Min objected, but Min pulled her behind her.

Why should they? Because these two burly men had followed them into this dead-end alley!

Min pulled out her shoulder bag.

"We can pay, but you need to write an acknowledgement stating that it's a voluntary compensation. Don't go out there claiming I robbed you. I don't do crime. I still need to hang around this area!" Scarface winked, a cunning look on his face.

This guy's an old hand at it!

"Okay!"

Min agreed promptly.

If they could settle it with money, all the better. Mere thousands weren't worth considering when it came to safety.

"Furthermore!"

Scarface eyed Zhang Min with a wicked leer, his greedy gaze roving over her lengthy legs, slim waist, and full chest, "As part of the compensation, you! You have to come over and kiss us brothers a few times!"

And then I'll take the chance to cop a feel! Scarface thought to himself.

Although the woman was ugly, she had a good figure, and in the dark, she didn't look too shabby.

The sleazy grin spread across the face of the man beside Scarface.

Without a single surveillance camera around, and since they weren't using "real knives and real guns", it was just a little fun with their hands. Even if the two women called the police, there would be no evidence!

"No way!" Min's expression changed abruptly.

"Shameless!" Zhang Min cursed.

You don't agree?

Scarface and his companion exchanged cold smiles and stepped closer, "We'll make ourselves at home then!"

Zhang Min and Min retreated to the corner of the wall.

Min gritted her teeth and whispered to Zhang Min in a voice so low it was barely audible, "I'll hold them off, you seize the chance..."

"She won't get away!" Scarface sneered coldly. He hadn't heard properly, but he guessed Min's intention.

The alley was so narrow that a man could block it just by spreading his arms wide. Let alone one man, even with the two of them, could they really let one of these women escape?

The faces of Zhang Min and Min went deathly white.

Scarface sneered with a cruel smile, "I suggest you just behave..."

"Give it up!"

A disdainful snort came from behind Scarface and his partner.

The two men were startled and quickly turned around, only to find Bai Xiaosheng standing there with a stern expression, with the panting Han Shuying behind him.

"It's you!"

Scarface's face changed, a hint of hatred in his eyes.

This Bai Xiaosheng had been a thorn in his side, bluffing with Sir Ran's reputation and had made a fool of him. To make things worse, the guy wasn't even Sir Ran's friend but an enemy.

Moreover, the fact that Bai Xiaosheng alone got his hands on three pieces of top-grade jade material had filled Scarface with both envy and resentment.

The man next to Scarface couldn't keep his eyes off Han Shuying behind Bai Xiaosheng.

This woman was a top beauty, easily a multiple times more attractive than the uglies they had cornered in the alley.

"I'll handle these two!" The man said with an evil smile as he lunged at Bai Xiaosheng.

"What should we do?"

Han Shuying, seeing the size of the man, asked anxiously.

The man was a full head taller than Bai Xiaosheng, with tight clothes that barely contained his bulging muscles, making him look like a huge gorilla.

Bai Xiaosheng appeared frail and scholarly, hardly a match for him.

"Hurry and call for help," Min couldn't help but exclaim.

Han Shuying turned to leave but was caught by Bai Xiaosheng's hand.

"No need, I can handle this." Bai Xiaosheng said casually with an easy smile.

Han Shuying hesitated for a moment but then didn't leave.

"Idiot! You have no idea what Zhu does for a living. He's an amateur boxer. One against three, and you think you can take him on?"

Scarface couldn't help but burst into laughter, "Let her run, see if she can get away. Zhu doesn't need five seconds to beat you!"

Zhang Min and Min, hearing this, turned pale, and Shuying's expression also changed.

"You skinny brat, playing the hero, huh?!" Zhu sneered menacingly as he charged at Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng was unperturbed.

"Red Lotus!"

"Understood! Accessing combat skills..."

As Red Lotus's voice echoed, Bai Xiaosheng's eyes sparkled brightly.

Zhu's huge hand reached out to grab him, but before it could touch Bai Xiaosheng, his chin took a sharp uppercut.

Zhu was stunned on the spot.

Bai Xiaosheng struck him squarely on the face with a hefty slap.

"Damn it!"

Zhu was slapped back to his senses, shook his head, and roared like a gorilla, raising his fist.

"I..."

Just as he lifted his arm, he took a solid hit under his armpit, which numbed his whole arm in an instant.

Bai Xiaosheng slapped him again, rebuking, "I what! You good-for-nothing rascal!"

Afterwards.

Bai Xiaosheng kept moving forward step by step.

Zhu got hit every time he moved, taking slaps after slaps.

Bai Xiaosheng advanced three steps, and Zhu retreated three, his whole face swelling from the blows.

With each slap from Bai Xiaosheng came a rebuke.

"Playing the gangster, do you do right by your parents, huh? By your teacher, huh? By your family's pet cat, huh?"

Zhu, his hands as big as giant fans, held his face and looked at Bai Xiaosheng in fear.

"We don't have a cat at home!"

"Why don't you have a cat!" Bai Xiaosheng exclaimed while delivering another slap.

In the end, the tall and burly Zhu squatted on the ground, crying woefully, refusing to get up.

Bai Xiaosheng walked past him, heading straight for Scarface.

Scarface was dumbfounded.

And so were the three women.

Scarface, frightened, glanced at Zhu, quickly assessed their difference, and promptly crouched down on the ground, covering his head.

True to his street-fighter roots, that was standard procedure!

Bai Xiaosheng thought with a sense of admiration.

"Brother Bai!" Zhang Min flung herself at him like a butterfly, snuggling into Bai Xiaosheng's embrace.

She had been really scared just now, but Bai Xiaosheng's performance had taken her breath away.

Min didn't interfere, instead letting out a long sigh of relief. She looked at Bai Xiaosheng with much more kindness.

"Didn't expect you to be so formidable!" Han Shuying muttered, her beautiful eyes shining with a different light.

The issue was quickly resolved.

Bai Xiaosheng and his group left the alley chatting and laughing, walking together like companions.

A little while later, a "conjoined person" jumped out of the alley, startling the passersby.

Scarface and Zhu, entangled in an awkward posture, were tightly bound by their own belts and could only hop sideways.

Everyone who saw them burst into laughter.

Bai Xiaosheng and Han Shuying accompanied Zhang Min and the others to the subway station. At this parting, Zhang Min was adamant about getting Bai Xiaosheng's WeChat.

Min smiled, a rare occurrence, and didn't stop her.

Chapter 155 Sun Xiangdong_1

On the subway ride back, Han Shuying kept teasing Bai Xiaosheng.

"I didn't expect you to be skilled in martial arts and quite capable of fighting. This time, you played the hero saving the beauty and even got her contact info. Impressive, impressive!" Han Shuying said with a playful smirk.

"What nonsense are you spouting now?" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but laugh and cry when he heard this.

He wasn't one to judge by appearances, but recalling Zhang Min's face crowded with dense freckles, he couldn't help but cringe.

Our Xuelian is much better, with her skin so fine, fair, and smooth, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but think to himself.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng's embarrassed look, Han Shuying secretly chuckled.

Her beautiful eyes kept roaming over Bai Xiaosheng's figure.

This guy had given her too many surprises today.

The powers of the divining stone were extraordinary, he was nonchalant about money, and when it came to a fight, he could take down a strong man.

He was indeed talented in both letters and arms.

This was, the perfect boyfriend material!

Thinking of this, Han Shuying's cheeks turned slightly red.

"Wei Xuelian seems to be getting closer to him. Should I... give him a chance too? It shouldn't count as poaching, after all, I'm not that close with Xuelian..." As these thoughts crossed Han Shuying's mind, she became agitated.

Bai Xiaosheng chatted with Han Shuying for a bit, only to realize that she was distracted, her answers not matching his questions.

Bai Xiaosheng figured she was preoccupied with the jade bracelet, not in the mood for conversation, and so stopped trying to make conversation and started looking at his phone instead.

At this time.

In a villa district of Tiannan's Second Ring, inside a villa.

This villa was enormous and luxuriously decorated, even comparable to Chen Jiutian's.

In the living room on the first floor, a man with a square face was leisurely drinking coffee in his casual home clothes, looking at a stack of papers.

"Lately, Century Construction's Teles Square is making good progress in all aspects. How did this happen?"

"There have been frequent personnel changes. Could it be they've brought in some mastermind? Perhaps, I should learn more about that person..." the square-faced man pondered as he tapped his finger lightly on the table, then chuckled and shook his head, "Nevermind, let them fuss as they will. It's unlikely they'll surpass my project. Shang Wenshu, he truly doesn't realize where he has always fallen short, haha..."

The living room all around.

The servants acted respectfully and dared not make a sound, afraid of disturbing their master.

After all, the master was usually very busy and rarely worked from home. He hated being disturbed when working and would get angry instantly.

Therefore, everyone was extremely careful not to cause any trouble.

Suddenly, there was a noise at the door, interrupting the square-faced man's thoughts.

He became slightly annoyed and frowned, but when he looked up, he saw an old man and a young boy entering.

A rare, gentle smile appeared on the square-faced man's visage.

He stood up.

"Dad, you and Xiao Ran, why are you back so early today? Did you have any good finds?" the square-faced man asked with a warm and pleasing tone.

The newcomers were Sun Tianli and Sun Yiran.

The owner of this villa, the square-faced man, was Sun Tianli's son, Sun Yiran's father, Sun Xiangdong.

In Tiannan's real estate circle, Century Construction wasn't the real top dog; Sun Xiangdong's Xiangdong Group was, often clashing with Century Construction, and Xiangdong Group always had the upper hand in any conflict.

In Tiannan's circle of bigwigs, Sun Xiangdong was known for his filial piety and for doting on his son.

The Sun family had a tradition of passing down through three generations of single heirs, and this was their family ethos.

Sun Yiran looked somewhat distraught, and with a dejected expression, he nodded to his father but didn't say a word before returning to his room.

Sun Tianli's brows were knotted with irritation, and his face was extremely unattractive.

The smile on Sun Xiangdong's face suddenly became gloomy, and his eyes flashed with sharpness.

It seemed that neither father nor son was happy!

"Dad, what's going on? Yiran, why that look?" Sun Xiangdong asked softly and gently.

"Hmph, don't even get me started, it's enough to make both of us furious!" Sun Tianli huffed as he strode over and sat heavily on the sofa, his anger evident even when he looked at his son, "You call yourself the chairman, but you have no clout in Tiannan, nobody takes us seriously when we speak out!"

The old man's words were not without sarcasm.

In his eyes, his grandson had suffered a great "injustice"! That Bai Xiaosheng was insolent and even dared to give him a snarky attitude!

Sun Tianli grew angrier the more he thought about it on his way back.

"Oh?" Sun Xiangdong's gaze turned slightly frosty as he looked at Sun Tianli, but then it softened again, "Dad, don't be angry, just tell me slowly, what exactly happened?"

Sun Tianli nodded.

"Mrs. Wu, why aren't you brewing a good pot of tea for the master? Then, go to the young master's room and bring some of his favorite snacks!" Sun Xiangdong ordered a servant loudly.

"Yes, alright." Mrs. Wu, a housekeeper in the Sun family, in her forties and extremely capable, knew well Sun Xiangdong's temperament and didn't dare to dally, signaling her subordinates to get busy.

Sun Xiangdong turned his face, all smiles, and sat down opposite his father.

"Let me tell you, just thinking about it fills me with rage!"

Sun Tianli huffed angrily and recounted everything that happened today at Antique Jade City to Sun Xiangdong.

How Bai Xiaosheng engaged in stone gambling, how he overshadowed Sun Yiran, how he offended Sun Tianli— the story was told with clarity.

Sun Xiangdong listened attentively.

"Oh, so there's such an outstanding, spirited young man in Tiannan! I must see for myself!"

Sun Xiangdong smiled and nodded.

Mrs. Wu, who personally delivered the tea, couldn't help trembling slightly, her gaze lowered, as she placed the tea down gently and quickly left, her forehead breaking out in a fine sweat.

It was Sun Xiangdong with this expression and tone who was truly enraged.

She believed that anyone who offended the master and the young master would face a terrifying retribution!

"Since he does business with the owners of two jade stone shops, it won't be hard to investigate," Sun Xiangdong stood up, "I'll have someone look into it right away. Once I find out which big shot it is, I want to see for myself just how capable this person is, who upset my father and my son."

"We definitely can't let that kid off the hook!" Sun Tianli said with a sneer from the side.

For decades, as a prominent family, the Sun family never suffered any losses, even peers wouldn't dare to provoke them.

Because the Sun family—

Would retaliate for every grievance!

Meanwhile.

In the most luxurious five-star hotel in the Tiannan Pearl Tower, the Presidential Suite.

Zhang Min changed into casual clothes and came out of the bathroom, rubbing her face with a snow-white, soft towel; when she removed the towel—

Her face, previously filled with freckles and a layer of garish makeup that seemed somewhat disgusting, became smooth and flawless.

Suddenly, she was ravishingly beautiful!

"Min, I'm really sorry for using your name today," the beauty said with a smile.

Min shrugged nonchalantly.

"As long as the young lady is happy!"

Chapter 156 Big Star_1

"Today was really too dangerous! Next time, you go out, you must bring a bodyguard! At the very least, bring Li; he's the national martial arts champion. If he had encountered those two hooligans today, he would have certainly knocked their teeth out!" Min was still deeply unsettled by the incident at Antique Jade City, and she couldn't let it go.

"I know, I know, you've said it many times since we got back."

In front of Min, the beauty who borrowed her name, was as lazy as a cat, stretching her body, revealing her exquisite curves. Not a single flaw could be found, she was so perfect that she could make a man's nose bleed.

Even Min couldn't help but admire her, taking a few more glimpses.

"Your safety is the most important thing, if something happened, I couldn't bear the responsibility!"

"But we are fine, aren't we? Besides, we met a great master who saved us!"

As the beauty spoke, she extended a snow-white slender leg, straightening her arch and pointing her toe, swinging her arms like two white lotus arms, a dance movement that made her as noble and elegant as a swan in daylight.

Her eyes sparkled when she mentioned Sheng.

Back in the alley, Sheng's slaps had left a burly man utterly incapable of fighting back.

That scene was simply extraordinary and magnificent!

"In any case, if you don't promise me! Next time, I will report your every move to the master!" Min huffed, threatening her.

"Alright, alright, Min!" The beauty ran over, playfully hugging Min's arm, shaking it, instantly transforming from a proud swan to an adorable little thing, "It's alright, we'll just be more careful next time, nothing will happen."

"No way!" Min was unmoved, standing her ground firmly.

"What did you do to upset Min this time?" Suddenly, a voice came through, light and pleasing to the ears.

The beauty looked up in surprise, "Xuelian!"

The person who had come was none other than Wei Xuelian!

The old butler, who had shown in the guest, bowed respectfully to the beauty and then withdrew. She knew Wei Xuelian's status and had let her in directly without even a report.

Wei Xuelian walked over with a smile, and like a bird returning to its nest, the beauty rushed over and hugged her.

"Wei Moran, you're a big star, after all, can't you be a little more steady?" Wei Xuelian was both amused and exasperated.

Min stepped aside, bowing respectfully to Wei Xuelian, who nodded and smiled at her in greeting.

"I'm already tired of pretending in front of people, and there's no one else here." Wei Moran said indifferently, pulling Wei Xuelian to sit down, her eyes full of excitement, "I heard you were here and specifically canceled several concerts to come. I'm planning to hold a concert here, are you touched?"

"Touched. But, you've arrived too early, haven't you? There are still over forty days until your concert in Tiannan," Wei Xuelian asked.

"Don't I have to come and pick the venue personally?" Wei Moran said with a playful smile.

Wei Xuelian didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

A popular star singer picking the venue personally? I think you're just here to have fun!

But taking more than a month to play, she's the only one who could be so willful!

"Alright then, since even the company is owned by your family, you can do as you like!" Wei Xuelian smiled and shook her head.

Min, also feeling helpless, smiled at Wei Xuelian, "Miss Xuelian, you really should persuade your cousin. You have no idea how much..."

"Alright, alright. Min, are you going to talk about this all day!" Wei Moran pouted her lips, her eyes suddenly twinkling, and she said cheerfully, "Why don't you make us some egg tarts, grind a cup of coffee, Xuelian loves the hand-pulled coffee you make!"

Min's hand-pulled coffee was so exquisite that even her father couldn't stop praising it. It was made with a manual coffee maker, requiring numerous tools and a complicated process. Any slight mistake in each step could lead to over-extraction, resulting in an imbalanced bitterness and sourness.

Clearly, Wei Moran found her chatter bothersome and was trying to get rid of her.

Min chuckled and shook her head as she turned to leave and make coffee.

Mo Ran stuck out her tongue.

"Xuelian, hurry up and tell me how it's like living here, is it fun?" Wei Moran asked eagerly, her eyes twinkling with excitement.

"It's quite interesting," Wei Xuelian said with a smile.

Talking about these things, she couldn't help but reminisce about all the fun times she had had since meeting Bai Xiaosheng.

In the kitchen.

Min listened to the cheerful laughter drifting over, sighed softly, and muttered to herself in a voice so low it was almost inaudible.

"Every one of these princesses is a handful. But... nobility is nobility, playing around is only temporary. In the end, they all must return... They always do."

Min's voice carried a touch of melancholy and resignation.

Being born into wealth is both a blessing and a curse.

Meanwhile, Bai Xiaosheng and Han Shuying arrived back at their apartment. Just as they reached the building, Han Shuying received a call.

"There's something going on with our team, I need to go there," Han Shuying said to Bai Xiaosheng, then suddenly smiled, "You're not busy right now anyway, why don't you come with me? Afterwards, I'll treat you to a meal!"

Bai Xiaosheng snorted coldly and proceeded into the apartment without looking back.

"Sheesh, what's his problem!" Han Shuying muttered with disdain and hurried off on her own.

Bai Xiaosheng got home and began his dream of a peaceful weekend.

Saturday passed without incident, but on Sunday, a special visitor arrived—Xie Youxin.

This time, Xie Youxin brought two burly guys as bodyguards and carried a safety box under his arm, moving with the cautiousness of a thief.

"Is it ready already?" Bai Xiaosheng was surprised. A visit from Xie Youxin could only mean one thing—delivery of the jade bangles and pendants!

Bai Xiaosheng let them in, but Xie Youxin had the two men wait at the door. He went in alone with Bai Xiaosheng, gingerly opened the security box on the table, revealing a thick red velvet lining.

Two bangles and two pendants, their color pure and unmatched, the green was striking to the heart, exuding nobility.

Xie Youxin gazed at them so intently he almost seemed to pierce the air.

"Mr. Bai, I had the masters work overnight, paying double the price to rush the job. Just these jade bangles alone are worth a fortune! If marketed well, tsk tsk... And these pendants, carved by a master himself with three top-notch artisans as assistants, tsk tsk..."

Bai Xiaosheng was also very pleased, "Is there enough jade left over to make it worth your while?"

"Plenty, more than enough," Xie Youxin grinned, "I won't lie to you. Besides these, I've managed to keep two pendants and two jade rings for myself, and they've been snatched up on pre-order already. After paying the craftsmen and masters, what's left is a tidy profit, just a small fortune!"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

Afterward, he chatted idly with Old Xie, inspected the goods, signed the receipt, and Old Xie took his leave immediately. Bai Xiaosheng didn't see him out further than the doorway.

Xie Youxin left Bai Xiaosheng's house with his men.

Once out of the apartment, Xie Youxin paused, looked back with a complex gaze, then sent a message on his phone, muttering to himself.

"Brother Bai, I'm a businessman who keeps his word, I never divulge client information. But now that the deal is done, I'm sorry! It's just that the Sun Family wants to find you!"

Chapter 157 Unexpected Guest_1

Having seen off Xie Youxin, Bai Xiaosheng played with the two jade bracelets for a while.

The bracelets were a rich and vibrant green, crystal clear throughout, with a smooth and delicate touch.

Bai Xiaosheng had previously seen a video online about how to process the bottom of a thick green glass bottle into a bracelet, a "glass jadeite," claiming it could easily pass for the real thing.

He had not seen that kind of fake in person, but holding the genuine item in his hands, he knew it could only deceive those who had never seen the real thing.

The weight, symmetry, and the aesthetic appeal of the jadeite were impeccable.

When Xie Youxin was there, Bai Xiaosheng had also conducted some tests with Red Lotus and confirmed without a doubt that these were genuine products!

The Glass-Type Imperial Green jade could certainly be a family heirloom, or perhaps... a token of commitment in a romantic relationship.

For these two jade bracelets, Bai Xiaosheng had already decided—one would be given to his mother when he found time to go home. And the other, if possible, would be gifted to a certain someone as a token of commitment!

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but glance at a wall in his apartment; behind that wall was Wei Xuelian's room.

He was quite fond of that girl and felt that she had feelings for him too, especially after they had visited the Lu Family.

However, he also couldn't decide if it was the right time to confess his feelings.

If he failed, he wondered if they would even be able to remain friends...

At the thought of this, the usually confident Bai Xiaosheng actually felt a touch of nervousness, even a faint sense of fear.

"What am I afraid of!"

"If you like someone, confess your feelings. For a lovely lady, a gentleman makes a good match."

"As the future president of Zhenbei Group, the helmsman of a trillion-yuan conglomerate, do I not have the courage..."

Bai Xiaosheng took a deep breath, thinking to date a bit longer, then confess!

To calm his mind, Bai Xiaosheng got up and locked the safety box, along with everything else, in the safe of the inner room.

The safe provided by the apartment was originally A1-grade, but since Bai Xiaosheng planned to live there long term, he specifically asked them to replace it with a B-grade one, for which he paid extra money.

Just as he had finished locking everything up, someone knocked on Bai Xiaosheng's door.

"Who is it?" Bai Xiaosheng frowned and called out.

"Is Mr. Bai Xiaosheng there?" A strange man's voice came from outside the door.

Could it be that as soon as the items were delivered, they had attracted thieves?

Bai Xiaosheng thought, and then shook his head.

Xie Youxin was a man with boundaries; furthermore, if he had wanted to keep the goods for himself, he would have already run off.

To have them delivered and then send someone to rob them? That certainly wouldn't happen on the same day.

As for the possibility of a leak of information, leading someone to follow him—was that likely, given Xie Youxin's alert and cunning nature?

So who was it outside?

Bai Xiaosheng became cautious but didn't succumb to paranoia; it might be the property management.

If it was a thief, with the combat skills granted by Red Lotus, he truly wasn't afraid.

Bai Xiaosheng peered outside through the peephole.

There stood two people at the door: one was broad and robust; the other was a middle-aged man in his forties or fifties, poised and distinguished, with a square face.

If they had come to rob him and were of such an age, dressed in suits, then Bai Xiaosheng really wasn't afraid.

Opening the door, Bai Xiaosheng looked at the two men with suspicion.

"Are you looking for me?"

"You're Bai Xiaosheng?" The square-faced man behind the burly man glanced at him with a flicker in his eyes and asked.

"Yes."

"May I come in and talk?" The square-faced man looked at the robust man, "You stay outside!"

With a word,

The muscular man respectfully answered and stood by the door with his hands behind his back.

"Then come in." Bai Xiaosheng, curious about the man's origins, let him in.

As for the person outside, Bai Xiaosheng locked the door from the inside.

This square-faced middle-aged man posed almost no threat, and Bai Xiaosheng sensed from him an aura similar to that of Shang Wenshu and Wang Ye, yet somewhat stronger.

Bai Xiaosheng invited him to sit on the sofa in the living room and poured him a cup of tea.

The square-faced man watched him calmly.

Once Bai Xiaosheng had finished, the man said to him with a slight smile, "Let me introduce myself. I am Sun Xiangdong from Xiangdong Group."

Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback.

Xiangdong Group, Sun Xiangdong?

"Xiangdong Group, the true leader of the real estate sector in Tiannan City, involved in construction and building materials among various fields, a privately-owned enterprise. Sun Xiangdong, chairman of Xiangdong Group..." Red Lotus swiftly imprinted the information in Bai Xiaosheng's mind.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but take a deep breath.

Xiangdong Group and Century Construction had been rivals for many years.

This Sun Xiangdong, at first glance seemed to be at the same level as Shang Wenshu, but in reality, he was much more formidable. He was self-made, and the entire enterprise was his. It could be said that for major enterprise affairs, Shang Wenshu had to report upwards, while Sun Xiangdong had complete autonomy.

This was the difference.

But what was Sun Xiangdong doing here?

"May I ask why Manager Sun has sought me out?" inquired Bai Xiaosheng.

Sun Xiangdong looked at him calmly and said, "Manager Bai is in charge of the core projects of Century Construction. Strictly speaking, it's not appropriate for us to be in contact. I'm not here for business matters."

Bai Xiaosheng was slightly surprised.

Since it wasn't a business matter, there should be even less intersection between them.

"I'm not just the boss of Xiang Dong, I am also the son of Sun Tianli and the father of Sun Yiran!" Sun Xiangdong said with a smile.

In an instant, Bai Xiaosheng understood.

This was a case of bullying the junior and now the senior appeared! No, it was the younger generation who had been bullied, and now it was the turn of the middle generation.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, lowered his head to pour himself a cup of tea, and held it steadily in his hand, sipping from it.

"So, Manager Sun has come here to seek accountability. Is it just because I won against your son in a bet on stones? Or because I offended Mr. Sun's dignity?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

Composed, dignified, neither humble nor arrogant!

This was Sun Xiangdong's assessment of Bai Xiaosheng, and he too was astonished.

This young man, so steady, would surely achieve great things in the future!

Sun Xiangdong prided himself on his people-judging skills, and he doubted he was as unflappable at this age as this young man.

"I've come to see what kind of person Mr. Bai is," said Sun Xiangdong with a smile. "People are different, so are the ways I treat them. However... my requests are all the same!"

"Oh?"

"To be honest, there have been three generations of only sons in the Sun family, each one spoiled. Even I was no better than Yiran before middle age. Ah, who hasn't been young?" Sun Xiangdong said understandingly. Bai Xiaosheng was somewhat taken aback, even hearing him let out a long sigh, "It is not easy being a parent."

Bai Xiaosheng nodded in agreement.

"Therefore, please be understanding, Mr Bai," Sun Xiangdong said earnestly. "Consider the feelings of a father and go in person to apologize to Yiran."

If it weren't for that last sentence, Bai Xiaosheng might have believed that Sun Xiangdong was reasonable.

To apologize!

Bai Xiaosheng's brows furrowed deeply.

"I came not to discuss but to inform, and I would prefer to take you back now. Mr. Bai, could you understand?" said Sun Xiangdong in a cultured tone.

This family must all be fucking nuts!

Bai Xiaosheng was speechless.

"I won't see you out!" Bai Xiaosheng slowly stood up and said coldly.

"Is that your answer?" Sun Xiangdong smiled gently and then his gaze sharpened like a knife, "Bai Xiaosheng!"

Chapter 158: Rejected?!_1

Manager Sun Xiangdong slowly rose to his feet, the icy chill in his gaze enough to send shivers down one's spine.

Bai Xiaosheng remained calm, simply watching him.

"I never expected that after coming here in person to show you considerable respect, you would fail to return the favor," Sun Xiangdong said, sighing heavily as he looked at Bai Xiaosheng. "Since this is the case, I hope you are fully aware of the consequences!"

Consequences?

"Are you threatening me, Manager Sun, suggesting I should be careful when I leave?"

Bai Xiaosheng asked expressionlessly.

"No, I never use safety to threaten people," Sun Xiangdong shook his head firmly. "I am a lawful businessman, and at all times, I abide by the nation's laws without crossing that red line."

"However..." Sun Xiangdong smiled, "survival in this society isn't only about personal safety. There are other important aspects. For instance, you could become unemployed today, struggle for food, apply at various companies, and discover no one will hire you. You'll find that, despite Tiannan's expanse, there isn't a place for you to stand!"

"You will be abandoned by the entire city!"

Bai Xiaosheng's gaze narrowed slightly.

The threat in Sun Xiangdong's subdued words was no less intimidating than those of some gang leaders.

Had it been the former me, this would have been a disaster; I might actually have given in.

After all, I've struggled in this city for years; to lose everything in an instant would be unbearable for anyone.

Unfortunately for you, I am no longer who I used to be.

Your threat, it's three months too late!

Bai Xiaosheng smiled leisurely.

I know Song Kai, I know Lu Yun, I know big shots you, Sun Xiangdong, are probably not qualified to meet!

With an indifferent expression, Bai Xiaosheng said, "Manager Sun, I've taken note of everything you mentioned. If there's nothing else, then, I have just one thing to say—"

Bai Xiaosheng pointed towards the door, "Please leave, I won't see you out!"

Sun Xiangdong's face darkened.

This Bai Xiaosheng!

Is he a naive calf not fearing the tiger or is it the fearless ignorance of an inexperienced youngster? Does he truly believe I, Sun Xiangdong, lack the capability?

Sun Xiangdong nodded slightly, his gaze profound, deeply imprinting Bai Xiaosheng's youthful face in his memory.

"Farewell!" Sun Xiangdong turned to leave.

"Wait," Bai Xiaosheng's voice called out again.

Sun Xiangdong paused mid-step, a smile curling at the corner of his mouth.

So, you are scared, after all?

"Manager Sun, our companies are competitors. I heard that the core projects from both sides are launching on the same day?" Bai Xiaosheng was well-informed through Red Lotus.

It seemed that Sun Xiangdong was truly determined to take on Century Construction by choosing the same day for the launch.

One must realize, an opening event would necessarily involve inviting some prominent figures from the business and political worlds, inevitably leading to conflicts in the guest lists.

This signified a declaration of war in the business realm!

From the past confrontations, Century Construction was slightly at a disadvantage!

"I said we're not discussing work today," Sun Xiangdong laughed.

"Discussing work, do you think you can keep up with me?" Bai Xiaosheng sneered, not holding back, "I'm telling you, I am now the deputy project manager. If you want to go against us, be careful, because you might end up in a very ugly situation!"

Bai Xiaosheng looked defiant.

Dare to threaten me in my own house?

Then I, too, will threaten you!

Sun Xiangdong's smile faded away. He stared intently at Bai Xiaosheng, anger showing for the first time in his eyes.

"Very well," Sun Xiangdong said with a heavy tone, and without turning back, he opened the door and walked out.

Bai Xiaosheng walked over and locked the door with his key, tossed it casually, and with a perfect arc, it landed precisely on the table.

"Hmph, even if it's just for the score! I'll make sure my project wins over yours!"

Leaving Bai Xiaosheng's house, Sun Xiangdong didn't utter a word, striding vigorously towards the elevator and descended the building in it.

The burly man followed cautiously, terrified to find anger, undisguised, in Manager Sun's eyes and brows.

At home it didn't count, but outside, Sun Xiangdong always kept his emotions hidden, even when angry, he was exceptionally calm, deeply unsettling.

Yet now, his anger was laid bare!

"My god, Manager Sun just went in... not even five minutes, and he came out like this! Who is that kid! He actually managed to infuriate Manager Sun to this extent!"

The burly man couldn't help swallowing nervously, becoming more cautious around Sun Xiangdong and even more shocked by Bai Xiaosheng.

After descending the building, Sun Xiangdong, still without a word, got into the car.

The burly man hurriedly went to drive.

"Manager Sun, where to?" he asked cautiously.

"Go to the Third Ring, take a spin," Sun Xiangdong said in a deep voice.

The burly man didn't dare ask further and started the car to leave.

Sitting in the backseat, Sun Xiangdong closed his eyes, fingers tapping gently on his knee, remaining silent for a full ten minutes.

Then, he opened his eyes, still calm, took out his phone, and dialed a number without hesitation.

Moments later, the call connected.

"Hello, Mr. Shang Wenshu, it's me, Xiang Dong," Sun Xiangdong said with a smile, "I have something I'd like to discuss with you."

"Do you have an employee named Bai Xiaosheng? I want to talk to you about him."

At that moment, Shang Wenshu was still in his office.

With Wang Ye "demoted" to the project on-site, the head office was caught in a storm of sorts, Shang Wenshu busy with replacing staff and making adjustments; he didn't dare take a break from his hectic week.

He was quite pleased with the significant progress made.

From Chen Daya's report, that Assistant Qian seemed to be running into big trouble. For trying to cause problems for Bai Xiaosheng, he fell into a difficult predicament.

"Idiot!" Shang Wenshu scoffed at this.

"However, Wang Ye does know Bai Xiaosheng's identity to some extent, what's his purpose in going to the project? To directly send little Qian to his doom, what is he really planning?" Shang Wenshu, overwhelmed with work, took the chance to ponder over these matters.

And then, he received a phone call.

The caller was a surprise to him.

Sun Xiangdong, of Xiangdong Group!

This man had always been at odds with them, and even the poor performance of Century Construction was largely due to competing with this Mr. Sun.

Shang Wenshu was extremely wary of him!

After Sun Xiangdong started talking, he quickly switched the topic to a certain individual.

Bai Xiaosheng!

Shang Wenshu was startled and a bit puzzled.

Manager Sun had nothing to do with Bai Xiaosheng, no possible connections at all!

"I wonder what Manager Sun would like to discuss with me about this person?" Shang Wenshu asked smoothly over the phone.

"Mr. Shang is straightforward, and so am I," Sun Xiangdong said, "To be honest, this person has offended our family patriarch and also caused my incompetent son to lose face, which was rather serious. Alas, in our family with the tradition of a sole heir, we dote on the child too much. So, I went to apologize to Bai Xiaosheng, but he refused. He and I, we've torn our faces."

Oh? Shang Wenshu's expression sharpened.

"Here's the deal, Mr. Shang, just fire this person! Xiangdong Group is willing to reschedule our opening event, and even further cooperation in other aspects in the future is not impossible!"

Sun Xiangdong said this with great confidence.

A collaborator, rather than an opponent!

Shang Wenshu should not be able to resist such temptation.

Shang Wenshu laughed over the phone and then threw back a sentence.

"I refuse!"

Chapter 159: Rejected Again?!_1

Sun Xiangdong had an intense look on his face.

He had already made his stance clear to Shang Wenshu—if Shang Wenshu fired Bai Xiaosheng, he was willing to have Century Construction temporarily cease hostilities and even collaborate.

Before the call, Sun Xiangdong firmly believed that even Shang Wenshu couldn't resist such a temptation!

Shang Wenshu was devoted to his career and nearly fanatical about performance, and as his long-standing opponent, Sun Xiangdong knew this very well. Additionally, Xiangdong Group had always had an advantage over Century Construction.

Just imagine, by firing a mere project manager, one could secure such significant benefits. How could Shang Wenshu, a notoriously cunning fox, not calculate such an account?

Consequently, once Sun Xiangdong made the call, he was no longer thinking about the outcome but about how to deal with Bai Xiaosheng afterwards.

But the result was that Shang Wenshu refused.

So decisively, so thoroughly!

Without a moment's hesitation, without a hint of politeness!

It was akin to declaring war without a chance for peace!

Sun Xiangdong was stunned.

This was the second miscalculation he had made today, the second rejection he had faced!

Sun Xiangdong, known in the industry for his cunning and scheming, dubbed Sun Zhuge, couldn't tolerate this.

"Mr. Shang, is this your answer?" Sun Xiangdong couldn't help but sit up straight and said solemnly, "You know what this means! You refuse to give me face, truly want to fall out with Xiangdong Group over such a trivial matter? Over a mere project manager, an employee?!"

Even as he spoke, Sun Xiangdong himself found it unbelievable!

Since when did Shang, the calculating fox always seeking profit, become a leader who cherished his employees?

Wouldn't that make a laughingstock out of a bunch of people if it were known?

On the other end of the line, Shang Wenshu let out a silent, cold laugh.

If it were anyone else, Sun Xiangdong offering these terms, he'd agree immediately. Not to mention a single project manager, he'd willingly sacrifice two.

But this was Bai Xiaosheng!

He was part of the most powerful echelons in our system, someone even I tread carefully around!

You actually want me to fire him, to cut off my own future prospects!

You really know nothing!

Shang Wenshu sneered internally.

"Manager Sun, I, Shang, always conduct my affairs with principles, with bottom lines and responsibilities. I won't engage in exchanging employees for benefits," Shang Wenshu spoke with righteous indignation, followed by a chilly laugh, "Moreover, it wasn't Century Construction who initiated this war, but your Xiangdong Group. From the start, it was you who drew your sword against us, and now, if you wish to continue..."

"We'll be a competent adversary!"

After speaking, Shang Wenshu hung up the phone with a snap.

"Whew, that's f*cking satisfying!" Shang Wenshu stood up, looked at the landline with a cold laugh, "Damn thief Sun, I've long wanted to say this to you!"

Shang Wenshu, a man of elegance who never swore, cursed aloud twice in a row.

"Damn it!"

In the car, Sun Xiangdong cursed loudly, furiously throwing his phone onto the seat beside him.

The phone bounced twice and rolled away.

The burly driver shuddered, almost losing control of the vehicle. He quickly righted the steering wheel, casting a frightened glance in the rearview mirror at the incredibly grim face behind him.

It was rare for Sun Xiangdong to swear in front of his subordinates.

"I hope I don't get silenced, I hope I don't get fired," the burly man trembled internally, "What's happened to Manager Sun today, did he not check the almanac before leaving? Bumping into walls at every turn, he looks like he's about to explode with rage..."

"These bastards!" Sun Xiangdong's forehead bulged with veins as he breathed heavily.

It was infuriating!

Shang Wenshu actually spoke with moral righteousness, ready to declare war, bearing a just and stern countenance, as if only I were the villain!

This was not normal!

Sun Xiangdong frowned.

"This Bai Xiaosheng, what's his background? Could he be a close relative of Shang Wenshu? Such protection!" Sun Xiangdong pondered again and again, but couldn't figure it out.

"Forget it, if Shang Wenshu won't cooperate with me, naturally someone else will." Sun Xiangdong smiled darkly and bent over to pick up his phone.

In the quiet car, his laughter sounded creepy, and the burly driver couldn't help but swallow hard.

It was too thrilling, today he saw a side of Manager Sun that was unknown to others, guessing that before long he would either rise high or be kicked out.

Sun Xiangdong dialed another number, waiting quietly.

Shang Wenshu might refuse, but this person definitely would not.

"Hello?" Finally, a deep voice came through from the other end of the line.

Old friend!

Our cooperation is not a matter of once or twice!

With a sinister smile, Sun Xiangdong said, "The villa I gave you last time, I heard you've given it to someone important, seems like you're headed for a promotion, Wang Ye, Mrs. Wang!"

The person Sun Xiangdong was calling turned out to be Wang Ye.

They were old acquaintances!

At that moment, Wang Ye was at home, wrapped in a comfortable bathrobe, with a gorgeous woman standing behind him, massaging his shoulders with her delicate, jade-like hands.

This woman was the top hostess at a nightclub. Wang Ye had visited a few times and took a liking to her, and had someone get her out for his secret pleasure.

The man he relied on for that was Sun Xiangdong.

In fact, Wang Ye had already started collaborating with Sun Xiangdong.

This is why Century Construction, a company with ample funds and connections, under the crafty leadership of Shang Wenshu, was still repeatedly outmaneuvered by Sun Xiangdong's Xiangdong Group, outwitted at every turn.

It wasn't that Shang Wenshu was inferior to Sun Xiangdong or that Sun Xiangdong was really the reincarnation of Zhuge, tactically omniscient and always planning with no oversight.

It was because Wang Ye was an insider!

In the face of interests, even Chen Jiutian didn't realize that Wang Ye was hiding this move!

"Manager Sun, it's so late, why are you calling me? What's the matter?" Wang Ye asked languidly, not bothering to send the woman beside him away.

Whether or not this woman was planted by Sun Xiangdong to watch over him, he was unclear.

But Wang Ye didn't care anyway, since what he desired was only her beauty and body, not really to keep her as a wife.

"Of course, there's something I need to cooperate with you on, and this time, Mrs. Wang, you will not miss out on the benefits," said Sun Xiangdong with a smile.

Their previous dealings had always been business-only, with no emotions involved. Every time, the price was clear and straightforward.

This Bai Xiaosheng, first making the old man unhappy, then causing his eldest son to be dejected and downcast, and now daring to refuse him, had infuriated Shang Wenshu all the more.

Sun Xiangdong did the math; even if it cost several million or tens of millions, he had to stand up for his entire family!

"Alright, tell me," said Wang Ye languidly.

"Do you know Bai Xiaosheng? He's a project manager on your main projects!" asked Sun Xiangdong.

Bai Xiaosheng!

Wang Ye abruptly sat up, his brow furrowed, and said in a grave tone, "What do you want with him?"

Wang Ye's tone was somewhat serious.

Sun Xiangdong said with a laugh, "I'd like to request that you fire this kid!"

Wang Ye would definitely help him, after all, they were old partners who had cooperated for years.

This time, Sun Xiangdong was absolutely certain.

"Basically, when it comes to Century Construction, we can discuss anything," replied Wang Ye, not disappointing him.

Sun Xiangdong was overjoyed.

"But this matter... there's nothing to discuss!"

Chapter 160: That Woman Must Not Be Offended_1

Sun Xiangdong's expression changed drastically.

In less than an hour, he had been rejected three times.

It's understandable that Bai Xiaosheng, ignorant and fearless, dared to reject him.

Shang Wenshu, with his sense of security, was able to reject him, that too was understandable.

But why did Wang Ye also reject him?

For a long time, Sun Xiangdong had a close and good "cooperation relationship" with Wang Ye.

This time, the reason he didn't go to Wang Ye first but to Shang Wenshu was also justifiable.

For one, Wang Ye's "fees" for getting things done were too high, and sometimes came with harsh conditions.

Secondly, Wang Ye, after all, was a vice president. Due to his position, it was easy for him to transfer someone, but to directly fire a mid-level, he had to go through more trouble, not as decisive as Shang Wenshu, who could take life and death into his own hands.

Sun Xiangdong was now impatient to have Bai Xiaosheng dismissed, to let him taste some bitterness first, to know he meant business and that offending him was serious.

But Shang Wenshu had rejected him, and now Wang Ye had rejected him too.

What kind of special background did that kid have?

Or was there another reason?!

Sun Xiangdong's eyebrows instantly knotted up in confusion.

If Bai Xiaosheng had a special identity, that would still be fine; if not...

Shang Wenshu and Wang Ye, two people with opposing stands, were now in such a unified step?! Could it be that they had struck some kind of agreement behind the scenes to deal with me, to deal with Xiangdong Group?

If it's the latter, Wang Ye indeed had control over many of Xiangdong Group's covert operations.

Although not core, it could still put him at a disadvantage!

Sun Xiangdong, a man of suspicion and sensitivity by nature, instantly imagined the worst-case scenario and immediately became alert.

"Mrs. Wang, what exactly do you mean by that?" Sun Xiangdong asked with a heavy voice on the phone.

"Manager Sun, I am no longer in charge of the affairs at the headquarters now, as I've voluntarily applied to be stationed at Teles Square. Yes, that's the project where Bai Xiaosheng is. Right now, I'm the person in charge of the entire project, and he's the deputy in charge. I appointed him," Wang Ye explained on the phone.

"What!" Sun Xiangdong was shocked.

Wang Ye was actually willing to relinquish power and request to go to a project, something they hadn't discussed before.

"Regarding Bai Xiaosheng, I can tell you that both Shang Wenshu and I have reasons for not letting him go. Not only can we not let him go, but we also want to make sure he stays put and stable. For this, I even signed an agreement with him," Wang Ye continued.

Sun Xiangdong felt a sinking feeling in his heart.

Does this mean that this Bai Xiaosheng could not be shaken for the time being?

But why! Sun Xiangdong's curiosity peaked.

"However, rest assured! I will make this Bai Xiaosheng suffer more pain than you can imagine. That is the purpose of my presence at the project!"

Wang Ye's statement made Sun Xiangdong's eyes light up.

"What do you mean?"

"It's not just you, Manager Sun, that Bai Xiaosheng has offended, but another big figure too! This time, I'm ordered to deal with him, and even if it means destroying this project, I will not hesitate!"

Wang Ye's words shocked Sun Xiangdong.

For a long time, Wang Ye's covert cooperation with him and even sabotage of his own company was minor interference, not to mention the root causes. And now, he had openly said he wouldn't hesitate to ruin the entire project!

So who exactly did Bai Xiaosheng offend?!

Sun Xiangdong knew Wang Ye had a powerful backer but didn't know which "Buddha" it was—now it seemed the identity and status were absolutely astonishing!

Sun Xiangdong was very smart; he didn't even ask, as awareness like this was essential to survive in the business world.

"Actually, even if you hadn't called me, I would have contacted you. This time, not only do we need to collaborate, but we're also going to play a big game," Wang Ye chuckled darkly over the phone, "After this collaboration, I don't know what will become of Century Construction, but your Xiangdong Group will definitely reap huge benefits."

Really!

Sun Xiangdong's eyes gleamed brightly. "If Manager Wang allows Xiangdong to greatly profit from this, I won't let you down. The benefits will be doubled, as usual!"

"Good! Haha, I still need to find time to talk about this in detail with you..."

Sun Xiangdong silently listened to the phone for a full five minutes before hanging up.

His earlier dejection swept away, he was now excited.

Killing two birds with one stone—not only could he take his revenge with satisfaction, but also take Xiangdong to the next level. Truly exhilarating.

In his great joy, Sun Xiangdong glanced at the driver.

Seeing his boss's expression in the rearview mirror, the brawny driver immediately swallowed hard.

"Zhang, you've been with me for many years, right?" Sun Xiangdong spoke gently, "You're an old hand, and I trust you completely. After our core project's opening event, I plan to give you some shares. If you want to join the company, I'm also considering giving you a position."

"Really? Thank you, boss!" Zhang was startled, his face showing surprise.

"But if, half a word of what I just said on the phone gets leaked," Sun Xiangdong leaned forward and whispered in Zhang's ear, his voice mild yet chilling to the bone, "I'll make sure you'll never be able to stay in Tiannan again!"

Sun Xiangdong's voice wasn't sharp at all, but it was piercingly cold.

Zhang's face turned pale as he stammered in fear, "Boss, rest assured! I am absolutely loyal!"

Satisfied, Sun Xiangdong closed his eyes and leaned back in his seat, fingers still tapping on his knee.

Manager Sun, in a relaxed mood, had only chilled for a moment when his phone rang again.

Sun Xiangdong answered and put it to his ear.

"Manager Zhao, what's up?" Sun Xiangdong asked indifferently, but upon hearing the report from the other end, he sat up straight, his eyes lighting up.

"You're saying the star, Wei Moran, has already come to Tiannan? Is the news accurate? Good, good!" Sun Xiangdong nodded repeatedly, "The entertainment industry has always been a sector I've wanted to develop vigorously. Everyone is talking about asset-light strategies now; real estate won't be playable

for much longer. Hmph, even the biggest tycoon in the country is selling off assets and starting to transform. Our company's next focus will be the entertainment industry!"

"This Wei Moran, her fame is very high, and behind her... is a very powerful force! You need to personally approach her and strive to make her choose us as the backers for her Tiannan concert. Yes, you have to spare no effort to make this happen!"

"But remember, and remember it well, don't think that being a financial backer gives you the right to be reckless with her, nor should you offend her in the slightest! She's not the kind of star you think, who climbs up by trading on her body. The power behind her is something that even I can't afford to provoke!"

"If you make her unhappy, I'll deal with you before her people even have to lift a finger!"

Driver Zhang looked in astonishment at the rearview mirror.

Manager Sun, usually so sparing with his words, was now incessantly nagging like a worried mother about the star, an incredibly rare sight.

"Also, if possible, arrange a time for me to meet Wei Moran. Don't worry about my schedule; as long as she has time, that's fine!" Sun Xiangdong finally hung up the phone.

Manager Sun was actually willing to accommodate the other party's schedule and visit in person.

Zhang was astounded.

Becoming a capital partner and acting so subservient—unheard of!

Just what kind of background did this Wei Moran have?!