

Two Trillion 161

Chapter 161 Father and Son Visit_1

Several days after the trip to Antique Jade City.

On this day, Wei Moran, unusually, did not go out shopping with makeup, but stayed in the presidential suite of the five-star Mingzhu Tower hotel.

The presidential suite she was staying in was one of only three in the whole Mingzhu Tower, and to stay there, one not only had to pay a hefty price but also needed special qualifications.

Wei Moran was wearing a plain-colored dress, simple and unadorned, yet it was created by an international designer and cost over a hundred thousand.

At this moment, she sat quietly on the sofa, waiting.

Today, she had a visitor.

"My dear Miss, you really know how to play! With our family's power, do we even need to find sponsors for the concert?" Min sighed, "The biggest enterprise in a small place like Tiannan is only so big, and I feel it's a bit embarrassing for people to know we're cooperating with them."

In Min's eyes, it was like a giant kun fish discussing cooperation with a tiny sparrow—there was simply no comparison in scale, even sitting down to talk felt demeaning.

"Min, look at my cousin, she's still working," Wei Moran asserted, "This is a trial, a kind of growth for me, not relying on my family, I, Wei Moran, can also find sponsors and hold a concert."

Min sighed silently.

This young lady had been influenced by Miss Xuelian's actions, now full of enthusiasm, failing to grasp the reality.

She didn't consider that just talking about cooperation had made the other party's boss personally visit; if not for her family background, which star would have such clout, and who would bother trying to please her?

Since she was happy, let her have her fun.

Min just shrugged her shoulders.

After a while, the servant came to report that a visitor had arrived and the guest had been invited to the outer living room.

Wei Moran nodded and, accompanied by Min, walked out.

In the living room.

Sun Xiangdong sat upright, unable to hide his excitement. The cooperation was finally about to be settled, a mere concert was a small matter, but it was the chance to get connected with that prominent family that was of real significance. Xiangdong Group wanted to enter the entertainment industry, and that family was the leader. Even a slight connection could reap a thousandfold benefits.

Next to Sun Xiangdong sat Sun Yiran.

This time, Sun Xiangdong had brought him along as well.

Sun Yiran had been deeply hit in the jade circle and had been in low spirits for several days, swearing off dealing with jade, which could actually be a good thing.

Sun Xiangdong was making great efforts to cultivate him, taking him to any banquet or party these days.

"Dad, I didn't even know there were suites like this in Mingzhu Tower; I've never been here before," Sun Yiran said, looking around in surprise.

This top-level presidential suite was comparable to a luxury villa, huge in size, with each floor having a four to five-meter ceiling and consisting of three stories! The furniture used inside, the calligraphy and paintings hanging, all were worth a fortune.

"This is not usually open to the public; even I have to pick the off-season to stay here and give notice in advance. Even a few more days here would be too much for me to afford," Sun Xiangdong said with some emotion, then advised in a serious tone, "When you meet Miss Wei later, remember, don't be rash. She is not someone our family can afford to offend!"

Wei Moran!

Sun Yiran's eyes lit up slightly; he had seen her on television—a newly crowned diva-level figure, pure and beautiful, a heavenly beauty.

"Dad, don't worry, I got it!" Sun Yiran quickly nodded his head.

In fact, Sun Xiangdong had repeatedly warned him over the past few days not to offend or provoke Wei Moran. Now, he was a bit nervous.

Here she comes!

As soon as Sun Xiangdong finished his reminder, he saw several people coming out from the inside.

Accompanied by servants and the butler, a stunning beauty gracefully approached.

It was Wei Moran!

"Boss Sun, I hope you haven't been waiting too long," Wei Moran said with a light smile, being the first to speak.

Indeed, every word and action exuded the distinguished aura of a wealthy family!

"It won't be long, it won't be long. To be able to meet Diva Wei, waiting a little longer is worth it!" Sun Xiangdong hurried to his feet, saying with a smile.

Sun Yiran also stood up, smiling in accompaniment.

The moment Yiran saw Wei Moran, his breath hitched, his eyes lighting up.

She was so beautiful!

And she possessed an ethereal and otherworldly quality, like that of a fairy!

However, Yiran had a vague feeling of déjà vu.

Perhaps it was because I've seen too many of her photos before.

Yiran thought to himself, but didn't ponder it further.

A few days ago, at the stone gambling venue, Yiran's attention had been all on the stunning Han Shuying. He had barely glanced at the graceful but unsightly "Zhang Min," and her companion Min even less so.

Upon seeing them again, he merely had a brief moment of vagueness.

"This is my son, Sun Yiran." Sun Xiangdong introduced with a smile.

Yiran greeted Wei Moran with impeccable politeness.

Wei Moran offered a faint smile, but inwardly snorted, "Now he looks all gentlemanly, not like the rascal who was beaten before!"

She felt disdain in her heart.

But Wei Moran's face betrayed nothing.

Min, standing by, couldn't help but nod secretly, "Miss has indeed made some progress."

"Please sit."

Moran gestured for them to sit and gracefully took her seat in the place of honor.

"I've invited Boss Sun here to discuss my solo concert. There's less than a month left now. I hear you want to hold it on the opening day of your new project?"

"Indeed, that's my project!"

Worried that Wei Moran might misunderstand, Sun Xiangdong hastily explained, "It's not about having you perform for the opening of the project, but on that evening, I want to turn the entire project into Tiannan's most luxurious performance venue!"

Turning back, Sun Xiangdong took the binder full of elaborately printed plans from Sun Yiran's hands and passed them over.

"This is a full set of design ideas and lighting and stage beauty plans. I've talked to the local government and airspace management, and on that day, five helicopters will be deployed to coordinate with your entrance show..."

Sun Xiangdong talked like a planner, speaking fluently.

This plan had taken a great deal of effort, involving several of the top experts in the industry and half a month to put together.

About it, he was enormously confident.

Not just Wei Moran, even Min listening by felt a measure of curiosity and showed interest in many of the creative ideas.

This might really be an exceptional and grand concert!

"For the details, my son will explain," Sun Xiangdong opportunistically brought Sun Yiran into the fray.

Sun Yiran picked up the thread, speaking wittily and humorously, making Sun Xiangdong nod frequently.

If Moran and Min had not seen his other side, they might actually have applauded him.

Unfortunately, both harbored an extremely poor impression of Sun Yiran.

"Miss Wei, if there's anything unclear, I can explain it further," Sun Xiangdong offered eagerly, extremely satisfied with his own performance.

"Even though you look calm, I bet you're shocked inside!" Sun Yiran looked at Wei Moran, his gaze intense, a touch of triumph and even more confidence in his eyes.

Beauty is like jade, and his confidence is like a divining stone.

Chapter 162: A Very Pleasant Chat_1

"I'm generally satisfied with this proposal," Wei Moran said lightly. "If there's anything to be changed, we can communicate that separately."

It took an hour.

At the end of the talk, Wei Moran flashed a shallow smile.

"Then we won't disturb you any longer. Feel free to contact us anytime!" Sun Xiangdong quickly returned the smile, understanding the cue to rise and take his leave.

Before leaving, Wei Xuelian shook hands with the father and son.

The beauty's hand was as soft as jade, boneless and smooth as grease.

With just a gentle grip, Sun Yiran felt his heartstrings stir.

"For a first meeting, my performance was impeccable. This marks an excellent start, and there will be plenty of opportunities for further contact! Even if she's a lady of high society, once conquered by me, she'll become my woman! And then, our Sun Family will skyrocket to success!" Sun Yiran couldn't help but fantasize.

After the father and son had left,

Wei Moran's dignified and majestic demeanor vanished, and she lazily sprawled on the sofa, draping her snow-white legs over the armrest.

"That was really tiring!"

"Didn't you find it amusing?" Min chuckled, then scolded, "You've also studied etiquette for years. Why do you behave like this when no one else is around?"

"I'm tired," Wei Moran whined coquettishly, deflecting Min's reproach. She picked up the proposal booklet, flipping through it, her eyes twinkling, "The proposal is indeed good..."

"Shame the person is a scumbag!"

Once outside Mingzhu Tower, Sun Xiangdong walked with a triumphant air, convinced of his impending success.

Sun Yiran also felt great, asking his father, "Dad, how did I do today?"

"Haha, wonderful, my boy! You're a natural-born businessman. Your performance today was exceptional," Sun Xiangdong praised without restraint.

Sun Yiran was smugly pleased.

This time, the Sun Family spared no expense for the collaboration, not seeking profit, only cooperation!

In Sun Xiangdong's eyes gleamed a hint of satisfaction, even as the other deal was being swiftly pursued.

That Bai Xiaosheng, daring to trouble three generations of their family—let him await doom!

"Yiran, tonight, don't go anywhere. I'll take you to meet an uncle," Sun Xiangdong said, patting his son on the shoulder.

This time, since it was about getting his son some justice, it was natural to let him know in advance and bask in the excitement.

"Okay," Sun Yiran nodded.

At that moment, in Teles Square,

Bai Xiaosheng was bored out of his mind, sitting in his office.

With less than a month until the opening, the date loomed closer, and it should've been a time of bustling activity and readiness.

Yet, Bai Xiaosheng felt idle.

The project's work progress was already 20 days ahead of schedule.

What did that mean?

Apart from specialized tasks that required last-minute confirmation, there was virtually nothing left for the project team to do.

The custom stage materials needed for the opening ceremony were arriving, and they planned to have the construction crew start the setup in the next couple of days.

Now, even Wang Ye had nothing much to do, often emphasizing trivial matters in meetings.

"It's so boring when it's too quiet. Assistant Qian, you're taking a break, and I'm waiting for you to pick a fight," Bai Xiaosheng complained as he lay on his desk, feeling like he was killing time.

If Assistant Qian came looking for trouble, and if it was done well, Bai Xiaosheng could make a small profit. Though little, grasshopper meat was still meat, and it was better than nothing.

But this week, Assistant Qian was unprecedentedly well-behaved, not running around or causing trouble!

Bai Xiaosheng kind of missed the old Qian, though Qian had his own woes, treated like an enemy on the project site, his life wasn't easy.

"If Assistant Qian isn't coming, are you keeping quiet too, Wang? Come on, draw your sword! Otherwise, what's the point of you being on-site?" Bai Xiaosheng mumbled to himself, scratching his face, "Strike quickly, I'm waiting to level up in the rankings!"

Bai Xiaosheng was like a complaining housewife waiting for rice to cook.

His current score was two points, and he needed ninety-eight more to level up to the position of vice-general manager.

The wait is endless.

At this moment.

In Vice General Manager Wang Ye's office.

Assistant Qian was also bored to death, patiently watching Wang Ye practice Chinese calligraphy.

Too idle!

He had been with Wang Ye for many years and had experienced countless project openings, but he had never experienced anything like this—

Less than a month before the opening, the leader was so idle that he was practicing calligraphy!

The reason was that the work progress was far ahead of schedule, and whenever any problems arose, the managers below would persevere, figuring out ways to solve them by themselves and refusing to bother the deputy project leader, Bai Xiaosheng, let alone the head project leader, Wang Ye.

That was indeed worry-free.

Since when had these people become so terrifyingly efficient and responsible? Assistant Qian had no idea, but he was crystal clear about who played a role in this.

Recalling the information he had gathered these days about Bai Xiaosheng's various deeds, Assistant Qian was also alarmed.

If he wasn't rolling up his bedding and running away, he was going crazy. This Bai Xiaosheng was simply a huge curse!

If it hadn't been for following Mrs. Wang and receiving her instructions, even if it killed me, I wouldn't want to mess with such a person! Assistant Qian felt a shiver in his heart.

However—

Since the leader wanted to take care of him and had come down personally, no matter how capable Bai Xiaosheng was, how could he create waves against Mrs. Wang given the power difference?

Assistant Qian sneered.

Just that, why did Mrs. Wang consistently ignore Bai Xiaosheng, not showing any indication of drawing her sword even after so many days?

This wasn't Mrs. Wang's personality!

Even though Assistant Qian was cunning and shrewd, he couldn't fathom Vice General Manager Wang Ye's thoughts at the moment.

"Qian, what do you think of my calligraphy?" Wang Ye held his brush, scrutinizing his work, then asked casually.

"Excellent!"

Assistant Qian quickly returned to his senses, praised first, and then looked at the character.

The strokes were as sharp as knives and swords.

Yet it was the character—"Endure."

Endure?

Assistant Qian was stunned. What was Vice General Manager Wang Ye doing writing this character?

Was he the one to endure, or was he telling me to endure? If he's planning to endure, then why come to the project at all?

Assistant Qian couldn't comprehend it.

"A blade hanging over the heart, tormenting constantly, isn't it?" Wang Ye glanced at Assistant Qian and said with a smile, then his voice turned cold, "Killing someone should strike at the heart, like striking a snake at the vital seven-inch mark. No need for repeated strikes, one should suffice, to utterly suppress them, never to rise again!"

After speaking, Wang Ye tossed the brush aside and walked leisurely to the side.

Assistant Qian couldn't help but swallow.

The more he looked at the character, the more astonishing it became, with a faint murderous intent. Mulling over the words of Wang Ye, he felt a chill run down his spine.

This Bai Xiaosheng was probably going to face serious trouble!

How great a grudge did Vice General Manager Wang Ye have against him...

"Bai Xiaosheng, for the sake of my future, I'm afraid it's your turn to... truly die once!" Wang Ye sneered coldly.

That evening.

In an obscure yet delicately elegant restaurant, two groups of guests arrived. They each made a few rounds inside the restaurant before entering the same private room together.

Xiangdong Group, Sun Xiangdong.

Century Construction, Wang Ye.

Two key figures met for a secret discussion, talking late into the night, unknown to others.

When the meeting dispersed, both host and guest were in high spirits.

Chapter 163 I fully support you_1

Villa, living room.

Chen Jiutian, dressed in casual home attire, appeared calm as he answered the phone.

He had originally planned to stay for just a few days before leaving Tiannan, but his departure had been delayed again and again because of Chen Feng's injury.

At this moment, Chen Feng sat opposite him. The wounds on his face and body were mostly healed, but they left numerous scars, erasing his once handsome features. Chen Jiutian had contacted the best scar treatment beautician to care for his son.

But while scars are easy to remove, hatred is hard to let go of.

Chen Feng's face was gloomy, his eyes filled with dark shadows. Now every time he looked in the mirror, rage consumed him.

The Lu Family, they were untouchable, and it wasn't their fault. If there was anyone to blame, it was that bastard Bai Xiaosheng!

He must pay the price!

The person on the other end of the phone with Chen Jiutian was Wang Ye, who was also responsible for acting on their behalf to completely ruin Bai Xiaosheng.

"You, go ahead and do what must be done. But remember, avoid the project if possible. The real estate sector is a piece of fat meat, and I want you to minimize losses," Chen Jiutian instructed seriously.

"But Mr. Chen, to completely ruin Bai Xiaosheng, will inevitably cause unavoidable damage to the project, I'm afraid..."

On the other end of the line, Wang Ye was troubled.

In fact, he really wanted to curse.

Chen Jiutian had clearly said that he permitted the use of any means necessary, even if it meant destroying the project! And now he was asking to avoid damaging the project.

Those in power, their minds change at the drop of a hat! How could they be so fickle!

Wang Ye was both angry and anxious.

He had just established a cooperation with Sun Xiangdong and mapped out the whole plan, also ready to make a big score.

Just as it was about to begin, Chen Jiutian's orders tied his hands.

If it comes to it, I'll just go ahead and do it. What can Chen Jiutian do to me afterward!

Wang Ye steeled his heart but still felt a bit uneasy.

Wang Ye was anxious and helpless, yet he explained himself once more.

Chen Jiutian remained unmoved.

"Anyway, you first do as I am now instructing. As for this matter, give me more time to think!"

In the end, Chen Jiutian, also becoming impatient, simply hung up the phone.

On the other end, Wang Ye, listening to the busy signal, his face turned from green to white. In the solitude of his office, he faced the wall and swore under his breath.

"Dad, why do you restrict Wang so much, just let him go all out and take down Bai Xiaosheng!" Chen Feng couldn't hold back any longer and exclaimed, "You control industries across eight provinces and cities, a mere small company in Tiannan, not to mention just one project, even if the company collapsed, what would it matter!"

Chen Feng was extremely arrogant.

Wherever his father went, he was revered like an ancestor. Over time, Chen Feng also felt that they were like lords controlling the fate of those below them.

Moreover, it wasn't them doing it personally; should there be any trouble, they could just let their subordinates take the blame.

"You know nothing!"

Chen Jiutian massaged his temples. "Do you think this is simple?"

"Do you think I can act without any concerns?" he said, getting up and pacing. "Maybe ten years ago it was possible, but ever since the old chairman established the inspection team, things have been getting tighter in the last two years. No matter how high up we are, even as senior executives, we must be extremely cautious and vigilant!"

"What has taken me to this position? It is exactly this cautious and respectful attitude."

Chen Jiutian was frustrated with his son's ignorance.

Chen Feng sneered, feeling disdain in his heart. If you were really that cautious, you wouldn't be propping up our own people in various places and secretly making a fortune.

As far as Chen Feng was aware, there were almost twenty close confidants. And this was only what he knew about.

In the eight provinces of East China, there were so many cities, so many industries owned by Zhenbei. If you calculate one-tenth of those supporting their own people, the number was astonishing!

Chen Jiutian continued to "impart his instruction."

His phone rang.

This Wang Ye really is relentless! Didn't I tell him to think things through?

Chen Jiutian furrowed his brows in displeasure, thinking the call was from Wang Ye.

Turned out, the number was completely foreign, but—mysteriously familiar.

Chen Jiutian's eyes suddenly narrowed.

He remembered!

This was the first number he had memorized after becoming the General Manager of the East China Region, a number he couldn't save!

Just as Chen Feng was about to ask if it was Wang Ye, he saw his father, who was broad and fat, dart out like the wind and run toward the study.

His agility left Chen Feng dumbfounded!

"No one is to come near my study!" Chen Jiutian bellowed, his voice so loud that it echoed throughout the entire villa.

Chen Feng stared in shock.

In his memory, his father had never been so urgent, so uncomposed.

"Who could it be calling?" Chen Feng muttered to himself.

Inside the study.

Chen Jiutian locked the door before cautiously answering the call.

"Is this Mr. Chen Jiutian, the General Manager for the East China Region?"

The voice on the phone was very young, polite, introducing themselves, "I am a member of the inspection team from the group, identification number..., you have one minute to verify."

ID number, each digit and letter had a special meaning, Chen Jiutian understood.

Based on the ID, this wasn't just an inspection team member but one with a high rank!

"All right, I've confirmed your identity, may I ask, what is the matter?"

Chen Jiutian asked cautiously.

This inspection team represented the will of the group headquarters, they wouldn't normally have any interaction with middle and senior management like him unless it was a special circumstance!

So, what was the special circumstance now?

They couldn't be looking to trouble me, could they?

For an instant, Chen Jiutian felt uneasy, but then he calmed down.

If they were really looking to trouble him, they would come in person, not make a call.

"According to the resolution by the group's highest authority, starting this quarter, an in-depth inspection will be carried out on the deputies of subsidiary companies in all regions of the Greater China Region. Those who meet the standards will be transferred across regions for a term of one to two years. The notification of this resolution will be formally sent to the internal email later. Regional leaders, please cooperate..."

The voice on the other end was clear, neither hasty nor slow.

Chen Jiutian's eyes narrowed. Was the group about to make a move on their control over personnel?

Direct inter-regional transfers would mean that those he had groomed and trusted could be reassigned!

The person on the phone continued, "The inspection personnel involved in the East China Region include Zhang Cheng, Liu An, Shang Wenshu, Wang Ye..."

Chen Jiutian's gaze sharpened.

Out of the dozen or so people, Wang Ye was the only one he truly considered his own, and the one he didn't want to let go!

The person on the line finished listing the names and added another two sentences, then hung up.

Chen Jiutian's expression flickered uncertainly.

He couldn't allow Wang Ye to be transferred. Thankfully it was only the inspection phase and nothing was finalized. Between Shang Wenshu and Wang Ye, one must go, and he was determined to keep Wang Ye.

"I can't let Wang Ye pass the group's inspection!" Chen Jiutian muttered to himself, "I need to make him slip up, get him kicked off the list and stay with me!"

"Wang, this is for our own good," Chen Jiutian muttered again as he redialed Wang Ye's number.

Wang Ye picked up.

Chen Jiutian said in a gentle voice, "Wang, I've thought it over! Our main focus is on dealing with Bai Xiaosheng. Go ahead and handle that rotten project, you have my full support!"

Chapter 164 The Calm Before the Storm_1

Time flew by, and there were only twenty days left until Teles Square was to open.

In the project department, all work was proceeding systematically and in an orderly fashion.

At present, the construction team had entered the site, and in coordination with the engineering department of the project, was working on setting up the activity stage. The construction was expected to be completed within a little over ten days.

The Teles Square project was a core project of Century Construction, aiming to become a benchmark in the Tiannan real estate sector. As such, a lot of thought had gone into the stage and set design. It was Bai Xiaosheng's complete concept, which, after several optimizations and improvements by the project's leading team, had been finalized.

It could be said that this plan had almost achieved the ultimate in terms of the set investment.

It contained the hard work and wisdom of so many people.

Watching the stage rise bit by bit, every department, every supervisor, was eagerly looking forward to it.

Everyone was anticipating the arrival of the grand opening gala!

In the increasingly warm and enthusiastic atmosphere, even Bai Xiaosheng's mood was gradually soaring.

Right now, he had five points at the manager level, and ninety-five points to go before reaching the level of deputy general manager.

Once this project took off, as the deputy person in charge, he would definitely reap a rich harvest in terms of scoring.

In recent days, Bai Xiaosheng had indeed devoted himself wholeheartedly, even running to the project on weekends.

He and Wei Xuelian could only meet at night sometimes now.

Wei Xuelian was also busy, he didn't know with what, perhaps it was something to do with the training school.

Bai Xiaosheng noticed that there was always a faint trace of worry lingering in her brows.

But it always flashed by instantaneously.

Once I'm through with this busy period, I must deal with that fatso from Zhengdong Province to see how he's managing things, to make a girl work so hard! Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

However, this also made him very pleased.

Because in the past few nights, Wei Xuelian had always found time to sit with him and chat.

Although, it was mostly Bai Xiaosheng talking and her listening.

But seeing her listening so happily, with a genuine smile, made Bai Xiaosheng feel a sweetness in his heart.

The intangible feeling between the two of them was climbing steadily.

Sometimes Bai Xiaosheng's heart would flutter, and he couldn't help wanting to confess his feelings to her right then and there.

But in the end, he still did not take that step.

Once I'm through with this busy period, I'll talk about it then! Bai Xiaosheng made up his mind.

While Bai Xiaosheng was completely immersed in his work and preoccupied with the grand opening, a piece of news appeared on various major media outlets, drawing his attention.

"Tiannan's two major landmarks open simultaneously, but who will lead?"

The article introduced one naturally as Teles Square, and the other—the Xiangdong Group's East Square!

Bai Xiaosheng still remembered Sun Xiangdong's initial visit and the threats he made.

After the threats, Bai Xiaosheng had not encountered the storm he had imagined, but he also had a premonition that the matter was not over.

"With my current connections and resources, I'm not afraid of him," Bai Xiaosheng was unfazed.

He glanced over this report and then put it aside.

What does it matter if they open on the same day?

It wasn't the first time Xiangdong Group had engaged in a needle against wheat sort of competition.

Who will rise and who will fall, who will win and who will lose, that'll be determined by each one's tactics!

Subsequently, Bai Xiaosheng noticed several more news reports.

Each time, the stunts from Xiangdong's side grew bigger than the last.

Recently, they've used barriers several meters high to enclose the entire project, with construction teams constantly coming and going, making a significant commotion inside.

Some journalists wanted to investigate, but they couldn't even get through the door.

It is said that Xiang Dong's construction site is guarded by a security team that patrols the area, and entry and exit require a card swipe. The construction team is operated by Xiang Dong itself, and the workers are tight-lipped; not a sliver of information has leaked out.

What kind of tricks are they playing?!

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't see through it either.

So, he stopped thinking about it.

Now, over at Treles Square, the grand opening ribbon-cutting ceremony has already invited District Chief Wu Qibing and Master Song Kai!

Master Song Kai—that is a closely guarded trump card. Once revealed, it's bound to shake the industry!

At the moment, many people in Treles Square are talking about the movements at Xiang Dong's site, but clearly with disdain. They are full of confidence in Master Song Kai, and even more so in Bai Xiaosheng, the man who facilitated the Master's arrival.

With confidence abounding on the project team, everyone was busy with their own tasks. Without new work, they all sought out flaws to fix.

As a result, the most idle among them were Bai Xiaosheng.

And Wang Ye.

Wang Ye was now "reclusive in simplicity"—aside from showing up at meetings, he would spend more time in his office, sometimes even setting up a game of Go to play against himself.

The game he played was without any discernible pattern—at least, Assistant Qian who understood Go couldn't make heads or tails of it.

Wang Ye would also mutter to himself from time to time.

"The entire board is in my grasp, only the encirclement is left. This time, I'll teach you that you cannot escape, and I also teach myself how to soar to great heights!"

From being a fierce and aggressive deputy, Wang Ye became noticeably more like a hands-off manager in the last few days.

Whenever anything related to the project came up, he would delegate it to Bai Xiaosheng.

If there was something that really needed his decision, Wang Ye, who was known for his authoritarian ways, would surprisingly opt to hold a meeting for collective brainstorming.

Anyway, it was as if he had completely changed his ways.

This left many of those originally under Li Mingtong, who had thought about switching allegiance to Wang Ye, utterly disheartened, and they wholeheartedly joined Bai Xiaosheng in the grand task of "building a brighter future for the project."

With Wang Ye relaxing, Assistant Qian, however, wasn't so lucky.

He was directed by Wang Ye to assist Bai Xiaosheng—and genuinely assist, not to cause trouble. Bai Xiaosheng naturally wouldn't be polite with him. When it came to areas that Assistant Qian was proficient in, he was handed responsibility wholesale, running Assistant Qian ragged.

After sending off Assistant Qian, Wang Ye would lock his office door from the inside and then make two phone calls.

One to Chen Jiutian.

Chen Jiutian had instructed him to report regularly, and Wang Ye did just that.

The other call, he made to Sun Xiangdong.

Ever since the day they struck a "cooperation," the two had been in constant communication, continuously refining their plan to perfection, striving for a degree of flawlessness that even Chen Jiutian upon inspection couldn't find a single thread or trace.

With the continuous communication between the two, their clandestine plans became increasingly watertight.

Actually, as long as they weren't too obvious, Chen Jiutian would definitely not notice.

After all, as the regional manager of East China, with so many cities, so many industries, and so many sectors under his purview, requiring him to fly everywhere and inspect everything, how could he possibly notice whether there was anything amiss with Wang Ye.

Meanwhile, Sun Xiangdong, aside from being occupied with liaising with Wang Ye and coordinating their scheme, was also busy contacting Wei Moran for the concert arrangements.

The concert of Wei Tianhou in Tiannan had already entered the publicity stage, but the venue had not been announced, which was something Sun Xiangdong had struggled to achieve.

He wanted to keep the concert venue secret until the last moment, to then shock Tiannan and surpass Treles Square in one fell swoop!

Just like that.

Everyone was busy with their tasks in full swing.

Over Tiannan, there was a peaceful tranquility.

Yet it was like the calm before a Storm!

Chapter 165 Trouble!_1

The construction team had been setting up the stage for a week, and the project opening was still two weeks away.

One day, Bai Xiaosheng was in his office, reviewing the schedule.

"Something terrible has happened, Manager Bai! Something terrible!"

A person rushed in, face slightly pale and panting heavily.

It was the head of the engineering department!

"What's the matter?" Bai Xiaosheng stood up in astonishment.

Wasn't the engineering department working with the construction team to set up the stage? Could it be a problem with the stage?

"You need to come and see, half of the backdrop scaffolding for the stage has collapsed!" said the engineering head, still shaken.

He was right next to it, chatting with the construction team leader, when the several-meter-tall scaffolding suddenly came crashing down, and metal pipes flew towards him—he was only a few meters away!

Thinking back on it now, he still felt unnerved by the noise. After saying as much, he couldn't continue.

"Did anyone get hurt?" Manager Bai demanded sharply, bringing him back to his senses.

"Ah, ah! No!" The engineering head quickly shook his head but then hesitated slightly before adding, "Someone from the construction team seemed to have been hit in the waist and was taken to the hospital by their people! But it shouldn't be serious, just their clothes got a bit dirty, no blood was seen."

"Let's go take a look!" Bai Xiaosheng strode ahead, leading the way, "Did you inform Vice General Manager Wang Ye?"

"Vice General Manager Wang Ye is already there; he's the one who sent me to get you!" replied the engineering head, frantic.

As Bai Xiaosheng hurried over, his mind was racing.

He had devised this plan himself and was clear on every detail, including the stage construction.

Due to customized requirements and difficulty, they did not hire an events company to handle everything but sought out a separate construction team instead.

The back panels of the stage were not built with construction steel pipes, but with force-resistant scaffolding, which is easy to assemble and disassemble, has a high bearing capacity, and is lightweight and safe.

How could it possibly have "fallen apart"?!

Doubts began to rise in Bai Xiaosheng's mind.

By the time he arrived, the site was already crowded with many people, and he could hear loud, clamorous voices from a distance.

"There's been an accident, someone's been hurt, you must give me an explanation for this!" a thick, rough voice rumbled.

It was Zhou, the construction team leader.

This burly man had a steady, resonant voice.

"Don't panic, we're handling it," Wang Ye tried to reassure. "The person responsible for this section is on their way!"

"Anyway, this isn't over!"

"That's right, it's not over!"

"You have to take responsibility, full responsibility!"

A handful of people followed behind Zhou, shouting loudly.

Although Bai Xiaosheng was in a hurry to get there, he frowned at the scene and came to a halt.

The engineering head tried to move forward, but Bai Xiaosheng pulled him back.

"Let's observe first," Bai Xiaosheng said, composed.

What?

The engineering head looked at Bai Xiaosheng in surprise. With the situation at hand, Manager Bai could still keep cool!

One should know that this matter could be serious!

If handled properly, they could continue with the work, but if mishandled and brought to the attention of the Supervision Department for investigation, that would be a big problem!

Bai Xiaosheng, expressionless, watched the scene unfold as if he was just a spectator.

Zhou was making a fuss, and people around him joined in the ruckus.

To Bai Xiaosheng, this scene resembled that of a medical dispute!

Normally, in the event of an accident, Zhou, as the construction team leader, should be visiting the injured colleague in the hospital straight away, rather than making a commotion here!

Bai Xiaosheng's gaze skimmed over.

The construction team members, apart from a few who avidly joined in the uproar, were listlessly watching from the side.

"At that time, was it only one person who got hit in the waist?" Bai Xiaosheng asked the engineering head in a low voice, "Are you sure?"

"Sure." The engineering head nodded firmly.

"Were there any of our people in the group that went to the hospital?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

"That... it was quite urgent and chaotic at the time, it was their people who took them away," the project supervisor said sheepishly.

So there weren't any!

Bai Xiaosheng looked from afar at the collapsed scaffold,

Although this project was somewhat challenging, it shouldn't have ended up like this in the hands of an experienced construction crew.

Collapsed?

What was most unbelievable was that the scaffold had fallen, and while he could understand the injuries, how did someone get hit in the waist?!

"Bai Xiaosheng, Bai Xiaosheng hasn't arrived yet!"

As Bai Xiaosheng pondered, Wang Ye called out sternly.

His forehead was covered in sweat, and he was completely irritable.

The Vice General Manager of Century Construction, usually the one to give out reprimands, now found himself playing the role of a mediator, being yelled at and pointed at by a construction team leader.

He couldn't stand it.

"Bai Xiaosheng, get over here!" Wang Ye, furious as a thunderclap, spotted Bai Xiaosheng still deep in thought and immediately roared in anger.

Bai Xiaosheng was actually standing to the side, watching the commotion as if it were none of his concern, which was utterly infuriating!

If looks could kill, Bai Xiaosheng would have been stabbed to death by Wang Ye a thousand times, ten thousand times.

The surrounding supervisors fell silent like cicadas in winter!

Fearing they might get caught in the crossfire of their superior's rage, they too were afraid.

"You're in charge of safety, aren't you? Give me an explanation! No, first you give them an explanation!" Wang Ye suppressed his fury, puffing his beard and glowering, pointing at Zhou before turning his back.

Without changing his expression, Bai Xiaosheng walked towards Zhou.

"You're the person in charge!" Zhou's face contorted fiercely, and he stepped forward, about to lay his hands on Bai Xiaosheng.

"Stand there!"

With a stern face, Bai Xiaosheng suddenly bellowed out, his demeanor fierce.

Caught off guard, Zhou was startled into pausing.

The roar also shocked everyone around them.

"What's going on, speak up!" Bai Xiaosheng kept a taut face and nodded toward the stage.

His expression was like someone whose belongings had been damaged unwarrantedly, and he was demanding an answer.

Zhou swallowed hard, getting over the initial shock.

"What's going on—I should be asking you that! What kind of materials are you providing, there's a problem! Now my people are in the hospital! Tell me, how are we going to deal with this? If it really comes to it, we'll have to go to the government and have a thorough investigation!"

"Right!"

"Go to the government! An investigation!"

Several people behind Zhou also started to shout.

The surrounding supervisors were uneasy, looking at Bai Xiaosheng.

Some even looked resentful, feeling Bai Xiaosheng's approach was too confrontational, almost as if he was escalating the situation.

Wang Ye's gaze was icy cold.

"According to the 'Tiannan City Construction Project Safety Production Management Regulations' enacted in 2016, Chapter Six, the production safety accident investigation and handling procedures, Articles 53 and 54," Bai Xiaosheng stated emotionlessly, reciting the safety regulations eloquently.

On his way here, he had asked Red Lotus to look up the legal provisions, making him more knowledgeable about the law than anyone present—even more than the legal counsel!

This was also one of the reasons why he had been observing calmly and with confidence.

"The onsite injury situation does not meet the standard for the Supervision Department to intervene. Unless your subordinate with the waist injury has broken bones, shattered tendons, and ruptured organs—otherwise, you can go now and pierce yourself with a steel pipe... But if something really happens, you'll be the first person responsible!"

Bai Xiaosheng snorted coldly.

Zhou's eyes narrowed, his confidence waning, and he began to look evasive.

"I've already sent someone to the hospital, if your person turns out to be fine... then we will need to talk about the damages on our side, not to mention the destroyed materials. According to the contract, for causing a delay in the construction period, you are liable for compensation..."

"Can you afford it?"

Bai Xiaosheng bellowed fiercely.

Zhou shivered with fright.

Chapter 166: You're Fired! _1

Too strong! All around, people on the project couldn't help but cheer silently.

Manager Bai is too impressive!

Vice General Manager Wang Ye politely advised for a long time, yet Zhou became more and more arrogant, making them all watch in anger. Now that Manager Bai stepped in, he sharply berated in a clean and efficient manner.

Zhou, intimidated.

In addition, through Bai Xiaosheng's words, some people on the project immediately started discussing.

"I felt that something was fishy just now, they're clearly causing trouble on purpose!"

"Then why didn't you say something earlier?"

"I'm too unimportant, my words carry little weight. But, I didn't expect Manager Bai and I to be on the same wavelength."

"Get out of here, you call Manager Bai astute, and you're just shameless!"

As they discussed, more and more people realized that there was a problem here.

The sound of discussion rose and fell.

Now not only Zhou but also the construction workers who yelled fiercely were a bit flustered under the scrutiny and murmurs of others.

Zhou's look at Bai Xiaosheng became unnatural.

This young fellow seemed inconspicuous, but when he glared, his aura was frightening.

Especially those eyes, deep and sharp, as if they could see through everything, leaving him nowhere to hide!

Assistant Qian, holding a phone, whispered a few words in Wang Ye's ear.

The legal regulations Bai Xiaosheng mentioned were completely accurate!

Wang Ye's gaze slightly narrowed.

Although it wasn't the first time he had witnessed Bai Xiaosheng's methods, each encounter seemed even more terrifying.

This young man's growth rate was astonishing. With strong psychological fortitude, calm composure, and knowledge exceeding that of ordinary people, he had now become so abnormal that he could recite legal provisions at the drop of a hat.

Was this a normal person?

No, this was a freak, a monster!

Wang Ye looked at Bai Xiaosheng with even greater caution.

Zhou swallowed hard, his eyes darting around as he blustered, "I don't understand the law, stop talking to me about these useless things. All I know is that these building materials are substandard, and my brother got hurt!"

Just now you were clamoring about resorting to the law, and now you don't understand the law?

Bai Xiaosheng looked at him with a cold smile.

"Let's go, we're not working, we're not working!" Zhou didn't look into Bai Xiaosheng's eyes, shouting as he signal his people to leave.

"Right, we're not working."

"Exactly, let's go, let's go!"

The construction team's people also shouted, but without the dominant momentum from before.

With a casual sweep, Bai Xiaosheng noticed that the workers had gathered their tools and were preparing to load them onto a vehicle, thoroughly ready.

Had they been planning to leave all along?

"Not working, fine! Then let's settle it according to the contract," Bai Xiaosheng said unruffled, his voice cold.

He drafted the contract, and if it was the subcontractor's fault that caused the delay, Zhou's team would have to compensate the project a substantial amount of money!

Against expectations.

This time, Zhou showed no fear, sneering at Bai Xiaosheng.

"You want us to compensate? Fine, bring out the contract, let us have a look?"

Bai Xiaosheng slightly frowned and said to the engineering manager beside him, "Go get the contract."

The engineering manager didn't move, his face looking a bit ugly.

"Manager Bai, I gave the contract to Assistant Qian, it seems... it's not yet processed..."

The engineering manager's face was filled with bitterness, he had urged several times, but Assistant Qian was not hurried, and there was nothing he could do.

"Not yet processed?!"

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes tightened, looking at the engineering manager in disbelief.

They had been working for a week now! And the contract wasn't finalized!

And yet, Zhou's team had been working? Simply inconceivable!

"Qian!"

At the moment, Bai Xiaosheng's gaze sought out Assistant Qian, his eyes almost murderous.

Assistant Qian hid behind Wang Ye, not daring to meet his eyes.

Zhou laughed heartily.

All around, the faces of the project managers and employees instantly turned sour.

They all looked toward Assistant Qian, each of them wishing they could kill him.

"Cough, now is not the time to investigate who was negligent. Let's deal with the problem at hand first!" Vice General Manager Wang Ye ordered, frowning.

Bai Xiaosheng gave Wang Ye a chilly glance and turned to Zhou.

At that moment, Zhou, with his arms crossed and shaking his leg, was smug.

"Why not let's just soften our stance first, have them finish the construction, and save ourselves a lot of trouble," the project director suggested, albeit reluctantly.

That's right, come beg me! Zhou eagerly waited for Bai Xiaosheng to plead, thinking to himself.

Once Bai Xiaosheng begged him, he would definitely refuse outright and then ridicule him greatly.

You were acting all tough just now, now I'll return the favor!

Zhou sneered secretly.

Bai Xiaosheng's gaze was indifferent as he looked at Zhou and then at the construction workers behind him who were so pleased with themselves.

"You," Bai Xiaosheng pointed outside with a wave of his hand, "are fired!"

A single sentence and the surroundings went silent.

Zhou's smile froze on his face.

"Since there is no contract, we won't acknowledge any work you've done for this project, and we will not pay any commission. Now, leave Teles Square immediately, or else..."

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at the security department.

The security department manager immediately picked up the walkie-talkie.

"Bai Xiaosheng, who gave you the authority to make this decision! The project is not finished, they can't leave; there is still room for discussion!"

Wang Ye couldn't help but say.

"Assistant Qian's issue will be dealt with in a subsequent meeting," Bai Xiaosheng shot a cold glance and said sternly.

Wang Ye's breath caught.

He glared at Bai Xiaosheng fiercely and walked away.

Assistant Qian quickly lowered her head and scurried after him in panic.

With just one retort, he dismissed Mr. Wang.

The supervisors and employees around looked on with awe in their eyes.

"Wang, first team, second team, third team, all teams on standby!" the security manager bellowed into the walkie-talkie.

"Roger that, captain!" came the crisp response from the other side.

"Not leaving yet?" Bai Xiaosheng said coldly to Zhou.

"You're ruthless, you're impressive!" Zhou spat out vehemently

Then, with a wave, he led the group of disgruntled construction workers away, looking defeated.

Bai Xiaosheng watched them leave, his brows slightly furrowed.

They stirred up trouble after the incident; they even packed their tools, set on withdrawing, confronted with not getting paid, yet they actually left without taking the money.

Is this a normal construction team?!

There's something not simple about this!

Although it seemed like the matter was resolved,

Bai Xiaosheng still felt a heavy weight on his heart, with a bad premonition lingering in his mind.

This matter was far from over!

"For using managerial authority to expel the substandard construction party and ensure the project was not threatened or damaged, add five points. Current total score: ten points. Ninety points to go until reaching the level of Vice General Manager,"

Red Lotus's voice suddenly rang out.

Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback.

Then he smiled.

The gloomy mood that had been upon him lifted with the addition of points!

If dealing with these matters earned points, then that was a different story!

Even if there were floods and fierce beasts lurking in the shadows, even if a wild storm was about to hit, as long as points were awarded, he would not fear!

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes sparkled, and he clenched his fist with a fighting spirit.

Let the storm come more violently!

Let the points come more fiercely!

At this moment, Wang Ye, who was on his way back to his office, originally full of rage, his anger dissipated when he reached a secluded spot, and a cold smile formed at the corner of his mouth.

Meanwhile, Zhou, who was driving away from Teles Square, made a phone call, and after it connected, he could only spread a smile across his face and said,

"Yes, as planned, we have pulled out!"

Chapter 167: Got a Promotion?!_1

Teles Square, the main conference room.

After dealing with the issue on-site, Bai Xiaosheng immediately called a meeting.

Wang Ye sat in the main seat with a gloomy face, and Assistant Qian added a chair behind him.

All the managers were in attendance, taking their seats in turn.

The atmosphere of this meeting was quite somber.

The event stage had been shut down, half of the scaffolding had collapsed, and although there were no casualties or escalation of the situation that involved the authorities,

still, it had happened before the opening event, which left everyone present with a heavy heart.

The work had always gone smoothly, but suddenly encountering such an incident was not a good omen!

"This incident has given us a profound warning! We must never slack off in our work, especially us leaders! A single lapse can lead to problems!"

Wang Ye, looking heartbroken, banged on the table as he spoke.

He had been talking for a good half hour.

The managers present were as silent as cicadas in winter.

The engineering manager, in particular, was on pins and needles; he had a significant part in this!

When Wang Ye's cold gaze swept over him, the intense chill in his eyes made the engineering manager tremble.

Today, would they make an example out of me, to warn the others? The engineering manager thought anxiously.

"Manager Bai, what do you say? How should we handle this?"

Finally, Wang Ye stopped talking, took a sip of tea, and threw the topic to Bai Xiaosheng.

Clearly, the situation was serious, and the leadership was enraged. A stern response was required!

The engineering manager wore a worried expression, knowing he couldn't avoid responsibility today, especially with Bai Xiaosheng involved. Could there be a good outcome?

The other managers couldn't help but feel a sense of sorrow for the misfortunes of others.

The atmosphere in the conference room grew even more oppressive.

"Regarding this matter..." Bai Xiaosheng glanced at the engineering manager, "the engineering department bears an inescapable responsibility!"

Here it comes!

The engineering manager's face turned pale as he clenched his teeth.

He resigned himself to his fate!

"However, as for the issue of the contract, it was my lack of oversight. That responsibility is on me!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a grave voice, "It has little to do with the engineering manager!"

Bai Xiaosheng took full responsibility.

The engineering manager looked up in surprise, gazing at Bai Xiaosheng.

This Devil Bai, whom he had gleefully cursed behind his back, was actually taking the blame for him?!

This, this!

In that moment, the engineering manager felt so moved that his nose turned sour; the pressure he had felt was indescribably immense!

The managers present looked at Bai Xiaosheng in astonishment, their eyes filled with respect.

Who wouldn't want a boss who was accountable and willing to stand up for their subordinates at critical moments!

Wang Ye looked at Bai Xiaosheng with surprise, but the corner of his mouth betrayed a faintly mocking sneer.

Bai Xiaosheng wants to take the fall, to win the hearts of others? Ha, perfect, I can use this as an opportunity to berate him thoroughly!

Wang Ye put down his tea cup.

Bai Xiaosheng, you are still too green. You might dodge the pit I've dug, but what you don't realize is that I've laid a series of traps! Wang Ye thought smugly.

However, Bai Xiaosheng seemed to have no intention of stopping and continued speaking.

"As the deputy head in charge of the project, not urging the engineering department to handle the contract properly and in a timely manner was one of my failures!" Bai Xiaosheng declared self-righteously.

All the managers, along with the engineering manager, turned their stern gazes toward Assistant Qian.

This wasn't Manager Bai's responsibility, it was Assistant Qian's fault!

Assistant Qian stuck out his head and, upon seeing the myriad of icy stares, immediately shrank back in fright.

"My second failure was not urging each department to consult with Mr. Wang and let him make the final decisions! This kind of behavior, not bothering leaders with issues, is extremely wrong, a subjective mistake!" Bai Xiaosheng tapped the table as he spoke again.

Wang Ye frowned.

Is Bai Xiaosheng really trying to use this mistake to push me to the forefront so I'll have to take the brunt of any future issues?

Wang Ye's eyes narrowed slightly.

The purpose of today's meeting, to sow discord between them and to severely rebuke him, was secondary; the ultimate goal was to push him to the forefront.

How did he beat me to it!

Wang Ye was caught off guard.

In terms of scheming, he was no match for Shang Wenshu, but he hadn't imagined that even the young Bai Xiaosheng could outmaneuver him?!

"It seems that I am still too young and not sufficiently experienced to handle a leadership position. I request to resign from my role as Deputy Project Manager and honestly carry out my duties as a manager!" Bai Xiaosheng earnestly thumped his chest. "In the future, if anyone has issues, remember to frequently contact Assistant Qian and consult with Mrs. Wang!"

Bai Xiaosheng's heartfelt words deeply moved the supervisors present.

What makes a good leader? This is what a good leader looks like! Responsible and accountable!

"Understood, Manager Bai, we will certainly consult with Mrs. Wang more often in the future and only act on her instructions!"

"Yes, yes, yes, even if Assistant Qian is busy and forgets for a moment, we should remind him more!"

"Manager Bai, you shouldn't resign from your position, we all trust you!" Some people couldn't help but speak up.

The entire project department felt more united and cohesive.

Assistant Qian, standing behind Wang Ye, turned green.

From now on, wouldn't he be annoyingly chased after by everyone?

Moreover, the way the supervisors looked at him was unfriendly, which was a lot of psychological pressure.

Listening to all this, Wang Ye felt increasingly agitated.

Bai Xiaosheng even "resigned"!

Damn it, this bastard! He checkmated me in one move!

If Bai Xiaosheng steps down, then wouldn't my efforts be in vain?

He had given up the power at the head office in order to have autocratic control over the project, appointing Bai Xiaosheng to take the blame and bear the brunt.

But how could he allow Bai Xiaosheng to quit!

Wang Ye's expression subtly changed. The thunderous fury he was prepared to unleash had to be swallowed back, and he squeezed out a pleasant smile.

"Manager Bai, you're not to blame for this!" Wang Ye quickly set the tone.

"Nor is the Engineering Department!" Wang Ye added.

"It's all on this assistant of mine!" Through gritted teeth and with an angry shout, Wang Ye said, "Assistant Qian!"

Qian gave a shiver, his face turning bitter, as he hurriedly stood up and put on a smile in front of everyone.

"Look at the mess you've made!" Wang Ye just banged the table.

He had so much anger to vent, and besides, this Qian had always been the one coming up with terrible ideas!

"Unprofessional, negligent, stupid..." Wang Ye berated Assistant Qian for a full ten minutes in front of everyone, scolding Qian so harshly that his head almost shrank into his pants.

"Write me a ten thousand-word self-criticism report, and then, Finance Department, dock his bonus for this month!" Wang Ye commanded.

The supervisors listened smugly.

"Assistant Qian's negligence also reflects on my responsibility! Coming to this project, I shouldn't be the Chief in Charge, as I am not familiar with the project conditions. How about this, let's make Bai Xiaosheng the Chief in Charge!" Wang Ye suddenly proposed, changing his tune.

Bai Xiaosheng's first reaction was to refuse.

However.

"Do you accept the role of Project Chief in Charge? Accept, and receive double points during your tenure!" Red Lotus's voice rang out.

Wang Ye waited for Bai Xiaosheng to refuse before he was prepared to flood him with incessant reasons to seal his mouth.

Unexpectedly, Bai Xiaosheng's eyes lit up.

"Since the leader has spoken, alright, I'll do it!"

Wang Ye was left with his mouth agape.

Chapter 168 Trouble Now!_1

Bai Xiaosheng took over as the person in charge of Treles Square!

This news, after the meeting, instantaneously spread throughout the entire project.

The entire staff layer was boiling with excitement!

In the Promotion Department, Wang, Song, and Yezi were so surprised that they were speechless for quite a while.

Looking back on when Bai Xiaosheng first arrived, who could have imagined that in just under two and a half months, he would become the sole person in charge of the entire Treles Square project!

Even Vice General Manager Wang Ye promised not to interfere with any of his work.

The company was filled with deep feelings of admiration.

This might be the fastest promotion from the grass-roots level in the history of Century Construction!

Truly a devilish talent!

Beyond their shock, Wang and others were also very happy, thinking about finding time to properly celebrate with Bai Xiaosheng.

The employees engaged in enthusiastic discussions, while the managers were likewise struggling to calm their emotions.

Having experienced today's meeting, the engineering supervisor had now become a loyal fan of Bai Xiaosheng.

The "Devil Bai" that he used to complain about incessantly had now transformed into a truly good leader!

Under his lead, the heads of other departments also began to recognize the various strengths of Bai Xiaosheng.

Since becoming manager, Bai Xiaosheng trusted his team, dared to delegate authority, avoided petty faults-finding, gave no random orders, and refrained from random scolding; he was generally amicable...

Compared to him, Vice General Manager Wang Ye seemed worse by several multiples.

Especially given that they didn't have to deal with people like Assistant Qian anymore, the managers expressed their happiness.

Suddenly, Bai Xiaosheng's approval rating within the project skyrocketed like never before.

However, Wang Ye, after Bai Xiaosheng had readily agreed, wrapped up the meeting hastily, and rushed back to his own office with Assistant Qian.

Originally, he had prepared a whole set of arguments to persuade Bai Xiaosheng to take over the position, and he had even planned to force the promotion if necessary.

But...

Bai Xiaosheng just accepted like that!

Eagerly, without any hesitation, he agreed!

Back in his own office, Wang Ye pondered for a long time yet couldn't grasp the scheme.

It was like playing a card game where he led with a three and the opponent immediately played a King Bomb...

What kind of strategy was this!

"Qian, what do you think that kid is plotting?" Wang Ye couldn't help but ask his own strategist.

He was truly not adept at guessing people's intentions.

"Well, I'm not sure either," Assistant Qian hesitated, similarly confused, "Maybe it's because he's young and can't resist the temptation of a high position..."

"Nonsense, that kid might be young, but he's slicker than an eel!" Wang Ye snorted coldly, "Look at his performance today. Let me tell you, I now find it more difficult to deal with him than with Shang Wenshu. He's clever, always acting beyond your expectations!"

Assistant Qian profoundly agreed.

The more he interacted with Bai Xiaosheng, the more he felt that although Bai seemed harmless at first glance, he always managed to catch you off guard and throw you into disarray.

Thinking back to the chilling glimpses he received in the meeting today, Assistant Qian shuddered, still somewhat traumatized.

"Nonetheless, fortunately, we achieved our goal today!"

Wang Ye could not help the cold smirk that spread across his lips. Only by making Bai Xiaosheng take the role of project head, he would win!

By doing so, he tied Bai Xiaosheng to the project; if the project failed, so would Bai Xiaosheng!

This had been Wang Ye's strategy from the beginning of the project!

It was just carried out in stages to avoid resistance.

"You may be the cunning and sly Sun Wukong, but I am the Buddha, can you escape the palm of my hand!"

Wang Ye looked at his palm, slowly closed it into a fist, and his cold laughter turned into a sinister snicker.

"Mrs. Wang, I guess I don't have to write that ten-thousand-word report now, do I?" Assistant Qian asked cautiously from the side.

This was not part of the plan.

"Of course, you have to write it!"

Wang Ye gave him a look and murmured, "Now that Bai Xiaosheng is the head, who knows if he'll want to check it. We can't give him any excuse."

Assistant Qian couldn't help but twist his mouth into a bitter smile.

Who had he provoked? He was just an advisor, yet also served as cannon fodder.

A ten-thousand-word report!

It almost matched a short story!

"Alright, we should go too, to avoid affecting the show later on!" Wang Ye stood up, his laugh filled with ominous coldness.

At this moment.

In his own office, Bai Xiaosheng didn't have the joyful composure that people outside imagined, but instead a solemnity incongruent with his age.

"Does Wang Ye want to take this opportunity to deal with me? It won't be that easy!" Bai Xiaosheng scoffed coldly.

At that time, Bai Xiaosheng had searched for office machiavellianism, adopting a strategy of advancing by retreating. Sure enough, it was very useful.

"However, Wang must be feeling proud now, finally putting me on the grill, the total responsibility for the project? Humph, what a big hat!"

Bai Xiaosheng shook his head, not at all concerned.

The bigger the hat, the greater the risk.

This meant that if there was any problem with the project, he would be the first person responsible. He was now tied to this project, for better or for worse. If the project went down, so would he.

But his potential gain was also huge!

Double the score! The temptation was irresistible!

Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

"Fortune favors the bold. To earn high scores, one must be prepared to take risks."

However, this double score was only valid during the tenure as the total responsible person for the project. After leaving Teles Square, it would cease to exist.

This was quite frustrating!

Bai Xiaosheng tried to get some hints from Red Lotus about the triggers for the double scores.

But Red Lotus kept her lips sealed, giving away nothing.

Bai Xiaosheng was at a loss.

"Forget it, the most pressing task at hand is to find a new construction team and finish the stage. Fortunately, much of the stage has already been erected and inspected without issues. As long as we have the manpower, I believe the work can be completed smoothly within a week. Luckily, the progress of each of our tasks is significantly ahead. There shouldn't be any impact."

Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

"The project supervisor has gone to look for a construction team; he should be back soon."

Some things can't be rushed, and haste won't help.

Bai Xiaosheng brewed himself a pot of tea and leisurely started drinking.

Yet, all through the afternoon, the project supervisor hadn't come back to report to him, which somewhat surprised Bai Xiaosheng.

Could it be hard to find a construction team in Tiannan?

"Manager Bai!"

Finally, the door to Bai Xiaosheng's office was pushed open, and the project supervisor hurried in.

Seeing him, Bai Xiaosheng was startled.

The project supervisor looked haggard, his forehead covered with sweat beads, his lips so dry they were peeling.

Bai Xiaosheng stood up and filled a disposable cup with water for him, "No hurry, have some water first!"

The project supervisor gave him a grateful look, took the water cup with both hands, and drank it in one gulp, smacking his lips, evidently not enough.

Bai Xiaosheng waved his hand, and the supervisor went to get himself another three cups, gulping them down swiftly.

He was truly parched.

Could it be that he had been running around outside the whole time?

Contacting a construction team, was it that strenuous?

The project supervisor, in charge of the project construction and management, was supposed to have plenty of connections.

Bai Xiaosheng suddenly had a bad premonition, and his expression grew serious.

"Manager Bai, we've run into trouble!" The project supervisor said, his mouth twisted, his face grim.

"No one is willing to take on this job!"

Chapter 169: Media Visit_1

"You're saying, no construction team is willing to come?!"

Bai Xiaosheng was somewhat surprised.

To be fair, their project's stage construction did not involve a high level of technical difficulty, and moreover, half the stage was already built; only half the work remained. Even allowing for some flexibility, one week would be more than sufficient to complete it.

Since they had not paid Chen Daya and his team, they were willing to use two-thirds of the total project budget to pay for the remaining half of the work.

That was a genuinely lucrative opportunity. Could it really be that no one wanted to take on this job?!

How could that be possible?

Bai Xiaosheng's surprise was momentary.

He immediately realized that something was amiss!

Indeed, the project supervisor looked indignant.

"The construction teams we have a relationship with, I don't know what's gotten into them, they're all tied up with other projects and can't come. When I went looking for new construction teams, they'd all heard from that bastard Chen Daya. He's been telling people around town that our project is cursed with misfortune, and that we don't pay!"

"They believed that?" Bai Xiaosheng frowned.

Chen Daya and his crew were truly unprincipled!

His side hadn't even held them accountable, and they had the nerve to turn around and blame him!

"Those small and medium-sized construction teams are all very superstitious, they'd rather be safe than sorry. I looked everywhere, asked more than a dozen, and no one's willing to take it. The larger teams simply aren't interested in a small project like ours!" the project supervisor said, slapping the back of one hand against the palm of the other, his expression helpless.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

"Manager Bai, I went to confront Zhou right away," the project supervisor said angrily. "He just ridiculed me. They had the numbers, and I was alone; I couldn't argue with them and had to move on to the next prospect!"

The man in his forties sighed deeply.

Originally, he had planned to work hard on this matter, to not let down Bai Xiaosheng's previous protection of him, and to show Assistant Qian and Mr. Wang that the people in their project were doers.

Who would have expected such an unlucky start!

Bai Xiaosheng fell silent for a moment before suddenly asking, "Does this Chen Daya's construction team have any sort of backing?"

He always felt that the whole affair smelled fishy.

From start to finish, a construction team was blatantly not after money, they did not want to negotiate, and were only set on tarnishing one's reputation; it was abnormal.

The project supervisor slapped his thigh, "I was just thinking, I needed to discuss this with you! I've been running around half the day hearing that Zhou's construction team is backed by Xiangdong Group! How unlucky are we to have picked people from Xiangdong!"

Xiangdong Group had been contending with Century Construction for two or three years, and had suppressed them multiple times, which was widely known.

Xiangdong Group, Sun Xiangdong!

Bai Xiaosheng's gaze grew colder when he thought of that squarish-faced man threatening him at his door.

Had Sun Xiangdong finally made his move?

But this action was not aimed at him personally but at the project, intending to make him, the project manager, look bad. Yet when Zhou and his team made trouble, he was merely the deputy manager for the project. It was a hassle for the project, but could it really harm him, Bai Xiaosheng?

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes flashed with uncertainty.

This matter was not to be underestimated!

"Who brought this construction team in, was it someone from your department?" Bai Xiaosheng asked the project supervisor without betraying his emotions.

After thinking it over seriously, the project supervisor shook his head, "It was me who called Zhou's construction team. But the business card was given to me by Assistant Qian, who said it was recommended by a friend of his."

Assistant Qian?!

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes narrowed slightly.

"What do we do now? Shall I go look again? Tiannan is so vast, it can't be impossible to find someone willing to take the work," the project supervisor offered again.

Bai Xiaosheng gave it some thought and smiled at the project supervisor.

"That's enough, you've had a long day, take some rest. As for this situation, I'll find a solution."

The engineering supervisor sighed, he was indeed exhausted, but more than physical fatigue, he felt stifled at heart.

Bai Xiaosheng consoled him again, patted the man's shoulder, and forcibly sent him off to rest.

After seeing off the engineering supervisor, Bai Xiaosheng stood with his hands clasped behind his back, gazing out of the window, his eyes deep and distant.

"The situation is turning out to be much more complicated than I anticipated. If someone dares to overstep and stab us in the back, causing Zhenbei to suffer losses, then they shouldn't blame me, the future president, for not being polite!"

Bai Xiaosheng muttered to himself.

Was Wang Ye involved in this?

Bai Xiaosheng was not sure, nor did he deny it; however, he would always think of the worst possibility.

"This is bad, Manager Bai, something's happened!"

The door to the office was pushed open again as someone rushed in panic.

Bai Xiaosheng turned around. This time it was from the Promotion Department, Wang!

The usually calm Wang now looked somewhat upset, clearly agitated.

"What's wrong, Wang? Don't panic, take your time," said Bai Xiaosheng, his expression easing.

The Promotion Department's days were happier times for Bai Xiaosheng. But recently, being busy, he seldom visited, and they didn't see each other often.

"Look at this!" Wang showed Bai Xiaosheng his phone.

"Unscrupulous businessmen use inferior construction materials, leading to stage collapse!"

"Withholding wages, expelling workers, a flagship project is actually shameful!"

Two hot posts on a well-known online media platform. The photos showed the collapsed stage at Treles Square!

The angles of the shots were comparable to those of professional journalists!

Bai Xiaosheng's expression turned stern.

Just as he had predicted, this was a calculated combination of blows!

"They really put a lot of effort into this!" Bai Xiaosheng spoke coldly to himself.

A multi-faceted approach, drawing the media's swords!

Wang opened his mouth, about to ask what to do.

Whether to seek clarification from the media or to first contact the online media platform to pull the two articles.

"Manager Bai, this is bad!" Another person burst in!

This time, it was the administrative supervisor!

He looked even more frantic and somewhat stammering, he said to Bai Xiaosheng, "Outside, outside there's a number of media wanting to come in for an interview, specifically asking to speak with the project manager!"

"What, they've come knocking at our door?!" Wang's face changed as he looked grimly at Bai Xiaosheng.

With the media getting involved, the matter couldn't be taken lightly!

A single misstep, and those reporters would fabricate stories, making the situation uncontrollable!

It could even impact the opening!

"Did you notify Vice General Manager Wang Ye, what did he say?" Wang asked anxiously.

"After the meeting, Vice General Manager Wang Ye left the project site. According to Assistant Qian, he went back to the head office for urgent matters, and he left Manager Bai Xiaosheng wholly in charge of the project, saying he would return soon," the administrative supervisor explained.

Vice General Manager Wang Ye was not present!

Wang became a bit anxious. Currently, with Chen Daya not handling project affairs, Bai Xiaosheng was the only person in charge.

No matter how exceptional and mature Bai Xiaosheng was, he was still a man in his twenties, with no prior experience, which was a cause for concern.

"What's there to panic about!" Bai Xiaosheng said calmly, smiling at the two of them, "It's just the media. Come on, let's go see!"

Chapter 170: I have prepared a surprise for you all_1

The media had come knocking! The entire project team was on edge.

From the leaders down to the staff, everyone was tense and also indignant—the media were here under the guise of accountability!

They were actually the victims, and now they were being wrongfully accused!

But tension and indignation aside, the media had indeed arrived.

A mishandled response could at best tarnish the project's image and at worst jeopardize the opening and the project's success or failure!

Bai Xiaosheng was calm as he walked out with the administrative supervisor, Wang.

This was a crisis PR moment for Treles Square.

Red Lotus had imprinted many classic crisis PR case examples into Bai Xiaosheng's mind as references.

As he walked, Bai Xiaosheng pondered over several cases.

The media a crisis PR team faces are usually somewhat fair and objective, but the visitors this time were likely mixed with hired media personnel and ghostwriters by the opposing side, who would not adopt a fair stance in their reporting.

In other words, whatever I say will be twisted!

Bai Xiaosheng slowed his pace until he came to a stop.

He slightly furrowed his brows, deep in thought.

The administrative supervisor and Wang stood by his side, watching him with confusion, yet neither dared to disturb his thoughts.

After quite a while, the administrative supervisor tentatively asked, "Manager Bai, are we still going to meet with the media?"

Bai Xiaosheng snapped out of his reverie, smiled at the administrative supervisor, and replied, "Yes, but the reception room isn't appropriate. Here's what we'll do: you guide them to the large conference room. I will explain there and answer their questions!"

"Understood."

The administrative supervisor nodded and hurriedly left.

Wang looked at Bai Xiaosheng with concern.

Having been in the corporate field for so many years and being an old hand at it, he knew too well the dirty tricks that came with the territory.

Even if Bai Xiaosheng was quick-witted and exceptionally intelligent, what difference would that make?

Today, he was facing a group of media people, skilled at verbal traps, who at any moment could lead someone astray.

Moreover, could one guarantee the fairness and objectivity of the media group that had turned up today?

Wang was deeply worried.

"Why don't we contact Mr. Wang, Mr. Shang, and ask the higher-ups to figure something out?" Wang suggested.

He really didn't want to see Bai Xiaosheng get into trouble.

Bai Xiaosheng was aware of what Wang was thinking and gave him a thankful smile.

"Meet the enemy head-on, and dam the incoming water with earth. What's destined to come will always find its way!" Bai Xiaosheng consoled, then walked over to Wang and whispered something in his ear.

This conversation, surprisingly, lasted for several minutes.

The things Bai Xiaosheng had tasked were not just one.

After Bai Xiaosheng finished speaking, Wang's gaze flickered, uncertain.

"Okay, I will handle it immediately!" Wang said seriously, nodding his head.

"Success or failure depends not only on me but also on you!" Bai Xiaosheng smiled faintly, patting his older brother's arm, "This time, our promotion department has to join forces again. We, as always, will be unbeatable!"

Bai Xiaosheng still remembered that he was a member of the promotion department.

Wang's heart warmed, he nodded firmly and left in a hurry.

Bai Xiaosheng stood still for a moment, exhaled a long breath of foul air, and strode towards the large conference room, his steps resolute and strong!

He was the man who aspired to be the future president of Zhenbei Group!

The mere Tiannan, a single project, a few minor media outlets—how could they deter his advancement!

Inside the large conference room.

Several media outlets had converged—there were over a dozen people, fully equipped for interviews, making quite a presence.

These individuals were centered around a middle-aged man, sitting together with him.

The middle-aged man always wore a faux smile that didn't reach his eyes, and his complexion was sickly pale.

His name was Zhuang Boyi, a well-known figure in the circle, with his own media studio.

The media present today were mostly smaller outlets, with two from the middle range, and no major media were there.

Most of the individuals had been brought together by Zhuang Boyi, who had given them a hefty sum for their trouble. The rest had gathered under the banner of covering a hot topic.

In any case, they were led by Zhuang Boyi.

At the moment, Zhuang Boyi displayed a certain arrogance, crossed his legs in an exaggerated manner, adopting the posture of an important journalist.

"What's this tea, calling itself a benchmark project," Zhuang Boyi picked up the tea that had been served, glanced at it dismissively, and said with a sneer. Then he put it down on the table with a thud, hard enough that tea spilled over the surface.

"Exactly, this lousy tea, I'd rather not drink it."

"Their project is too arrogant. It's been half a day, and not even a leader has shown up!"

"They look down upon us smaller media outlets even though they are a benchmark project!"

"After the interview is over, I must really do some promotion for them."

Journalists from several small media outlets followed Zhuang Boyi's lead, mocking without restraint.

The employees on the project side, who were right beside them, couldn't help but frown at their derogatory words. Their faces were a picture of discomfort, but they were powerless to do anything and had to endure.

Zhuang Boyi saw their reactions and could not help feeling somewhat triumphant.

This time, he had come on someone else's behalf—

Sun Xiangdong had given him a substantial reward to bring some people from the industry to thoroughly report on the "outrageous and malicious incidents" that had occurred within the Treles Square project!

For Zhuang Boyi, as long as the funding was substantial and in place,

Even if a mouse died on the project, it would be considered a sensational, inhumane story!

This time, Sun Xiangdong had specifically instructed him to ruin the reputation of a man named Bai Xiaosheng, the overall person in charge of the project.

"This is what I am best at! Later, when that Bai Xiaosheng arrives, as soon as he speaks, even the most trivial or inconsequential matters will do. I guarantee you, after reading the report I make on him, everyone will utterly despise him!" Zhuang Boyi was brimming with confidence.

It is said that the pen is mightier than the sword, and in a while, that invisible sword in his hand would be raised high, striking unseen.

"Bai Xiaosheng, although I don't know what kind of person you are, and we've never met and bear no grudges, it is my duty to the person who pays. Today, you are doomed whether you like it or not!" Zhuang Boyi chuckled to himself.

As for Sun Xiangdong's description of Bai Xiaosheng as extremely shrewd and cunning, Zhuang Boyi didn't consider it.

Too many capable people, faced with a sudden media visit and camera lenses, get disoriented—by the time they react, it's too late! Much less a Bai Xiaosheng.

Zhuang Boyi was in command behind the scenes!

The media gathered in the room had already waited quite a while and were growing impatient.

Many began clamoring to see the person in charge.

"Sorry, everyone, I'm here!"

As the conference room door opened, Bai Xiaosheng entered with a smile and strode in, "I am the overall person in charge of this project, Bai Xiaosheng!"

He was the overall person in charge of the project!

The journalists present were somewhat surprised, sizing up Bai Xiaosheng.

Indeed, this person in charge was quite young!

"Can we start now?!" Someone called out impatiently.

They must be eager to start giving him a hard time, Bai Xiaosheng thought with a smile.

"Please, everyone, keep your composure and wait just three to five more minutes," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, "I promise to give you all a big surprise!"