

Two Trillion 1641

Chapter 1641: How Could a Person's Dreams Grow Old!_3

It seems to be reminiscent of the little boy who brushed past just now, holding a folded paper toy.

The man gave a broad smile.

Ever since the man approached, Bai Xiaosheng had been paying attention.

This has been a habit Bai Xiaosheng developed over the years; when he encounters someone interesting, he will study them closely to sharpen his eye.

However, as Bai Xiaosheng's perception improved, fewer and fewer passersby attracted his attention.

Feeling bored, the man looked up and saw Bai Xiaosheng watching him, then spotted the folded newspaper on Bai Xiaosheng's table. He smiled tentatively and pointed, as if to ask if he could have a look.

Bai Xiaosheng returned the smile, picked up the newspaper, and handed it over. The man raised his hand to accept it.

From this brief, simple action, Bai Xiaosheng perceived from the details that this person must have undergone strict etiquette training; moreover, his every gesture carried a hint of aura.

However, it was a fleeting encounter, and Bai Xiaosheng had no intention of probing into the person's background out of mere curiosity.

It was meaningless and impolite.

Furthermore, judging by the person's clothing and appearance, his situation seemed far from optimistic.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying noticed this scene too, glancing at the person briefly, but out of politeness, not staring.

The man took the newspaper and sat down to read it carefully, while Bai Xiaosheng withdrew his gaze.

Earlier, Lin Weiwei had reported in detail to Bai Xiaosheng about the various affairs of the business group in Europe.

In these few minutes of leisure, Lin Weiwei unexpectedly received multiple messages from China about reform issues that required Bai Xiaosheng's personal attention.

Lin Weiwei handed the tablet to Bai Xiaosheng. Bai Xiaosheng looked at the messages and began contemplating response strategies.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying naturally didn't disturb him.

And so, half an hour passed imperceptibly.

Having dealt with all matters, Bai Xiaosheng returned the tablet to Lin Weiwei, stretched out a bit, and happened to see another guest arrive at the neighboring table.

The newcomer was also middle-aged, but looked remarkably youthful, with thick black hair, well-fitting and stylish clothes, exuding an air of vitality and a professional demeanor.

"Sorry, Jonas, for keeping you waiting for twenty minutes. I was really busy on my end." The newcomer said to the man with a haggard face casually, his words lacking much apology and respect.

Actually, making someone wait twenty minutes is quite rude in a society that values punctuality like the West.

The haggard-faced man stood up with a smile, neither angry nor annoyed, maintaining politeness and poise, "It's okay, Mr. Tony."

The man known as Mr. Tony sat down directly, without even taking off his coat or putting down his bag, appearing ready to leave at any moment.

He looked directly at Jonas, "Let's cut to the chase, Mr. Jonas. I'm very busy, I have a meeting with a VP about compensation in a bit. I can only give you five minutes, actually."

Jonas hesitated, then sat down with a smile, "I know, Mr. Tony, you're always busy, being the Ace Headhunter after all."

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but glance at Tony.

No wonder this person acts arrogant and busy.

Ace Headhunter, the role all about snatching people from companies for money.

Tony didn't seem pleased by the compliment, instead silently checking the time, before looking up and saying, "Jonas, let's hear it, what's the matter. You don't, intend for me to find a VP position for you still, do you?"

"Mid-level would be fine." Jonas quickly said.

His gaze was filled with earnestness.

Bai Xiaosheng could see that the vivid expression in his eyes was rare even among modern youth.

That was the longing for the workplace!

"Ha, mid-level!" Tony seemed amused, genuinely laughing, "Our Mr. Jonas, became a vice president of a Fortune 500 company at 40, an executive president at 50, and now you're telling me you want a mid-level position. Did I hear that right?"

The elevated voice brought attention from others nearby.

A former Fortune 500 executive president?

Even Bai Xiaosheng was somewhat surprised.

Does someone of such standing need to find a headhunter?

Aren't they pursued even while retired at home?

This current situation for Mr. Jonas must mean something happened.

Bai Xiaosheng became increasingly interested.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying exchanged a glance, focusing intently on the conversation.

"That was in the past." Jonas spoke slightly lower, then earnestly said to Tony, "I realize my previous ask was too high when I asked you to find me a position the other day. Now I just want to start anew from a regular mid-level role. Truly, I am completely capable, and I don't mind starting at mid-level!"

Tony raised his wrist to look at his watch, impatiently saying, "Mid-level, Mr. Jonas, go check with the Business Tower there yourself!"

"Everyone from the morning to evening shifts is counted; is there anyone as old as you at mid-level?"

"Jonas, you're old; I advise you not to reenter the workplace, isn't retirement a better option?"

"You're not the person you used to be; three years ago, I was desperate to poach you every day!"

“You didn’t give me a chance, and you won’t have a chance in the future either!”

Tony looked at Jonas with a cold smile, speaking in a slightly mocking tone, “Look, you spent three years in prison!”

“Yes, you were wronged, but so what? Who cares!”

“You’ve been away from the workplace for too long, you’re not fit for the current workforce!”

“Do you think you still can? Well, you tell me!”

“Look how old you are!”

Tony’s words rained down like a torrent, drawing attention from the people nearby.

Many looked at Jonas with peculiar expressions.

“I can.” Jonas faced the gazes from all around, unmoved by Tony’s ridicule, replying earnestly and assuredly, “Returning to the workplace is my dream; it’s only my appearance that’s aged.”

“How can one’s dreams grow old!”

Chapter 1642 - Hiring You for One Hour

Facing Jonas, whose eyes were filled with determination and enthusiasm for the workplace, Tony stared at him for a moment, then a look of great amusement appeared on his face.

"Yes, yes, people’s ideals never age, and you’re still very young." Tony stood up and said to Jonas in a tone one would use to comfort a madman, "Promise me, Mr. Jonas, that you and your ideals will last forever. As for me, I won’t be keeping you company!"

He was about to leave.

Jonas hurriedly stood up, "Mr. Tony, I just want you to know that I really can return to the workplace. Also, in these three years, although I was not in the position, I was still committed to the duties, constantly researching market dynamics, treating myself as a business manager at every moment, formulating strategies. You see, I even imagined myself as the top European merchant Soruns, creating many policies that inadvertently aligned with what he's been implementing now. I want you to look at this..."

As he spoke, Jonas hurriedly took a stack of slightly yellowed paper from his bag and wanted to show it to Tony.

Unfortunately, Tony had already decided to leave, and Jonas instinctively handed over the stack of paper to block his way.

"Enough!" Tony shouted angrily, waving his hand and struck Jonas's hand, causing the stack of paper to flutter and scatter in the air like butterflies.

Jonas was stunned.

Tony gave him a fierce glare, muttering, "Crazy! Look at you, comparing yourself to Mr. Soruns! You don't know how high the sky is and how deep the earth is!"

As he spoke, Tony turned and left.

Accidentally, Tony noticed a young Asian man at the next table, looking at him coldly.

Tony glared and strode away.

Lin Weiwei was somewhat angry at what she saw, and Lei Ying also wanted to call out to him, but was stopped by Bai Xiaosheng.

All around, the patrons of the café looked this way, looking at Jonas.

Many wore expressions of mockery.

This old man is really something, comparing himself to Soruns!

Many people whispered, making faint sounds of ridicule and even slight laughter.

Jonas remained silent, showing only some disappointment on his face, he bent down to pick up the scattered pieces of paper and carefully swept off the dust, smoothing the edges as if treating them as treasures.

When he stood up, Jonas noticed that the young man at the next table who had given him the newspaper had a few pages of his manuscript in front of him.

The young man was reading the content on them with interest.

Jonas's manuscripts were initially written with pencil, later traced with an ink pen, had dates at the corners. They were analyses of market trends he made based on the scarce external information he got while in prison, forecasts for several industries, and even put himself as a manager for each industry, thinking about business development plans.

The manuscript content, now, had some right and wrong points, since back then, Jonas didn't have more sources of information, no more resources.

"Excuse me." Jonas squeezed out a smile at Bai Xiaosheng, gesturing with his hand as if to say 'please', wanting to get back his stuff.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled back and handed those pages over.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng handing them back with both hands, Jonas quickly took them with both hands as well, with a smile that gained an additional glimpse of gratitude.

"You're called Jonas, right? I'm Bai." Bai Xiaosheng introduced himself cheerfully to Jonas.

Jonas was startled, looked at Bai Xiaosheng and nodded, smiling, "Nice to meet you."

"I heard everything just now. I know you used to be quite a remarkable individual. And I am currently competing for a management position in a big company, but I don't have much experience and feel very nervous. Can I ask you for advice?" Bai Xiaosheng stood and spoke sincerely to Jonas.

Jonas hesitated.

"I can pay you a fee, one hundred euros per hour, how about it?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with a smile, "I'll hire you for an hour."

Bai Xiaosheng could see that Mr. Jonas was currently in a very difficult situation and must be desperately in need of money.

"This... alright. But I can't guarantee that I will be able to help you." Jonas said earnestly.

The young man before him made him feel respected, bringing rare comfort to his heart.

Jonas glanced at Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, noticing that those two young people also looked at him with kind eyes, and smiled in acknowledgment.

Bai Xiaosheng sat at Jonas's table with a smile.

Lin Weiwei exchanged a glance with Lei Ying.

"What's going on?" Lin Weiwei asked silently with her expression to Lei Ying.

Lei Ying waved his hand, indicating that there was no need to bother, and let Bai Xiaosheng take the lead.

Lin Weiwei glanced over there, shrugged silently, and asked no more.

There, Bai Xiaosheng and Jonas sat opposite each other, sharing a smile seeking advice.

With Bai Xiaosheng's control over micro-expressions, it was easy to hide his identity and demeanor.

"Jonas!" Bai Xiaosheng silently recited in his mind, "Caucasian, over fifty years old, once a senior manager..."

With the conditions Bai Xiaosheng provided, Red Lotus swiftly filtered through thousands of "Jonas" entries, eventually locking onto a target based on available online visual features.

This entire process took less than a second.

Then, Bai Xiaosheng obtained the other party's information.

Jonas was somewhat known here, not because he was once very prominent, or his imprisonment case was shocking, but because, three years later, the court admitted that his sentence was wrong, sparking media discussion.

Chapter 1643 - Hiring You for 1 Hour_2

In the end, Jonas received a large sum of compensation and was released.

It should be said that he was not someone who lacked money; even if he was drawn to the job market, he shouldn't be in such dire straits.

"Mr. Jonas, I've actually heard about you," Bai Xiaosheng said sincerely, "I deeply sympathize with your situation."

Jonas was momentarily taken aback by Bai Xiaosheng's words, then smiled wryly, "Is that so."

"However, you should have received substantial compensation. With your capabilities, you could easily start a small business from scratch; there's no need to be like this..." Bai Xiaosheng feigned curiosity but then smiled apologetically, "Of course, if it involves privacy, please forgive my intrusion."

This Jonas did indeed pique Bai Xiaosheng's interest, but he needed to ascertain whether this man was truly worth his attention.

Was he a stubborn idealist, or a hidden gem waiting to be discovered!

If Jonas had lost the money he originally had upon release due to blind investments or being swindled, that would disappoint Bai Xiaosheng.

Jonas hesitated for a moment, then smiled wryly, "It's my wife; she's sick."

"I'm sorry!" Bai Xiaosheng immediately said apologetically.

This truly counted as genuine privacy.

"It's alright; fortunately, through God's grace, the money I received was enough to cure her. There's even a surplus, enough for us to pay this year's property taxes." Old Jonas looked content, with not a trace of sorrow, instead showing a smile.

This kind of positive attitude towards life is rare, even among young people.

"I am also job hunting, young sir," Jonas said with a smile to Bai Xiaosheng, "Although you've seen, headhunters aren't interested in an old guy like me. Actually, my wife and I could live on welfare; honestly, in such high welfare conditions here, the welfare for two is enough for us to live well. Even better than those middle-aged people who have to pay lots of taxes."

Bai Xiaosheng believed this.

Even many young people here don't work, living on welfare.

"You might wonder why I still want to enter the job market when I have better options?" Jonas looked at Bai Xiaosheng and laughed as he posed the question.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and nodded slightly, acknowledging it.

"I'm already old, aging," Jonas's answer seemed somewhat irrelevant.

However, Bai Xiaosheng did not interrupt him.

"Precisely because of that, I want to choose a lifestyle for my later years. To be busy living, or busy dying, isn't that right, young sir," Jonas seriously smiled.

"I just don't want to be like others, showing a cowardly side to life, appearing decrepit, relying on welfare, eating three meals and sleeping twice a day until death!"

"I want to live more true to myself! And I, I love the business world, that is where I should strive for throughout my life!"

Jonas's eyes became passionate.

Many young people don't have such fervent eyes.

"Understood." Bai Xiaosheng gazed into Jonas's eyes, finally smiled, and nodded.

"Let's get back to discussing your job application, I want to assist you with any advice I can, considering one hundred euros is not a small sum for me at present, and I need it too." Jonas smiled.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded and smiled, "Here's the thing; the company I'm applying for is quite large, and the position is technically not managerial, it's an assistant to the General Manager. But our company has four investors, and the General Manager is appointed by the largest shareholder. However, that shareholder doesn't handle any affairs, and the other three shareholders are quite influential in the

industry, the General Manager has to navigate between them. I am applying as the General Manager Assistant, experienced several rounds of interviews, and competed to the final stages, having to handle many situational tests, even having to answer in the role of the General Manager. I got insider information about some failed candidates' questions, so I wanted to consult you about them..."

Bai Xiaosheng simulated a scenario applying the current state of the "Encounter" Winery Group.

With Bai Xiaosheng's intellect and logic, he flawlessly projected potential frictions between the Feng Family, the White Family, and the Hawk Family, possibly creating "troubles," and explained them differently to Jonas.

Jonas listened intently, contemplating seriously, sometimes frowning, sometimes pondering deeply.

However, every problem Bai Xiaosheng posed, even when putting him in the position of the General Manager, Jonas had organized opinions to offer.

The conversation went on for over an hour, and both became genuinely interested.

Finally, Bai Xiaosheng was satisfied.

Jonas checked the time, apologized with a smile to Bai Xiaosheng, "I need to go; today is actually my wife's birthday. Since I didn't impress the headhunter, I won't continue my job search today and will return home to spend time with her. I was pondering what to buy her as a gift, it was your one hundred euros that solved my dilemma."

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, stood up, took out a one hundred euro note from his pocket, gently placed it on the table, and pushed it towards Jonas.

"This is what you deserve. Convey my regards to your wife."

Jonas looked up at Bai Xiaosheng, sincerely smiled and said, "Thank you."

This man, with neatly groomed white hair and a fine beard, was genuinely happy at this moment, as getting the money to buy a gift for his wife pleased him more than a successful job application would have today.

Bai Xiaosheng took a deep look at Jonas, then smiled and waved to Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying as he left.

Chapter 1644: Hiring You for 1 Hour_3

Jonas stood up to bid farewell.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying smiled at Jonas and nodded politely.

Jonas returned the gesture to each of them, and as he watched the three young people leave the café, he couldn't help but sigh, "Youth is wonderful! Cherish your time and live well, young people!"

Outside the café, Bai Xiaosheng led Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying as they strolled leisurely along the street.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying quickened their pace to walk alongside Bai Xiaosheng.

"So, what do you think of this Jonas?" Lin Weiwei couldn't help asking.

Having been with Bai Xiaosheng for so long, they naturally understood what he was thinking.

Rather than Jonas "helping" Bai Xiaosheng with the interview, it was more like Bai Xiaosheng had set up a scenario to interview him.

"We talked about management, about social affairs, about many things." Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "Very impressive! Vision, thought, he even made us feel he's a step above Li Qiushan and Kevin."

"That amazing!" Lin Weiwei exclaimed.

Being recognized to such an extent by Bai Xiaosheng, Jonas must really be outstanding.

“But, why don’t we just lay it out and hire him on the spot?” Lin Weiwei asked.

Lei Ying also looked at Bai Xiaosheng.

“Three young people spent money to hire someone to handle an interview assessment, and after a conversation, turn around and tell him, ‘You’re hired, go be the general manager of a newly established large company.’ ” Bai Xiaosheng laughed, “Do you think he might take us for lunatics?”

Thinking about it this way, it does seem true.

Lin Weiwei stuck out her tongue and smiled.

Lei Ying shrugged his shoulders.

“Don’t worry, he won’t get away.” Bai Xiaosheng chuckled at the two, “I’ll find someone with enough weight to invite Jonas later.”

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying immediately nodded.

In fact, in the information Bai Xiaosheng found, he even had Jonas’s home address very clearly, so why fear he’d run away?

The choice of the general manager for the “Encounter” distillery, which had troubled Bai Xiaosheng, was inadvertently solved, making him feel quite pleased.

“So now, where are we going?” Lin Weiwei couldn’t help asking, “Are we going to see Mr. Yegor?”

Lin Weiwei believed that the Yegor orchestra must be very anxious facing the crisis at this moment.

Perhaps they could go in advance to console them a bit.

“No need, we’ll just go listen to the performance in the evening.” Bai Xiaosheng smiled, “This time, I need to treat a group of people to the art appreciation at Ladoga. Consider this my first hosting in Europe! Also, it’ll be a surprise for Mr. Yegor and his team!”

Meanwhile.

In a small theater at Ladoga, the Yegor orchestra’s rehearsal was interrupted by a group of uninvited guests forcing their way in.

“Still rehearsing, Mr. Yegor, should I praise you for being calm in a crisis, or should I pity you for not realizing you’re as good as dead?”

Leading the group was a man nearing sixty, still portly, with increasingly sparse hair, sporting a pair of small eyes that constantly shone with shrewdness, the conductor of the Sharvey Band—Viktor.

Behind Viktor followed a tall, handsome, smug young man with a pair of charming eyes—his son, Sedor.

And that lackey, a scrawny, Japanese-mixed Yvonne.

“What are you doing here!” Mr. Yegor, usually a cultured man, faced them with a cold expression.

Viktor, smiling with a cigar in one hand, said, “Don’t be so impolite, Yegor. Naturally, we’re here today to watch you all die!”

“Or, I can offer you a way out; you can return to the Sharvey Band and sign this contract!”

Viktor smiled as he waved.

That lackey, Yvonne, immediately presented a contract, continually sneering and persuading Yegor, "Sign it, Mr. Yegor, sign it, and you all can stay."

Yegor looked away, tearing the contract to pieces and throwing it in Yvonne's face, angrily spitting—

"Three years ago, a young man taught me. Never compromise with bastards and beasts!"

Chapter 1645 Faith Never Dies, the Human Spirit Never Yields!

In front of everyone, Yegor tore up the contract that Viktor, the leader of the Sharvey Band, had sent him, or rather, the "Indenture," and threw it in the face of Viktor's lackey, Yvonne, cursing them as "bastards" and "beasts."

Viktor's face instantly darkened.

"Presumptuous, Yegor, you old bastard, don't you know when you're given a break!" shouted Sedor, standing behind Viktor.

"Yes, Yegor, are you aware that Mr. Viktor's status has changed dramatically! He is not only an Executive Director of the UE Country Music Association, but he's also running for the vice president position this year, with a high chance of success. Moreover, Mr. Viktor is a city councilor, currently participating in the annual mayoral election."

Yvonne wore a proud expression, listing how unusual Viktor's status now was.

The look on his face seemed to say it was a great honor, a blessing from the ancestors, to serve Mr. Viktor.

Viktor also slightly raised his chin, proudly looking at Yegor.

"I am a musician; what you mentioned has nothing to do with me!" Yegor said coldly. "I only know that you've interrupted our band's rehearsal. Now, leave!"

In his anger, Yegor still maintained his gentlemanly demeanor.

Even though he had just cursed them, it was more of a veiled scolding.

This direct attitude of dismissal from Yegor darkened Viktor's expression; he let out a heavy, cold snort through his nose.

"Yegor, you truly don't know when you're well off. Taking into consideration that you previously served in my Sharvey Band, I decided to give you one last chance. Who knew you would be so unappreciative!" Viktor sneered, "You say we've come to interrupt your rehearsal. Haha, I tell you, Yegor, we are here on serious business!"

On stage, Yegor slightly narrowed his eyes, looking coldly at Viktor below, "For what serious business have you come here?"

Sedor and Yvonne, who had returned, exchanged glances, scoffing with cold laughter.

They seemed to mock Yegor for being unaware of the situation.

Then, Sedor raised his voice in place of his father, "We are here to tell you that your performance tonight cannot be held here—at the Ladoga Grand Theater! This place does not welcome small bands like yours; you'll have to find a smaller venue and also change your external advertising!"

Hearing Sedor's sarcastic tone, Yegor immediately looked surprised, his gaze falling on the theater manager who had accompanied Viktor and others inside.

The theater manager, a middle-aged man with a perpetually haughty and cold demeanor, was now smiling fawningly, looking like a lapdog.

Seeing Yegor look at him, the theater manager shrugged and said with a distant smile to Yegor, "I'm sorry, Mr. Yegor! This is a last-minute decision from above; there's nothing I can do!"

The implication was clear: they wanted Yegor and his group to leave.

But leaving was not as easy as it sounded! Yegor's concert advertisements had already been distributed, specifically for this location, and changing it last minute would be a massive blow to their band's integrity and reputation.

"What decision from above? Obviously, you've taken benefits from Viktor and his group, disregarding loyalties! Do you have no sense of contractual integrity!"

Behind Yegor, a young girl playing the violin stepped forward angrily.

This girl, only sixteen or seventeen years old, looked like a princess from a fairy tale, with fair and delicate skin, a beautifully crafted face, a perfect figure, and long, lustrous hair that was particularly striking.

Angrily, the girl said, "You know full well we have a wager with the Sharvey Band, and you change the venue at the last minute? This is an unjust despicable tactic against us!"

The girl's anger did not cause the theater manager any embarrassment.

He merely smiled and shrugged.

The implication was as if to say, "We all understand what's going on here, no need to say it outright."

"Beautiful Miss Amelia, you should persuade your father not to gamble with us, and have him return obediently to the Sharvey Band. That way, we all benefit!"

Sedor's eyes gleamed with greedy light, his gaze wandering over the girl's body.

Filled with desire.

"Dream on!" the girl Amelia spat defiantly, showing no sign of yielding.

"Haha, such a stubborn little girl!" Viktor laughed coldly, his eyes glinting with sinister amusement as he continued to look at Yegor, "Besides, I have another piece of news for you."

"A piece of news that might not be good for you!"

Yegor looked at him coldly, waiting for him to continue.

Changing theaters was unavoidable; they would accept it!

Even if they lost the wager, they would leave Ladoga with their heads held high!

They would never again let this bastard Viktor coerce them!

"I came here today specifically to pick up our Sharvey Band's—new employees!" Viktor waved the cigar in his hand, smiling comfortably.

What does that mean?

Yegor raised an eyebrow in surprise, then heard movement behind him.

Turning his head, he saw six or seven people stepping out of his band's lineup.

Leading them was none other than Luke, the student he had always valued most and taught strictly!

"You?!" Yegor's eyes widened, filled with disbelief.

A bad premonition rose in his heart.

"Mr. Yegor, you were originally with the Sharvey Band, why is it so difficult for you to return! Why must you clash with Mr. Viktor; this is cutting off your own future!" Luke clicked his tongue, sighing repeatedly, shaking his head as if filled with regret.

Chapter 1646 - Faith Never Dies, The Human Spirit Never Fails! (Part 2)

However, Luke looked extremely dissatisfied at Yegor, venting his discontent with righteous indignation, expressing his stance, "The key is, you completely disregard our futures! You're dragging us down with you to ruin! Then forgive us for not being able to continue with you; we want to return to Sharvey Band, to return to the true essence of music!"

Luke's last sentence was spoken with eyes full of brilliance, eager to announce to everyone how correct his choice was.

The people who came out with Luke immediately nodded, faces full of agreement, their mouths nonstop.

"That's right, we want to return to Sharvey Band, return to the genuine!"

"A leader like this only cares about his reputation and completely disregards our survival; why should we follow him!"

"Indeed, everyone needs to see clearly that following Yegor only leads to a dead end!"

"Everyone's worked hard for music, for ideals, and also for livelihood, for milk and bread; do you really want to ruin your future!"

Not only did these six or seven people leave, but they also vociferously called on other band members.

Yegor's face was cold and stiff, his eyes widened, staring at Luke's group.

Yegor's hand was already clenched into a fist, knuckles pale, nails deeply digging into his flesh.

Traitors!

Being betrayed by the student he held in the highest regard, such pain, indeed makes him a bit heartbroken.

But ultimately, Yegor steadied his mind.

Everyone has their destiny, everyone has their path, those who wish to leave cannot be stopped in the end!

"You, you're too much!" Aside, Amelia shouted angrily, raising her fair finger to point at Luke, clenching her teeth, "You scoundrel, you've forgotten how you pleaded tearfully in front of my father years ago, asking him to take you in, you've forgotten when your parents were gravely ill without money for medicine, who gathered funds for you, do you..., do you have any humanity left?"

Amelia was simply exploding with rage.

"But I worked for your father for a few years!" Luke faced Amelia's accusation, not only unashamed but rather with a fierce look, retorting loudly, even pointing at his chest, expressing a clear conscience, "With my current skills, with my current status. Go outside and ask, how much can you make in a year, and how much can you earn here! The years I've spent here have long repaid your father's kindness!"

"And now, it's him blocking my way!"

"As a future musician, am I just supposed to be dragged down and buried by him? I, refuse! That would be a monumental loss to the music world!"

Luke roared.

A round of applause sounded.

Luke, out of breath, looked over, a fawning smile immediately appearing.

Viktor, with a cigar slanted in his mouth, wearing a look of appreciation, yet mockery towards Yegor, clapped.

Beside him, Sedor sneered, and the returning Yvonne also sneered.

"The richer I am, the more I enjoy watching this melodramatic human rebellion, it's exhilarating." Sedor whispered.

On stage, Yegor's clenched hands loosened slightly.

"Can't hold them back, then let them leave." Yegor murmured, then his gaze firmed as he waved his hand, "All go!"

Luke glanced at Yegor, snorted coldly, and called for those following him to leave the stage directly.

As these people walked, they did not forget to call out to their companions on stage—

"Don't you know, the benefits of Sharvey Band are a hundred times better than here!"

"The treatment there is high, it's easy to make a name, everyone don't be foolish!"

"Mr. Viktor values talent, coming over with us is your future path!"

The remaining members of Yegor's band were unmoved, no one stood up.

Among them, ninety percent were old members, having witnessed that encounter years ago, facing the newcomers' betrayal, most merely spat coldly.

These pathetic traitors truly believe Sharvey Band is heaven, truly think it will let them shine brightly?

Ridiculous, also pathetic!

No need to say anything, no need to do anything, just letting them go is the biggest punishment!

In Sharvey Band, if one's talent is mediocre, they become servants of the leading talents, suffering unfairness and humiliation.

If one's talent is outstanding, they will face collective suppression by all the lead talents, making it harder to stand out than climbing to the heavens.

If one's talent is splendid and really breaks out relying on luck and ability, they will be completely bound within Sharvey Band, becoming Viktor's money-making tool. Wanting to leave, there's no way!

Seeing Luke and his group stand behind Viktor's crowd, the old members of Yegor's team felt no envy, only pity.

"Now that you've finished your business, can you leave, Mr. Viktor!"

Yegor, on stage, said coldly while looking at Viktor.

"I think you haven't understood yet." Viktor instead laughed heartily, then pointed at Yegor, "The ones who should leave, is you all!"

"You can't perform here, even rehearsals are forbidden!" Sedor also laughed loudly.

The theater manager smiled beside them, nodding. This meant the theater was expelling Yegor's band.

Yegor expressionlessly stared at Viktor and his son, then said word by word, "Let's go!"

Amelia snorted angrily at the father and son in the audience, clutching her beloved violin, intending to leave with her father.

"Which theater do you intend to go to?" Below, Viktor laughed, continuing, "I've spoken to all theater managers in Ladoga, booking all their venues for today! Even if you ask each one, no one will take you in!"

Sedor, Yvonne, and even Luke sneered repeatedly.

Yegor's footsteps halted, his gaze icy as he looked at Viktor.

Chapter 1647 - Faith Never Dies, The Human Spirit Never Fails! (Part 3)

Amelia was so angry that she wanted to smash the violin in her hand against her opponent.

"However, considering you all used to serve the Sarvl Orchestra, I chose not to wipe you out completely. I've left you a theater, a small one with over thirty years of history, dirty and shabby, but perfectly suitable for you, in the western district of Ladoga." Viktor smiled, "No need to thank me!"

Yegor was trembling slightly with anger, watching as his daughter Amelia was about to charge forward, he reached out to pull her back.

"Let's go, we'll perform anyway!" Yegor called to his people, then turned to glance at Viktor, speaking in a deep voice, "Viktor, I don't know if you've ever heard of it, but in the East, there's a saying about 'karma.' Your actions here today might lay the groundwork for your future misfortunes!"

Yegor's words made Viktor throw his cigar to the ground, even laughing in anger.

"The East? You actually believe in that ridiculous Eastern nonsense? Ha ha, Easterners are all shameless liars! Like that despicable Eastern kid from three years ago! I later realized he was just toying with us, he couldn't do anything to my Sarvl Orchestra!"

Viktor was referring to Bai Xiaosheng.

The 'benefactor' that Yegor never forgot, even to this day.

"But ultimately, he had you played like a fiddle." Yegor sneered.

"Today, my Sarvl Orchestra is not the Sarvl Orchestra of the past, and I, Viktor, am not the Viktor of the past. That Kelson who helped the Eastern kid means nothing to me, and even when they faced ruin not long ago, I helped push that along. I have connections with the top family in the liquor industry — the Hawk Family! And I have their support in running for mayor!" Viktor loudly declared to everyone.

These words instantly drew many gasps.

It was a major revelation that many learned for the first time!

Viktor receiving the support of a capitalist family, and a significant European family at that, definitely made him formidable and confident!

Luke and others listened with their eyes shining, as if they had a bright future, embracing a powerful ally, boarding a mighty ship!

"Let me tell you, Yegor, if that Asian kid dares come here someday and show up in front of me, I'll make him kneel and beg for my forgiveness. And I will humiliate him like a dog!" Viktor shouted excitedly.

Yegor cast him a cold glance, too weary to argue with words, simply turning to instruct his orchestra members to pack and leave.

Arguing with words was meaningless, but if the day ever came where Viktor dared to threaten his Eastern benefactor, Yegor would sacrifice his own old body to crush Viktor to pieces!

Gratitude cannot be insulted!

Yegor's team silently packed their belongings and left in an orderly fashion.

Viktor's group watched as if watching a show.

Sedor, Yvonne, and even the turncoat Luke led their people in loud jeers, continuously mocking them.

"Keep an eye on them, see if they take anything extra. After all, the items in the Ladoga Grand Theater are worth quite a lot!"

"Tell them to be careful, don't let their junk damage the precious items here. Otherwise, they couldn't afford it even if they sold themselves!"

"Hey, can't you people move any faster? You're all leaving, why so slow! Don't want to leave, huh!"

"Does anyone want to come back to the Sharvey Orchestra and stand in the light? Commander Viktor said he would give you a raise!"

Under the lead of these three, Viktor's people, those Luke took away — "betrayers", sneered in various ways.

As for Yegor's orchestra members, although every one of them looked grim, they continued to keep order as they departed.

In them, one could see the gentlemen and the cultured.

After the last person had left, Viktor spat with a grimace, "What a bunch of ungrateful things, today, let's see them struggle to survive in Ladoga!"

"Yes, yes, if Representative Viktor said it, they simply can't stay." The theater manager eagerly agreed with a smile.

"Oh, you knew I said so? Not bad, I did inform my friends in the business and political circles here." Viktor was all about showing off, glanced at the theater manager and sneered, "All the bigwigs around here are my friends! Just one word from me, and they won't attend any of Yegor's concerts! What's more, I gave Yegor's team a dirtier and messier place, if those bigwigs went, it would be self-degradation, a desecration to themselves. So, Yegor is betting with me? He's bound to lose!"

Viktor was full of confidence, his expression proud.

The theater manager's face, initially shocked, turned to admiration.

The expression was somewhat exaggerated.

However, it was definitely pleasing to Viktor.

"Then, I shall congratulate Representative Viktor in advance for driving this eyesore group out of Ladoga!" the theater manager smiled.

Sedor, Yvonne, and even Luke took the opportunity to congratulate him.

Viktor listened with great delight, laughing aloud.

Leaving the Ladoga Grand Theater, Yegor and his group walked with heavy steps.

On the way, Yegor slowed his pace until he stopped, the orchestra members also stopped, gathering around their conductor.

"I'm very sorry, everyone." Yegor spoke to them with deep remorse, "Tonight, might be our last performance in Ladoga."

"But, so what!" Yegor immediately raised his voice, "As long as our love for music remains, we are undefeatable!"

Recalling the optimism and encouragement passed to him by that Eastern youth three years ago, Yegor refused to admit defeat.

"We are invincible!" Amelia and Yegor's orchestra members all clenched their fists and shouted in unison.

A group of people with beliefs together, there is nothing to fear.

After all, as long as belief survives, the human spirit is undefeated!

Chapter 1648 - A Stream of Distinguished Guests Arrives

Yegor led his band, along with those who were still willing to stay by his side, following him, those who had ideals and persistence, and walked away with firm steps, disappearing at the end of the street outside the Ladoga Grand Theater.

After they left, Viktor and his group also walked out from the Ladoga Grand Theater.

The theater manager saw them off diligently.

"In the future, I hope Senator Viktor will keep us in mind. We voted for you to become mayor, and I wish you success in advance!" The theater manager said with a beaming smile.

These words made Viktor feel comfortable.

"No problem, no problem." Viktor was full of spring, his chubby face glowing with a rich luster, "Next year, my Sharvey Band has thirty-two super-large concerts, temporarily scheduled here. Although the grand theaters in nearby cities have eagerly invited us, we are family after all. I have profound connections with several of your theater's investors! I won't forget you when there's good stuff!"

"That's right, that's right!" The theater manager smiled broadly, nodding eagerly with a respectful face.

At that moment, a theater staff member hurriedly came to the theater manager's side, lowering their voice, "Manager, Yegor's band is gone, the posted posters, all the promotions..."

"Replace them all!" The theater manager ordered.

"But we've already sold quite a few tickets, although they're ordinary tickets bought by regular citizens, if they find out the concert is canceled just before it starts, will anyone make a scene?" The person asked again.

The theater manager was seeing Viktor's group off, yet this subordinate wouldn't stop asking, seemingly unaware.

Moreover, seeing the theater manager, Viktor couldn't help but raise his eyelids and glance at that person.

The theater manager immediately lowered his voice in anger, "You just need to post a notice, tell the people coming to the show that it's Yegor's band wanting to change locations. Refund those who want refunds, and arrange other sessions for those who want to continue watching. Talking so much, can't you see I'm seeing off Mr. Viktor? Get lost!"

Seeing the boss angry, the theater staff shrank his neck and hurriedly withdrew.

"So, will this be inconvenient for you?" Viktor said with a half-smile, looking at the theater manager, "I heard those tickets sold quite well?"

Sedor, Yvonne, and Luke also looked at the theater manager.

The theater manager quickly shook his head, smiling, "Mr. Viktor's joking, what's difficult about this! Sold some tickets indeed, but they're just common folks, none of them with status, easy to dismiss!"

Viktor smiled and nodded, "If this causes any trouble and difficult people show up that you can't handle, call me, I'll solve it for you!"

When Viktor said this, there was a bit of bragging in it.

Of course, he also knew that situations troubling him were almost nonexistent.

"Then I thank Mr. Viktor in advance." The theater manager nodded hastily, smiling.

Afterwards, Viktor said a few more words to the theater manager, then left with his group.

The theater manager watched them until they were out of sight, then returned inside.

Meanwhile, Bai Xiaosheng and his two companions were happily touring Ladoga.

Sightseeing, attractions, cuisine, the three of them turned into carefree tourists, watching, playing, eating all the way, enjoying their tour.

At noon, they went to a hidden old shop said to have decades of history, and had a meal of authentic local dishes.

Lin Weiwei insisted on trying a bit of the local specialty Devil Pepper, pestering until the owner gave her three drops.

However, after just a tiny dip, this girl who claimed she could handle spicy food hugged her head, regretting her reckless decision, and deeply questioning her life.

Bai Xiaosheng burst into laughter, he held his phone up, down, left, and right, filming Lin Weiwei's embarrassed state from all angles.

Lin Weiwei angrily glared at him, her rosy cheeked face indescribably charming.

Then Bai Xiaosheng, while tasting steak, suddenly rolled his eyes upward, and hugged his head, deeply regretting his earlier actions...

"I added a drop to yours as well, isn't it nice?" Lin Weiwei gloated, taking out her phone, continually clicking for photos.

Lei Ying watched his two companions, facing the curious gazes around, with a smile filled with deep helplessness.

Of course, in the end, under Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei's coercion, Lei Ying was also required to try some.

So Lei Ying took the remaining bit and ate it with bread.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei with "rosy cheeks" held their phones, eyes bright, full of anticipation, watching for Lei Ying's embarrassment.

In the end, this big guy remained calm as a breeze, his expression unchanged.

"Compared to the pepper water we were forced to drink during training, it's about the same." Lei Ying said leisurely.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei were greatly disappointed, simultaneously saying to Lei Ying, "Are you even human."

Lei Ying smiled without speaking.

Just a minute later, when Lei Ying reached for the cup to drink water, Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei keenly noticed his hand was shaking, and upon holding the porcelain cup, he instantly crushed it.

Lei Ying faced Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei's astonished looks, and awkwardly stood up, "I'm going to change the cup, get a glass of water, too spicy..."

Turns out this guy was afraid of spice too, just more afraid of embarrassment, stubbornly holding on...

Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei burst into laughter.

...

After lunch, Bai Xiaosheng had Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying contact some people, since they had to support Yegor's side in the evening.

Chapter 1649 - Crowds of Distinguished Guests Arrive (Part 2)

Lin Weiwei and her group didn't have many people to inform, just the three major families.

At the same time, Bai Xiaosheng also called Soruns.

On the phone, Bai Xiaosheng straightforwardly said he wanted to invite Soruns to Ladoga for a classical music concert.

"I'm a bit busy today on my end, but I'll try to make time!" Soruns said earnestly over the phone, laughing, "After all, it's Mr. Bai's invitation."

"If Mr. Soruns is busy, we can do it another time. It's just that this concert is my friend's event, and I wanted to invite two big names to show some support, it's not a very important matter." Bai Xiaosheng explained the reason.

On the other side of the phone, Soruns suddenly understood, "I see, alright then, just let me know the location. Even if I can't make it, I'll send some acquaintances to support."

Having Soruns say that much was pretty much enough.

Bai Xiaosheng thanked him a couple of times and informed Soruns of the time and location of the event at Ladoga Grand Theater.

As soon as Bai Xiaosheng hung up, Lin Weiwei reported to him, saying the three major families were very proactive.

After all, this was an invitation from Bai Xiaosheng.

"So you didn't tell them it's just me supporting a friend, and they shouldn't take this thing too seriously?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

"I did say that." Lin Weiwei assured him, "I emphasized it more than once."

Next to her, Lei Ying nodded in confirmation, making Bai Xiaosheng satisfied.

After all, there was no need to make a big fuss out of it.

In the afternoon, Bai Xiaosheng and the two others continued their wild time in Ladoga, just waiting for the evening concert.

Little did Bai Xiaosheng know, the calls he made had such a massive impact.

At the Hawk Family, the old Hawk immediately convened a family meeting, calling back everyone who could be reached over there!

There were dozens of them!

Including old Hawk's siblings, their next generation, each of their spouses, and even some grandchildren.

This invitation today is not a simple one; it's from Bai Xiaosheng!

This troublesome figure almost brought disaster to the Hawk Family!

Yet, he is currently the Hawk Family's greatest benefactor!

The future of the Hawk Family might even rest on him!

How could old Hawk not be extremely cautious? At the same time, he was also a bit excited!

Bai Xiaosheng inviting them to enjoy classical music together, does it not imply his regard for the Hawk Family!

Under old Hawk's emotional lead, the important figures of the Hawk Family were also extremely tense.

The younger ones were full of anticipation and excitement!

The people summoned by the Hawk Family couldn't all go, according to old Hawk's idea, a selection needed to be made.

Especially among the younger generation, it was imperative that no rash individual appears!

Once there was a limit on slots, things got lively on the spot.

Those who were parents started competing for a spot for their children, as it was an opportunity to meet big figures.

In an instant, for a single spot, the family meeting almost turned into a "bloody battle."

Not only the Hawk Family, but the White Family and the Feng Family also experienced similar situations.

Lin Weiwei clearly stated on the phone that Bai Xiaosheng was supporting a friend, and so the three major families started activating their networks, contacting friends near Ladoga.

However, Lin Weiwei also emphasized over the phone not to go overboard.

With this scenario, old Hawk from the Hawk Family, Feng Xiangnan from the Feng Family, and Dyson from the White Family believed that Bai Xiaosheng didn't like being too high-profile.

So they couldn't overdo it!

In terms of calling friends, the three families aimed to choose tasteful acquaintances rather than the most powerful or wealthy ones to go.

It's fair to say that they put a lot of thought into the selection process.

...

Night fell, and the lights were just lit.

Evening in Ladoga exuded a unique charm.

Ladoga Grand Theater, a building originating from the Renaissance era, has been renovated multiple times while maintaining its original appearance, earning recognition from the music community of East UE Country due to its historical accumulation.

The citizens of Ladoga also knew how to enjoy and appreciate, preferring to attend a concert on festival celebrations or anniversaries.

At present, the outside of Ladoga Grand Theater was crowded with people, all there to enjoy the Yegor Band concert.

Though the Yegor Band wasn't among the ten best bands selected this year in UE Country, they held high popularity among the public. Furthermore, due to their conflict with the Sharvey Band, and the ensuing betting incident, many people knew of them and came to support spontaneously.

Although many media outlets favored the Sharvey Band in their reviews, the citizens scoffed at this, insisting that the Yegor Band was the better of the two.

At this moment, the citizens gathered outside were extremely dissatisfied with the theater's cancellation notice, and were arguing with the theater staff.

"We bought tickets, and we want to see the Yegor Band perform!"

"If you're canceling, you must give a reason, and it should have been notified in advance!"

"Why was the Yegor Band's performance canceled? You haven't given any reasonable explanation!"

Amidst the fervent crowd, even the responsible person couldn't contain the situation.

Because of the large number of people, the theater manager was eventually called out.

"Ladies and gentlemen, our staff has already made it clear, this concert..." The theater manager had only gotten halfway through his sentence when he saw a crowd accompanying someone outside. Upon seeing that familiar face, the theater manager was momentarily stunned, his eyes revealing an expression of disbelief.

He no longer explained to the small citizens in front of him but squeezed through the crowd and hurriedly ran forward.

"It's the great writer, Mr. Milasvich!" The theater manager's eyes shone as he spoke, unable to help swallowing his saliva.

Chapter 1650 - A Stream of Distinguished Guests (Part 3)

A group of people surrounded the old man in a tailcoat, wearing a tall top hat and holding a silver cane, his face serene.

It's really Milasvich, a renowned figure in the literary circle of UE Country!

Earlier this year, this literary master came to give a speech at the Ladoga Grand Theater, and even the mayor personally came to listen, both of them chatting and laughing heartily.

The theater manager naturally dared not neglect him.

The people around Milasvich were also quite famous, his students, including novelists, poets, and scholars.

The theater manager recognized at least five or six of them, and this spectacle deeply surprised him.

Plus, Milasvich came in person, without any prior notice, which was unbelievable!

While the theater manager was in shock, the citizens around him also recognized this literary master, causing a stir of surprised discussions.

Among the group, someone recognized the identity of the theater manager and informed Milasvich.

Milasvich leaned on his hand, looked up with a gentle demeanor, "Mr. Manager, I'm here to listen to Yegor's team's concert, but I don't have a ticket. May I go in?"

Mr. Milasvich, here to listen to Yegor's orchestra performance?!

The theater manager was momentarily stunned.

Mr. Milasvich, here to listen to Yegor's orchestra performance!

This information shook him to his core.

"Is there a problem?" Milasvich asked.

"No, no, none at all! Please, come in, come in!" The theater manager excitedly rubbed his hands together, nodding energetically like a pecking chicken, diligently leading the group inside.

Regardless of whether there's a concert or not, the theater manager wouldn't let such a distinguished figure leave.

Otherwise, he'd end up beating himself black and blue with remorse.

Right then, as the theater manager had just ushered Milasvich inside and was busy arranging tea and fruits, someone rushed over to grab him, stuttering, "Manager, manager, outside, there's, there, a distinguished guest!"

"I already have a distinguished guest here!" The theater manager shook off the person's hand with irritation, "What guest could be more important than Mr. Milasvich! Listen up, it's the great literary master Milasvich!"

The theater manager emphasized sternly.

"The guest is, it's McHunter!" The staff member gulped and replied.

"McHunter again..." The theater manager spoke with initial impatience, then widened his eyes incredulously, grabbing the staff by the collar, pulling him close, and staring at him, "Who did you say!"

"McHunter!" The employee shrieked in fright.

"That McHunter?!" The theater manager's throat tightened, swallowing hard.

"That McHunter!" The staff member nodded with difficulty.

The McHunter who won awards incessantly, hailed as one of the top ten directors in the West!

His status is no less than Mr. Milasvich!

The theater manager trembled, "What did that gentleman come for?"

"To listen to Yegor's orchestra performance." The staff replied.

"Yegor's orchestra again!" The theater manager exclaimed.

Two distinguished figures in a row, and this is just the beginning.

After that, waves of high-profile guests started arriving one after another.

It's still about an hour until Yegor's original scheduled performance, yet these distinguished guests have come early to wait!

The theater manager felt dizzy from running, his worldview shaken.

Ordinarily, Yegor wouldn't have such influence; otherwise, he wouldn't be oppressed by Viktor.

"Manager, what should we do now?" The staff beside him asked in trembling voices.

They had never seen so many distinguished guests come on such a day!

Should they call back Yegor's team?

The theater manager slapped his face, "I better inform Viktor first!"

"Otherwise, he might later take his anger out on me... If he wants to ruin me, he can do it effortlessly!"

"Plus, didn't he say to seek him in case of trouble? Well, now there's big trouble! So I'll look for him!"