

Two Trillion 1651

Chapter 1651 Viktor in Shock

In the rehearsal room of the Sharvey Band's residence, Viktor sat comfortably in his exclusive leather chair with his legs crossed, smoking an Apollo cigar, lazily enjoying the vigorous performance of Luke and others on stage.

Sedor, Yvonne, and other mainstays of the Sharvey Band were seated on either side accompanying him.

Listening to the performance of Luke and others, the mainstays of the Sharvey Band all curled their lips, whispering to each other.

Many even shook their heads directly, seemingly in disdain.

In fact, the level of Luke and others was not low at all; within the Sharvey Band, they could definitely be considered top-notch.

But seeing these outsiders come to steal their jobs, the mainstays of the Sharvey Band were instantly united, forming an alliance.

They couldn't let these outsiders show off too much in front of the boss!

After finishing their energetic performance, Luke excitedly walked to the edge of the stage, slightly bowing to Viktor below, asking the new boss for his comments.

To be honest, Luke and his group truly performed above their usual level with all their effort this time.

Luke felt that even the "picky" Yegor wouldn't be able to find any flaws!

And the indifference and disdain of the people below, in his view, were just jealousy!

Luke wasn't afraid; he believed that playing well is playing well, and Mr. Viktor would surely recognize his talent.

Glancing at the confident Luke, Viktor lowered the cigar from his lips, exhaled a puff of smoke, waved his hand and pointed the cigar at the stage, and said leisurely to the people beside him, "As I see it, Yegor's team's level is just so-so. What's so great about it? Compared to our Sharvey Band's level, there's still quite a gap!"

Viktor's words left the confident Luke stunned for a moment.

In private meetings before, Mr. Viktor had even praised him as a buried genius, saying he could only shine in the Sharvey Band.

But now, it's become... "just so-so"?

"Yes, just so-so," Sedor said with a sneer, echoing his father.

"Right, right, I also thought Yegor and his team had made significant progress these past few years," Yvonne added disdainfully.

With Viktor and others' "judgment," the surrounding mainstays of the Sharvey Band immediately let out bursts of cold laughter, launching into mockery.

"I've always felt that their level doesn't necessarily surpass ours!"

"No, I think they have quite a gap compared to us!"

"Of course, our Sharvey Band is among the top ten bands, while the small Yegor Band hasn't even made it into the rankings!"

"That's right, they always think they're somewhat capable, it's simply laughable!"

"Haha, don't make it sound so harsh, spare some face for the newcomers. Coming to our Sharvey Band is a rare opportunity for them to learn and improve, let's not hit them too hard!"

Amidst the rising voices of ridicule, Luke's smile froze.

Those who followed Luke in betraying the Yegor Band, thinking they would be greatly valued here, were also left dumbfounded.

On the first day they defected, they were collectively mocked and educated by the band members here—one can only imagine how life would be moving forward!

And this deterrent was set up by the new boss!

Those people were instantly deflated, like eggplants hit by frost!

Honestly, the ridicule from below made Luke's heart burn with anger.

Thinking back when he was with the Yegor Band, sometimes he would talk back when Yegor criticized him.

But in front of Viktor, Luke really didn't dare act brazenly.

This Mr. Viktor is not someone to be trifled with; not following the rules in front of him wouldn't end well!

"Luke, you all have a good foundation. Just learn more from us at the Sharvey Band, and you'll improve sooner or later. You may step down now," Viktor casually waved at Luke on stage, indicating for them to step down.

Luke opened his mouth, wanting to say something, but seeing Viktor already unwilling to listen, with Sedor, Yvonne, and the Sharvey Band mainstays all looking impatient, Luke suddenly wilted, not daring to utter a word, retreating with full disappointment.

Luke signed a ten-year contract with the Sharvey Band, with better pay than at the Yegor Band, though not by much.

Privately, the new boss Viktor praised him highly, fully assuring him of a bright future. Luke believed it, thinking that a permanent member of the music association and a person with a congressman's title wouldn't deceive a newcomer like him, but now it seems...

In his extremely disappointed heart, Luke inexplicably felt a sense of extreme unease.

He hoped those promises would truly be fulfilled...

"Come, come, perform the 'Dance of the White Tide' for me once again," Viktor ordered, waving his cigar.

Below, the eyes of the men immediately gleamed brightly.

On the stage, rows of dancers in revealing white suspender stockings with enticing smiles had already emerged.

Viktor's face bloomed with a smile.

This was also his favorite program. In his view, music is emotional, and women are sensual; what better fusion than emotion and sensuality?

Just as those glamorous beauties on stage were casting flirtatious glances at Commander Viktor, preparing to dance with all their might, Yvonne's phone rang untimely.

Viktor glanced at him with slight discontent, scaring Yvonne into almost hanging up. However, seeing the caller's name, Yvonne leaned towards Viktor.

"Commander, it's the manager of Ladoga Grand Theater calling." Yvonne reported.

Every time the Ladoga Grand Theater manager called, it was only ever to look for Viktor.

Viktor frowned slightly and raised his hand, and the dancers on stage immediately stopped dancing.

"Ask him what it's about." Viktor ordered, pouting.

Yvonne nodded quickly and answered the phone. After listening to just a few sentences, she covered the receiver with her hand and reported back to Viktor, "He says there's something urgent and he needs to speak with you directly!"

Beside them, Sedor looked at Yvonne in surprise and then at his father, "What urgent matter could he have? Or should I take it?"

Viktor waved his hand, signaling Yvonne to hand over the phone, and the latter quickly offered it up with both hands.

Viktor placed the phone to his ear, leaned back leisurely in his chair, and chuckled, "This is Viktor, what seems to be the matter?"

"Mr. Viktor, a group of important guests have arrived here, specifically requesting to hear the performance of Yegor Band. I didn't dare refuse, so I wanted to get your opinion!"

On the phone, the voice of the Ladoga Grand Theater manager sounded extremely urgent.

"What kind of important guests have scared our theater manager like this? Is it the city's councilmen, or some big businessmen?" Viktor said lazily, his voice indifferent.

Viktor dabbled in business and politics, so he naturally had some rivals or foes.

When he suppresses Yegor Band, those people side with them, intending to "cause trouble."

But Viktor wasn't afraid because he rarely broke off with his rivals or fought them to the end, merely causing some minor disturbances.

Moreover, on this matter, even if someone stood with Yegor Band, it wouldn't change any facts.

If they really wanted to watch, they could enjoy it at a rundown little theater, as long as they weren't afraid of lowering their status.

"It's not just one or two important guests; it's many, about a dozen or twenty, all of whom have extraordinary status!" The theater manager's voice sounded choked.

A dozen or twenty big figures, along with their entourage, adding up to a hundred or two!

This number continues to grow!

"Oh, so many important guests have come, so I have to hear who they are." Viktor took a puff of his cigar, exhaled leisurely smoke rings, and said lazily.

Beside him, Sedor and Yvonne, overhearing bits and pieces, also understood what's going on and smirked coldly in unison.

At this moment, Viktor was in his prime, not to mention that in Ladoga, there was no one he couldn't overpower.

"There's Mr. Milasvich!" The theater manager reported the names on the phone.

"Oh, Milasvich?" Viktor casually repeated the name, then straightened up suddenly, "It's the great writer Mr. Milasvich!"

"That's right!" The theater manager affirmed flatly.

That great literary figure from UE Country! How could he possibly be here!

Viktor's eyes sharpened.

"And Mr. McHunter!"

"McHunter!" Viktor followed suit, repeating the name with a choky voice.

A renowned director in the film industry, with high status and fame!

"And Charles Anko!"

That famous football star, the best offensive player for multiple European seasons!

Viktor's eyes widened, and his pupils contracted, unable to contain his astonishment.

...

As the theater manager reported the names one by one, each name Viktor repeated straightened his posture a bit more, as if reaching greater heights, until he finally stood up abruptly.

Sedor and Yvonne were also taken aback as they listened.

The leading stars of the Sharvey Band all around also faintly heard the names of the big figures, filled with shock in their eyes.

So many top-tier figures gathered at Ladoga Grand Theater just to watch the Yegor Band's performance!

What is happening!

How is this possible!

Since when did the Yegor Band have so many super fans!

Chapter 1652 Swapping the Real for the Fake

When the theater manager announced the name of the final distinguished guest, Viktor, in a fit of panic, couldn't help but take two deep drags on his cigar, trying to calm his pounding heart. He then crushed the cigar in his hand, extinguishing it forcefully against the side.

A whiff of fleshly fragrance wafted through the air.

"Ah!" Yvonne, caught in the midst of a heart-pounding moment, couldn't help but let out a pig-squealing shriek after having been used as an ashtray by his boss.

On the other end of the phone, the theater manager was also startled by the pig-like scream but still hurriedly asked, "Mr. Viktor, what should we do now?!"

He wanted Viktor to make a decision!

Should they invite the Yegor Orchestra back, or frankly inform the guests of the truth!

Holding the phone, Viktor looked stern, but his extremely shrewd eyes were darting around.

To get where he is today, Viktor relied on cunning and ruthlessness!

Coupled with a daringly opportunistic heart!

Sometimes, what seemed impossible or even recklessly ambitious to many, Viktor dared to do and succeeded many times.

This time, a bold idea popped into Viktor's mind again.

After a moment of hesitation, Viktor's eyes finally lit up.

He made a decision!

"Make sure to entertain the guests well on your end, do not neglect them! They want to hear the Yegor Orchestra, so we will give them a perfect performance!" Viktor said with an indisputable voice.

On the other side, the theater manager was stunned, hurriedly asking, "Are you saying we should go and invite the Yegor team back now?"

Apparently, in front of so many bigwigs, Mr. Viktor has finally softened up.

The theater manager couldn't help but let out a silent sigh of relief, finding it the most prudent solution for him.

"No!"

The next second, Viktor decisively rejected his idea.

"Our Sharvey Band will go over immediately, and we will perform tonight!" Viktor stated his decision, "Luke, Yegor's beloved student, will conduct tonight's performance!"

Viktor's words shocked the theater manager.

"T-this is fraud, Mr. Viktor! And in front of that crowd of bigwigs! You, you..." The theater manager was already horrified, unable to fathom how Viktor dared to do so.

People explicitly wanted to see the Yegor Orchestra's performance; is this a bait and switch?

"What fraud!" Viktor sharply retorted over the phone, "I ask you, is Luke not a student of Yegor, and are there not people from Yegor's orchestra on my side?"

"This performance is merely missing Yegor himself!"

But the key is, they might be there specifically to see Yegor!

The theater manager couldn't help wanting to say.

But Viktor didn't give him the chance, continuing.

"Before the performance, if someone wishes to see Yegor, just brush them off by saying Mr. Yegor is busy and cannot meet everyone!"

"Rest assured, I've known Yegor for so many years, and I am the most familiar with him. If he truly had such strong connections, even if only acquainted with one or two of them, I couldn't have suppressed him so thoroughly! This time, it's likely the media exaggerated the effect, or perhaps some celebrity on a whim invited friends to a concert!"

"You've also mentioned, those bigwigs don't have tickets or invitations! They must have come on a whim! And they didn't immediately seek out Yegor, which is proof of unfamiliarity!"

"Once the concert begins, do you think those bigwigs will interrupt the performance to ask about Yegor's whereabouts? You underestimate their demeanor!"

"After the performance, are you worried they'll ask about it? I'm heading there myself, and I'll handle matters post-performance!"

Viktor's words, "reasonably convincing," left the theater manager unable to argue.

Beside Viktor, people like Sedor were also in shock.

Yvonne gaped, momentarily forgetting his pain, staring flabbergastedly at his boss.

Even in such a grand setting, daring a substitute is truly ruthless, Mr. Viktor!

At this moment, Viktor's gaze was brimming with excitement, becoming increasingly enthusiastic as he spoke.

What he envisioned was—

If the performance succeeded, at its conclusion, he'd announce that it was his Sharvey Band participating!

Thus, in front of all those bigwigs, he'd instantly make the Sharvey Band famous!

If any bigwig felt deceived, he'd shift all blame to the theater, claiming it was the theater that canceled the Yegor Orchestra's contract, saying it was an arrangement made by the theater. In reality, it wouldn't be deceit; it could be viewed as a joint performance between the Yegor Orchestra and the Sharvey Band, since Luke and others were authentic!

Would those bigwigs, on account of this, get angry or even make a big deal out of it?

The higher their status and reputation, the more cautious they are in their words and deeds; they wouldn't hold on to this matter!

Besides, if they truly were old acquaintances of Yegor, when the Yegor Orchestra was previously criticized, they wouldn't have remained silent.

Viktor trusted his own judgment.

And if the performance outcome wasn't satisfactory...

That possibility, Viktor wouldn't even consider; in his view, his Sharvey Band is exceptionally outstanding, with no potential issue of unsuccessful performances.

After all, the title of one of UE Country's top ten orchestras didn't come for free!

Viktor has this kind of confidence.

Viktor had perhaps forgotten how his Sharvey Band acquired that "top ten" status.

It was entirely orchestrated by him!

Indeed, he was truly ruthless, deceiving others and even convincing himself.

The thought of performing in front of such renowned figures and making a stunning impression—

Sedor, Yvonne, and even the key members of the Sharvey Band couldn't help but reveal an extraordinary excitement.

They were filled with fervor, eyeing an opportunity that originally did not belong to them!

For a moment, everyone eyed Viktor, the leader of the ensemble, with support welling up in their hearts.

Viktor lowered his voice and spoke to the theater manager, "In any case, just do as I say, we're on our way. Rest assured, if this causes you, as a professional manager, to lose your job, I'll ensure you are worry-free for the rest of your life."

As he spoke, Viktor gestured to Sedor, whispering in his ear, and Sedor understood immediately, nodding and departing with Yvonne.

At this moment, in a corner of the Ladoga Grand Theater.

The theater manager found himself in a difficult dilemma.

On the one hand, he feared something going wrong; on the other hand, he couldn't afford to offend Viktor.

Not to mention Viktor's close relationship with the theater's investors, his role as an executive director of the music association, and as a senator; angering him could result in minor retaliations that could ruin him.

More importantly, in this incident of ousting the Yegor Orchestra, the theater manager received a considerable benefit from Viktor!

Otherwise, the theater manager wouldn't be so apprehensive, notifying Viktor before his own boss.

At the moment the theater manager was torn and swayed by Viktor's persuasion, his phone chimed with a notification.

The theater manager instinctively glanced at it, panicking immediately. Covering the screen with his hand, he glanced around to ensure no one was nearby, then intensely and apprehensively opened his hand to look.

A huge sum had been deposited into his bank account, enough to allow him to resign right now without worrying about the rest of his life!

"Mr. Viktor..."

With scorching and apprehensive eyes, the theater manager, tremblingly, responded over the phone.

"Is this enough to change your mind?" Viktor's steady voice came through, "We're friends; accept this token! Don't make it awkward, or I won't be happy!"

Viktor blatantly threatened.

With the money already there, Viktor could easily find someone to pin it on, sending the theater manager to jail to reflect on his foolishness.

"I understand, I understand!" the theater manager gritted his teeth, "Then, I will do as you say!"

"That's more like it!" Viktor's hearty laugh echoed over the phone, "We'll send people over soon! Remember, hide all traces that shouldn't appear, those announcements and such, take them down, don't let anyone see them, serve those bigwigs with care, this is my opportunity, and also an opportunity for the Ladoga Grand Theater!"

The theater manager, steeling his heart, instantly responded, "Okay."

After all, he had nothing to worry about.

If this daring move pleases the bigwigs, he might even benefit from it!

The bold thrive, the timid starve!

Hanging up the phone with Viktor, the theater manager turned and headed to attend to the bigwigs.

At this moment, Bai Xiaosheng and his party were also on their way to the Ladoga Grand Theater.

"We might be a bit early, but it's a good chance to catch up, it's been a while," Bai Xiaosheng casually chatted with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying in the car.

He was unaware that a big drama of "Li Kui becoming Li Gui" was already unfolding there.

Meanwhile, hurriedly heading towards the theater, Viktor wouldn't have anticipated—

That Oriental lad he confidently told Yegor would kneel and beg when they next met, had indeed arrived!

Chapter 1653 - Enemies Meet on a Narrow Road!

Ladoga Grand Theater, in a small performance hall on the first floor. Two to three hundred people were invited here; they were the citizens who bought tickets for the Yegor's band's performance but were told that the performance was canceled. Previously, they gathered at the entrance demanding an explanation.

Now, because one big figure after another arrived, the theater manager simply had them brought in here first.

At this moment, these citizens realized that this place was not for the band's performance. They immediately cornered the person in charge, demanding an explanation once again.

Amidst the uproar as hundreds vented their dissatisfaction, the theater manager pushed the door open and entered.

The theater manager had come prepared with a strategy.

These two to three hundred people were like hidden bombs.

Putting them together with those big figures was impossible, and it might explode into big trouble, leaking the news that Yegor's band wasn't here.

Even if Yegor's band were still performing at Ladoga Grand Theater, the manager wouldn't let these common folks disturb the big figures' entertainment, which would lower the theater's class. He had to ask these people to leave as well.

Seeing the theater manager of Ladoga arrive, the crowd surged forward, surrounding him at once.

"Manager sir, what do you mean by placing us here, making us wait in vain for so long?"

"Your responsible person kept giving us evasive excuses with no reasonable explanation. Is this the attitude of your grand theater?"

"Your way of treating guests is truly disappointing to us!"

"Without an explanation, we won't agree today!"

For a moment, the crowd was impassioned.

The theater manager raised both hands, shouting to the crowd, "Quiet, everyone, quiet! I am here now to give you an explanation!"

With this shout, the furious citizens finally gradually quieted down.

"The situation is such that there will be two performances by Yegor's band tonight!" the theater manager announced loudly.

He was extra shrewd. So even if news accidentally leaked and those big figures knew, he had a chance to explain it.

"Two performances? Why has no one mentioned this before!" someone exclaimed.

Immediately, there was an echo of agreement.

"This is a last-minute decision, decided by Yegor's band. What can we do," the theater manager laughed, "The concert here at Ladoga is actually led by Mr. Luke, Yegor's top student. Mr. Yegor took the band to Dorado Theater."

"Dorado Theater? That's a small theater. Mr. Yegor took the band there to perform? Why give up the grand theater for a small one? How is that possible?" someone didn't believe it.

The theater manager didn't give others a chance to respond and said promptly, "In any case, the situation is just as it is. Mr. Yegor and the band are over at Dorado. As for the reasons, only Mr. Yegor knows."

"Then what about our tickets? We want to see the performance!" someone couldn't help shouting.

"Yes, we spent a lot of money on those tickets!"

"We want to see the performance!"

Immediately, the emotions flared again.

"The tickets you all bought are for our Ladoga Grand Theater, but since Mr. Yegor changed venues, your tickets are correspondingly void," the theater manager said loudly, then hastily added, "But! Mr. Yegor and we at the theater have decided to offer everyone a triple compensation if you choose to refund the tickets! Or you can exchange them for another date! You are free to choose!"

In order to quickly calm these people, the theater manager went all out, directly offering triple compensation.

The use of Yegor's name and the theater covering the compensation increased credibility and shifted everyone's attention.

"Triple!" Immediately, the citizens, who were full of resentment, quickly quieted down.

Who hates money!

Such generous compensation, they had never heard of before.

Seeing the citizens now without complaints, the theater manager waved in seven or eight staff members.

"We'll handle it for you now, please remain calm and don't spread the news outside when you leave. Leave in an orderly fashion. Ladoga welcomes you gentlemen, and anyone who violates my words will be blacklisted and permanently banned from this theater!"

The theater manager's words were stern and severe, ostensibly to protect the theater's reputation, but in fact, to keep them quiet.

With both carrot and stick, there was thoroughly no protest at all.

Seeing this side settled, the theater manager smiled and exited this small performance hall.

After going out, the theater manager wiped sweat off his forehead, glanced at the time, and couldn't help murmuring, "Mr. Viktor should be arriving now."

With that said, the theater manager headed straight to the entrance.

Whether today's grand play of deceit succeeds or not entirely depends on Viktor!

If the theater manager said he wasn't nervous, it would be a lie.

When he arrived at the entrance of Ladoga Grand Theater, he happened to see a group of people in tailcoats, carrying musical instruments, walking in, led by Luke.

Currently, Luke's walk exuded confidence and exuberance.

Fortune's favor!

For him, today was truly a change in fortune!

He hadn't expected so many big figures to gather at Ladoga Grand Theater, waiting to enjoy the performance by Yegor's band.

Viktor told him this might be the greatest opportunity of his life!

If he grasped it, Luke could catapult to fame and become the star figure of the Sharvey Band!

With such a temptation, Luke cared not about the risks and shame of impersonation; he was full of excitement and passion.

"Mr. Luke, you're finally here!" The theater manager took a few quick steps, met with a smile, his attitude significantly more courteous than before.

Seeing the theater manager's expression, Luke became even more proud, responding with an "嗯" from his nose, full of arrogance.

Mr. Viktor said today's performance must only succeed, not fail, with the elite of the Sharvey Band at his command.

Luke was already confident and arrogant; with the full cooperation of the top band Sharvey Band, he felt today's performance would surely succeed!

In front of so many big figures, making a stunning performance, he'd then become a true new superstar in the music world!

By then, the likes of the theater manager wouldn't even be worth his attention.

Now, his attitude towards the Ladoga theater manager was actually considered courteous.

"Please, go ahead, please!"

The theater manager smiled, making a welcoming gesture, and even had his assistant lead the way in front.

Luke led the first group of band members, strode in with heads held high.

As Luke and the others disappeared from sight, the theater manager's enthusiastic smile instantly vanished, and he silently cursed, "Such an opportunist!"

Outside Ladoga Grand Theater.

Viktor, surrounded by Sedor, Yvonne, and others, headed straight for the entrance.

"Make way, make way!"

Yvonne was clearing the path in front, moving aside the few people who came to see other performances, clearing the way for Viktor.

Viktor, chin held high, walked with a silver cane, marching forward proudly, no less impressive than the other big figures.

Others, seeing their imposing manner, unconsciously gave way.

But amidst such an imposing manner, there were those who were oblivious, blocking the path ahead.

Three people, two men and one woman, ignored Yvonne's urging to move aside; when Yvonne stepped forward to clear them, the large man among them grabbed Yvonne's wrist. Yvonne grimaced in pain and drew a sharp breath.

"Who dares have no eyes here!" Seeing this, Sedor erupted in anger.

Who's daring enough not to regard them at Ladoga!

The three people blocking the way all turned around.

Sedor, furious and surveying the person in the middle, suddenly felt a sense of familiarity.

"Oh, isn't this...?" The black-haired, black-eyed young man who saw him surprisingly smiled as if recognizing him, "I remember, you're the son of the former boss of Yegor's band, named Sedor? I'm not mistaken, right."

Sedor's eyes widened, staring at the other, suddenly remembered.

"It's you!"

Enemies indeed cross paths!

Chapter 1654 - Consider Yourselves Lucky Today

Back then, Sedor took Yvonne all the way east to give Yegor's band trouble, only to get dealt with by a peer who even got his father to scold him harshly.

To this day, Sedor remembers it vividly!

That person not only humiliated him but also made the Sharvey Band meekly terminate their contract with Yegor's team, allowing them to leave.

It was this young man in front of him who did it!

It was him!

Only after a long period did Viktor and Sedor finally figure out that they had completely fallen for that eastern kid's trick!

That person didn't have any ability to make the Sharvey Band unable to handle it; he was merely bluffing and deceiving them!

After learning the "truth," Viktor and his son were furious to the point of explosion.

Unfortunately, the Yegor band had already become independent, and that eastern kid had disappeared, leaving them with no target for revenge.

This frustration lingered until today!

Now, the two sides unexpectedly encounter each other here, surely a design by fate!

"Father, it's him!" Sedor rushed back to Viktor's side, pointing at Bai Xiaosheng and shouting angrily.

"Who?" Viktor asked in surprise.

"The eastern kid who tricked us! Three years ago, he used deceit to make the Yegor people leave our Sharvey Band!" Sedor said through gritted teeth, eyes filled with resentment.

Viktor's eyes instantly widened, bursting forth with a chilling glare as he looked at Bai Xiaosheng.

The resentment of being played and the pain of Yegor's team departing and growing stronger caused Viktor's anger to ignite fiercely.

Today, he even mentioned to Yegor that if this kid appeared here, he must make him kneel and beg for mercy!

Unexpectedly, this day had come so soon!

In Viktor's eyes was a trace of excited sneer as he said to Bai Xiaosheng, "So, it was you! Young man, I've long wanted to meet you, to settle the score between us! How dare you come to Ladoga, appearing right under my nose!"

Hearing the hatred in the words and recognizing Sedor calling this man father, Bai Xiaosheng understood his identity.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled immediately, "So it's Mr. Viktor, the leader of the Sharvey Band, pleased to meet you indeed!"

Bai Xiaosheng sized up the other party, continuing to smile, "This Ladoga doesn't belong to the Sharvey Band; why wouldn't I dare to come? Besides, I came to watch Yegor's band's performance, not to seek revenge on you; no need to be nervous."

This remark made Viktor and his son roll their eyes involuntarily.

Who's supposed to be nervous? You're a young man from the East; don't you have a sense of awareness!

"So, Mr. Viktor also came to watch Yegor's band's performance?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with a smile.

There was a hint of teasing in the previous words.

Actually seeing Viktor and his son appear, Bai Xiaosheng was quite "happy".

Currently, to solve Yegor's team's troubles, the root lies in this father and son. With them here, it saved him the trouble of finding them to vent the grievance, accomplishing dual objectives.

"This eastern kid is still so arrogant, I think we don't need to waste words with him, just deal with him directly!" Sedor said excitedly, rubbing his hands.

Now, they're not what they used to be. This is their own turf, dealing with an obscure eastern kid is as easy as pie.

Simpler than crushing an ant!

That seems even more true to Viktor.

Sedor, thinking about once being "humiliated" by Bai Xiaosheng, could hardly contain his excitement at the opportunity for revenge!

"Catch this bastard!" Sedor waved to the bodyguards beside him.

Those brawny men heard the order and were about to step forward.

Lei Ying pushed Yvonne aside, stepping forward to block Bai Xiaosheng, his gaze sharp and arrogant towards those bodyguards.

In his eyes, those people were just a bunch of trash, and they wanted to touch Bai Xiaosheng?

They couldn't even touch Bai Xiaosheng if Lei Ying was useless!

The scene suddenly became tense, even people entering and exiting the grand theater stopped to watch from afar.

"This is not the place for a fight. If the three big families, Soruns, and their invited friends see us fighting, it would affect our standing."

Lin Weiwei couldn't help but softly remind Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying.

Once a fight starts, although Lei Ying can handle it easily, there's still concern for oversight; if not protected properly, Bai Xiaosheng might have to act.

Lin Weiwei didn't really worry about the outcome, as these two together have never lost.

The key is that the dignified Zhenbei Group Greater China Region's executive president invited guests to enjoy classical music, only to have a brawl at the theater's entrance; spreading this could damage Bai Xiaosheng's reputation.

This was Lin Weiwei's main concern.

"Indeed." Bai Xiaosheng said coldly, looking at the opposite side, "However, dignity is no reason to be bullied; if they dare to make a move, then we won't need to be polite. Just make it quick. Lei Ying, be swift!"

"Understood." Lei Ying looked at those people and smiled coldly, his gaze sharp as an eagle.

His intention of holding back quietly dissipated.

If it really came to a fight, whether those bodyguards ended up with broken bones or torn muscles wouldn't be his fault!

"Mr. Viktor, Young Master Sedor, fighting here isn't good; among those passing by might be big figures!" Yvonne said, rubbing his wrist, with a pained expression, and hurriedly came to Viktor and Sedor's side, urgently advising.

Yvonne's words made Viktor frown and raise a finger, causing the bodyguards to stop immediately.

Sedor couldn't help but look at his father.

Yvonne is right; today is an extraordinary day, with many big figures gathering here, which is extremely significant for the Sharvey Band and them!

If they had a conflict with an obscure young man at the grand theater's entrance, regardless of winning or losing, it would mean they lost!

Just then, someone suddenly called out, "Mr. Viktor, why are you standing here? Why not go inside?"

Viktor and his son looked up to see the manager of the Ladoga Grand Theater hurrying over, passing Bai Xiaosheng and his companions, glancing at them curiously, not understanding why these three young people would make Viktor stop to talk to them.

Seeing the theater manager, Viktor immediately withdrew his hatred and focus on Bai Xiaosheng, lowering his voice and hastily asking, "Is everything arranged?"

With many onlookers, the theater manager only nodded quickly, just about to speak to Viktor but suddenly looked behind, speaking urgently, "Another big figure has arrived, it's the playwright, Mr. Klara!"

With that, the theater manager swiftly disengaged from Viktor, moving away to greet with a wide smile.

To avoid suspicion, he couldn't stay long with Viktor's party.

Viktor turned around to look, also surprised, then his eyes became bright like torches.

This Mr. Klara, though just a playwright, his son is a banker, and his daughter is in finance!

His underlying status is quite unusual!

Even Viktor wanted to make his acquaintance.

"Sedor, come with me to meet the distinguished guest!" Viktor said urgently, glancing at Bai Xiaosheng, then whispering to Yvonne, "You, go tell him where Yegor is now!"

Viktor was thinking, since Bai Xiaosheng claimed to be here to watch Yegor's band's performance, they'd send him over to the Dorado Theater. Before the end of a performance, Bai Xiaosheng probably wouldn't leave, so Viktor could have time to arrange against him!

Also, they couldn't let this guy into the grand theater making trouble in front of the dignitaries, ensuring one more layer of security for their actions!

In any case, they couldn't fight here.

After all, there were many big figures coming and going!

Consider yourself lucky today, Sedor gave Bai Xiaosheng a deep look, coldly snorted in his heart.

"Understood." Yvonne, being sharp, immediately grasped the boss's intent.

After conveying the message, Viktor took Sedor to meet Mr. Klara hastily.

Yvonne approached Bai Xiaosheng and his two companions.

Lei Ying glared at him, making Yvonne not dare come too close. He stopped and raised his hands with a smile, showing no hostility.

"Are the three of you here to watch Yegor's band's performance? Unfortunately, Mr. Yegor is not here!" Yvonne laughed, "They're at the Dorado Theater; if you'd like to watch, head over there! The person you're looking for isn't here!"

Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback.

"You didn't know? Seems Yegor didn't treat you as friends." Yvonne smiled with a bit of provocation, "Such a friend isn't worth having."

Lei Ying stared coldly at him, and Yvonne forced a smile, "I have no reason to lie to you; really! If you don't believe me, you can call him to confirm!"

Bai Xiaosheng observed Yvonne's expression; he didn't need to confirm. Just from watching the changes in his expression, he could tell if he was lying or not.

This Yvonne, what he said was true!

"Let's go!" Bai Xiaosheng said solemnly, "To the Dorado Theater!"

Chapter 1655 - Farewell, Jonas

Using his mastery of micro-expressions, Bai Xiaosheng believed Yvonne's words, and left with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, turning away.

Seeing them leave so readily, Yvonne let out a sigh of relief; this saved him a lot of trouble.

After all, if they didn't believe him and insisted on entangling further, Mr. Viktor would indiscriminately blame him.

However, to avoid any surprises, Yvonne waved over two people, gave them some instructions, and had them keep an eye on the entrance of the Ladoga Grand Theater so that Bai Xiaosheng and the others wouldn't sneak back in amidst the chaos.

The two subordinates recognized the appearances of Bai Xiaosheng and his companions, nodded at once, and headed straight to guard the theater entrance.

"Xiaosheng, are we just leaving like this? Are we really going to that Dorado Theater or whatever? What if the people from the Hawk Family, the Feng Family, and the White Family come and don't see us? Mr. Soruns might come too," Lin Weiwei couldn't help but whisper to Bai Xiaosheng.

The key is to invite people to enjoy the concert, and when the guests arrive, the host going somewhere else seems inappropriate.

"Maybe we should go inside first and wait for them to come?" Lin Weiwei suggested.

She didn't know how many important figures came to the Ladoga Grand Theater tonight because of them!

And all of them came because of them!

These important figures were all invited by the three great families or Soruns.

The three families invited people with good relations, high status, and an appreciation of the arts. Soruns, due to being busy, simply invited some friends from the art circle.

Even with just that, it was enough to shock the entire Ladoga City!

If the news spread, the mayor of Ladoga City would probably come in person to meet this group of celebrities.

Actually, Bai Xiaosheng and his group only needed to notify any of the three families or Soruns, and most likely, the manager of the Ladoga Grand Theater would be terrified, and even Viktor would be the same. The way they drove Yegor's group out would be the way they invited them back, probably with a nod and a bow because those people were really untouchable!

Unfortunately, Bai Xiaosheng and his friends were still unaware.

Bai Xiaosheng thought that asking someone to deal with Viktor was for later; first, they had to understand Yegor's situation.

However, to encounter Viktor here and learn that Yegor's orchestra moved quietly despite announcing it publicly, Bai Xiaosheng could basically conclude that this had to be Viktor's scheme.

"Did you notice Viktor's attitude towards the manager of the Ladoga Grand Theater just now, and their whispering to one another? The relationship between those two is not simple. Yegor not performing

here isn't something Viktor could orchestrate alone; it must involve the manager's cooperation. Since Viktor doesn't want us in, it's likely the theater staff won't let us in either," Bai Xiaosheng calmly analyzed and then looked at Lin Weiwei, "Do we have tickets?"

Lin Weiwei shook her head directly.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "Then I'm afraid even if we force our way in, we can't get in. Besides, they could rightfully call the police on us. If we get taken away by the police, that would be really embarrassing."

Hearing Bai Xiaosheng say this, Lin Weiwei sighed in frustration.

"Don't worry, if people from the Hawk Family, Feng Family, and White Family arrive, they'll contact us. We can greet them and all move to the Dorado Theater together. It's just changing the location, not a big deal," Lei Ying also said.

Lin Weiwei couldn't help but look back, watching Viktor and the theater manager, along with the others, welcoming the newly arrived important figures like stars surrounding the moon. She murmured, "But from the looks of it, the big shots arriving here seem extraordinary! If Mr. Soruns can't come, relying only on the support of the three great families, can we help Yegor's orchestra win?"

Lin Weiwei was genuinely worried.

She didn't really understand what the status of the three giants of the alcohol industry was in Europe, only feeling that in front of Bai Xiaosheng, they didn't seem all that remarkable.

This was actually a kind of illusion. The three giants in the alcohol industry were very formidable and their families were definitely ranked in Europe.

Not to mention the alliance of the three families!

"In any case, let's head over first and talk to Yegor's group when we see them," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, "Even if Yegor loses, so what? I can still make them rise again and take back what the Sharvey Band took, with interest!"

Bai Xiaosheng had that kind of confidence.

Back then, when he was in an ordinary position, he could come up with ways to deal with the Sharvey Band in a foreign country. Now, he could crush them without any tricks!

If Bai Xiaosheng used any means, even ten Sharvey Bands wouldn't be able to withstand it.

Listening to Bai Xiaosheng's words, Lin Weiwei immediately smiled and nodded.

She loved this feeling.

Following Bai Xiaosheng, she never needed to worry about anything because Bai Xiaosheng had a kind of reassuring charm.

The three of them hailed a cab and headed straight for the Dorado Theater.

On the way, Bai Xiaosheng chatted with the driver.

The bearded Caucasian driver was indeed very talkative. From their conversation, Bai Xiaosheng and the others learned that the Dorado Theater was a very small venue, located in a remote and dilapidated area. However, its affordable prices attracted cash-strapped music lovers from Ladoga City to go there and listen to performances by unknown small bands.

Upon hearing that there was going to be a large concert there, the driver was incredulous, and upon hearing it was the Yegor Orchestra, he was so shocked that he almost ran a red light, braking hard and jolting everyone with the inertial force.

"No way, how could such a famous orchestra go to the Dorado Theater? You must be mistaken!" the driver shook his head repeatedly, then with gleaming eyes said, "Though Yegor's orchestra hasn't made the top ten, it's the best in my heart. My family says so, my neighbors say so. In contrast, those like Sharvey Band and Rigg Orchestra are all for fame and gain!"

The whole way there, the driver must have shaken his head ten times, repeating that it was impossible, until Bai Xiaosheng and the others got out of the car. He was still looking toward the theater direction and murmuring to himself, "Maybe... I should take the day off and go hear a concert. What if it's true..."

Witnessing the passion Ladoga people have for music, Bai Xiaosheng and his friends were quite impressed.

The three of them stood by the roadside, gazing at their destination.

Under the dim lights, the small theater, connected to the rundown street buildings, did not stand out at all.

Especially having seen the Ladoga Grand Theater, this place looked even more shabby.

"Let's go," Bai Xiaosheng said, leading Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying toward it.

As they got closer, under the lights, they could see a huge banner hung outside the theater—

"Yegor Orchestra Performance Night – Dorado Theater".

"This... this definitely seems like an insult," upon seeing this, Lin Weiwei couldn't help but mumble.

Bai Xiaosheng walked on in silence.

Outside the Dorado Theater, some people were heading inside. The way they dressed was simple, many of them not in formal attire, clean but clearly of a different class compared to the audience from the Ladoga Grand Theater.

As they walked over, Bai Xiaosheng suddenly heard a commotion over there.

"Yo, isn't this the famous Mr. Jonas? You came to my theater to watch the concert too?"

"My dear Anna, why are you still living with such a man!"

Jonas?

Bai Xiaosheng looked over in surprise, and was met with a familiar figure.

It really was him, Jonas!

Chapter 1656: Do You Want to Try?

Jonas was wearing a black trench coat and his slightly worn leather shoes were polished to a shine, exuding a refined and scholarly air.

A woman with a serene expression was holding onto his arm, leaning on him naturally and intimately.

This woman should be Jonas's wife. She was about the same age as Jonas, yet still retained her charm, and her figure was remarkably well-maintained. Her curves would even make young women envious, clearly indicating that she must have been a beauty in her youth.

Her hands were beautiful, yet quite rough, a clear sign of having done a lot of hard work. This roughness seemed at odds with the intangible aura she radiated.

All signs from her suggested that she was not from a poor family, but rather had been tempered by life.

Standing opposite Mr. and Mrs. Jonas was a man with a look of deep remorse on his face.

The man was dressed elegantly, with slicked-back hair, but his body was severely out of shape, giving him a pot-bellied and bloated appearance. His facial features were squeezed together due to his obesity, further exaggerating his expression.

When he looked at Mrs. Jonas, his face was full of remorse. When he looked at Jonas, he was filled with utter contempt.

His two sentences had already drawn the attention of those around.

“Brandon, have some respect! Anna is not someone you should address like that; you should call her Mrs. Jonas!” Jonas faced the man, showing signs of anger.

Mrs. Jonas, however, tightened her grip on her husband’s arm and, looking sternly at the man named Brandon, said, “Additionally, Brandon, you have no right to discuss someone else’s marriage in public. It’s very impolite! Apologize to my husband to prove you’re still a gentleman!”

Brandon, being so admonished, looked a bit unpleasant. He coldly glanced at Jonas and then turned toward Mrs. Jonas with a pitying look, “Anna, look at yourself, you’re thinner, your hands have become so rough, not like the lady you once were! Besides, we were childhood sweethearts, if it weren’t for this guy barging in, maybe we would’ve already...”

“Shut up!” Jonas interrupted him, clenching his fists and glaring angrily.

Mrs. Jonas’s face also showed a trace of anger. “Have some respect!”

Their voices rose, attracting even more curious glances, and some people moved in closer.

The onlookers’ eyes sparkled with interest as they watched the scene unfold.

Brandon raised his hands to make a calming gesture toward Mrs. Jonas and stopped speaking nonsense.

However, he glanced coldly at Jonas and mocked, “Jonas, you incompetent fool, who was jailed! Look at the life you’ve given Anna! She went through so much with you, and yet you shout and yell, do you deserve it?”

Jonas, provoked repeatedly, felt his anger mount and was about to step forward and retaliate.

At his age, he was no longer young. Prison life had left him with many injuries, and he was clearly no match against the plump Brandon.

But seeing his beloved wife being disrespected and himself insulted, he felt compelled to defend his dignity as a man at all costs.

Mrs. Jonas clutched her husband's arm tightly. "Jonas, look at me! Don't stoop to his level, look at me!"

Jonas looked at Brandon, breathing heavily, then turned to his beloved wife, seeing her clear and captivating eyes.

"In my heart, you are the best!" Mrs. Jonas gazed at her husband, her eyes filled with deep love, "Don't fight him, for me!"

Jonas, calmed by these words, held his wife's hand in silence.

After decades of weathering storms and sharing life's ups and downs, his love for his wife helped him overcome his anger.

"Now, we should go watch Mr. Yegor's concert. Mr. Brandon, please step aside!" Mrs. Jonas said loudly, addressing Brandon.

Brandon's face broke into a smile, "Anna, I'm the manager of Dorado Theater! I can get you the best seats, as many shows as you want to see. You must know, the seats up front are reserved, and the ones you've bought are just at the back."

Saying this, Brandon looked Jonas up and down with a sneer, "The once high and mighty Vice President Jonas, even with your innocence proven and all that money you've now got, still, you're in this plight. Can't even find a job, right? Our status has completely reversed; I fear you'll never rise again, never surpass me!"

Brandon was pouring out his long-standing insecurities towards Jonas, putting on an air of superiority.

“Let’s go!” Mrs. Jonas pulled her husband.

This time, Jonas complied and stepped forward.

“Hey, I can offer you a job, Jonas! You can come work as a janitor for me. I’m sure your once high-status experience will help you understand what the important people care about here; you’ll do great!” Brandon shouted in mockery.

The Jonas couple remained unfazed and walked past Brandon.

“Listen, even if you have tickets, if I refuse, I could ensure you don’t get in!” Brandon, feeling humiliated by their disregard, suddenly ran over to block their way.

Jonas felt his anger rising again.

Today, he had joyfully taken his wife shopping, heard about Yegor’s band’s performance here, and since he knew his wife loved them, Jonas almost instantly bought tickets to bring her to the show, only to encounter the scoundrel Brandon!

At this moment, Brandon’s thuggish nature was on full display in public!

Attempting to bar their entry!

At this moment, Jonas genuinely felt like fighting back.

“Sir, under UE Country’s law, doing so would subject you to hefty compensation and business suspension,”

a voice drifted over from beside Brandon.

Then, a young Oriental man with black hair and eyes walked over with a smile, standing to the side.

“Of course, if I get involved, I’ll ensure your losses are even greater!”

Brandon turned in surprise to look at the young man.

“It’s you!” Jonas couldn’t help but exclaim.

The newcomer was someone he had met in a cafe but had not known by name—

Bai Xiaosheng.

“Good to see you again, Mr. Jonas,” Bai Xiaosheng smiled at Jonas and politely nodded at Mrs. Jonas.

“Hello, Mrs. Jonas. I’m a friend of Mr. Jonas.”

Being called a friend, Jonas gave Bai Xiaosheng a sincere smile.

“Hello, young sir,” Mrs. Jonas, seeing Bai Xiaosheng’s gentle manners, gentlemanly and polite, instantly took a liking to him, smiling courteously.

Brandon frowned, sizing up Bai Xiaosheng, and asked, “Who are you?”

Bai Xiaosheng looked at him, pointed at his own nose, and laughed, “Me? Name, I’m not planning to tell you. Identity, guess away. Lawyer, journalist, public.. servant. In short, if you keep these two ticket holders out, I’ll make things very difficult for you!”

Bai Xiaosheng’s last words carried a threatening tone.

Lawyer! Journalist! Public.. servant!

Any one of these identities could be extremely troublesome!

Brandon couldn't help but swallow hard.

"We've got the tickets!"

At this moment, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying came rushing over.

Lin Weiwei waved the tickets in her hand.

Bai Xiaosheng had learned from his experience at the Ladoga Grand Theater and had sent them ahead to buy tickets.

"Now, I have one more identity," Bai Xiaosheng took the tickets from Lin Weiwei, waved them in front of Brandon, and smiled, "A guest at Dorado Theater."

"If you refuse us entry, I'll escalate the matter," Bai Xiaosheng smiled, threatening Brandon, "Want to try?"

With that, Bai Xiaosheng let his smile fade and stared coldly at Brandon.

Locked gaze with him, Brandon suddenly shivered.

This young man's gaze was terrifying!

Dark and eerie, carrying some obscure intimidation!

It instilled in him a deep chill that was hard to shake!

The feeling was unbelievable, even startling Brandon himself, but the pronounced dread was real, making him instinctively avoid provoking Bai Xiaosheng.

Under Bai Xiaosheng's intimidating gaze, Brandon, the manager of Dorado Theater, immediately backed down and muttered, "Then go in if you must."

Bai Xiaosheng barely glanced at Brandon and gestured invitingly to Mr. and Mrs. Jonas with a smile.

The couple smiled at Bai Xiaosheng and his friends before proceeding forward.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying also gave Brandon a cold glance, their eyes indifferent, before turning to follow.

Watching them walk away, Brandon finally gritted his teeth and spat.

"You're only going to sit at the back, thinking you're so great? Bah!"

Chapter 1657 - I Have a Friend on Stage

Bai Xiaosheng and Mr. and Mrs. Jonas walked towards the Dorado Theater, with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying following behind.

On the way, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying also greeted Mr. and Mrs. Jonas.

Jonas politely responded to them. Mrs. Jonas smiled kindly, feeling fond of these two well-mannered young people with extraordinary presence.

"My young friend, are you really a lawyer, a journalist, or a public servant? I remember you mentioned you were job hunting."

Once they were away from Brandon, Jonas couldn't help but say softly to Bai Xiaosheng.

"I was just fooling him." Bai Xiaosheng laughed, "But, that Mr. Brandon is indeed timid, was easily bluffed by me."

Jonas also laughed, stroking his chin and marveling, "Yes, I'm quite curious how this person's courage has become so small."

Jonas didn't know that earlier, Bai Xiaosheng's eyes were so fierce that it was terrifying!

Currently, Bai Xiaosheng is the leader of hundreds and thousands of medium and large enterprises in the Greater China Region of the Zhenbei Group, where even those long-established, authoritative business leaders have to be circumspect in his presence.

Those at the same level as Bai Xiaosheng are big figures like Soruns, the strength of his presence can be imagined!

Normally, Bai Xiaosheng's aura is restrained, not flashy, but once he decides to intimidate someone, if the person's status, position, and experience are slightly inferior, it can be unbearable.

At least, a small theater manager like Brandon, who is short-sighted and hasn't seen much of the world, cannot withstand it.

Some might think aura and charisma are intangible, mysterious, and perhaps exaggerated concepts.

Not at all!

People are different. Some are born with a leader's charisma, capable of stirring people with words and rallying them together. Some develop a strong aura later, where a single glance or expression can create a strong sense of oppression or deep fear.

Bai Xiaosheng is the type who possesses both qualities. Coupled with his mastery of micro-expressions, he knows how to ensure his intimidation is most effective in any situation, more accurately than those like Soruns.

That Bai Xiaosheng could scare Brandon with just a glance is not surprising.

"Actually, I'm not really in the job-hunting phase now, I have my own work." Bai Xiaosheng sincerely explained to Jonas, "At that time, I just felt that Mr. Jonas, you, were quite extraordinary in both manner and conversation, and I wanted to chat with you for a bit."

Faced with Bai Xiaosheng's candidness, Jonas also smiled, "In fact, at that time, my mood was really not so good. Without your excuse and that hundred euros, I might not have chatted with a stranger."

Both smiled at each other.

With sincerity, even "you" became informal "you," making them feel a bit closer.

Mrs. Jonas, looking at Bai Xiaosheng, also smiled and extended an invitation, now addressing Bai Xiaosheng as "you," "Someday when you and your friends have the time, why not come to our house, have a cup of tea, and try my pastries."

It'd been a while since Mrs. Jonas saw her husband having new friends, and she was happy to see him relaxed and pleased for his sake.

"My wife's pastries are first-class, you must try them sometime." Jonas also smiled at Bai Xiaosheng and his friends.

"There will be a chance." Bai Xiaosheng smiled back.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying exchanged smiles as well.

Mr. and Mrs. Jonas might not have expected that the young man they considered a friend would someday become Jonas's boss, and as long as Jonas remained loyal, his wealth and status in the latter half of his life would far exceed the past!

While chatting, Bai Xiaosheng and his group entered the Dorado theater with Mr. and Mrs. Jonas.

This small theater only has one main hall, and once inside, signposts are visible everywhere, all under the Yegor Orchestra's banner, making it not difficult to find the way.

Even without looking at the signs, it didn't matter because nearly everyone was heading in that direction.

Upon entering the only main hall, Bai Xiaosheng and the others found that about seventy percent of the seats for over a thousand people were filled.

This number is quite good.

After all, there were still several dozen minutes before the official start, and people continued to enter.

"Our seats are quite far back." Jonas gazed around, though the front seats were not completely occupied, he believed they were reserved.

Didn't Brandon also say the seats in the front were blocked off by him, can't be bought now.

Lin Weiwei also showed her ticket to Mrs. Jonas, "We bought our tickets even later, afraid the seats are more remote."

"Hey, these are next to ours." Seeing Lin Weiwei's ticket, Mrs. Jonas exclaimed in surprise.

Bai Xiaosheng, Jonas, and Wen Yan were all taken aback.

After checking, they found that indeed, their seats were right next to each other.

No one knew how the tickets were issued, but it was such a coincidence.

"This really is destiny!" Bai Xiaosheng laughed immediately.

Jonas nodded frequently, "Shall we go find our seats then?"

"Alright." Bai Xiaosheng replied.

However, just as they were about to leave, Bai Xiaosheng noticed a familiar figure moving on the stage, among the orchestra members on the conductor's platform.

It's Yegor!

Bai Xiaosheng immediately turned to Jonas with a smile, "There's a friend of mine on stage, maybe we could meet. Shall I introduce you?"

Along the way, Mr. and Mrs. Jonas had consistently portrayed themselves as music fans of the Yegor Orchestra.

Chapter 1658 - I Have a Friend on Stage (Part 2)

Bai Xiaosheng thought, they should be quite eager to say a few words to Yegor.

"Do you have a friend in the Egor Orchestra?" Jonas looked at Bai Xiaosheng with some surprise and hesitated, "But... wouldn't that be inappropriate? They're busy, and Mr. Yegor might not allow his members to come down to the audience area."

Especially since it's almost time for the concert to start.

Bai Xiaosheng pondered for a moment and said, "Actually, I have something important to ask him. It's not during the performance, so it should be fine..."

Mrs. Jonas also tugged on her husband's arm and whispered, "I also want to get a bit closer to see the Egor Orchestra. I'm afraid it will be too chaotic after the show, and we won't have the opportunity."

Jonas hesitated for a moment, ultimately gazing at his wife and nodding with a smile, "It's your birthday today, so you make the call! Not just getting a closer look at the Egor Orchestra, even if you want me to break through security to get Mr. Yegor's autograph, I'll make it happen no matter what."

Jonas was showing a bit of affection in front of others.

Mrs. Jonas gave a sweet smile, slightly shy, like a young girl, hugging her husband's arm even tighter.

Everyone reached a consensus, and Bai Xiaosheng led Mr. and Mrs. Jonas along the aisle toward the stage.

In fact, from the first row of the audience to the stage, there was quite a distance, with several security guards lined up there, ready to handle emergencies.

Otherwise, if all the audience wanted autographs from Mr. Yegor, wouldn't the scene get chaotic?

When Bai Xiaosheng and the others approached the front row, many people were already standing there, all of them excited, craning their necks to look at the stage. Some were even waving slightly, hoping to catch the attention of the orchestra members.

If this scene were at the Ladoga Grand Theater, it would be unimaginable!

The audience who dared to gather near the front row would not only be resented by other audience members, but might also be considered out of line and kicked out by the theater staff.

Perhaps only a rundown theater like the Dorado Theater would be loose enough for this to happen.

The security guards just watched these people warily, as long as no one crossed the line or disturbed the orchestra with loud noises, they preferred to avoid unnecessary trouble. After all, the security wasn't that formal, and since the audience was from the lower stratum, too strict management could backfire and make the situation uncontrollable.

Bai Xiaosheng and the others stood there for a while, keeping a bit of distance from the crowd, then blended in, making them less noticeable.

They stood there watching for a few minutes.

On stage, Yegor and the others seemed oblivious.

Of course, Yegor and his group were busy, and the chaos below wasn't something new; it was there from the start. They've seen it too much and turned a blind eye to it.

Yegor was both busy and anxious.

The problems with the Dorado Theater were beyond his imagination.

Not only was the external publicity setup a disaster, but the main hall, unused for so long, had outdated equipment that they had to fix themselves.

That could still be manageable.

The theater had allowed people in two hours early and didn't even set up security, causing great inconvenience to the orchestra.

After Yegor's strong insistence, security was finally arranged, maintaining order at the scene.

But there were only a few minutes left until the performance, and there were still various issues.

Yegor had never encountered such an unconventional theater.

But still, when in Rome, do as the Romans do.

Yegor decided to proceed with the performance as usual.

Even if only one person came today, even if he was sure to lose the bet, he would still perform.

The undefeated spirit of the Egor Orchestra lies in their resolve!

In such a state, how could Yegor notice Bai Xiaosheng and the others?

After standing and watching for five or six minutes, Jonas couldn't help but whisper to his wife, "Anna, you have an old leg injury. You shouldn't stand for too long. Why don't we go back and sit?"

Mrs. Jonas hesitated for a moment, taking a look at Bai Xiaosheng and the others.

Bai Xiaosheng and his group showed no intention of leaving and were whispering among themselves.

"Otherwise, I'll give Yegor a call. Even though it's not a good time, it's important to understand the current situation." Bai Xiaosheng consulted Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying for their opinions.

Calling Yegor in such a setting seemed impolite.

But considering the future of the Egor Orchestra, it was crucial for Yegor to see them and briefly understand the situation.

"Why not give him a call," Lin Weiwei agreed.

Just as Lei Ying was about to express his opinion, he suddenly noticed Yegor on stage turning in their direction, possibly thinking that the lights above them needed adjustment.

Lei Ying immediately raised his arms and waved.

His large frame made his actions instantly noticeable.

Even Yegor's gaze was drawn over.

Bai Xiaosheng also raised his arm and waved with a smile.

"These young people sure have energy. Do they think their friend on stage can see them just by doing that? Mr. Yegor looked over too. Are they trying to get Mr. Yegor's attention?" Jonas thought Bai Xiaosheng and his group were quite bold and couldn't help but smile.

Then Jonas saw his wife's eyes widen, her hand covering her mouth, pointing to the stage with an expression full of surprise.

"Anna, what's wrong?" Jonas asked in bewilderment.

Following his wife's gaze, he looked over and was startled.

On the stage, Mr. Yegor, with the help of the security, had actually jumped off the stage.

Chapter 1659: I Have a Friend on Stage (Part 3)

Heading over here!

Suddenly, the audience all around was stunned.

The onlookers in the front aisle even let out cheers.

Yegor parted the crowd and came straight over, heading directly this way!

Jonas was dumbfounded, a bit unbelieving.

He was a fan of the Yegor Orchestra and firmly believed that Yegor was the only true master musician and conductor.

On stage, Yegor was always so gentlemanly, with every gesture exuding a master's charm.

But now, the master had jumped off the stage and ran into the audience!

This is...

Jonas was at a loss for words.

Under everyone's gaze, Yegor hurried in front of Bai Xiaosheng, filled with disbelief and excitement, looking Bai Xiaosheng up and down, and laughed, "My friend, it really is you! Just now I thought I was seeing things, but it really is you! You've come to Ladoga, and I didn't even know! You came to our concert, why didn't you say something in advance!"

As he spoke, Yegor gave Bai Xiaosheng a big hug.

The audience all around was also in an uproar, unable to believe it.

"So the band friend he mentioned is actually... Mr. Yegor!"

Mr. and Mrs. Jonas looked at Bai Xiaosheng in shock.

Even if they were friends, how could it be enough for Yegor to run down from the stage in public, disregarding his status!

This must be no ordinary friendship!

Absolutely extraordinary!

On stage, the members of Yegor's orchestra who saw this were also shocked.

Amelia was particularly stunned, her beautiful eyes wide open. She had never seen her father being so "disregardful of his demeanor."

"It's him!" Suddenly, someone in Yegor's orchestra gave an excited whisper.

"Indeed, it's him!" Another person exclaimed.

Soon, more senior members joined in the astonishment.

"Him? Who is he?" Amelia looked at the young man below, who had just finished hugging her father Yegor and was talking intently in a low voice, and couldn't help but ask.

The man didn't seem to be more than ten years older than her, how could he be her father's friend.

"Three years ago, it was he who liberated us from the Sharvey Band!" someone answered.

Amelia was first surprised, then her eyes lit up.

"This time, perhaps he can help us again!" someone couldn't help but say.

But Amelia's eyes dimmed. She didn't believe that the young man from the East could help them now.

Over there, Bai Xiaosheng and Yegor were "whispering."

After a brief greeting, Bai Xiaosheng got straight to the point, asking about the situation, and Yegor didn't hide anything, telling Bai Xiaosheng everything.

“Okay, I know the situation now,” Bai Xiaosheng said after listening, stepping back a bit, and smiled at Yegor. “You guys perform as usual. With me here this time, I’ll help you win this bet and make the Sharvey Band lose completely!”

He was still so optimistic, so confident!

Yegor smiled, not mentioning Viktor, who is no longer what he used to be, nor the identity and status of the opponent, which were no longer intimidating. The current strength of the Sharvey Band is even more formidable.

Although Yegor didn’t believe Bai Xiaosheng could help them, he was already very happy that Bai Xiaosheng came to listen to their concert.

“This is my friend Jonas, and this is his wife,” Bai Xiaosheng introduced Mr. and Mrs. Jonas to Yegor.

Yegor warmly greeted Mr. and Mrs. Jonas.

Mr. and Mrs. Jonas hurriedly returned the courtesy to Yegor.

The loved master musician and conductor were right in front of them, making Mr. and Mrs. Jonas very happy, like they were dreaming.

“Where’s your seat, my friend,” Yegor turned to Bai Xiaosheng and asked.

“Over there,” Bai Xiaosheng pointed with his hand.

It was the most secluded corner of the entire concert hall.

Yegor immediately frowned, “How can that be, I’ll have someone change you to the front row now!”

Yegor’s attitude and importance towards Bai Xiaosheng made Mr. and Mrs. Jonas further surprised.

“No need,” Bai Xiaosheng smiled and refused.

Yegor insisted again.

Bai Xiaosheng jokingly said, “Who says up front has to be VIP seats, my friend? Wherever I am, that’s where the VIP seats will be!”

Yegor and Mr. and Mrs. Jonas thought Bai Xiaosheng was being humorous.

In the end, Yegor did not insist further and said with a smile, “The performance will start soon; I’ll go back to prepare.”

Bai Xiaosheng nodded with a smile.

Under everyone’s eyes, Yegor returned to the stage, while Bai Xiaosheng and his group went to their seats in the corner.

As Bai Xiaosheng and his group passed by, surprised gazes from the audience followed them.

But this kind of excitement came quickly and dissipated quickly too.

Soon, the audience’s attention returned to the stage again.

When Bai Xiaosheng and his group were settled in their seats, Brandon appeared at the entrance of the concert hall.

At that moment, Brandon was holding a piece of paper with Mr. and Mrs. Jonas’ seat number written on it.

Brandon easily found them and also spotted the three of them.

“How come... sitting next to each other?” This coincidence startled Brandon as well.

However, later, a look of ridicule could not be suppressed on Brandon’s face, “The seats are really secluded! Well, that’s fitting, small people should have the seats of small people!”

He finished and spat, “People like you will never deserve VIP seats!”

On the Dorado Theater side, because of the generally average audience level, it seemed lively.

But at this moment, in the Ladoga Grand Theater, it was even livelier, as if it had exploded.

Because even the giants that Viktor didn’t expect have arrived!

Chapter 1660 - The Three Titans of the Wine Industry Arrive Together!

The main hall of the Ladoga Grand Theater could be described as resplendent, with the gigantic circular dome adorned with artworks from the Renaissance period. The vast auditorium was brand new and immaculate, divided into three levels and accommodating more than three times the capacity of the Dorado Theater.

Due to the theater’s restriction on ordinary citizens entering, there were not many spectators inside, with only a small section of seats directly in front of the stage, in the center, fully occupied, numbering around three hundred people.

Among those people, the most ordinary one was also courteous in demeanor, clearly not a common person.

And seated in the very front row were about twenty people whose identities were even more extraordinary!

They came from the fields of literature, music, film, sports... Each one could be said to be a renowned big shot!

Some of these big shots already knew each other, and for those less acquainted, this was just the right opportunity.

Therefore, each and every one of them was engaged in friendly exchanges with those around them.

Big shots also need to expand their social and networking circles.

And as long as one's fame and capital reach a certain level, industry barriers are simply not an issue.

In such a magnificent and solemn concert hall, even though the performance had not started, they talked and laughed among themselves. For ordinary people, this would seem a bit disrespectful, but with high status and position, no one found it disharmonious. This is the beauty of fame and wealth.

In fact, these big shots were also surprised by the arrival of so many heavyweight figures.

Among them, there were also distinctions in rank; the highest and the lowest ranked individuals did not even belong to the same level.

These people were also somewhat puzzled in their hearts, as they didn't believe that those who invited them could also invite certain others present.

This was normal because they were not invited by the same person.

From Soruns to the three great families, there were naturally some differences in hierarchy among those they knew.

However, the big shots present were also waiting for a common person, as the person who invited them mentioned. It was a young man from the East...

More precisely, a young Eastern man of distinguished and noble identity with considerable background!

These big shots were also filled with anticipation for that person.

On stage, the members of the "sham" Sharvey Band were experiencing emotional turmoil, unable to rest even for a moment.

Luke, at the very front of the stage, dressed in formal attire, appeared dignified and somewhat handsome.

However, in reality, he was indeed a little nervous and a bit excited. The fingers rubbing the baton were tremulously shaking, though subtly.

For the twenty or so big shots below the stage, it didn't matter who they were or which industry they were from. If any of them approved of him and elevated him, he would be truly lucky.

Luke would occasionally turn around to adjust his bow tie, then turn back with grace and courtesy, displaying his most polite and gentlemanly side to the audience.

The Sharvey Band's ensemble had already completed their preparations, sitting quietly in place.

The pillars of the Sharvey Band all looked at Luke with envy, jealousy, and hatred, wishing they could take his place.

They too would sneak glances towards the audience, and although they knew the chances of striking it lucky were slim, they were still nervous and excited in front of so many big shots.

As for the other members of the band, they were even more excited and fervent.

Viktor, the owner of the Sharvey Band, a councilor of Ladoga City, and an executive director of the music association, sat at the far end of the same row as other big shots, his face filled with a conciliatory smile and a hint of glory. Although he had a long list of titles, compared to those sitting in the same row, he was nowhere close in status.

Nonetheless, he considered himself a person of some significance, sitting there unabashedly, and no one bothered to drive him away.

Just earlier, Viktor had made a round, handing business cards to all the big shots.

Since he was the only one doing so, he actually attracted some attention.

But afterward, those big shots went on to connect with peers of similar or higher status, ignoring him.

Of course, Viktor didn't mind the cold reception at all; just sitting there felt glorious to him.

At this moment, the manager of Ladoga Grand Theater cautiously approached with a conciliatory smile, asking the big shots seated in the front, "Honored guests, our band is ready. May I ask if we can start the performance now?"

Currently, there was still some time before the initially announced performance time of Yegor Band. However, seeing no more distinguished guests arriving, the manager of Ladoga Grand Theater thought that as long as the big shots present gave the word, the concert could begin.

"Let's wait a little longer, Mr. Manager, the person who invited us hasn't arrived yet," a guest in the center, the most distinguished among them, said with a resounding voice.

These words stirred the theater manager and Viktor alike.

There was still another big shot yet to arrive?

Who could it be!

To invite so many big shots at the same time, it must be someone of extraordinary status.

At the very least, someone no less than the most honored guest present, or even higher!

Viktor, overwhelmed, was filled with excitement.

This performance seemed like a massive windfall falling right on his head.

It's going to be a big hit!

This would propel their Sharvey Band to instant fame in Europe!

The words of the distinguished guest who spoke also reinforced Viktor's initial assessment—

It was some big shot inviting friends for relaxation and a concert, just happening to take place here!

"Yegor, oh Yegor, you just don't have that luck! If you had listened to me and returned to our Sharvey Band obediently, today's spectacular occasion would have made you famous in Europe! But now, you have nothing! Even if you beg me to come back in the future, I'll have to think about it!" Viktor was so excited that he couldn't help but taunt Yegor, who had opposed him.

Behind him, Sedor and Yvonne couldn't contain their excitement, secretly clenching their fists.

This is great; the bigger the event, the more recognition their Sharvey Band will gain!

On stage, Luke's hands were shaking even more vigorously.

Even the members of the Sharvey Band were listening with glowing eyes.

The theater manager tried hard to remain calm, smiling broadly as he responded to the distinguished guest who spoke, "Alright, alright, I understand, sir! I'll excuse myself for a moment and go outside to welcome the gentleman who invited you all!"

While the theater manager was speaking, the main hall doors suddenly opened, and a large crowd surged in.

More and more people streamed in, numbering over a hundred.

The manager of the Ladoga Grand Theater was taken aback and surprised.

Were the guys stationed outside the door asleep, letting so many people in!

These are all big shots and must not be disturbed!

The theater manager, both shocked and angry, caught sight of the three people at the front of the group entering.

He froze instantly.

No matter how poor his eyesight or memory might be, he wouldn't be unfamiliar with those three faces that frequently appeared in the media.

Old Hawk, Feng Xiangnan, and Dyson!

Ninety percent of the wine in all of Europe is managed by these three!

They are the three giants of the European wine industry!

Not only were the three giants all present, but looking at those around them, they were all key figures with power from the three great families!

Was this the wine industry giants' clans coming out in full force?

The Ladoga Grand Theater manager was left speechless.

Big shots, truly big shots!

A whole group arriving at once, comparable to the most prestigious guests present, if not more!

Viktor was also stunned.

It wasn't until seeing those big shots seated around him all rise that Viktor, as if propelled by a spring under him, stood up.

Viktor was first shocked.

"So it was the three giants hosting! No wonder such a grand occasion!"

Then, Viktor was so excited that he felt dizzy.

"Heaven bless our Sharvey Band!"