

Two Trillion 171

Chapter 171 This is my turf!_1

Zhuang Boyi tilted his head, sizing up Bai Xiaosheng from head to toe.

This young fellow, whose mustache hadn't even grown in fully—was he really the person in charge of Teles Square? The target of this task he had been entrusted with?

If so, this mission was far too easy! Could it be that workplace appointments nowadays were all a joke?

Zhuang Boyi sneered disdainfully.

He was almost certain that Bai Xiaosheng must have relied on connections to be appointed the project leader.

Let's see what you are capable of!

Zhuang Boyi signaled with his eyes to someone next to him. Understanding the cue, the person nodded slightly and stood up abruptly.

"Hello, I am a journalist from Tiannan News, and I would like to ask if the rumors about the major accident and wage arrears occurring in your project are true?"

At this question, the eyes of the reporters present all lit up, and they stared at Bai Xiaosheng without blinking.

Many of them took out notepads, extracted voice recorders, and raised their cameras.

Now, even a frantic glance or a nervous voice from Bai Xiaosheng could ignite boundless speculation.

Allowing these people to immediately put pen to paper with their wild imaginations.

Much to everyone's disappointment,

Bai Xiaosheng remained calm and composed.

"Be patient," Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "I've said it before, please wait three to five minutes, and you all will have a big surprise!"

Bai Xiaosheng neither responded nor refused to respond.

The one who asked the question could only sit down in chagrin.

Buying time, huh? Zhuang Boyi sneered silently.

Manager Sun Xiangdong had given a heads-up that the leading figures who could shoulder the blame in the project had already left, and the one with the highest position who could step up was only this youngster.

Well then, let's wait and see what tricks you can pull off!

Zhuang Boyi smiled coldly with contempt.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced casually at Zhuang Boyi, his gaze sliding over without a ripple.

But he could tell that these people were all centered around Zhuang Boyi!

The project employees brought over fruit and refreshments.

Seeing Zhuang Boyi firmly in his seat like an angler waiting for a bite, the journalists were in no hurry either and comfortably helped themselves to food and drink.

The department heads from administration, engineering, logistics, and business development were all standing at the entrance of the large conference room, watching these people and Bai Xiaosheng with bated breath.

Considering the situation today, it wasn't going to be easy to dismiss these well-prepared journalists!

Putting themselves in Bai Xiaosheng's shoes, they all shook their heads in dismay.

Unimaginable!

Song and Yezi were also in the crowd, filled with anxiety.

Song had a background in advertising studies, and public relations was among the subjects he had learned.

At the moment, he was anxiously muttering to Yezi.

"This is a crisis in public relations! One misstep and the consequences are unthinkable. Bai, as the person in charge, will bear significant responsibility!" Song couldn't help but swallow nervously.

"Aren't you exaggerating a bit?" Yezi exclaimed, "If we just explain the truth to them, clarify things, wouldn't that be enough?"

"You're too naive," Song shook his head with a bitter smile.

"Do you know what they're saying outside? Accidents! Wage arrears! Each term is like a thunderbolt! Do you know what the public is concerned about now? It's not about who's right or wrong. They only support those they believe to be the underdogs! That includes emotional sympathy and a focus on interests. 'Construction workers', 'unpaid wages'—Zhou and his crew have both, and that's like having the best cards!"

Song lamented.

"They can't distort the truth and ignore the facts, right!" Yezi was still somewhat unyielding.

"The facts?" Song scoffed, shaking his head with a bitter smile, "Useless! If our project starts citing facts and reasoning now, that will only make things worse and get us slandered online. And look at these people here, how come their timing is so coincidental? I bet some of them are hired by someone; even if they're not, these small media outlets are looking for a hot topic to exploit for popularity! Do you still expect them to absolve you? Dream on!"

After hearing Song's words, Yezi truly became nervous.

Bai, can you get past this hurdle?

Yezi's eyes were filled with extreme worry as she murmured, "It's just a pity that Vice General Manager Wang Ye is not here!"

Vice General Manager Wang Ye?

Song shook his head slightly, a hidden bitter smile on his face; he knew much more than what Yezi was aware of.

How could Assistant Qian, a mere assistant, dare to trouble the deputy general manager and project manager of the project every day? If one were to say that Wang Ye had not instigated this, who would believe it?

And this time, the timing of Vice General Manager Wang Ye's departure was too coincidental...

Song let out a heavy sigh; he didn't dare to think any deeper!

He could only hope that all this was just his own wild imagination, an illusion!

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng's exceptionally calm and composed demeanor, Song was also somewhat unable to see through him. Was Bai Xiaosheng really confident, or was he just feigning composure?

Zhuang Boyi sat leisurely, fiddling with his mobile phone in his hand.

He was sending messages to someone.

"How is the situation progressing?"

"Rest assured, everything is under control!"

"Has he started answering questions yet?"

"Soon, he's stalling for time, but he only has three to five minutes to use, not enough to turn the tide. The draft framework was ready yesterday; with slight modifications, it can be published! Please prepare the remaining payment."

"No problem!"

Zhuang Boyi smiled slightly. Another large sum of money would soon be in his account—after this, he could take a trip to Europe or America.

"Did you bring the equipment? On our side, someone wants to watch the 'live broadcast'."

Another message came through.

"Okay!" Zhuang Boyi replied.

He reached out to adjust a button on his clothing—a miniature camera, the high-priced equipment he had purchased for undercover investigations.

"The picture quality is not bad," came a smiley face from the other end, followed by no further messages.

Zhuang Boyi turned off his phone.

In a certain room.

Manager Sun Xiangdong and Wang Ye sat side by side on a spacious sofa, each holding a glass of red wine, and watched television with great interest. The TV screen was clear, with only one main character—Bai Xiaosheng.

"The trap you've set, Manager Sun, is quite good, but don't think that you can completely bring down Bai Xiaosheng in one go," Wang Ye reminded as he sipped his wine.

"Where's the fun in bringing him down in one go? If I'm not satisfied with that, your noble patron surely won't be either!" Sun Xiangdong laughed heartily. "Once I record this video and capture the moment of Bai's misfortune, it will serve as your first accomplishment!"

Wang Ye smiled.

"Cheers!"

"Cheers!"

Their glasses clinked together, emitting a crisp sound.

Yet both pairs of eyes eagerly awaited the moment Bai Xiaosheng would be besieged by the reporters!

In the large conference room.

Zhuang Boyi checked the time, cleared his throat, and prepared to personally launch a verbal and written attack on Bai Xiaosheng.

Suddenly, a commotion was heard from outside the door.

Wang, leading a group, carrying a bunch of equipment, walked in and swiftly set up two cameras—one aimed at Bai Xiaosheng and the other at the media.

Following that, Wang went to work on the projection equipment, displaying a line of text on the snow-white wall.

"Treles Square, News Conference!"

Zhuang Boyi read the projection's text, and his complexion changed.

"Thank you all for coming, since you are all so interested in this project..." Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, "Let's have a fair and direct, live broadcast to the whole network!"

Since the reporters are here, how you report is no longer up to you!

This is my project, my home turf!

Chapter 172: Who Has a Question?_1

Live broadcast across the web? A press conference!

The journalists who arrived were stunned; some were utterly baffled.

Who could have imagined such a twist in this project?

Now, how could they possibly distort and manipulate the narrative? The full live-stream video was on the internet; any attempt to twist the facts or stir up emotions was impossible!

If they dared to fabricate or act recklessly, it would be at their own discomfort!

The journalists couldn't help but swallow hard.

Most of them were there under the banner of their respective media outlets, privately hired by Zhuang Boyi for a tidy sum of personal gain.

If their fabrications resulted in readers bombarding their companies with complaints, their bosses would surely have their heads.

Many started to feel uneasy.

In this era of information explosion and universal media, the media's once proud control over public discourse was facing an unprecedented challenge!

Zhuang Boyi's eyes narrowed as he stared at Bai Xiaosheng.

He could never have anticipated that Bai Xiaosheng would use these few minutes to pull off such a feat—it was even more powerful than having some leader show up. He had to admit defeat!

"I really didn't expect Old Bai to have such a move up his sleeve. Brilliant!"

Song exclaimed in surprise, his eyes filled with admiration, "Since it's going public, let's go all the way! Turn what was meant to be media witnessing into a web-wide broadcast! In such an open and fair environment, even those who want to misinterpret won't be able to! Amazing, I didn't see that coming!"

Song couldn't stop marveling.

Yezi was practically jumping for joy, waving her hands, her eyes alight with excitement and admiration.

"Brother Bai is simply awesome. Dream on if you think you can take advantage of him!"

"It's not just that!"

Song, a high-caliber graduate in advertising, took a deep look at the media and sneered, "They came to interrogate us, but Old Bai turned these people into a cheap resource, turning it into a media conference! Now, we've even saved on transportation and accommodation costs!"

"Haha!" Yezi beamed, "This time, their attempt to steal chickens will result in losing rice!"

Their conversation made the people around them nod repeatedly.

Employees and supervisors on the project, who wouldn't want the best for their own? Their expressions were excited as they discussed in low voices.

"Manager Bai, that was incredibly deft! I'm no match for that!"

"That's why you only manage a department, while he, at his young age, is the head honcho!"

"Yeah, I'm convinced this time! Working with Manager Bai always brings surprises!"

"Now we have a bargain press conference, haha, look at their faces, all sour!"

The project team was buoyant, with murmurs of conversation.

This time, their admiration for Bai Xiaosheng, "Devil Bai," was boundless, and they felt a perverse sense of satisfaction—

See, you outsiders who have never experienced Devil Bai's prowess, now you'll get a taste!

"How could this happen! Bai Xiaosheng is indeed incredibly cunning!"

On the other side, Wang Ye's brows furrowed in vexation as she grumbled angrily.

All the favorable factors, such a good setup, was about to be overturned!

Sun Xiangdong's expression darkened, and he slammed his wine glass down on the table, "Mrs. Wang, be patient! Although he has surprised us, overturning the situation won't be that simple! After all, I've spent a lot of money to bring a formidable writer on board this time! I trust Zhuang Boyi's abilities!"

Plotting and scheming, unlike a straightforward confrontation, required patience above all!

In this regard, Sun Xiangdong and Shang Wenshu were among the best; he could keep his cool.

Persuaded by his words, Wang Ye finally settled down to watch what would happen next.

In the large conference room.

Wang swiftly adjusted all the equipment and made an "OK" gesture to Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and nodded, then looked around at the reporters from various media outlets before facing the camera directly.

"Is it an accident, unpaid wages, or something more sinister? Now, the big reveal at Teles Square! Please allow me to briefly introduce our media guests present here," Bai Xiaosheng read out the business cards he had collected from the media earlier.

Manager Bai is so talented!

The people on the project team could barely resist applauding.

The reporter who had asked the earliest questions wanted to interrupt Bai Xiaosheng.

Wang decisively turned a camera towards him, and a flicker of alarm passed through the reporter's eyes. He quickly shrank back and sat down properly.

Zhuang Boyi saw this, his breath hitching, and he exhaled forcefully, looking at Bai Xiaosheng with a cold gaze.

"You may have pulled a clever trick, but in a moment, I'll make sure you lose face in front of the entire internet and blow this whole thing out of proportion!"

As a reporter for so many years, Zhuang Boyi made his living with his pen. The countless interviews he had conducted over the years had made him adept at setting traps, laying baits, and coaxing genuine emotions, even tears, from his subjects.

He was confident in his abilities.

"This live broadcast is witnessed by several renowned media outlets. It's a response to some recent false news about Tiannan's most famous landmark project—Teles Square. Please stay tuned!" Bai Xiaosheng, though he had never done a live broadcast before, spoke as if he were quite experienced.

Online, this live broadcast quickly garnered attention.

The live chat was activated.

"Teles Square? That project sounds so familiar!"

"It's said to be a high-end shopping center, something like a landmark building..."

"What happened there?"

"There are rumors of a construction accident and unpaid wages."

"No way, my friend works there, and they are very formal; it shouldn't be like that..."

Countless discussions ensued.

All at once, the number of viewers began to skyrocket.

"Quick, let's also tune into this live broadcast and spread the word!" an astute supervisor on the project suggested.

"Yes, yes, have everyone stop what they're doing and pay attention!" another supervisor urged urgently.

This time, they did not want Bai Xiaosheng to fight alone.

They were a team, and the glory or damage to the project affected everyone!

So, full force ahead!

At the very least, they would cheer and root for Manager Bai!

The supervisors quickly issued orders, and the staff of the project swarmed to action—this time, even the cleaning ladies picked up their phones!

"Someone is giving our project a hard time, and Manager Bai is fighting on the live broadcast. We need to cheer him on!"

"I'll call my friends to join!"

"I'll have my daughter bring some people to help!"

Suddenly, the entire project sprang into action—it was probably even beyond Bai Xiaosheng's expectations—this unity was unprecedented, comparable to the scene in the TV drama where "Li Yunlong attacks Ping'an County."

In the large conference room, Bai Xiaosheng briefly introduced the project to the netizens and then, with a smile, asked the reporters present, "Who has a question?"

"I do!"

The person who had first spoken out couldn't contain himself any longer and rushed to stand up.

"Let's start with you, then," Bai Xiaosheng gestured invitingly.

Come on, come get taken down a peg, Bai Xiaosheng thought, his smile concealing a hint of coldness in his eyes.

Chapter 173 Are You Satisfied?_1

"May I ask, what is your name and what position do you currently hold in the Treles Square project?"

A Tiannan news reporter, who had stood up, asked the question.

He was asking knowingly.

He intended to expose Bai Xiaosheng to the netizens completely.

"I am the project director of Treles Square, Bai Xiaosheng, currently serving as the project manager."

Bai Xiaosheng had no intention of hiding anything and responded to the camera steadily and unhurriedly.

At the moment, the Treles Square incident was trending hot, managed by professionals like Zhuang Boyi.

As soon as the live broadcast began, it quickly attracted attention and the viewership numbers soared.

"This kid is the project director, so young!"

"No wonder there are problems, too young to handle things properly!"

"Haha, passersby watching intensely, let's see how the young man gets trampled!"

A wave of comments flew by, mixed with various emoticons and internet slang.

They were mocking and joking.

In the meantime, voices of support from the project's "friendly circle" were also present but quickly drowned in the stream of scrolling comments.

Zhuang Boyi held his phone, silently smirking.

This Bai Xiaosheng, such an unexpected move, quite interesting.

But could it turn the situation around? Did he really think they were easy to deal with, these professional media people!

"May I ask, Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, what explanations you have for the public concerning the recent widely discussed incidents of the Treles Square building collapse and wage arrears that have been circulating online?" the Tiannan news reporter continued to ask.

His question seemed neutral, but his choice of words was fraught.

First, "building collapse," which easily triggered concerns over project quality; "wage arrears," which directly pointed at the company's image and ethics; and lastly, the word "explanations," suggesting a refusal to admit guilt.

He was guiding public thinking!

All-out condemnation!

Some supervisors and employees onsite realized the danger in the question and glared angrily at the reporter, while also deeply worried for their Manager Bai.

Elsewhere, Wang Ye and Sun Xiangdong toasted and laughed heartily.

They were also watching the live broadcast.

"Listen to this, 'Treles Square hasn't even opened and it's already collapsed, major headline news, gotta share'!"

"And this one, 'Owes wages to migrant workers, Century Construction, shameless'!"

"Century Construction's boss owes 350 million, ran off with his mistress, haha, Shang Wenshu!"

The two of them laughed heartily.

So what if Bai Xiaosheng started a live broadcast!

The media at the scene hadn't even acted yet, and the internet was already in an uproar, with all kinds of rumors and gossip; let's see how he wraps this up!

"Cleverness has led to cleverness being mistaken! Let's see how he dies!" Sun Xiangdong sneered maliciously.

"Later, let's post his personal information online as though it was dug up by a human flesh search, I want to make sure he never has a peaceful day again!" Wang Ye said ominously.

The two looked at each other and burst into laughter again.

At this moment, the live broadcast audience had surged past ten thousand and was still climbing.

Bai Xiaosheng calmly faced the journalists in front of him. After the Tiannan news reporter posed the question, all of them looked at him with shiny eyes, like wolves eyeing their prey.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at Wang, who directly made an OK gesture, in contrast to the other employees who were anxious. Wang was too calm, looking at Bai Xiaosheng with admiration.

Because all of this was within Bai Xiaosheng's expectations!

"Before I answer this reporter's question, I ask everyone to look at some footage we are collecting. As they say, no proof talk is useless, seeing is believing, or as netizens put it, without pictures, it's all bullsh*t."

Considering the impact, Bai Xiaosheng slightly modified his last statement.

Having said this, Bai Xiaosheng didn't turn back and gestured behind him. The large screen prepared earlier behind him instantly switched to a nine-grid image. Nine scenes were being displayed, each shot with high-definition mobile phones, showing various angles of Treles Square.

Treles Square's main selling point was in the details, so the angles Bai Xiaosheng chose to display were all of the most beautiful real-life scenes!

The live streaming camera zoomed in.

"Is this Treles Square? It's so beautiful!"

"Wow, this is gorgeous! Now that it's open, I've got to go!"

"They even have children's facilities, so well equipped, I'm taking my kids there!"

In an instant, a wave of comments and exclamations of amazement began to flood the screen!

"Where's the collapse? The internet is full of rumors these days, it's so irresponsible!"

"Yeah, it's outright slander, framing!"

"Thank goodness for this live broadcast, letting us see the truth!"

Some people quickly flooded the screen with comments.

These people were the project's support group. Just now, their voices had been drowned out by the surge of opinions, and they seized the opportunity to fight back.

They'd also gotten smarter, creating a group to voice their opinions together.

Screenshots of the project's beautiful details also made their way online. Major forums and BBS sites began to see a surge of attention-grabbing posts.

With such maneuvers,

The number of live stream viewers began to soar at an even more incredible rate.

Fifteen thousand, twenty thousand, with no sign of slowing down.

This was incredible!

Keep in mind, this wasn't a celebrity or an internet influencer, just a project's live broadcast, achieving such results was nothing short of a small miracle.

The live streaming platform featured it immediately, placing it on the homepage, and many influencers even started to ride the hype, further boosting its popularity.

"Damn, they have this trick up their sleeve!"

"So many viewers!"

This time, Wang Ye and Sun Xiangdong also frowned as they watched. The exposure was too high, and Mr. Bai Xiaosheng had unexpectedly used a live scene to debunk the rumors, directly setting the rhythm and giving the project free publicity.

"Mr. Reporter, the collapse you mentioned earlier is not the accurate term, if what you see here — could also be called a collapse."

Bai Xiaosheng strolled over to the window next to the large conference room and pulled open the curtains.

The large conference room was facing the stage!

This place was meant for VIP seating on opening day, so it offered the most direct view!

All the reporters looked over, and the live streaming camera followed suit.

The several meters high backdrop was grand and imposing, with only half appearing to be incomplete, and the construction materials neatly arranged on the ground.

"It was just some pipes that fell off, and the biggest injury on-site was to our project supervisor!"

Bai Xiaosheng said seriously to the camera, "He got quite a scare and supposedly couldn't sleep at night."

Bai Xiaosheng kept a straight face, his expression sincere, as he talked about this nonsensical matter.

The many reporters there were left speechless.

The live chat was full of laughter, people crying with laughter, and banging on the table with laughter.

"He didn't wet himself though!"

"Maybe he cried from being scared!"

"This young man, serious about talking nonsense!"

"Brother, you have potential to be a comedian."

The live chat was full of teasing.

The collapse rumor, debunked without a fight!

"As for owing wages!" Bai Xiaosheng proclaimed confidently to the camera, "As long as they can provide a contract, I promise right here in front of everyone, I am willing to pay ten times the amount!"

The question was, could Zhou and his people produce a contract?

Bai Xiaosheng sneered, "We live in a country governed by law; spreading rumors is a crime!"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled at a Tiannan News reporter, "I believe that fair media friends will give me, and everyone, the truth. That's my response to the questions you raised. Are you satisfied now?"

Chapter 174 Please Leave_1

A journalist from Tiannan News hid his turmoil behind a calm facade.

Today, he was assigned to spearhead the operation.

Before this, Zhuang Boyi had told him about dealing with Bai Xiaosheng—

Young, holding a high position, with some backing.

Old Zhuang had declared, thumping his chest with scornful assurance, that this brat was easy to handle!

Easier said than done! Once this brat got going, he was a real Sun Wukong!

Not only did he deliver a stunning counter-attack, but he also craftily dug a pit and pushed him right into it.

See that? The camera is pointed straight at his face, and on the other end are tens of thousands of viewers! Tens of thousands! Our media outlet doesn't even have that many viewers!

Now that the truth is out, there's no way to twist the facts or take things out of context anymore! If we're not careful, our media outlet could get smashed by netizens.

Old Zhuang, I'm sorry! It's not that I'm disloyal, but in this dog-eat-dog world, we are often not masters of our fate!

One must gauge the situation and act accordingly!

The Tiannan News journalist clenched his teeth inwardly and, facing the live camera with immense enthusiasm, said, "Thank you, Manager Bai Xiaosheng, for your brilliant answers. Rumors are stopped by the wise, and this visit to Treles Square has shown us a brand new, surprising project. I will definitely write a detailed feature to introduce Treles Square! I am Cheng Yang from Tiannan News, thank you, netizens, for your attention. Please continue to follow Tiannan News for more updates!"

Cheng Yang from Tiannan News briskly showcased his robust vocal skills worthy of a professional anchor or host.

And he took the opportunity to advertise for his own media outlet.

Zhuang Boyi sat there staring at him, his nose nearly crooked with rage.

This was someone he thought he could trust, yet here he was, going against him, brown-nosing, and advertising, all in one shot!

The Tiannan News journalist had just sat down when his phone vibrated. He took it out and saw that it was a text message from his boss.

"Cheng Yang, well done! I saw everything, hurry back after the press conference and write the piece, I'll have it promoted heavily!"

Knowing that even his boss was watching the live broadcast, a warm feeling filled Cheng Yang's heart, and he couldn't help but feel a bit proud of his own performance.

"Smart as ever! Watch me get a promotion and a raise when I get back!"

The journalists from several other media outlets were all taken aback.

Then, a light bulb went off for several of them.

Brilliant! True newsman's skill, too talented!

They all checked their phones, seeing live viewership numbers press three and push four—tens of thousands of people, equivalent to a television interview.

This was a fantastic opportunity to advertise!

Now that things had been clarified, they naturally couldn't use their prepared challenging questions, but no matter, they could interview the person in charge of Treles Square right there. What they asked didn't matter; as long as they got to show their faces and speak, it was a win!

"Hello, I'm a journalist from Tiannan Daily Business News..."

"I am a reporter from Tiannan News-on-Everything, may I ask a question..."

"I am Zhang Xiao from Tiannan Hundred Questions, I would like to ask you..."

All at once, three people stood up, desperately trying to speak first.

The journalists from other affiliates also wanted to ask questions.

The scene turned into chaos.

Zhuang Boyi looked around, utterly frustrated.

Defection wasn't meant to be this complete!

You were paid to make a fuss, not to conduct interviews on their behalf!

Have some sense of professional ethics!

"Everyone, please calm down, no need to rush. I'm happy to see your interest in the project and will answer all questions," Bai Xiaosheng said as he gestured with a hand to maintain order, smiling all the while.

A situation meant to be a challenge had truly turned into a press conference with interviews.

Outside the doors, the managers and staff of Treles Square were all dumbfounded, which was soon followed by joy, excitement, and pride!

This was their Manager Bai, the person in charge of the project!

Less than half an hour after making an appearance, he turned the tides with immense force!

Now, the question is, who could achieve that!

Those directors who had been somewhat skeptical of Bai Xiaosheng were now thoroughly convinced and admired him from the bottom of their hearts!

Song now looked at Bai Xiaosheng with eyes full of adoration. What Bai Xiaosheng had achieved was even better than the best outcome he had anticipated. A crisis in public relations turned into a massive win - unparalleled!

Yezi even jumped up cheering.

In the large conference room, Wang wore a smile, knowing from the moment Bai Xiaosheng had instructed him to prepare for those matters that they were bound to win!

On the other side.

"What the hell is this? Is this the man you found?!" Wang Ye couldn't help but sneer at Sun Xiangdong.

Sun Xiangdong's face was grim, "These are the guys Zhuang led in, don't worry, he hasn't made his move yet!"

Reporters at the scene began asking questions about the project's progress and highlights.

Bai Xiaosheng answered three or four of them.

Zhuang Boyi's expression was as still as water, ready to strike.

Finally, he found a brief pause.

"I have a question, and I hope Manager Bai can provide an explanation!" Zhuang Boyi's voice was loud and penetrating; it immediately drowned out all the other noises in the office.

The reporters who were about to ask questions suddenly changed their expressions when they saw it was him and duly kept silent.

Bai Xiaosheng calmly stared at him.

Zhuang Boyi had been aware of Bai Xiaosheng from the moment he entered the large conference room. Everyone had seated themselves around him, with him implicitly at the core. Many people, including Tiannan's reporter Cheng Yang, had brief eye contact with him before speaking.

This man was the core of the group! He was the actual challenger, and it seemed he couldn't hold back any longer, ready to draw his sword!

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, a smile that was tinged with a trace of coldness.

This time, he didn't plan to be passive; he was going to strike first!

"What's your name?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

"Zhuang Boyi!" Zhuang Boyi said with a hint of pride.

"Good," Bai Xiaosheng nodded, pointing to the door, "Get out! You're not welcome here!"

The smile on Zhuang Boyi's proud face froze, caught off guard by Bai Xiaosheng's abrupt command.

It wasn't just him; Bai Xiaosheng's words left all the reporters in the room somewhat dumbfounded.

Bai Xiaosheng's statement was exceedingly rude; it was an outright public slap in the face, leaving no dignity intact. People at Teles Square's entrance also stared in astonishment.

Suddenly, the entire conference room fell eerily silent.

"What's going on, he's confronting a reporter, huh!"

"Really, what happened!"

"He just told the guy to get out. There must be a reason, right."

A flood of bullet comments streamed by. The audience watching the live stream, who had been ready to leave, thinking it had turned into a press conference, were now revitalized.

"What do you mean by saying that!" Zhuang Boyi was beginning to panic.

Bai Xiaosheng issued his cold eviction order.

With all eyes around him, and the live broadcast cameras pointed his way, this was a slap in the face to Zhuang himself.

Zhuang Boyi's face turned pale with anger.

Today, he would settle the score with this youngster, once and for all!

"Zhuang Boyi, former chief reporter of Qian Du, now a freelance media professional, in 2015 used the pen name Zhuang Buyi and was penalized with detention and a fine by the authorities for fabricated reporting on food safety. In 2016, under the pen name Zhuang Shiren, for slandering a private enterprise owner, was summoned, warned, and fined by the authorities, the same year..."

Bai Xiaosheng recounted, one by one, the online news articles Zhuang Boyi had spent a great deal to remove, bringing them back to light.

Zhuang Boyi's angry face turned to shock, then to fear.

"Interview me?" Bai Xiaosheng sneered at him, "Do you think you're worthy? Get out!"

Chapter 175 Perfect Promotion_1

Under the watchful eyes of the public, Zhuang Boyi's face alternated between shades of green and white.

He never expected that his dirty laundry would be aired out by Bai Xiaosheng!

In front of tens of thousands of people!

Almost every year, Zhuang Boyi would land one or two special "big deals," using negative information to attack certain individuals, companies, or groups. Each year, he would face various punishments, but he didn't care, because he had "lines" he wouldn't cross, refusing to do anything that was truly illegal.

Being frequently sued made Zhuang Boyi rather notorious, which, to his delight, increased his fame!

Especially in recent years, after he established his own studio, he had become fearless.

However, every time after completing a "big deal," Zhuang Boyi would go into hiding for a while, fading from the public eye, and even changing his pen name or real name; this Zhuang Boyi probably wasn't his actual name.

After many years in the media, Zhuang Boyi would ask his friends to help remove negative news about himself as much as possible after hot-button issues cooled down.

So, much of the news would quietly disappear from the internet after the storm had passed, becoming untraceable.

Why!

Why did Bai Xiaosheng know so much detail!

Even if he had conducted investigations in advance, he couldn't possibly be this accurate and thorough!

And how could he have known to investigate in advance? Who leaked the news of my arrival?

Shock threw Zhuang Boyi into complete disarray, his will to fight completely gone.

"So this person is Zhuang Buyi, Zhuang Shiren, I've heard of him!"

"Media scumbag, showing up here and still wants to ask questions?!"

"He's here to smear Treles Square!"

"Don't pick on the handsome guy, get out, get out!"

In the live broadcast, a storm of abuse roared by.

The reporters on-site, as they watched their phones, had slight changes in their expressions. A few seated near Zhuang Boyi quietly moved away, afraid of being tainted by the bad luck.

By the time Zhuang Boyi regained his composure, there was no one left within meters of him. The reporters he brought, those who had taken his money, all looked at him with righteousness as if he were a pariah, as if he were the plague.

Zhuang Boyi was so angry that veins on his forehead throbbed.

"Sir, please leave! You are not welcome here!" the head of security came over, speaking to Zhuang Boyi with righteous indignation.

He was followed by two burly and solid security guards.

Zhuang Boyi's face was ashen, unable to utter a word, he glanced at Bai Xiaosheng with venomous eyes, grabbed his belongings, and fled in utter disgrace.

"He actually really left!"

Elsewhere.

Sun Xiangdong's glass paused mid-air.

Just moments ago, he'd boasted to Wang Ye about how formidable Zhuang Boyi was, and yet, in less than two minutes, the man fled like a dog that had lost its home, panic-stricken and flustered.

Without achieving anything!

This was a slap to Sun Xiangdong's face!

"What else could he do? Stay and make a fool of himself?" Wang Ye sneered, his eyes cold, "Why does Bai Xiaosheng know so much about Zhuang Boyi, who leaked it to him?!"

Wang Ye couldn't possibly know that Bai Xiaosheng had something like the Divine Artifact in his possession.

"Now is not the time to look into these matters. Anyway, it seems we've lost this round," Sun Xiangdong said leisurely as he picked up his glass and took a sip.

Despite their loss, neither he nor Wang Ye really cared.

This was just an appetizer.

There was still the main course to come!

"Zhuang Boyi is a villain, and Bai Xiaosheng has offended a villain—a temporary victory, but lingering dangers remain," Wang Ye nodded and sneered.

In the main conference room.

All the media reporters watched Zhuang Boyi being expelled, yet not a single one spoke out in his defense.

No blame to them; the secrets about Zhuang Boyi that had been exposed offended everyone, leaving them powerless to help.

"Let's continue. Anybody else have a question?"

After coldly dismissing Zhuang Boyi, Bai Xiaosheng turned with a smile that was as warm as spring rain, and courteously asked the reporters.

"I have a question."

"So do I!"

"And me."

The media reporters mourned Zhuang Boyi silently for a moment, and then, they immersed themselves entirely in their interview work.

The subsequent press conference lasted for an hour.

Bai Xiaosheng not only answered the reporters' questions but also took them on a day tour of the project.

Teles Square, after countless revisions, with its garden vignettes, water features, and planted greenery, had been crafted with a great deal of effort and was no less impressive than a city park.

Those watching the live broadcast once again let out gasps of amazement.

Bai Xiaosheng fully utilized this opportunity to promote the project, and then he distributed gift vouchers and discount cards in abundance to the people in the live broadcast room.

These had all been prepared for use during the press conference in a few days, but with the change in circumstances, Bai Xiaosheng decided to distribute them ahead of schedule.

As a result, people in the livestream called their friends to join, and the audience count actually broke forty thousand.

The staff of the Treles Square project were all excited beyond measure, even the originally planned press conference had not anticipated such a sensational response!

When it was time for the media to leave, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't simply let them go unrewarded, after all, he still needed their efforts.

The reporters each received double the usual travel expenses, which immediately brought smiles to their faces, making everyone exceedingly happy.

After sending off the media and ending the live broadcast,

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but let out a long sigh, feeling incredibly tired.

"Turning the situation around, perfectly handling the PR crisis, rescuing the project's reputation, add five points."

"Taking advantage of the opportunity to properly promote the project, winning reputation for the project, add three points."

"Taking over as the project's chief person in charge, fully assuming responsibility, points doubled, add eight points."

"The current total score is twenty-six points, seventy-four points away from the rank of Deputy General Manager!"

The voice of Red Lotus rang out in succession.

A smile formed at the corners of Bai Xiaosheng's mouth.

Sixteen points in one go! It was worth it!

Before this, he had sorted out so many affairs, and Red Lotus had only begrudgingly given him one point at a time, slowly reaching five points, how arduous those days had been!

Bai Xiaosheng felt a wave of emotion.

For the subsequent work, Bai Xiaosheng assigned tasks to the heads of various departments, then he returned to his office for some much-needed rest.

On the way back, Bai Xiaosheng's gaze flickered uncertainly.

By instinct, he felt that troubles ahead would not be few!

Perhaps even more and greater than today.

Interest mixed with grudges, these matters were inevitably far from being settled, and would definitely not end the battles!

"It's time to sort out those whom I've offended," Bai Xiaosheng muttered to himself, "Some of these matters are too coincidental, could it be that I've inadvertently encouraged them to join forces!"

Bai Xiaosheng looked quite somber!

In a certain taxi, the driver kept a cautious eye on the rearview mirror.

The passenger he picked up today seemed off, his face alternately turning white, then green, then red, just like a chameleon.

"I hope he's not sick, don't die in my cab!" the driver worried.

At this moment, Zhuang Boyi was panting heavily, his face changing colors uncontrollably, shaking with anger.

"Bai Xiaosheng, I'm not done with you for this! Treles Square, I won't let you have it easy!" Zhuang Boyi said fiercely, pulling out his phone and dialing a number.

"Manager Sun, this time, I want to work with you, the money is no object, I want revenge!" Zhuang Boyi's voice was shrill.

On receiving the call, Sun Xiangdong smiled at Wang Ye beside him and mouthed the words.

Zhuang Boyi.

Wang Ye let out a cold laugh. He had said it before: this person never lets go of a grudge.

Well then, it seemed they had another ally on their side.

Bai Xiaosheng, the number of people you've offended is increasing, your solid barricade won't be able to withstand the floodwaters! Wang Ye's eyes grew cold.

In Bai Xiaosheng's office.

The project supervisor entered the room again, his face filled with worry.

Under Bai Xiaosheng's questioning gaze, he sighed deeply.

"Manager Bai, there still aren't any construction teams willing to take on the job!"

Bai Xiaosheng offered a consoling smile, "Don't worry, I have a plan for this matter!"

Chapter 176 We Do It Ourselves!_1

Manager Bai has a plan? The project director frowned.

Could it be that he wanted to put the stage construction on hold for two days and wait out the storm before proceeding?

The grand opening was drawing nearer by the day.

Even if there was ample time, delaying for a few days would make their own people anxious and disrupt the order.

"Or should I check online?" the project director suggested, somewhat reluctantly.

The construction teams available online were at two extremes. Either they were too large and wouldn't take on such a small job, or they were too small, maybe one or two handymen, who simply couldn't handle it.

Even if someone was found, could they be trusted, and could the project withstand any further setbacks?

"Maybe we should turn to an event company?" the project director was grasping at straws.

Sure, event companies had resources, but they didn't just take on construction work.

Just like a bathhouse might sell bathing supplies, but if you go in just to buy those items, they won't pay you any mind.

Having said that, the project director shook his head first, negating his own suggestion.

"Cheng, have we ever really worked with external construction teams in the latter stages of our projects?" Bai Xiaosheng suddenly asked.

"Yes," Cheng, the project director, nodded.

At Treles Square, the entire architecture, including the overall decoration and landscape design, was a one-stop project handled entirely by a large domestic company.

Only after everything had been inspected and was found satisfactory did they leave the site.

"After the project was completed and passed three inspections, it was close to 90% of what we had envisioned. All subsequent issues were just minor details for modification. We did not work with outside construction teams for these; the engineering department handled them. If we were really busy, we'd go to the market to find some temporary craftsmen..."

As the project director was speaking, he caught Bai Xiaosheng smiling at him, which sparked a thought, and he blurted out, "You mean we should handle the construction ourselves!"

Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

"I've looked it over, and the key parts of the stage construction are almost done by Zhou. After inspection, there don't seem to be any major issues. The remaining workload is just two-fifths, and I think we can handle it!" Bai Xiaosheng said, "On the project, if we're short on tools, we can rent them; if we're short on manpower, there's plenty of skilled workers in the market! This time, if no one else is willing to come, we'll do it ourselves! Choose the best workers, offer double the payment, and I don't believe no one will come! You guys in engineering will get double pay this month!"

"Let's do it!" the project director smacked his head firmly and laughed, "I really got knocked silly by the situation, so stuck in my ways I couldn't see around the corner. If no one comes, we'll just do it ourselves! Alright, I think it's feasible!"

The project director was brimming with confidence.

The old sages said a single leaf can block the view, and that the one in the game is often confused.

After the incident, the project director, faced with taking responsibility and feeling guilty and scared, lost his senses and became single-minded, frantically searching for construction teams when in fact, they could do the job themselves.

Bai Xiaosheng gave him a smile.

"Go, you know more about engineering matters than I do. I only have two requests: ensure we hire capable workers—selecting people is your strength—and pay attention to safety during construction, especially for high-altitude work." Bai Xiaosheng patted the project director's shoulder and smiled, "I'm counting on you, brother!"

Cheng felt a warmth in his heart.

There was a solution to the issue, their department was getting double pay, and the boss trusted him!

Cheng opened his mouth to say some words of gratitude, but in the end, nothing came out.

"Manager Bai, don't worry. I guarantee this time we will complete the work promptly and with quality!"

The project director said loudly, then turned and walked away with long strides.

Bai Xiaosheng watched him go.

One more problem was resolved.

"Address construction issues properly, boost staff morale, add two points."

"As the current overall project manager, double the points, add two points."

"Total points are now thirty, seventy points away from the position of Vice General Manager."

Red Lotus's voice rang out, but Bai Xiaosheng did not show excessive joy; instead, he gazed out of the window.

"Those people, whether they've truly joined forces or not, they are a tremendous threat to me, to this project! I can't keep taking one step at a time anymore!"

"They can keep catching me off guard, time and time again, like today. How am I supposed to adapt on the fly and resolve these surprises? Once or twice, or maybe three or five times! But what if they come at me like this every day, what then?!"

Bai Xiaosheng shook his head secretly.

I can't continue to just react passively anymore!

Now, with less than two weeks until the project's opening, constantly staying on edge, guarding against those people, I won't be able to hold out.

My body will break down, my spirit will collapse.

This is just Tiannan, just a minor managerial position, yet it's already draining me so intensely. How will I handle even higher positions in the future, with even more schemes against me, simply by enduring?!

"There's the saying 'A thief can't be on guard for a thousand days, but a thief can operate for a thousand days!'"

Bai Xiaosheng snorted coldly, silently calculating in his mind.

"The resources at my disposal, in terms of money, I have two million six hundred thousand in the account, and I could apply for an additional five million from Red Lotus for legitimate reasons. My accessible connections include Shang Wenshu, District Chief Wu Qibing, Song Kai... and the Lu Family. The Lu Family's favor, I will definitely not use for something so trivial... No, actually, I have some other helpers whose strengths may even surpass what I know..."

Bai Xiaosheng was calculating everything silently in his heart, planning everything, until finally a smile appeared at the corner of his mouth.

He had plenty of trump cards!

"But I'm afraid of being forced to constantly reveal my trump cards, to face trouble after trouble, and ultimately being worn down by them..."

Bai Xiaosheng took a deep breath and exhaled slowly, "Perhaps, I shouldn't be so assertive, winning every time isn't necessarily a true win. Sometimes, one needs to advance by retreating. The key is to see who has the last laugh!"

Bai Xiaosheng turned around, went back to his desk, sat down, and grabbed an A4 paper, scribbling and sketching on it at will.

What he wrote was chaotic and messy, using single characters or some letters.

No one could make heads or tails of it, not those who might steal a glance, nor even someone standing right next to him.

This was Bai Xiaosheng's scheming!

When he finally finished his scribbling, Bai Xiaosheng looked at the paper, very satisfied with what he saw.

"Let's consider this my second set of plans, to have more than one string to my bow!"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled confidently, memorized the contents on the paper, and then slowly tore it to shreds, tossing it into the waste basket.

He now looked relaxed.

The day passed without incident, and in the evening, Cheng, the head of the engineering department, reported the progress to Bai Xiaosheng.

The next day, to everyone's surprise at the project site—the construction team had arrived!

The leader of this construction team was none other than Cheng.

Once the news spread, even Wang Ye was taken aback for a moment, his gaze flickering uncertainly, until he finally grumbled, "That's pretty clever of you!"

Under Cheng's leadership, the construction team quickly began setting up the stage with efficiency that was not only on par with Zhou's team but even faster and better.

The hired technicians and day laborers were personally selected by Cheng, skilled and hardworking, completing their tasks swiftly and effectively.

As the stage was being erected, the people on the project watched with joy in their hearts.

Bai Xiaosheng waited silently for his opponents to make their move.

Yet the site remained quiet for three consecutive days.

However, the quieter it became, the more Bai Xiaosheng had a premonition.

The next wave of attack was about to arrive, and it would be even stronger!

Indeed, on the fourth day, with just ten days left until the opening of the project.

A news story exploded at Xiangdong Plaza.

Shocking Tiannan!

Chapter 177: The Arrival of the Heavenly Queen_1

It was a clear morning, as usual.

Xiao Xu, an office worker, yawned as he left his home.

Day after day, repeating yesterday, the monotony of life made him listless and unable to summon any enthusiasm so early in the morning.

He started work early, appearing on the streets at the same time as the pancake stall every day.

Just as Xiao Xu was heading towards the pancake stall, he felt that something was amiss halfway there and glanced to the side.

There, a large shopping center was under construction, claiming to be some new landmark. Recently, several meter-high hoardings had been erected, majestically towering over the site.

But having seen it so many times, it was no longer impressive.

Only the night before, in the late hours, there was light and commotion, it seemed they were changing the hoardings, making a fuss for quite a while.

Xiao Xu was also affected by it and didn't sleep well.

At that moment.

Xiao Xu took a look. Just one glance, and he was as if struck by lightning, standing there dumbfounded.

On the hoarding, towering six or seven meters high, higher than two floors, was an extremely beautiful woman, smiling sweetly at him, seemingly a fairy descended to earth!

"Wei Moran, 'Mo Ran Time' national tour concert, ten days from now, debut in Tiannan!"

"Time: August 8th at 20:00, location: Xiangdong Plaza! Ticket sales location..."

Xiao Xu widened his eyes and read the words on the hoarding in a trembling voice.

"Xiao Xu, no spice and no green onions, right?"

The pancake stall's owner shouted to Xiao Xu from a distance.

That brought him back to reality like a wakeup call.

"I'm not eating!"

Xiao Xu started to run, pulling out his phone as he did so, and making a call, "Hello, Mr. Li? This is Xiao Xu speaking, yes, I need to take a day off. What? What happened... My second uncle's mother-in-law passed away, I have to go back! Yes, this time it's real..."

The pancake stall's owner was stunned, then turned to look at the towering hoarding featuring the figure, clicking her tongue in admiration, "This girl is beautiful! Look how she's got that young man so enchanted, he won't even eat his meal!"

As more people went to work, to school, and rose early, the hoarding caused a huge stir.

News about Wei Moran and the concert swept over Tiannan!

The new diva was all the rage across the country, and Tiannan was no exception!

In just one morning, dozens of media outlets flocked there, and thousands of fans gathered spontaneously.

As a result, Xiangdong Group urgently mobilized a large number of security personnel to maintain order and requested help from the police.

Countless posts and live streams centered around this hoarding flooded the internet, overwhelming everything else!

Xiangdong Plaza, attracted the frenzied attention of all sorts of media, unparalleled in the spotlight!

In the conference room of Treles Square,

Bai Xiaosheng, along with his managers, was watching a live broadcast of a hot news story, which was about this incident!

The reporter was visibly excited, obviously a fan of Wei Moran.

"I never expected it, I really didn't, Xiang Dong's big move! They've actually managed to get Wei Moran!" Chen Daya couldn't help but exclaim in surprise, "Before this, they didn't contact any media at all, and now it's the media chasing after them!"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

This was in line with his impression of Sun Xiangdong's style of doing things, making people eager to seek him out.

"Now, our momentum has been completely overshadowed; the media that came to our project a few days ago, they had just reported on us, and not long after, it was replaced by Xiang Dong's!" Chen Daya said with a strained voice, "In this aspect, they are too strong, we cannot compete with them!"

"Otherwise, let's also get a celebrity endorsement," one of the managers couldn't help but suggest.

To this suggestion, others scoffed.

"It's useless, we don't have that much of a budget, and with only ten days left, there's not even time to talk to a celebrity!" Chen Daya said, crestfallen, "Even if we did find someone, who could it be? A second-tier or third-tier star wouldn't be impressive enough, and an A-lister?"

An A-lister, would they come to a second-tier city like Tiannan, to compete with Wei Moran?

If it was just for an endorsement, it would be utterly pointless.

Chen Daya shook his head, his face devoid of hope.

He wasn't one to give up easily, but at that moment, he was utterly out of options.

To put it bluntly, even if they could get Master Song Kai himself to endorse the project, could that compare?

Nowadays, celebrities have far more social influence than scholars.

The other managers looked at one another and sighed in resignation; they were out of options as well.

This time, Xiang Dong hadn't played any dirty tricks; it was an open and fair contest, and they were simply being crushed by sheer strength!

Despite this, everyone still looked hopefully at Bai Xiaosheng, hoping he might have a plan or, at the very least, deliver some encouraging words!

At that time, Vice General Manager Wang Ye had shed all responsibilities and was hiding in his office, coming and going on schedule without caring about anything else, and nobody expected any help from Mr. Wang.

But Bai Xiaosheng was different; he was a master of strategy, having turned defeat into victory and found a way out of no-way situations multiple times. His turnaround of the project a few days ago had been met with applause.

Now, everyone pinned all their hopes on him!

Under everyone's eager gaze, Bai Xiaosheng remained silent, intently looking at the screen, at the sweet smiling face of Wei Moran.

His focus was spellbound.

"Manager Bai, Manager Bai?" Chen Daya couldn't help but call out softly twice.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't actually be a fan of Wei Moran, could he? Chen Daya couldn't help his internal criticism.

"Oh?" Bai Xiaosheng came back to his senses at Chen Daya's call and smiled apologetically at everyone.

"Sorry, I was distracted. It's just that this Wei Moran... looks somewhat familiar. I feel like I've seen her somewhere before."

The managers in the room collectively rolled their eyes inwardly.

Rubbish, we all find her familiar too!

She's a celebrity, of course, you find her familiar!

Where have you seen her? On TV, that's where!

Bai Xiaosheng's brows furrowed slightly. He indeed recognized that face; the more he looked, the more familiar it became, but he couldn't remember where he had seen it at the moment.

"So, what do we do now?" Chen Daya couldn't help but ask.

Someone had to make a decision; if not, they could pool their thoughts and come up with some kind of strategy!

Chen Daya looked expectantly at Bai Xiaosheng.

The always-surprising Bai Xiaosheng, what kind of surprise would he provide this time?

Bai Xiaosheng stood up amidst the eager stares, gathered the materials in front of him, and straightened them out neatly on the table.

"Let's adjourn the meeting."

Bai Xiaosheng said, "Carry on as usual, do what needs to be done, and make sure to rest when tired."

With that, he left gracefully.

He left behind a room full of people with stunned expressions.

This really was a surprise, but not a pleasant one!

"No, Manager Bai, wait a moment." Chen Daya couldn't help but chase after him.

But not five minutes later, he returned dejectedly and lifelessly said to everyone, "Let's disperse, carry on as usual, do what needs to be done."

Even Manager Bai was out of ideas? Incredibly?!

The managers were shocked into silence, utterly at a loss.

When the news reached Wang Ye's ears, he twirled a chess piece in his hand and chuckled softly, "In the face of absolute power, no one has any strategies to employ, including you, Bai Xiaosheng!"

With that said,

Wang Ye placed the chess piece on the board with a clear, ringing sound.

"This is just the beginning!"

Chapter 178: Are We Considered Traitors?_1

Teles Square, the entire project, was enveloped in a strange atmosphere.

On the one hand, "the adversary"—Xiangdong Plaza—had this time stolen all the limelight, causing Teles Square to pale in comparison, leaving everyone somewhat disgruntled.

After all, everyone had spent several months preparing for the opening event, and even if it was just a job, just for earning money to make ends meet, it was still their hard work!

To be so overpowered by others, the crowd refused to accept it!

But on the other hand, it was Wei Moran's concert!

Not to mention the younger employees, even many of the managers were her fans.

The thought of her holding a concert in Tiannan sent everyone into a frenzy, unable to resist the urge to buy tickets to the live event.

But the concert venue was at Xiangdong Plaza, and moreover, on the opening day itself!

Were they expected to go through a day overshadowed by defeat only to scurry to the adversary's headquarters at night to witness such a grand celebration?

In their hearts, the people of Teles Square found themselves plunged into a painful dilemma.

This anxiety, discontentment, anticipation, and desire tangled together, creating an unbearably uncomfortable sensation.

Many people inwardly lamented how wonderful it would have been if the concert were held at Teles Square!

Of course, this was an impractical wishful fantasy; everyone knew it was utterly impossible!

Wang saw Song and Yezi obsessively mumbling and wrestling with their dilemma and couldn't help but wryly smile.

"This time, Xiang Dong really played a ruthless move. With Wei Moran's popularity and charm, they've completely overwhelmed us!"

Despite feeling reluctant, Wang could not help but sigh and admit that this tactic was the most effective.

At the same time, he was also worried, unable to stop thinking about Bai Xiaosheng, "Bai has just become the chief project manager, only to face such a heavy blow! It's really... Ah!"

A long sigh.

Wang felt helpless and couldn't think of any solution.

"Wang, tell me, if my friend can get tickets to the concert, should I go, or should I not..." Yezi was extremely conflicted, whispering carefully, asking, "Would I be a traitor if I went?"

Yezi had never felt so conflicted before.

Her usual forthright personality now seemed hesitant and indecisive.

"What! You can get... tickets to the concert!" Song overheard and couldn't help but exclaim loudly.

Then, his expression turned dim. He glanced at Wang sheepishly and muttered, "I want to go too! But... with Brother Bai so stressed, wouldn't it be heartless of us to go to the concert?"

All at once, Yezi found herself deeply conflicted as well.

"Maybe we should just forget it and not buy the tickets..."

Yezi let out a forlorn sigh.

It was only because they were close to Bai Xiaosheng that they felt embarrassed; others would not have been so conflicted.

Work is work. Life is life.

Frustration is frustration. An idol is an idol.

"That's what I'm saying, you young people see things too superficially! Is everything in this world either black or white, either a friend or a foe? If back then, Li Mingtong had dismissed us and we had gone to Xiang Dong. Hostility is just competition at work, it doesn't extend into personal life!"

Wang spoke with his back to the two of them, shaking his head and sighing.

What did that mean?

Wang's words left Song and Yezi completely baffled.

Amid Song and Yezi's confusion, Wang finally offered further explanation.

"Our dislike for Xiang Dong shouldn't prevent us from enjoying Wei Moran, and going to Xiang Dong would be merely to support Wei Moran..."

"So, book one for me too!" Amid Song and Yezi's stunned silence, Wang spoke with urgency.

"I don't know if Bai is a fan of Mo Ran and wants to go..." Wang mumbled.

Yezi and Song silently felt sorrowful for a second.

Then, they rushed to book tickets.

The same thing was happening in other departments as well.

Someone reported this to Bai Xiaosheng.

Regarding this, Bai Xiaosheng merely smiled faintly.

"Work is work, life is life; we're not selling out the company's interests. Why avoid it? If you want to go, then go."

All at once, many people heaved a sigh of relief, yet they felt more guilt and gratitude towards Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng wasn't interested in Wei Moran's concert, nor was he a celebrity chaser.

Still, Bai Xiaosheng dug out some life photos of Wei Moran that were circulating online and scrutinized them carefully.

No matter how he looked at it, he felt he had seen this woman before, but after a long while, he couldn't remember where, and Bai Xiaosheng eventually gave up.

He continued sitting behind his desk, pulling an A4 paper toward him, scribbling and sketching.

"Xiang Dong's move really caught me by surprise! With this, my second plan has less than a fifty percent chance of success!"

Bai Xiaosheng sighed deeply, put down his pen, and slightly furrowed his brow, "I just hope there won't be any more trouble, or as the overall project manager, I'm really going to be in a tight spot!"

Despite saying so, Bai Xiaosheng still didn't dare to let his guard down!

Just thinking about the past couple of days, the construction team and the media made consecutive appearances—it was like a one-two punch!

This time? If I'm still overseeing things here, then the subsequent "problems" will definitely arrive!

Bai Xiaosheng clasped his fingers tightly, deep in thought.

He spent the entire day like this in his office.

In between, the head of the engineering department, Cheng, came to report once.

Compared to the setbacks in publicity, the stage construction went smoothly and was even nearing completion.

Cheng, the head of engineering, wasn't simple either. He had several construction supervisors conduct inspections, ensuring there would be no problems with this stage at all.

Cheng knew that not only was there a commotion outside, but even their own people were becoming restless.

A hugely popular national star's sudden arrival in Tiannan to hold a concert at Xiangdong Plaza was like a massive weight tipping the balance to an almost irreversible point.

Cheng was a simple man, not good at offering comfort, and besides, Bai Xiaosheng seemed calm and didn't appear to need any consolation, though there was still a faint preoccupation between his brows.

"You're quite tired yourself, go back and rest," Bai smiled and interrupted Cheng, who had opened his mouth to speak several times but failed to voice his comforting words.

He didn't need consolation.

Cheng silently stepped out and closed the door gently behind him, sighed deeply at the doorway, and walked away.

They were ultimately not a privately owned enterprise like Xiangdong Group; above their head office was the group, and each project's budget was limited. Applying for celebrity endorsements would involve multiple layers of reporting and approval, and whether the applications would be approved at all, time was another factor.

This time, Treles Square might really suffer a crushing defeat at the hands of Xiangdong.

"Here's hoping there won't be any more bad news!" Cheng muttered, then spat twice, "Bad omens don't work, good ones do! Although we've lost, it's not that bad; after all, they have Wei Moran, but we have Master Song Kai! Let's call it fifty-fifty!"

At Vice General Manager Wang Ye's office.

The Vice General Manager, Wang Ye, who practiced calligraphy and played Go, was now playing with a string of beads, making a rustling sound as he rolled them in his hands.

"Any news from Bai Xiaosheng's side?" Wang Ye asked casually.

Assistant Qian, who was pouring tea beside him, chuckled, "He stayed in his office all day without coming out. They say he looks quite worried! No wonder, with the situation like this, anyone would be worried to death!"

Wang Ye silently smirked, a glint in his eyes, and muttered to himself, "Worried already? The worst is yet to come. Bai Xiaosheng, don't be impatient, the follow-up is about to arrive."

"I want to see how you die this time!"

Chapter 179: Nightmare Descends!_1

There are seven days until Treles Square opens.

For several consecutive days, the media has been filled with news about "Wei Moran" and "East Square".

In these past few days, Treles Square had held a press conference and issued several warm-up press releases.

However, it was to no avail.

The news of Treles Square's opening was drowned under the overwhelming information from the opposition; not a sound could be heard.

Chen Daya, responsible for the publicity and promotion, felt a headache these days.

He was now very relieved that he was no longer the project lead, otherwise his head would definitely hurt to death.

"I wonder if Sheng has come up with any solutions!" Chen Daya sighed deeply.

At this point, he was out of options and didn't know what to do.

If they couldn't stir up some buzz soon, Treles Square would be doomed, and the so-called landmark of Tiannan would just become a laughingstock.

"Now, I can only pin my hopes on the reputation of Master Song Kai and hope that this news once announced, can bring back some popularity," Chen Daya said with a sigh.

This was also the hope of most of the people on the project.

But then he couldn't help but wryly shake his head.

These days, in terms of popularity, even scholars and masters couldn't compare to movie stars.

"I'll still go and ask Sheng if he plans to officially release the news that Master Song Kai will grace the ribbon-cutting ceremony and see how it goes," Chen Daya said as he got up and hurried to Sheng's office.

At that moment.

Sheng was scribbling on a piece of paper, but this time, it wasn't those incomprehensible symbols; it was a solid text plan.

With only a week left until the opening, it was time to bring out the hot topic of Master Song Kai!

Before this, the project had vaguely leaked some information to the outside world to draw attention but deliberately refrained from confirming it, which was also a promotional strategy.

But now, in this emergency, they had to make a move. They had to widely publicize it, heralding Treles Square's return to the battlefield and winning back some ground!

"Print media, online media, social media, video advertisements..." Sheng's pen flew across the paper as he quickly outlined a multi-tiered, multi-platform promotional plan.

After several revisions, Sheng's face revealed a confident smile that had been missing for a long time.

Recently, he had been under a lot of pressure, always slightly frowning or expressionless.

This smile was probably the first to appear in these days.

"Although I can't attract as much attention as Wei Moran in one fell swoop, the advantage of Master Song Kai in both the commercial and political spheres is something we can leverage. Starting with a smaller focus and spreading outward, using a three-day mini promotional cycle and six-day major cycle for dissemination. Eventually, the number of people attending our project might not be too inferior. On the contrary, the quality of our guests will be much higher!"

Sheng nodded slightly as he looked at the paper.

Then, his phone began to buzz.

Sheng laid down the paper plan and answered the call with a smile, putting the phone to his ear.

"Hello?"

"Hello, is this Sheng? I am the personal assistant of Master Song Kai..."

...

Chen Daya knocked on the door of Sheng's office and then pushed the door open.

Ever since Sheng became manager, it had always been like this—you just needed to knock as a reminder before entering. If a matter was urgent, it wasn't a problem to enter without knocking.

So, after knocking, Chen Daya pushed the door and entered.

Sheng was sitting upright behind the desk, eyes fixed straight ahead, which gave Chen Daya quite a start. Upon closer inspection, he realized Sheng's gaze wasn't on him but was just facing in this direction.

Sheng was on a call.

His face was expressionless.

But Chen Daya distinctly felt that Sheng's expression was somewhat grim.

Chen Daya waited quietly, looking at that young face, and he remembered the words Sheng had said when he first arrived.

"I love a job with challenges!"

In just three months, Sheng had become the project's top leader, effectively his superior, Chen Daya mused.

Chen Daya's heart was filled with mixed emotions.

Finally, Sheng hung up the phone and noticed him.

"Is there anything you need, Manager Chen?" Sheng said with a smile.

The smile was dry.

"Oh, I came to ask about Master Song Kai attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony..."

"Master Song Kai won't be able to come,"

Sheng said calmly.

What!

Chen Daya was shocked, his eyes bulging.

Master Song Kai is not coming?!

This, this, this can't be possible!

How could he not come? He clearly said he would!

"Master Song Kai's personal doctor recently conducted a health checkup for the master, suggesting he might have a heart condition. They've already contacted hospitals abroad, and the master will be flying to Europe for treatment. He won't be able to return for a short while," Sheng said calmly.

Chen Daya stood there dazed, managing a bitter smile.

Was their biggest support, their greatest hope, just shattered like this?!

If this gets out, how many people will the entire project drive crazy!

Now, what does Teles Square have to compete with East Square!

"Then District Chief Wu Qibing..."

Chen Daya still harbored a glimmer of hope, but saw Sheng shake his head slightly at him.

Right, District Chief Wu Qibing was coming out of respect for his old teacher's face. Otherwise, with simultaneous openings, why would he not be at East Square instead?

Fair enough, East Square's momentum was truly the rising benchmark. For the sake of his work, the District Chief should choose East Square. It was nothing objectionable, and even Master Song Kai would find no fault with it.

"So we just... lose like this?" Chen Daya asked painfully with great difficulty.

Sheng didn't answer him, picking up the publicity plan he had written on his desk.

Three hours' work, a thin piece of paper.

Sheng tore it up without hesitation and threw it into the waste basket.

"Chen, I'm exhausted. I need a couple of days off. You'll take charge for the next two days. After that, I will surely appear!" Sheng dropped this line and walked past Chen Daya, "Notify them to issue it, use my statement."

By the time Chen Daya came to his senses, Sheng had already left.

Chen Daya wanted to say more but eventually shook his head.

There were only seven days left until the opening, and Sheng was taking two days off!

Manager Chen Zhongshi would act in his stead.

When the news spread, the project was shocked!

"What did you say, Sheng took time off!" Wang Ye, who was playing with his beads, suddenly stood up and looked at Assistant Qian in surprise.

Assistant Qian was startled and slightly stammered.

"Yes, yes, the notices have all been sent out. And I saw him leave the project with my own eyes. At the time, I was a bit puzzled. And looking at his back, he..."

"What about him?!" Wang Ye asked.

"His back looked like a beaten dog," Assistant Qian could not help but say with relish.

A dog that's lost its home!

Wang Ye couldn't help but burst out laughing, his smile then turning ferocious, "Good, good! I was just wondering how to catch him red-handed! On the eve of the opening, the project's chief officer has abandoned his post, leading to the entire project's failure! Isn't this a good enough reason?"

"Very good, I'll draft it this time. I'll spice up the story for him," Assistant Qian said excitedly, laughing.

"When he returns, I will convene a meeting and publicly declare his guilt!" Wang Ye smirked maliciously.

This time, let's see how he turns the tables!

At that moment, Sheng was ambling down the street, hands in his pockets, his face calm and smiling, showing none of the heart-wrenching despair of the master's absence.

"This time, I'll let you gloat for a moment!"

Chapter 180 Today is a Good Day_1

In the same private dining room they had their clandestine meeting last time, Bai Xiaosheng and Sun Xiangdong sat across from each other, both beaming with joy.

They had specially opened a bottle of red wine worth tens of thousands of yuan to celebrate.

"Manager Sun, you are so generous, collaborating with the big star Wei Xuelian. The impact has been truly tremendous!" Wang Ye said with admiration, raising his glass to Sun Xiangdong, "Now, the entire news circle of Tiannan is revolving around your East Square. The heat has only intensified over the days! Not only in Tiannan, but the entire country now knows about your project!"

"You flatter me too much!" Sun Xiangdong said with a smug smile.

On this matter, he had ample reason to feel proud.

"These are two VIP tickets for the front row of the concert." Sun Xiangdong handed over two exquisitely printed tickets.

Right now, even a single ticket was being scalped for tens of thousands! And they were extremely hard to come by!

"Mrs. Wang might not be able to attend, but you can give them away. Now I dare say, these two tickets are definitely something to show off in Tiannan!" Sun Xiangdong remarked with a sigh, "Actually, if it weren't for Miss Wei holding back half of the tickets, I could have given you two more! Thinking about it now, the entertainment industry is great; once you make a star famous, it's like a cash cow!"

Sun Xiangdong praised repeatedly, and Wang Ye knew that he was interested in venturing into the entertainment industry; he could go on and on about this topic.

He quickly took the tickets and steered the conversation towards "serious matters."

"Bai Xiaosheng has taken leave."

"Taken leave?" Sun Xiangdong was taken aback, then sneered, "With only one week left before the opening, the project leader is asking for time off. As a leader, you should really give him a good talking to!"

"Of course!" Wang Ye chuckled coldly, "When he comes back, I'll let him see what I'm capable of! I'll show him what hell looks like."

"I'm looking forward to it!" Sun Xiangdong raised his glass.

The two clinked glasses again, laughing heartily, and took a sip.

"I heard that Master Song Kai is ill and needs to be sent abroad?" Wang Ye asked Sun Xiangdong with a meaningful tone.

Sun Xiangdong chuckled.

"His private doctor has grown tired of the profession and doesn't want to attend to anyone anymore. He's planning a world trip, so why wouldn't I sponsor a sum of money for him!"

Sun Xiangdong's words trailed off.

Having said this much, it wasn't necessary to say more. Wang Ye couldn't help but give a thumbs up, "Brilliant! When it comes to scheming, you, Old Sun, are certainly no weaker than Shang Wenshu!"

"Haha, you flatter me," Sun Xiangdong replied.

"Come on, cheers."

"Cheers!"

Laughter and joyful voices filled the private dining room of the restaurant.

After three rounds of drinks, Sun Xiangdong's phone suddenly rang. He glanced at it, gestured to Wang Ye for silence, and then put it on speaker.

"Boyi, what's the matter?" Sun Xiangdong asked.

The caller was Zhuang Boyi.

Wang Ye was familiar with this person; he was the leader when the media came knocking on Teles Square's door. Unfortunately, before the metaphorical sword could strike Bai Xiaosheng, it was thrown back out by him.

It could be said Zhuang Boyi capsized in the gutter.

How could it be, this person was still in contact with Sun Xiangdong?

Of course, having been in the media circle for so long with broad connections and clear operational skills, if used well, he could prove very useful!

Wang Ye thought for a moment and then nodded to himself.

"Manager Sun, just as you instructed, while I've been promoting our project, as soon as the Teles Square piece came out, I've drowned it out perfectly!" Zhuang Boyi eagerly claimed credit, saying, "And over

this period, I've gathered material and prepared several articles targeting Teles Square, including that Bai Xiaosheng! Just waiting for your word, and I'll release them!"

"Even if we can't completely ruin them, we will make their image plummet!"

Zhuang Boyi chuckled coldly over the phone.

"Good, then go ahead and do it!" Sun Xiangdong smiled at Wang Ye and instructed.

Wang Ye also smiled.

"A little extra spice, good!"

At this moment, over Teles Square, however, there was a cloud of worry.

Some secrets can't be kept hidden, and even though Chen Daya kept his lips sealed, it was Wang Ye who knew, the news deliberately leaked by Assistant Qian.

Now everyone on the project knew!

Master Song Kai was ill and couldn't come!

This was like a bolt from the blue!

Everyone felt a chill in their heart.

It just so happened that Bai Xiaosheng was on leave at this time.

For a while, there was a buzz of different opinions on the project.

"Manager Bai, he couldn't have given up on himself, could he?"

"Alas, we're done for this time. What do we have to compete with!"

"Manager Bai, have you completely admitted defeat? Are we really finished?!"

Pessimism is contagious.

However, Chen Daya and a group of others still tried their best to maintain order in the project, even continuously encouraging those around them.

The most steadfast in the leadership were Chen Daya and Cheng, the engineering supervisor, and among the staff, naturally, it was Wang, Song, and Yezi who led the way.

"Manager Bai will definitely think of a solution. He's just too tired and needs a couple of days' rest. When he comes back, we... will get through this!"

They promoted this belief with utter certainty, though even they themselves harbored a trace of pessimism in their hearts.

Century Construction, the headquarters building.

Chen Daya made a special trip to see Shang Wenshu and report on the work.

In fact, Shang Wenshu was well aware of everything that had happened with the project.

Including Bai Xiaosheng's expulsion of the construction team, Bai Xiaosheng's struggle with the media, and Bai Xiaosheng's leave.

To Chen Daya's surprise and great bewilderment, Shang Wenshu was just a silent listener who didn't discuss anything.

Only at the end did he say indifferently, "Now that Vice General Manager Wang Ye has taken over the project, everything is under his control, so you need not come to me. As for Bai Xiaosheng's matter, you need not worry either. I have said before, unless he asks you for help, you might as well ignore it completely."

Shang Wenshu showing such composure, almost indifference, about the life and death of Century Construction's most critical project surprised Chen Daya, who remained bewildered even as he left.

When Chen Daya returned to the project, Wang rushed to find him.

Now, inexplicably, a bunch of news posts had sprung up online, digging up some old and trivial issues of the project, with plenty of embellishments, half-truths, and half-falsehoods, giving Teles Square its share of public attention—

Negative attention!

There were also some negative news about Bai Xiaosheng, stuff like misconduct toward a female boss leading to her resignation, and intimidating a male manager leading to his breakdown!

"Have you called Bai?"

"Can't get through, his phone is switched off!"

Chen Daya's head ached fiercely, and he hurriedly worked with Wang to send letters to the media demanding the withdrawal of false news or else they would take legal action.

That day, some were exceedingly pleased, while others were extremely frazzled.

The person in question, Bai Xiaosheng, was utterly oblivious as he leisurely cooked one dish after another in the kitchen.

In the living room, Wei Xuelian curiously called out, "What day is it today that you're off too when I have a day off?"

"Today?" Bai Xiaosheng thought for a moment and smiled, "Today is a good day."