

Two Trillion 1791

Chapter 1791: The Two-Person “Treasure Hunt” Journey (Part 3)

Yesterday, Dong Tianxiu found the cards to be in the way during the game, so he casually put them aside without much care.

Now, Dong Tianxiu is buying something under Bai Xiaosheng’s guidance, something that’s actually worth only tens of thousands, more for fun than caring about its true value.

Bai Xiaosheng walked around a few shelves, followed by Dong Tianxiu.

Eventually, Bai Xiaosheng didn’t say anything, and Dong Tianxiu understood that these items, no matter how genuine they appeared, were fake.

Dong Tianxiu trusted Bai Xiaosheng completely.

Finally, Bai Xiaosheng moved to the center of the room and squatted down to inspect the items on the ground.

Dong Tianxiu squatted beside him, glancing at him and then at the items on the ground, hoping Bai Xiaosheng would pick out something interesting.

To Dong Tianxiu’s disappointment, Bai Xiaosheng examined them thoroughly but showed no intention to pick any.

“Not a single real item here!” Dong Tianxiu couldn’t help but express his disappointment.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at him, prompting Dong Tianxiu to quickly shut his mouth.

Bai Xiaosheng had previously told him not to speak out of turn, which he’d kept in mind, but couldn’t help blurting out in disappointment.

By coincidence, the shopkeeper happened to snuff out the cigarette, and while trying to sip water, he overheard Dong Tianxiu's words.

"What do you mean, not real!?" The shopkeeper frowned, standing up with irritation, glaring at the two, "Are you here to buy or to disrupt Mr. Li's business!"

"I'm sorry, that's not what I meant." Dong Tianxiu quickly apologized.

The apology came a bit late, as Mr. Li approached angrily, "Can't catch your eye? Sorry about that! Please, don't waste my time here!"

He was actually asking them to leave.

Dong Tianxiu felt displeased. They were warmly welcomed earlier, but now they're being kicked out for saying one wrong sentence?

Let's go!

Who's afraid of whom!

Dong Tianxiu was about to signal Bai Xiaosheng to leave.

Bai Xiaosheng kept looking at the items on the ground, and amid Dong Tianxiu and Mr. Li's argument, his eyes suddenly shone, as if he found something.

Both Dong Tianxiu and Mr. Li missed noticing it.

"I'll take everything on the ground, how much?" Bai Xiaosheng suddenly asked.

The irritated pair Dong Tianxiu and Mr. Li were stunned, turning to look at him in disbelief.

“You want everything?” Mr. Li asked in surprise.

“Name your price,” Bai Xiaosheng replied calmly.

Such decisiveness made Mr. Li hesitate.

Dong Tianxiu felt excited, believing Bai Xiaosheng discovered a treasure.

“If you really want it... ten thousand, and you can take them all!” Mr. Li seemed to decide firmly, as if making an enormous concession.

Have you gone mad, old man?

Dong Tianxiu almost asked.

“I’ll offer three thousand, if you agree, we’ll take them; if not, we’ll consider it over.” Bai Xiaosheng stood up, speaking indifferently.

Mr. Li shook his head, signaling disagreement.

“Let’s go.” Bai Xiaosheng promptly called Dong Tianxiu to leave.

Dong Tianxiu said nothing more, following Bai Xiaosheng out.

Just as they stepped out the door, a regretful voice followed them, “Alright, alright, I’ll sell them to you! Let’s consider it as today’s opening sales!”

Bai Xiaosheng turned with a smile, while Mr. Li seemed visibly pained.

Dong Tianxiu, delighted, stepped up, “I’ll pay!”

Mobile payment, convenient and fast, and just like that, the deal was sealed.

Dong Tianxiu started to cover the pile of items with a tarp to take them away.

“No need for that trouble, just take this.” Bai Xiaosheng pointed at a wooden board full of writing.

Dong Tianxiu was puzzled, and Mr. Li too stared at Bai Xiaosheng in surprise.

Three thousand, just for a dusty, long-neglected board?

“How much is this large piece of gloomy wood worth?” Bai Xiaosheng suddenly smiled.

Mr. Li looked as if he were struck by lightning, staring at the board with eyes wide in shock.

“You’re telling me, it’s, it’s ebony!”

Chapter 1792: Is Mr. Li an Enemy?

The gloomy wood mentioned by Bai Xiaosheng is actually the same thing as the ebony described by the antique shop owner Mr. Li.

“The name ‘gloomy wood’ sounds rather... gloomy. Is there some story behind it?” Dong Tianxiu couldn’t help but ask Bai Xiaosheng while guarding the solid wooden board in his hands, noticing Mr. Li’s eyes lighted up as he looked at it.

“It’s just ebony, not as exaggerated as you make it sound! You can find it at the timber market!” Mr. Li made a show of diverting his gaze, pretending to be indifferent.

Yet, Mr. Li couldn't help but steal glances at the wooden board Dong Tianxiu was holding.

He had initially found it at a farmhouse, where it was being used to prop up furniture legs. He thought it was good, so he paid some money to acquire it.

Originally, he intended to have this solid board planed into a tea tray, thinking it would have a unique charm.

However, upon returning, Mr. Li's business declined, and as time passed, he lost interest in the idea. Eventually, he just threw the board on the ground, brushed a few rows of characters with red paint for decoration, and ignored it thereafter.

"How would I know it's gloomy wood! I had only heard about it, never seen it; my expertise lies in calligraphy and coins!" Mr. Li's heart was filled with regret.

He barely had any friends in the circle, and those he did were not skilled in this area.

Upon hearing Mr. Li's intentional dismissive remarks, Bai Xiaosheng chuckled and slowly explained to Dong Tianxiu, "Currently, on the market, some woods are labeled as 'ebony,' but those are actually a type of mahogany mostly sourced from Africa, primarily African ebony and East African black rosewood."

"The truly precious ebony was anciently known as gloomy wood."

"It's said that real gloomy wood was formed when earthquakes, floods, and mudslides pushed large trees into rivers and buried them in silt millions of years ago. Under isolated oxygen and high-pressure conditions, with the help of bacteria and microorganisms, these became carbonized wood over millions of years, also known as 'carbonized wood.'

Bai Xiaosheng's explanation intrigued Dong Tianxiu.

People are always particularly interested in the unknown, so once Bai Xiaosheng finished talking, Dong Tianxiu urged him to say more.

Mr. Li couldn't help but stare at Bai Xiaosheng as well. He had heard of 'gloomy wood,' but knew only a little about it, naturally sparking his interest.

"Simply put, gloomy wood is naturally carbonized under special geographical conditions, lying between carbon and wood, possessing unique wooden qualities," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

With Red Lotus's assistance, he was thoroughly knowledgeable, speaking eloquently with ease.

"Oh my, preserved for millions of years, this ebony... such trees must be very rare?" Dong Tianxiu exclaimed.

"Gloomy wood isn't actually a type of tree," Bai Xiaosheng corrected with a smile, "The trees that can become gloomy wood vary widely, from fringe trees, evergreen oaks, camphors to golden silkwoods, small-leaf nanmu, red camphors, rosewoods, and the like. Whether they qualify as gloomy depends on how carbonized they are—if they're too carbonized, they become coal and cannot be used as materials, they can only—"

"Only what?" Dong Tianxiu couldn't help but ask.

Mr. Li also fixed his gaze on Bai Xiaosheng.

"Rotten wood, it can burn," Bai Xiaosheng shrugged and smiled.

Dong Tianxiu laughed heartily.

Bai Xiaosheng continued, "Its long gestation period and risk of turning into carbon make gloomy wood hard to form, yet it combines the essence of wood and the luster of stone, making it excellent material."

"Just from the perspective of rarity, the value of gloomy wood can be imagined."

"Additionally, in Huaxia culture, gloomy wood is regarded as an object that wards off evil."

This last point is very important.

The ancients had a never-ending pursuit of enhancing fortune and longevity, avoiding harm and seeking benefit, which holds true for modern people as well!

Dong Tianxiu couldn't help but rub the wooden board, already considering crafting beads.

Mr. Li also couldn't stop his eyes from gleaming.

He knew that craftsmanship and artifacts, statues, and amulets made from gloomy wood have always been loved and pursued by all different social classes throughout history.

An old saying goes, "Having half a piece of ebony at home surpasses a chest full of treasures."

Unfortunately, this item has been sold!

Mr. Li felt more than just regret.

"Is this piece of gloomy wood particularly valuable?" Dong Tianxiu was concerned about this question. Although he didn't lack money, finding something valuable himself brought a unique thrill.

Bai Xiaosheng laughed, "Of course. But—"

"Although gloomy wood is quite precious, not all gloomy wood is priceless; it depends on quality differences, which determine the price."

"Quality assessment mainly looks at wood texture, tree species, size, color, shape, degree of carbonization, and so forth."

“In fact, even within gloomy wood, the price differences are enormous; the top-tier ones go for tens of millions per ton,” Bai Xiaosheng said, “And for good gloomy wood to emerge, the harmony of time, geography, and human relationship is needed. The former two factors are for material formation, and the last is for its discovery and identification. Otherwise, even a treasure would be regarded as a broken board.”

Upon hearing Bai Xiaosheng’s last statement, Mr. Li couldn’t help but scowl.

He was the one unknowingly keeping a treasure, treating it like a broken wooden board.

Dong Tianxiu smirked at Mr. Li and asked Bai Xiaosheng, “Then how much is the piece in my hands worth?”

Bai Xiaosheng consulted Red Lotus internally, and after estimating, he said, “With a good craftsman finely sculpting it, the finished product could... range between one million to three million!”

Mr. Li’s face turned green upon hearing Bai Xiaosheng’s valuation.

A piece worth one to three million had been sold for so cheap!

Now knowing its worth, the feeling of heartbreak was inexplicably difficult to bear!

Dong Tianxiu grinned widely, his face full of delight, “Wow, that’s a huge profit!”

Bought for thirty thousand, then selling for one to three million—in the antique trade, indeed crazy profits!

“Rarely making a deal, but once made, it lasts for three years, definitely not a myth.”

“Bai, I, Dong Tianxiu, am impressed!” Dong Tianxiu laughed loudly.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but glance at Dong Tianxiu, thinking his laughter was a bit too much.

Still, he was in the presence of the shop owner, it was best to be a bit restrained.

Bai Xiaosheng intended to signal Dong Tianxiu with his eyes and guide him to leave.

The antique circle places great importance on rules; once a transaction is complete, both parties pay and receive goods, regardless of finding a bargain or getting deceived, it's all based on skill, no complaints allowed—this is the business ethos of the industry.

Therefore, Bai Xiaosheng wasn't worried about Mr. Li reneging or causing trouble.

However, Bai Xiaosheng was surprised to see Mr. Li suddenly staring at Dong Tianxiu intensely, his pupils constricted, seemingly in shock, upon hearing Dong Tianxiu reveal his name.

Bai Xiaosheng was immediately puzzled.

Dong Tianxiu, who was originally looking at Bai Xiaosheng, turned his head upon noticing him staring at the shop owner.

Then, Dong Tianxiu also noted Mr. Li's unusual look in his eyes.

"What is it, sir, you're not planning to renege, are you? That's not acceptable! Doing business requires clarity—responsibility for one's decisions!" Dong Tianxiu thought Mr. Li was about to renege, refusing to sell, and immediately guarded the gloomy wood tightly, speaking loudly.

The ordinary remark was like a trigger, instantly igniting Mr. Li's fury.

"Same words! It's the same words! You're her brother!" Mr. Li's expression turned fierce as he shouted sharply.

Bai Xiaosheng and Dong Tianxiu were startled by Mr. Li's shout, looking at each other, unsure what had provoked him.

What "same words"? What "her brother"? Could it be that Mr. Li knows Dong Tianxiu... his sister?

This is what Bai Xiaosheng thought, looking at Dong Tianxiu with questioning eyes.

But Dong Tianxiu was confused, not recognizing Mr. Li despite repeated glances, and planned to ask him.

Unexpectedly, Mr. Li suddenly went into frenzy, roaring while picking up a porcelain vase nearby, raising it high and directly throwing it at Dong Tianxiu.

"Five years ago, she tricked me terribly, and five years later, you come to trick me again!"

"I've already said, you Dong Family people can't let me go; even if I run back to my hometown, you are unrelenting!"

"In that case, I'm not afraid of anything, screw it, I'll fight you!"

Chapter 1793: Your Sister—Hateful and Terrifying!

Dong Tianxiu could never have dreamed that while visiting an antique shop with Bai Xiaosheng and scoring a huge find, they would also run into an "enemy."

Mr. Li seemed frail and was already fifty, far from being a young man.

But when he went crazy, his speed was off the charts.

Dong Tianxiu watched as a porcelain vase was hurled toward him, scaring him to desperately dodge to the side.

With a “crash,” the vase smashed onto the ground, shattering into pieces.

Before Dong Tianxiu could breathe a sigh of relief, Mr. Li had already picked up a second vase, flung it at him, screaming, “Go to hell!”

In panic, Dong Tianxiu used the gloomy wood in his hand as a shield.

The vase crashed into the gloomy wood, instantly shattering, and the shards stung painfully as they hit his hands.

Dong Tianxiu winced in pain.

But it wasn’t over yet!

Mr. Li, truly a middle-aged man skilled in online gaming, once he started, launched a “combo” attack!

The surrounding porcelain items were snatched up and thrown, raining down like money was no object, pelting Dong Tianxiu.

“What are you doing!”

“Ouch, it hit my foot!”

“Uncle, are you crazy?!”

“Sir! Are you trying to kill me?!”

“Stop it!”

Dong Tianxiu yelled and dodged clumsily, looking utterly embarrassed.

Fortunately, the number of vases, dishes, bowls, teapots, and cups nearby was limited.

Soon, Mr. Li was out of things to throw.

Just as Dong Tianxiu caught his breath and paused for a moment, he looked up, completely terrified.

He saw Mr. Li opposite him, eyes red, charging at him with a Peach Wood Sword as if mistaking him for a zombie!

Mr. Li used the Peach Wood Sword as both a knife and a hammer, furiously hacking and smashing.

Dong Tianxiu used the most expensive gloomy wood “shield” ever to desperately defend himself, but he was still too slow and got hit on the head by the wooden sword, screaming in pain.

And yet, that wasn’t the end of it.

The ground was littered with too many porcelain shards, making it slippery. Not paying attention, Dong Tianxiu fell heavily to the ground, landing on the shards, which stabbed painfully into him, causing him to scream out.

But immediately after, Dong Tianxiu was scared speechless.

Mr. Li, eyes bloodshot in his anger, couldn’t stop himself. The wooden sword aimed straight at Dong Tianxiu’s “family jewels.”

Dong Tianxiu watched in terror as the wooden sword descended, unable to dodge.

Even though it was a Peach Wood Sword, with Mr. Li’s current strength, if it hit, Dong Tianxiu could be seriously injured, not worrying about future generations.

The sword tip landed on Dong Tianxiu's pants, slipping from Mr. Li's grasp and flying into the air.

In the nick of time, Bai Xiaosheng kicked the wooden sword away.

Immediately, Bai Xiaosheng stepped forward, swiftly restraining Mr. Li's arm, stopping him in his tracks.

Dong Tianxiu let out a breath of relief, lying on the ground and breathing heavily, feeling as if he had narrowly escaped death.

Mr. Li continued to struggle fiercely, yelling out, "Let me go! I want to kill those Dong Family People!"

What kind of grudge was this! Bai Xiaosheng frowned silently.

He used the capture techniques Red Lotus searched for and grasped Mr. Li's joints and acupoints, making half of Mr. Li's body numb, unable to use any strength despite struggling.

However, if Mr. Li kept twisting like that, he might dislocate his shoulder, which would be bad.

"Uncle, calm down!" Bai Xiaosheng shouted, using one hand to tap lightly on an acupoint at the back of Mr. Li's head.

Mr. Li's body went rigid as if shocked, instantly calming down.

Still, for Dong Tianxiu's "safety," Bai Xiaosheng continued restraining Mr. Li.

"Oh my God, I was scared to death. This uncle was aiming to end my lineage!"

Dong Tianxiu caught his breath and got up. Looking at the wooden Peach Wood Sword on the floor, which despite being wooden was extremely lethal, he wiped his brow.

However, Dong Tianxiu showed real restraint and composure.

Even after all that, he held back from cursing anyone.

If it were someone hot-tempered, seeing Mr. Li restrained, they might have slapped him to vent their anger.

In this respect, Bai Xiaosheng quite admired Dong Tianxiu.

Dong Tianxiu patted his chest and exhaled deeply before thanking Bai Xiaosheng, "Thanks, brother! If not for you, I'd be finished! This is the second time you've saved me, and I still haven't repaid the first. Now, I owe you even more!"

"We're friends; it's nothing to fret over." Bai Xiaosheng replied with a mild smile.

Then, Bai Xiaosheng gestured towards the still "calm" but somewhat confused Mr. Li, who he'd just knocked out, asking, "What's going on?"

Mr. Li repeatedly claimed the Dong Family People had wronged him, not once but twice, and his statement had provoked such a frenzied attack, so there must be a story behind it.

Dong Tianxiu glanced at Mr. Li, sighing slightly as he dusted off his clothes, looking at Bai Xiaosheng with a bit of complexity in his eyes, "I guess my sister took advantage of him! That phrase I said is something my sister often said."

"In business, you must have the awareness, life or death at your own risk!" Dong Tianxiu murmured.

This phrase truly had a magic power.

Originally calm, Mr. Li suddenly raised his head, once again glaring angrily at Dong Tianxiu.

However, Mr. Li was obviously much more rational now, at least enough not to act out violently.

“Uncle, whether you believe it or not, I, Dong Tianxiu, swear to the heavens, I don’t know you, nor do I know what grudge you hold against my sister. I only came here with a friend today to shop, with no intention of wronging you!” Dong Tianxiu sincerely told Mr. Li, “Can we talk it out, sit down and talk!”

Mr. Li turned his head away, unwilling to engage.

Out of options, Dong Tianxiu gave Bai Xiaosheng a resigned look.

Bai Xiaosheng continued with a smile, approaching Mr. Li calmly, “Uncle, may I say a few words?”

Mr. Li still remained silent.

Bai Xiaosheng went on, “I think you’re someone who values family. Running a store here or working as a live-streamer in games is likely about making a living and supporting your family, right? Do you know what your recent actions would be called? Intentional injury! If my friend here had any bad intentions, with his wealth, he could hire the best lawyers. If he presses charges against you, you’ll be detained. If you actually injured him, prison isn’t far off! Haven’t you considered your family?”

What Bai Xiaosheng said finally resonated with Mr. Li.

After a moment of silence, Mr. Li turned to Bai Xiaosheng, saying, “Let me go, I won’t act out anymore.”

Bai Xiaosheng immediately let go of him, releasing Mr. Li.

Mr. Li rubbed his arm silently, turned around, and returned to the table.

Bai Xiaosheng and Dong Tianxiu exchanged a glance and followed him.

Along the way, Dong Tianxiu gave Bai Xiaosheng a thumbs-up.

For getting through to people and persuading them, he admired Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled lightly.

Just now, he had noticed several photo frames on Mr. Li's table, likely of family members. Despite the disarray on the table, the frames were meticulously placed, indicating Mr. Li valued family.

Moreover, losing his freedom momentarily over a fit of anger wasn't worth it, and Mr. Li was reasonably rational.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng and Dong Tianxiu approaching, Mr. Li, sitting in his seat with a slightly dejected demeanor, didn't shoo them away.

After a moment of silence, Mr. Li even gestured to two seats, inviting them to sit.

"I lost my mind earlier."

Mr. Li mumbled, implying an apology.

"Actually, I quite understand." Dong Tianxiu spoke up, "Although she's my sister, I don't agree with her ruthless methods at all. Though I don't know what conflict you had with her or how you ended up in this situation, I do apologize!"

Mr. Li looked at Dong Tianxiu with complex eyes. It was evident that his expression was genuine.

"In truth, this has nothing to do with you. I can't talk about revenge on you, let alone on your sister... I don't have the power for that."

Mr. Li gave a bitter smile, lighting a cigarette for himself.

In front of Bai Xiaosheng and Dong Tianxiu, he confessed, "I've harbored resentment for your sister's ruthless business tactics for years..."

"And feared them for just as long!"

Chapter 1794: Overprotective Brother Maniac

Mr. Li lit a cigarette, calming his nerves. Earlier, when mentioning Dong Tianxiu's sister, there was deep apprehension in his eyes.

It seemed he was genuinely frightened by Dong Tianxiu's sister.

"My sister joined the family business at twenty, was working independently by thirty, and took over all the family business by thirty-five. Five years ago, even our old man was willing to step back, not interfering with the business, and handed all affairs to my sister. You could say, my sister is the face of our family; in today's business world, I think those who can stand toe to toe with my sister are few and far between. I mean, mister, you must have been something incredible back in the day, right?"

Dong Tianxiu couldn't help but ask.

Dong Tianxiu's words sounded somewhat boastful of his sister.

After all, even someone like Lu Yun only became a force in his later years, claiming there were few who could rival him.

And Dong Tianxiu's sister, breaking the norm, is barely forty, is she really that formidable?

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but glance at Dong Tianxiu.

From the emotions reflected in Dong Tianxiu's expression, it seemed he disliked his sister's style but highly admired her abilities.

At that moment, Bai Xiaosheng was genuinely a bit curious, somewhat wanting to ask who on earth Dong Tianxiu's sister was.

However, in the end, Bai Xiaosheng only thought about it and then dismissed the idea.

Firstly, it wasn't convenient to inquire here; secondly, when making friends, it's best not to mix in other matters just out of curiosity about someone's powerful family—seems like one has ulterior motives, thus spoiling the vibe.

"Your sister... is indeed a business prodigy! Especially as a woman, to have such prowess at such a young age!"

Mr. Li had to admit this point.

Nevertheless, regarding his identity, Mr. Li was a bit embarrassed and said indignantly, "Hey, kid, aren't you just mocking me! I'm not some big shot, especially compared to your Dong Family; it's like heaven and earth, completely incomparable!"

Dong Tianxiu smiled apologetically, indicating he didn't mean it that way at all.

"Strictly speaking, your sister wasn't out to specifically trap me alone but messed over ten of our companies! When she got us bankrupt, she was just in her early thirties!" Mr. Li started trembling a little at the thought of the past, took a fierce drag of his cigarette to calm down, glanced at Dong Tianxiu, and then continued, "Actually, a few years ago, I met you!"

"Oh?" Dong Tianxiu looked surprised, having no recollection of Mr. Li.

"Back then, a bunch of us business owners went to your family's headquarters to plead with your sister to let us off the hook." Mr. Li said awkwardly, "But downstairs, one of my companions had a fender bender with your car, and there was a confrontation. We were all in a rush, and we were... a bit rough on you. Do you remember that incident?"

Bai Xiaosheng looked at Dong Tianxiu.

Dong Tianxiu was startled, struggled to recall, then seemed to remember with his eyes lighting up, pointing in the air, “Oh, yes, there was such a thing! Those people were hot-tempered, and a few even hit me. Were you among those people?”

Mr. Li bitterly smiled with a hint of sorrow, “Yes, I was. But damn it, I was at the very back of the crowd. I didn’t even get to say a word to you, let alone lay a finger on you—I was just there to watch! After all these years, no wonder you don’t remember me, and I didn’t recognize you either, not until you introduced yourself. Even if you seemed familiar, I wouldn’t dare make the connection!”

Dong Tianxiu could not help but say, “So, what you’re saying is, the beating I got earlier could have been entirely avoided, it was really just asking for it.”

Bai Xiaosheng wanted to laugh, quietly thinking to himself: Sheng, as long as you know your mouth gets you into trouble, why say it out loud.

Mr. Li ignored Dong Tianxiu and continued, “After the conflict with you, we did get to meet your sister. Actually, from the start, your sister, though sharp-tongued, didn’t intend to ruin us, merely proposed that our group sign a ‘sell-out contract’—that’s what I thought! That contract mainly aimed to enhance your family’s businesses, so what else could it be but a sell-out! At that time, we tried to push back, lower her terms, and she seemed a bit willing to ease up. Then you appeared...”

Mr. Li said gloomily, “When you showed up all bruised, your sister erupted instantly. You recognized some of my companions right away, accusing us of ganging up on you... well, not entirely untrue, but I really was just an onlooker!”

Listening to Mr. Li, Bai Xiaosheng could imagine what that scene was like.

At the time, Dong Tianxiu was still a hot-blooded young man who got beaten up by a group over a fender bender right outside his family’s company—seeing those same people coming to talk business, it must have been a bad taste indeed.

“Naturally, your sister turned hostile, immediately shredded the draft contract to pieces, threw them at my companions, and pointed at us sternly saying... I still remember her words, every single one of them.”

“Bullying my brother is bullying me! This business is over, from this moment on, it’s you or me!”

Mr. Li looked stern as he murmured, “She would rather give up the business just to stand up for you! She ignored any explanations, no apologies could sway her, no business compensation either, and she directly threw us all out!”

“In the following year, she relentlessly pursued our dozen or so companies, intercepting us at every turn, until we all went bankrupt!”

Mr. Li spoke with deep fear evident in his eyes, “That’s your sister! Offend a thug, you might still negotiate—but offend her, there’s no room for discussion!”

“And yet, you say, I had nothing to do with it! I was merely a bystander, watching the scene unfold; from beginning to end, I didn’t utter a word, nor did I lift a finger on you!” Mr. Li looked woeful, almost lamenting.

Dong Tianxiu scratched his head, seeming to feel his sister’s indiscriminate vengeance was a bit much.

In fact, at the time, he was very angry, ran to his sister to complain, also wanting her to get revenge, but he’d forgotten all about it over time.

He hadn’t expected his sister to see it through so ruthlessly.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn’t help but look at Dong Tianxiu.

From Mr. Li’s description, Bai Xiaosheng could almost visualize a “brother-protecting fanatic,” combined with what Chen Feiyu mentioned during their card games, it further reinforced his judgment.

“Ever since I was a child, I’ve been quite timid, easily bullied, so my sister has always protected me. She cannot stand hearing that I’ve been bullied.” Dong Tianxiu saw Bai Xiaosheng looking at him and blushed slightly, murmuring.

Mr. Li, having finished reminiscing about the past “tragic experiences,” suddenly snapped back to reality, firmly squashing the half-burnt cigarette in the ashtray.

“Cough, what am I telling you all this for!” Mr. Li glared, “Losing in business, I accept! Consorting with that group, suffering the fallout, served me right! Young Dong, since you say you didn’t come here deliberately to cause me trouble, I won’t wrongfully accuse you. Regarding beating you earlier, that was my fault. As for you seizing the opportunity, I misjudged—these are heavens’ arrangements; I’ve got nothing more to say! Now, I kindly ask you both to leave!”

Mr. Li seemed to be showing them out.

However, Bai Xiaosheng could tell that Mr. Li, reflecting on the past and comparing it to now, his pent-up resentment and anger over the years, had led him to briefly lose his composure, almost severely injuring Dong Tianxiu. Now coming to his senses, remembering who Dong Tianxiu’s sister was, he might genuinely be a bit scared!

That Dong family sister was indeed a brother-protecting fanatic; if her brother suffered, she would go to the ends to rectify it, even at the cost of business. What would she do if she learned Dong Tianxiu nearly met his end here?

She’d probably have Mr. Li dismantled.

Mr. Li seemed to realize this too, with a flicker of fear deep in his eyes.

Feeling sympathy and apologetic for Mr. Li’s wretched plight, Dong Tianxiu extended his apology several times before finally leaving with Bai Xiaosheng.

However, before leaving, Dong Tianxiu placed the gloomy wood on the table for Mr. Li, pointing to Bai Xiaosheng and saying, “My friend here has a keen eye for value; if he says it’s worth something, it must be! Mr. Li, you keep it, consider it as some compensation for wrongly suffering, also a token of my regard.”

With that, Dong Tianxiu didn’t look back and called Bai Xiaosheng to leave.

Mr. Li looked at the piece of gloomy wood in shock, and lifted his gaze to find the two already out of sight.

He murmured, "This Dong family kid... is quite honorable!"

Chapter 1795 Do You Want to Be My Brother-in-Law?

Bai Xiaosheng and Dong Tianxiu left Mr. Li's "Treasure Pavilion." Seeing that it was almost time, they headed back to the hotel to pack and catch their flight.

On the way, Dong Tianxiu walked silently for a while, still pondering over those matters.

"Actually, my sister is not a bad person. It's just that her way of doing things can be a bit ruthless..."

Dong Tianxiu seemed to be talking to Bai Xiaosheng, yet almost as if he was talking to himself.

Bai Xiaosheng listened quietly.

"My sister says that the business world is like a battlefield, a place of life and death, where you can't be too indecisive or compassionate..."

"She says the business arena is like a fish pond where big fish eat the smaller ones, a natural law. Strength rules—when there's competition and conflict, if I'm stronger than you, you have to bow down; otherwise, you'll be devoured..."

"She also says that since I'm her brother, if I don't want to enter the business world early, I should just play around for a few more years. With her there, the Dong Family business can only thrive. She says that when she hands the business over to me, it will definitely be a vast kingdom..."

Bai Xiaosheng listened silently.

These words, they have their own logic—can't say they're right or wrong.

One can only say that everyone has a different understanding of the business way.

However, Bai Xiaosheng did admire Dong Tianxiu's sister a bit. She must be a decisive and capable woman.

"In fact, I don't agree with most of the things my sister says. I don't want my business way to turn into a slaughterhouse! Everyone is just after profit, and where possible, why not cooperate? Why must it be life or death?" Dong Tianxiu continued to murmur.

"But my sister's kindness to me is truly... more than my mom, more than my dad!"

"She listens to and accepts whatever I say, except for her business principles, which she will never change..."

Dong Tianxiu sighed deeply, "Actually, sometimes I don't hope for her to change. After all, her temperament, good or bad, is what makes her who she is."

After saying this, Dong Tianxiu felt a little better. Seeing Bai Xiaosheng nodding as he listened, he couldn't help but laugh bitterly and shake his head, "Why am I telling you all this?"

"I actually think your sister is quite remarkable, especially with how she treats you!" Bai Xiaosheng patted Dong Tianxiu on the shoulder and said with a smile, "Perhaps she believes she must support the Dong Family enterprise to lay down a massive 'kingdom' for you, and that's why she fights tirelessly like a warrior, with no mercy for outsiders. I see you have unique insights into many economic matters, yet you seem to intentionally present a carefree attitude towards the business world. Is it because you're afraid that working in the family business, side by side with your sister, may lead to conflicts that might harm your relationship?"

Hearing this, Dong Tianxiu stared at him in astonishment, as if he couldn't believe it.

"Are you a worm in someone else's stomach?" Dong Tianxiu blurted in surprise.

This question admitted that Bai Xiaosheng was right.

"You think your sister's style is wrong and don't want to operate that way, but you feel she's so good to you that you don't want to publicly contradict her in business, afraid to hurt her feelings, so you choose to avoid it," Bai Xiaosheng said seriously, "But why not try working with her, sharing the burden on her shoulders? If you think she's wrong and you're right, use your business principles to influence hers, instead of running away! Escaping doesn't solve anything and is not what a man should do!"

Bai Xiaosheng's words were simple and straightforward, yet they hit home.

Dong Tianxiu stared blankly at Bai Xiaosheng, contemplating his words.

The more he thought about it, the more it made sense, and excitement gradually lit up in Dong Tianxiu's eyes—

"You're right! I've never thought of this! Now that I think about it, avoiding doesn't solve any problem; this is the right way to do it!"

Though inherently smart, sometimes the clever get blindsided by their intelligence, needing someone to enlighten them.

Bai Xiaosheng was that person for Dong Tianxiu, and his words unconsciously opened Dong Tianxiu's mind.

Actually, strictly speaking, it wasn't that Bai Xiaosheng had the power to spellbind with words.

It was that Dong Tianxiu understood the rationale—it was buried inside him, just waiting to be "activated."

Normally, Dong Tianxiu rarely opened up, and those around him didn't even know his thoughts, let alone enlighten him.

Bai Xiaosheng had only taken advantage of Mr. Li's situation, gently prodding with a few light jabs that had an extraordinary effect.

The more Dong Tianxiu pondered Bai Xiaosheng's words, the more he agreed, muttering, "Exactly, exactly! Since I think my sister's approach has issues, I shouldn't avoid them, afraid of hurting her—rather, I should approach, let my reasoning influence hers, or find areas of agreement. That is the correct approach. Why didn't I think of this before?"

Walking side by side with Bai Xiaosheng, Dong Tianxiu laughed, "Actually, realizing now isn't too late. With your talent and intellect, entering the business world successfully truly isn't hard. In time, perhaps you'll become a titan of the business world!"

Listening to Bai Xiaosheng, the more he listened, the more reassuring he felt, and Dong Tianxiu couldn't help but grin.

"I sometimes do think I have talent! Rest assured, when I succeed, you'll be the first I thank! You've saved me twice and also helped enlighten me. I have nothing to repay you for such great kindness except..."

When serious, Dong Tianxiu is quite proper, but once in high spirits, his manner shifts.

Especially his last sentence, which startled Bai Xiaosheng.

Saying further would lead to "having nothing to repay with but oneself."

It would be charming if a young lady said it, but unsettling from a big fellow...

Bai Xiaosheng was ready to slap Dong Tianxiu if he dared to be gross.

However, Dong Tianxiu switched topics, "I heard from Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying that you're not married yet, are you! How about considering my sister? I don't mind you becoming my brother-in-law!"

Bai Xiaosheng was stunned.

Dong Tianxiu was really pushing for a brother-in-law match.

"No interest!" Bai Xiaosheng felt amused yet exasperated as he walked away alone.

Dong Tianxiu hurried to catch up, calling behind him, "Hey, think about it, really, my sister is very beautiful. Though she's nearing forty, she maintains herself well, her skin is smoother than a young girl's, her figure and face outshine celebrities by far..."

"Someone like you, with ideas and competence, also charming in speech—I think you would match my sister well. Why not give it a shot..."

"If you manage to win her over, I, as her brother, can include a few companies as part of the dowry for you two..."

Bai Xiaosheng ignored Dong Tianxiu's antics.

Ultimately, Bai Xiaosheng and Dong Tianxiu returned to the hotel, where the entire way, Bai Xiaosheng heard nothing but Dong Tianxiu trying to play matchmaker for his sister.

Even when Bai Xiaosheng firmly stated he had a girlfriend, it was to no avail.

Dong Tianxiu claimed that so long as not married, there was a chance. He said once Bai Xiaosheng met his sister, he would definitely be smitten and urged him to reconsider.

Bai Xiaosheng inwardly scoffed.

His Xuelian, in terms of looks, figure, even her future status as the Wei Family Head, hardly anyone could compare. In his heart, even royal princesses seemed to dim in comparison.

Moreover, your big sister may be good to you, but to others, she's ruthless. Even if I were single, doing fine, why would I seek death? Bai Xiaosheng mentally added.

Of course, he didn't voice these thoughts to Dong Tianxiu.

Until they returned to the hotel and met with Lin Weiwei, Chen Feiyu, and Lei Ying, only then did Dong Tianxiu stop mentioning it.

This gave Bai Xiaosheng a moment of peace.

In truth, whether it was Bai Xiaosheng or Dong Tianxiu, both were meant to live as carefree bosses.

Packing was entirely handled by others.

Regarding today's encounter with Mr. Li, no mention was made.

The group waited a while longer, then the airport transport arrived.

The group eventually boarded the plane successfully.

The flight was smooth and they finally arrived in Linshen.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng about to leave, Dong Tianxiu couldn't help but call after him, "Sheng, have you really decided to not think about my sister? Really, this time I mean it, she's really beautiful. Though she's nearing forty, she's well-maintained, her skin is softer than a girl's, her figure and face are a hundred times better than a star's..."

"Someone as capable and eloquent as you are would pair well with my sister. Wouldn't you give it a thought..."

""

Chapter 1796: Bai Xiaosheng's Return

Bai Xiaosheng and the other two exited the airport, and outside, Feng Li and Lin Ke were waiting for them.

Having informed them ahead of time, the two did not go inside the airport but waited by the car on the roadside.

As soon as Bai Xiaosheng and his party stepped out, they saw a black, imposing Maybach parked by the roadside, drawing everyone's attention.

Beside the car stood Feng Li, a stylish and elegant intellectual beauty, and Lin Ke, a petite yet dignified young lady.

As Bai Xiaosheng appeared, the eyes of these two beauties lit up; one was graceful, the other playful, both waving vigorously at Bai Xiaosheng.

With that, the onlookers, especially the men, eyed Bai Xiaosheng critically.

Many observed Bai Xiaosheng looking sharp and debonair, flanked by a robust bodyguard and a stunning secretary, and felt even more envious and resentful. They couldn't help but think to themselves, "Look at him, showing off."

"Look at you, Xiaosheng, you've really got the whole fancy car and beautiful women bringing the jealousy," Lin Weiwei teased from slightly behind Bai Xiaosheng, noticing the strange looks from passersby, and couldn't help but speed up to tease him quietly.

"Let them envy all they want. They see the glamour on the surface; who knows the hard work behind the scenes," Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but stretch lazily. Although his trip to Europe was enjoyable, the scheming, plotting, and relentless work was something few saw.

Bai Xiaosheng's nonchalance made Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying exchange a smile.

Meeting up with Feng Li and Lin Ke, the two women, one tall and one short, simultaneously gave a slight bow and exclaimed in unison, "Welcome back, Mr. President!"

This scene left Bai Xiaosheng and his companions stunned.

The two women, however, seeing Bai Xiaosheng's astonished expression, laughed so heartily that it was clear they had planned this beforehand, openly teasing him.

For a moment, the surrounding envious, resentful, and disdainful gazes multiplied.

With Bai Xiaosheng on board, the Maybach sped straight to headquarters.

On the way, Feng Li was driving and chatting with Bai Xiaosheng and the others, "Knowing you'd arrive around this time, everyone at home is there, waiting for you. Actually, many wanted to come to pick you up, but Elder Xia knew you didn't like attention, so he told them all to stay back. As for us..."

"I snagged this opportunity to come!" Lin Ke interjected cheerfully, "How about it, big boss? I even changed into a special outfit, all dressed up to greet you. Aren't you touched?"

Bai Xiaosheng glanced her up and down, and Lin Ke straightened up to show herself off.

"A bit too mature and sexy, remember your image as a young lady," Bai Xiaosheng teased, "Lest others say you're a precocious child learning bad things."

"Oh, stop it. I'm already over thirty!" Lin Ke raised her little pink fist to playfully punch Bai Xiaosheng, "You're the little rascal!"

Everyone couldn't help but burst into laughter.

Lin Ke's age, voice, and words altogether made her seem very lively.

And punching the president was clearly out of line.

But fortunately, everyone was too familiar with each other, and they were good friends in private. Plus, Bai Xiaosheng's casual and easy-going nature led everyone to feel this joking and teasing was just fine.

Feng Li had also been with the business group, returning just the day before, but Lin Ke couldn't go due to some issues.

In the car, Lin Ke kept chattering, asking about many things over and over. Bai Xiaosheng explained some of it, but she remained unsatisfied, so Lin Weiwei supplemented from the side.

Before they knew it, the Maybach drove into the headquarters plaza, eventually stopping at the building entrance.

Through the car window, Bai Xiaosheng saw people standing at the entrance, led by the beaming Xiahou Qi.

As soon as the car stopped, Bai Xiaosheng was the first to open the door and get out, walking forward.

Xiahou Qi was already coming over with a broad smile, leading a crowd.

The old man looked energetic, his face and eyes filled with vitality.

This time, Bai Xiaosheng's gains from his European trip exceeded Xiahou Qi's expectations by more than double!

The European Soruns gave them full regard, not only entering a comprehensive collaboration but also offering the best conditions.

In addition to that, Bai Xiaosheng, through his own efforts, forged a collaboration focusing on finance, encompassing multiple fields and industries with the European Luo Family, rivaling the sum of the partnership with Soruns!

Indeed, the cooperation with the Luo Family has a far-reaching impact on this side, pushing development beyond the collaboration with the European region.

It's no exaggeration to say that Bai Xiaosheng's trip was worth several years of previous development!

Especially for the Zhenbei Group Greater China Region during its reform and adjustment period, it was a strong boost. Transforming the trend expected to slow due to reform and development into a mighty, advancing wave!

Unheard of, unseen before!

Bai Xiaosheng is truly a young president with a blend of capability and fortune, one of the youngest and most promising in the history of the Greater China Region!

Xiahou Qi was filled with admiration.

Under Bai Xiaosheng's leadership, everyone is bound to witness unprecedented glory and seize unprecedented opportunities and wealth!

With this passionate emotion in his heart, Xiahou Qi was vibrant, as if he were ten years younger!

Behind Xiahou Qi were ten Senior Affairs Officers, fifteen regional leaders, from Li Haofeng, Zheng Honghu, Xu Youruo, Chen Yucheng, to Zhang Yude, Chen Shuangyun, and Xu Yuncong, then to Cheng Dongyu, Zhang Chengxi, all of whom looked at Bai Xiaosheng with excitement and reverence.

This young man, under all their gazes, had walked step by step to the position of Executive President of the Greater China Region, creating one miracle after another and bringing success after success!

In the future, he is sure to lead them to the true pinnacle of life!

Just for this, no one could refute him; no one would not be in awe!

At this moment, Bai Xiaosheng, the Executive President, could truly be described as having the hearts of the people with him.

Behind these top 25 leaders, Yu Ying and a group of key affairs officers, as well as provincial industry leaders, all looked at Bai Xiaosheng with reverence, wholeheartedly supporting him.

“President, welcome back!” Xiahou Qi smiled at Bai Xiaosheng and said loudly.

“President, welcome back!” the crowd behind Xiahou Qi echoed.

Bai Xiaosheng had intended to first greet Elder Xia, but seeing the collective excitement and greeting, he instead waved back to everyone.

Without saying a word, Bai Xiaosheng’s single gesture was met with a thunderous round of applause.

Finally, with Bai Xiaosheng’s insistence, he entered the headquarters building alongside Xiahou Qi.

The crowd gathered around the new and old leaders.

That evening, the Greater China Region Headquarters of Zhenbei Group hosted an unprecedented banquet to celebrate Bai Xiaosheng and the business group’s successful return.

At the welcome banquet, Bai Xiaosheng made a speech.

He first acknowledged everyone’s efforts in the recent period and then provided an outlook for the future.

Bai Xiaosheng’s speeches were always the most concise and direct, without any empty words, and he publicly announced that all contributors, both those who traveled and those who stayed to manage reforms, would receive appropriate rewards.

All of a sudden, the banquet was filled with joy and excitement among everyone!

Xiahou Qi watched with bright eyes.

“Elder Xia, why are you tearing up?” Wang Mubei couldn’t help but ask.

“I am just so happy!” Xiahou Qi looked at Bai Xiaosheng on stage, full of emotion, “You see, in less than half a year, Xiaosheng has achieved such incredible results! Given time, what heights will he achieve!”

Chapter 1797: Honored Guest of the Dong Family

While Bai Xiaosheng and his party were holding their celebration, the plane carrying Dong Tianxiu and Chen Feiyu landed in Tianhu City, a municipality like Linshen.

To welcome Dong Tianxiu and Chen Feiyu was a convoy made up of three cars: a black Rolls-Royce and two Mercedes.

The group included twelve people: a butler, a maid, and bodyguards.

This spectacle far exceeded Bai Xiaosheng’s pomp, and passersby thought a major celebrity had arrived.

Dong Tianxiu and Chen Feiyu got into the Rolls-Royce.

The old butler, with a round face, kindly eyes, and silvery hair, smiled warmly as he first offered a cup of ginseng soup to Dong Tianxiu.

“Young master, the young lady knows you’ve had a tiring journey and probably didn’t eat or sleep well. She personally made this soup for you; have a taste to rejuvenate.” The old butler said with a smile.

The young lady adored her brother the most.

However, the young master always felt a bit embarrassed and resistant, often refusing in front of the servants.

The old butler had watched Dong Tianxiu grow up. He knew that sometimes his sister's overprotectiveness made him feel awkward, which is why he often deliberately did the opposite and displayed a bit of attitude. This had become quite common over the past two years.

Even something as small as a bowl of soup could reflect this mood.

They had even had numerous arguments due to differing understandings of business, and Dong Tianxiu also persistently refused to join the family business.

So, the old butler prepared himself, ready to persuade once more.

As long as he explained how much care the young lady put into making the soup, the young master would eventually try it reluctantly.

That would suffice to fulfill the young lady's wishes.

"Alright, I'll give it a try and see if my sister's skills have improved."

To the old butler's surprise, Dong Tianxiu agreed readily and openly!

Dong Tianxiu took the soup, opened the lid, inhaled the aroma indulgently, and praised, "Very nice! Chen Feiyu, do you want to try some?"

Chen Feiyu looked at him in surprise, mirroring the old butler's expression.

This time, faced with his sister's warm care, Dong Tianxiu accepted it cheerfully for the first time without delay.

What happened? This guy changed so much after just one trip, and I had no idea? Chen Feiyu was also curious.

“No need. You... drink it while it’s hot.” Chen Feiyu replied.

Inside the smoothly driving Rolls-Royce, Dong Tianxiu finished every drop of the soup, singing its praises.

The old butler glanced at Dong Tianxiu curiously and then at Chen Feiyu for answers.

Chen Feiyu shrugged at the old butler, indicating, “Don’t ask me, I have no idea.”

Although Chen Feiyu was hired, she was practically half a friend to Dong Tianxiu’s sister, so the old butler didn’t dare treat her like just a servant. He smiled and let it go.

“Where’s my sister?” Dong Tianxiu asked the old butler after putting down the soup bowl.

“The young lady is waiting for you at home. She originally wanted to pick you up personally, but a distinguished guest visited, an important business partner of our Dong Family, so when we left, she was discussing business with him.” The old butler answered truthfully.

Chen Feiyu’s eyes showed intrigue.

Considering Dong Tianxiu’s importance to his sister, an ordinary business partner couldn’t possibly make her stay at home for negotiations.

Furthermore, anyone able to sit down with his sister to discuss business mustn’t be an ordinary figure!

“Who could be so significant?” Dong Tianxiu couldn’t help but wonder aloud.

"I'm not sure," the old butler replied with a smile, "The young lady doesn't like us servants gossiping or prying into business matters."

The reason the old butler had worked in the Dong Family for so many years was his sense of propriety—knowing what to ask, what not to ask; what to say, and what not to say.

Even if he knew something, he wouldn't want to discuss business matters with Dong Tianxiu.

Dong Tianxiu's business ideas were quite different from his sister's. If he suddenly opposed something he overheard, it would lead to an argument with his sister and probably quite a mess.

The old butler didn't want to stir up trouble. Having worked for the Dong Family for many years, he had come to see them as his own family and naturally hoped for harmony.

"Even you don't know." Dong Tianxiu murmured, increasingly intrigued, "Well, when I get back, I'll have to meet them. Also, this time, I'll discuss with my sister about getting involved in the family business!"

His words stunned the old butler.

Even Chen Feiyu looked at him in disbelief.

Usually, whenever his sister brought up this topic, Dong Tianxiu would vehemently refuse. So why was he now voluntarily entering the family business?

"Are you okay, young master?" The old butler couldn't resist asking.

"Master Dong, you're not out of your mind, are you?" Chen Feiyu couldn't hold back either.

She even suspected that the soup Dong Tianxiu just drank was "bewitching."

Dong Tianxiu looked at them and then suddenly laughed, “Don’t worry, I’m perfectly fine. This time, I won’t engage in pointless arguments with my sister. After all, we’re siblings! Even if we have differences, we should put them aside and use results to prove whose ideas are better!”

Chen Feiyu and the old butler looked at Dong Tianxiu, even more surprised.

“A friend taught me this.” Dong Tianxiu added with a smile.

A friend, huh?

Chen Feiyu frowned slightly, suddenly thinking of Bai Xiaosheng with amazement, “No way, he barely spent any time with Dong Tianxiu, yet had such an impact?!”

But during this trip, they hadn’t met any other friends.

Confused, Chen Feiyu refrained from asking in front of the butler.

The Dong Family’s convoy entered the inner loop of Tianhu City and finally drove into a villa district in Linjiang.

Actually, the entire villa district was a Dong Family property.

Tianhu City’s real estate prices were famously high, and every inch was worth gold, particularly for the tall buildings nearby.

This villa area was exorbitantly priced, and there was no market for it.

The best villas here, with vast greens akin to estates, were where the Dong Family lived.

When Dong Tianxiu’s group traveled there, they stopped in front of a magnificent castle-like villa.

At the moment, the master and his wife had returned to their hometown, so they weren't present.

Dong Tianxiu dismissed everyone else, taking only Chen Feiyu and the old butler to meet his sister.

According to the old butler, his sister was on the second-floor lounge discussing matters with the guest.

"Being away so long, home really is the most comfortable." Dong Tianxiu remarked emotionally as he walked along. Updates are released by

When they reached the lounge, they saw several bodyguards at the door, some from the Dong Family, some not.

He couldn't help but be curious, "Who could it be, requiring such a presence!"

"Young Master!" someone greeting Dong Tianxiu respectfully from nearby.

It was a servant holding a tray with drinks.

Dong Tianxiu smiled broadly, directly took the tray, "Let me, I'll bring it to my sister and them."

"It's inappropriate for you to do this," the old butler quickly advised.

How could the distinguished young master of the Dong Family perform a servant's task?

"After this, I won't act so erratically," Dong Tianxiu insisted with a smile. "Consider this my farewell to the old me."

The old butler couldn't say much else.

Chen Feiyu didn't say a word.

Carrying the tray, Dong Tianxiu made his way over, with the bodyguards who recognized him bowing respectfully, and those who didn't knowing not to block him either.

With a push of the door, Dong Tianxiu stepped inside, just as someone was about to come out, and his tray turned unexpectedly, colliding with that person.

They both startled and exclaimed.

The difference was, Dong Tianxiu was fine, but the other person wasn't so lucky, getting drenched in drinks.

While flusteredly trying to clean up, he heard the other person scolding him.

"How could you? Do you walk without paying attention?"

Dong Tianxiu looked over.

The man's face was handsome and rebellious, around the same age as Dong Tianxiu.

He seemed to be the distinguished VIP the butler mentioned.

If Bai Xiaosheng saw this person, he'd be amazed.

It was none other than the guy Bai Xiaosheng had once clobbered—

Ma Tianqing!

Chapter 1798 This Woman Is Hard to Deal With

Ma Tianqing opened his arms slightly, a mix of surprise and anger on his face as he looked at himself. The suit he wore, designed by a master and tailored to fit, was soaked with wine, large stains covering his once spotless white shirt, not only ruining his image but also making him feel utterly uncomfortable.

Ma Tianqing raised his head in fury to see the careless guy who rushed in without even bothering to knock.

The man had a face full of apology, hurriedly stepping forward to wipe Ma Tianqing's clothes with his hand.

Ma Tianqing quickly stepped aside, angrily shouted, "Stop it right now!"

The person immediately halted in his action.

Ma Tianqing's face turned somewhat gloomy.

He was here representing his father to discuss business with the Dong Family. Things were going well, with consensus reached on many fronts. He just wanted to head to the restroom, but before he even stepped out, he was made to look like such a mess!

Particularly in front of the current head of the Dong Family, the beautiful lady, this was something Ma Tianqing found most intolerable.

If this had happened anywhere else during a normal time, Ma Tianqing would have waved his hand, letting his bodyguards drag this person out for a beating, then make him leave.

But seeing that this person seemed to be affiliated with the Dong Family, he had no choice but to suppress his anger.

Ma Tianqing turned around.

In the center of the reception area behind him, there sat a woman on a wide single sofa, a woman said to be nearing forty.

Earlier, while conversing with her, Ma Tianqing had taken special care to observe her. Having met countless women, he could see that she looked no older than her early thirties, with skin as smooth and delicate as a girl in her twenties.

What impressed Ma Tianqing most was her unique aura, as pure as frost, as graceful and majestic as a peony—simply outshining those ordinary women who merely flaunted themselves!

Her light makeup only added to her natural beauty, making her appearance exquisite and flawless to the point of perfection.

After speaking with her for mere tens of minutes, Ma Tianqing, who considered himself a seasoned aficionado in love matters, found himself slightly enchanted.

Rumors said this woman was single because no man could match her. Ma Tianqing was starting to understand that assessment better.

Embarrassing himself in front of her was the most exasperating thing for Ma Tianqing right now.

Moreover, this woman was not only beautiful and exuding elegance.

During their conversation, Ma Tianqing noticed her composed manner of speaking, her meticulous thinking, and her commanding presence.

The impression she gave was very similar to his father's!

This woman was undoubtedly a formidable force in the business world!

Currently, the battle between Tengyun Yuema was intense. The Tengyun Group had formed a vast alliance, but with only two allies, the Ma Family had forced the Tengyun Series to retreat at every turn, showing great power. Among these two allies, the strongest was the Dong Family!

This woman was also the helmswoman of the Dong Family!

His father had mentioned in secret that this woman was very difficult to handle. He would rather contend with Lu Yun than easily provoke her!

His father, who didn't even regard world-class conglomerates, had such high praise for her!

Therefore, Ma Tianqing always dared not be negligent when he was here, continuously acting with caution, maintaining reverence.

Now, a servant of the Dong Family had spilled wine all over him, and he silently endured it.

"Miss Dong, I'm really sorry, I lost my composure just now." Ma Tianqing adjusted his emotions, speaking with the demeanor of a gentleman, then pointed at Dong Tianxiu, "This servant of yours is too careless, drenched me in wine. Just take a look at this, I didn't bring any change of clothes. It embarrasses me, making it awkward to continue our talk, which would be disrespectful to you. How about we reschedule for another day?"

The beauty sitting on the sofa was Dong Tianxiu's sister and the head of the Dong Family Corporation—Dong Tianlu.

At this moment, she calmly looked at Ma Tianqing, then at her brother behind him making funny faces at her, with a soft smile gracing her face.

"We were having a good conversation, why leave? I might not be free another day, better to finish the talk now." Dong Tianlu's voice was like Heaven's Melody, exuding great charm that made it hard to refuse.

"Should I go tidy up a bit?" Ma Tianqing said, hinting that he wanted Dong Tianlu to arrange for some suitable clothes for him to change into first.

This would be more polite, and allow him to feel more comfortable.

"No need, this is fine. I think there's no need for you to use the restroom, let's make the most of our time to finish the conversation, I have matters to attend to shortly and won't have any more time." Dong Tianlu smiled, raising her pale jade finger to point at Dong Tianxiu, "You, come over here and stand behind me."

Responding, Dong Tianxiu pretended to be obedient and trotted over, standing behind his sister's sofa.

Ma Tianqing watched Dong Tianxiu curiously.

He couldn't believe Dong Tianxiu was Dong Tianlu's brother; to him, how could her brother serve tea and water to guests?

However, seeing Dong Tianxiu go over and stand behind Dong Tianlu, with her glancing at him with an almost "gentle" look.

Ma Tianqing suddenly had a bit of an "understanding," with a meaningful look in his eyes.

Dong Tianlu might not be married, but perhaps she wasn't without a "special someone"!

As a dominant figure in the business world, could she really lack male companionship?!

Ma Tianqing was projecting his own thoughts onto her.

But upon seeing Dong Tianxiu, he inwardly mused that the man was no match for himself.

"Why, does young Mr. Ma not wish to continue the discussion?" Dong Tianlu asked with a light smile upon seeing Ma Tianqing hesitate.

"No, no, I do, I do!" Ma Tianqing wouldn't dare say a single "no" to Dong Tianlu, and immediately decided against going to the restroom, enduring his discomfort from the wine-soaked clothes as he returned to his seat.

Chapter 1799: This Woman Is Hard to Deal With (Part 2)

During this time, Ma Tianqing couldn't help but glance at Dong Tianxiu.

Dong Tianxiu stood straight, just like a servant.

This confirmed Ma Tianqing's judgment.

Dong Tianxiu knew his elder sister arranged things in this way for a reason, so he cooperated first.

"Then let's continue discussing," Dong Tianlu was the first to speak.

"Okay," Ma Tianqing nodded.

He glanced at Dong Tianxiu and saw that Dong Tianlu hadn't spoken yet, so he assumed it didn't matter that this person was present and didn't say much else.

The negotiation continued, which was essentially Dong Tianlu making demands.

The discussion lasted for more than half an hour.

Ma Tianqing was extremely uncomfortable.

The wine soaked between his clothes and body created a damp, clammy feeling, as if countless tiny ants were crawling on his skin. He couldn't reach out to scratch, and it was inappropriate to squirm and itch on the sofa. He had to endure, but the longer it lasted, the more uncomfortable he became.

On top of that, what Dong Tianlu was discussing was very important, so he had to listen.

The Ma Family and Dong Family were indeed allies against the Tengyun Series, but this alliance didn't come for free. After all, hard confrontation with the Tengyun Series wouldn't be worth it without sufficient benefits.

Compared to her initially not-so-bad attitude, Dong Tianlu now had a somewhat aggressive stance in both tone and conditions.

Ma Tianqing couldn't make decisions on many things, and coupled with his discomfort, he struggled even more.

Finally, Dong Tianlu stopped discussing further and lightly smiled at Ma Tianqing, saying, "I think it's best for young Mr. Ma to go back and discuss what I've said with Mr. Ma properly. Furthermore..."

Hearing the intense tone, Ma Tianqing couldn't help but focus, looking intently at Miss Dong, who had an aura like a queen.

"I want to raise the price by ten percent on all the conditions I just discussed," Dong Tianlu said in an unquestionable tone.

Ma Tianqing was taken aback.

The previous conditions were already high, and suddenly increasing them by ten percent? That's no small amount!

Ma Tianqing forced a smile, "Miss Dong, a price increase? Why is that?"

Dong Tianlu's full, lustrous lips curved into a smile as she calmly said, "My brother went to Europe for a trip and just returned, very tired."

Ma Tianqing stared at her blankly, unable to comprehend what she meant.

Her brother's return from Europe, how does that relate to raising the price?

"My brother returned home exhausted, and due to a small oversight, was scolded for not seeing clearly in front of a bunch of servants. Shouldn't his dignity matter? Or is the dignity of our Dong Family, my dignity as Dong Tianlu, insignificant!"

Even as Dong Tianlu smiled, there was a hint of frosty coldness on her face, and her gaze was like a sword.

Ma Tianqing instantly felt a chill down his spine and the hair on his head stood on end. He suddenly looked at Dong Tianxiu behind Dong Tianlu, shocked, "He... he is?!"

"Hey, young Mr. Ma, I'm Dong Tianxiu, the younger brother of Miss Dong here, pleased to meet you," Dong Tianxiu greeted Ma Tianqing with a smile.

Dong Tianxiu sighed inwardly, thinking how cunning his sister was.

She allowed Ma Tianqing to suffer uncomfortably sitting there for so long, definitely to vent her anger for him.

Moreover, using his grievance as an excuse to raise the price seemed quite "absurd" and unreasonable. But knowing his sister, he suspected she had already conceived this plan before the negotiation even started.

After all, joining Yuema's bandwagon against Tengyun would also result in significant losses for their family.

At least they would need double the benefits for his sister to be willing to continue.

Ma Tianqing widened his eyes in shock at Dong Tianxiu, stood stunned for two seconds before rising to his feet, forced a smile, "Oh, the younger brother of Miss Dong, my apologies. Earlier, it was unintentional, I hope Mr. Dong can forgive me!"

Ma Tianqing tried to make amends, hoping to reduce the conditions.

Turning to Dong Tianlu, he pleaded, "Miss Dong, it's an innocent mistake. What I said was unintentional, please don't let it affect the cooperation between our two families, especially given that we are..."

"Young Mr. Ma, have you heard of 'spilt water can't be retrieved'?" Dong Tianlu interrupted him.

Ma Tianqing nodded in surprise.

"What I, Dong Tianlu, say is like spilled water, there's no taking it back on the spot!" Dong Tianlu said straightforwardly.

"Furthermore, my brother, apart from family elders, cannot be bullied by anyone, or there will be consequences. That's my principle as Dong Tianlu!"

"I've stated the conditions, young Mr. Ma can simply relay them, if Mr. Ma doesn't agree, I won't force it. Since you can't decide, don't waste words with me here."

Dong Tianlu smiled as she stood up, "My brother just returned, exhausted from travel, needs rest. I've only prepared a family meal, not suitable for hosting guests, so I won't keep you for dinner."

Was Dong Tianlu actually asking him to leave?

Ma Tianqing opened his mouth but couldn't utter a single word.

Previously, he'd heard that Dong Tianlu was overprotective of her brother, but didn't realize it had reached the point of being "beyond cure." Just because her brother received a scolding, she wanted to increase the price on such a serious collaboration? Original content can be found at

It was simply unreasonable!

Yet Ma Tianqing dared not argue these points, he didn't even dare to speak reason.

If he irritated her, who knows how much more unreasonable Dong Tianlu might become!

Ma Tianqing genuinely felt scared.

"Well then, I'll take my leave," Ma Tianqing managed a forced smile.

Dong Tianlu nodded slightly, then raised her voice to call, and the old butler waiting outside immediately opened the door and entered.

Chapter 1800: This Woman Is Hard to Deal With (Part 3)

"See the guest out." Dong Tianlu said calmly.

The old butler immediately stepped forward, his face filled with smiles, gesturing "please" to Ma Tianqing.

At this moment, Ma Tianqing was filled with frustration and irritation. Usually, he acted recklessly and arrogantly, but now he'd finally met someone even more unreasonable.

He didn't dare to lose his temper in front of Dong Tianlu, so he could only smile and nod awkwardly to the Dong siblings before leaving in haste.

After Ma Tianqing left and the reception room's door closed, Dong Tianxiu couldn't help but slump his waist, moved to the front of the sofa, and plopped onto it, saying to Dong Tianlu, "I say, big sister, were

you venting my anger or trying to make things difficult for me? You knew I was exhausted from travel, yet you made me stand for half an hour!”

Dong Tianlu gave Dong Tianxiu a scolding look and personally poured him a cup of tea, handing it over while jokingly reprimanding, “Oh, my brother isn’t completely dense, he knows I’m teaching him a lesson. You come back acting all abnormal, like a servant serving drinks. And I had guests here—you really know how to make an impression!”

Dong Tianxiu took the tea from his sister, grinning cheekily, “I didn’t think it through, I’ll take the blame for this one.”

Dong Tianlu chuckled and headed out, “I’m going to change clothes. Later, you and Chen Feiyu go to the dining room. I’ve prepared a welcome dinner, with the dishes made by that French chef you like.”

Dong Tianxiu responded with an “um,” burying his head to drink tea.

As Dong Tianlu’s hand rested on the reception room door handle, not yet turned, Dong Tianxiu lifted his head and said, “Sister, I want... to take on some family business, anything will do!”

Dong Tianlu seemed bewildered, turned back incredulously and asked, “What did you say?”

“I want to help you!” Dong Tianxiu said earnestly.

“Even though we’ve had different opinions on business and many arguments in the past, in the end, we’re family. Differences are just two viewpoints on one issue! I shouldn’t have avoided responsibilities just because I disagreed with some of your ideas. I want to prove with action that my methods can also grow the family business successfully!”

Dong Tianlu stared steadily at her brother, and then a smile crept onto her face. She opened the door and walked out.

Yet her words floated back into the reception room.

“Alright, then show me!”

A smile also appeared on Dong Tianxiu’s face as he took a sip of hot tea, murmuring, “Turns out taking this step isn’t hard at all, I just thought it was fraught with dangers.”

“Thank you for waking me up, Bai Xiaosheng!”

Meanwhile, in a business car away from the Dong Family, Ma Tianqing angrily took off his jacket and threw it aside, crossing his legs, unable to calm his breath.

Damn it!

His dad wasn’t here, so he’d finally seized the chance to liaise with the Dong Family.

And what happened?

Just because of unintentionally insulting Dong Tianlu’s brother, Dong Tianxiu, that woman raised the cooperation terms by one percent!

“Absurd! Absolutely absurd!” Ma Tianqing furiously cursed, “Such a woman really needs... to be made obedient, made to bow down before me!”

After some wild fantasies in his head, Ma Tianqing felt slightly better, but he rubbed his temples, worrying again.

“What should I do, how do I explain this to the old man on the phone? Just because I inadvertently insulted someone, I have to pay such a price... won’t the old man be very disappointed in me!” Ma Tianqing thought more and more despondently.

His attendant nearby didn’t even dare to try and comfort him, afraid of bringing trouble upon himself.

Just as Ma Tianqing was unsure of what to say, his phone rang instead.

Picking up the phone, Ma Tianqing's eyes showed a hint of sternness.

The call was none other than his father!

Clearly, his dad was very concerned about this meeting.

"How did the talks go?" Sure enough, once connected, his father got straight to the point.

Ma Tianqing couldn't think of a good explanation, stammering, which earned him a bout of impatient scolding from the old man.

Finally, biting the bullet, Ma Tianqing explained the whole situation.

No point in hiding it, whatever punishment or reprimand was coming, he'd take it.

Unexpectedly, the old man didn't get angry but merely let out a cold snort, saying he had already anticipated it.

"A one percent increase, it's still acceptable. That Dong Tianlu, not as kind-hearted as her dad, very tricky! But fortunately, she wasn't excessive." The old man's voice was somber.

Upon hearing this, Ma Tianqing felt a sudden clarity in his mind and couldn't help but say, "So you mean, she wanted to raise the price all along, and saying I insulted her brother was just an excuse?"

If that's the case, then it's not his fault, Ma Tianqing thought secretly.

"You must never think that way!" His father's voice was serious over the phone, "Excuse or not, Dong Tianxiu is truly her reverse scale!"

“Dong Tianlu is known for seeking revenge more than gratitude; her acts of gratitude are all because of her brother!”

“So, remember this, if given the chance, make every effort to become friends with Dong Tianxiu, it’s better than any achievement you could make for the family!”