

Two Trillion 1821

Chapter 1821: The Dong Family Shows Gratitude

In the Dong Family's villa in Tianhu, the living room was empty. Dong Tianlu dismissed everyone else, sitting alone on the sofa. Her exquisite brows furrowed, adding a touch of gravity to her charming face.

She had just received a phone call from Luo Zitian.

Over the phone, Luo Zitian confidently informed her that Zhengdong Province had enlisted the help of someone from the Lin Family.

He said that it would pose a threat to their plans to control Shengsheng International tomorrow.

"The Lin Family!" Dong Tianlu pondered over these two words.

Within Huaxia, there was more than one Lin Family, and not just one family with the surname Lin. But if Luo Zitian was truly referring to that "Lin Family," then it might be troublesome!

That Lin Family, situated in the special administrative region, stands firm against storms, unfaltering for a century, with strength comparable to Tengyun and Yuema.

If they truly intervene, the problem would be complicated!

"That Lin Family's region is unique, isolated from the mainland. Neither my Dong Family, nor the Ma Family, or even Haoyu have reliable connections to swiftly uncover the truth. This is an enormous problem! Moreover, if they are truly interested in intervening, could inquiries through intermediaries reveal the truth?!" Dong Tianlu muttered to herself, "Yet not investigating is not an option, even if there's only a one in ten thousand chance, it would be enough to let us fall into significant passive problems and trouble!"

Dong Tianlu's eyes flickered with uncertainty.

“Luo Zitian definitely didn’t tell me about this issue first; he must have reported it initially to Ma Zongting of Yuema Group!”

Dong Tianlu muttered, “Ma Zongting, that old fellow, I wonder what he’s thinking now. Has he already gone to touch base with the Lin Family?”

Ma Zongting is the head of Yuema Group and also the father of Ma Tianqing. He initiated this Tengyun Yuema battle. Over the years, both Tengyun and Yuema have developed rapidly and aggressively, causing fierce conflicts and competition in various markets and fields, refusing to compromise. Two titans clashing must reach an equilibrium, or else commercial wars are inevitable! This is what they call industry reshuffling!

Yet, starting a battle as frantically as Ma Zongting did is certainly beyond what normal people can conceive.

“Regardless, right now, my Dong Family has been pulled into this chariot of war, exerting efforts to join in. Whether to eat meat or just drink soup would be fine! But chewing on tough bones, risking breaking teeth, that’s not acceptable. I need to contemplate more ways to respond if unfavorable situations arise...” Dong Tianlu mumbled, stroking her fair chin.

Dong Tianlu has a habit of self-talk when she’s pondering, not allowing others to interrupt.

Thus, no servant of the Dong Family dares to enter unbidden.

Yet at this moment, footsteps sounded.

Dong Tianlu’s thoughts were disrupted. She frowned in displeasure but soon her expression eased, guessing who dared interrupt her.

Dong Tianxiu hurriedly entered, arms full of things. Seeing Dong Tianlu sitting there alone, he realized the servant seemed to have some words to say, but he walked in directly without listening, and immediately smacked his forehead.

Dong Tianxiu cautiously asked Dong Tianlu, "Did I interrupt you?"

Dong Tianlu smiled and shook her head.

To her dear younger brother, no matter how troublesome her concerns were, she'd always greet him with a smile.

"How do you feel today?" Dong Tianlu picked up her coffee, motioning towards the file folder tucked under Dong Tianxiu's arm, asking with a smile.

Dong Tianxiu mentioned he wanted to take over some family business, and Dong Tianlu as his sister, handed him management of a company worth several hundred million directly.

Dong Tianlu stated, if Dong Tianxiu didn't manage well, losing money or even closing the company down, she'd hand him another new company, and if it closed again, she'd give another, repeating this until Dong Tianxiu became competent in management.

Dong Tianlu said a successful entrepreneur needs to handle their enterprises through repeated cycles of life and death to develop their abilities.

She's willing to invest this much, and the Dong Family can afford such ventures.

Dong Tianlu even told her brother, "If you shut down companies as fast as I open new ones, that's something commendable!"

To outsiders, Dong Tianlu would never let go of undue losses, yet she's willing to spare nothing for Dong Tianxiu.

However, Dong Tianxiu definitely isn't a wastrel; when he wanted to get involved in business, he dedicated himself entirely, now busy almost every day, learning every aspect.

Dong Tianlu sees this, feeling both gratified and a bit distressed.

Of course, no matter how distressed, she wouldn't hold back, interrupting her brother's enthusiasm.

"Today, it's alright! I've learned quite a lot, it's just the time never seems sufficient!" Dong Tianxiu replied with a smile, yawning widely as he spoke.

By now, his eyes were heavily shadowed, seldom sleeping before midnight.

Dong Tianlu nodded and smiled, "Tianxiu, tonight, don't stay up late; sleep early. Tomorrow I'll take you to an important business event, allowing you to feel the atmosphere, observe the entrepreneurs' manners, thinking styles — it'll be beneficial for you. Many things can't be taught, need to experience them by observing, listening, and understanding."

While sipping coffee, Dong Tianlu added, "Tomorrow, we'll attend discreetly, without revealing our identities."

Dong Tianlu's approach was quite scrupulous, ensuring Dong Tianxiu's growth while allowing him rest, perfectly catering to Tianxiu's inquisitive nature.

"Ah..." Dong Tianxiu nodded, "Alright! I'll go to bed early tonight then!"

Seeing her younger brother's interest and obedience, Dong Tianlu's mood lifted considerably.

"Oh right, Chen Feiyu mentioned that on your way home, someone helped you out twice? I also only caught a word during the rush that day, haven't had the chance to hear it properly with all the busyness. If there's time, I'd love to hear you share the details." said Dong Tianlu.

Concerning her brother's matters, she could certainly carve out time to inquire thoroughly.

Yet she wants to hear Dong Tianxiu narrate, counting as a form of exchange with her brother.

Dong Tianxiu nodded, correcting his sister's comment, "It wasn't just helping me, it was saving me twice! Life-saving kind! And we became friends afterward. It's because of him that I decided to take over the family business. Sis, when there's time I must tell you in detail! And I'll have to invite him to our home as a guest!"

Hearing Dong Tianxiu articulate this, Dong Tianlu was somewhat surprised, realizing she had underestimated the situation.

No wonder Dong Tianxiu came back wanting to take over the family business; she herself was puzzled over his sudden enlightenment, only to find it was someone else's guidance.

"Hmm, hearing this, that person indeed is a benefactor to our Dong Family!" Dong Tianlu nodded, smiling affirmatively, "My brother's benefactor must be acknowledged! So, when this busy period ends, you invite him to our home as a guest. I also want to meet him and repay him well! We cannot let people think the Dong Family doesn't know how to be grateful!"

Chapter 1822 Ma Zongting Calls

Upon learning that the person Chen Feiyu mentioned had actually saved Dong Tianxiu's life twice and guided him, helping him come to terms with joining the family business, Dong Tianlu truly began to value that individual.

In Dong Tianlu's mind, Dong Tianxiu is the future head of the Dong Family.

However, Dong Tianxiu was resistant to taking over the family business due to differing management philosophies between him and her as well as the family, resulting in a reluctance to embrace it.

Even though Dong Tianlu had said to let Dong Tianxiu enjoy himself for a few years and take over when he felt ready, Dong Tianxiu had never come around. She was anxious but dared not press him, fearing the opposite effect.

This time, someone saving Dong Tianxiu's life twice is indeed a great favor.

Not only did he save the person, but he also changed Dong Tianxiu's mindset, which is a favor upon a favor.

Dong Tianlu also started to pay attention to the person who could be considered a benefactor to the Dong Family.

"My brother's life, the future of the Dong Family, can't be repaid too modestly," Dong Tianlu mused, "If that person is also interested in business, I can gift him a couple of companies, that's perfectly fine!"

Dong Tianlu is known in the business world for not losing out in any deal, yet sometimes she's famously generous and magnanimous.

Seeing her sister expressing anticipation to meet her "benefactor" and friend, Dong Tianxiu was also delighted.

"My friend, although I haven't spent much time with him, I feel he won't want any reward. However, whether he wants it or not is his matter; we must express our gratitude, but of course, not too tacky, we are friends after all." Dong Tianxiu said enthusiastically.

This demonstrates his regard for the person.

Someone he values, Dong Tianlu would naturally value as well.

"Got it, we won't ruin the friendship between you two." Dong Tianlu said with a smile.

Dong Tianxiu grinned, patted the file folder held under his arm, "Then I'll take care of my business now and won't work overtime tonight, go to bed early, and go out with you tomorrow."

Dong Tianlu nodded with a smile.

She then watched her brother Dong Tianxiu leave, eager.

Actually, what Dong Tianlu was referring to as the business event was the Shengsheng International shareholders meeting.

Going in her true identity would be inappropriate, but posing as an attendant to go discreetly wouldn't be a problem.

The reason such a heavyweight would go personally, and "discreetly," in casual attire, was because Shengsheng International is a core subject of their plans and was located in the same area as the Dong Family, making travel convenient, and besides, she wanted to take Dong Tianxiu for relaxation and experience.

Dong Tianlu calculated very well, just like in many aspects; she takes steps that yield multiple benefits.

However, skilled as she may be in scheming, she would never have imagined that her brother's benefactor and friend, who she thought of rewarding lavishly, was someone she had wanted to retaliate against and ultimately have him taken down upon meeting—Bai Xiaosheng...

Meanwhile, just after sending her brother Dong Tianxiu off, and while considering matters related to the Lin Family, her phone rang.

Of course, the person who could directly call her must have a significant status.

"Ma Zongting!" Dong Tianlu picked up her phone, seeing the caller ID, her eyes immediately focused.

Absolutely noteworthy!

"Hello, Mr. Ma!" Dong Tianlu answered the call.

"Tianlu, it's me." On the phone, Ma Zongting replied cheerfully.

The two had formal and cordial greetings, yet both were indifferent to titles with a hint of mutual understanding, which was quite interesting.

After exchanging pleasantries, the conversation naturally led to the topic of the Lin Family, initiated by Ma Zongting.

This was the primary reason Ma Zongting made the call.

When the topic came up, Dong Tianlu couldn't help but throw a challenging question, "Mr. Ma, if tomorrow that person is indeed from the Lin Family, and they really want to compete with us for Shengsheng International's control, should we concede, or not?!"

On the call, Dong Tianlu posed a daunting question to Ma Zongting, chairman of Yuema Group, essentially—

If Zhengdong Province's invitees were indeed from the Lin Family, really aiming to seize control of Shengsheng International, before clarifying the Lin Family's intentions, what should they do?!

With Shengsheng International being boxed out, officially as Beifeng Holdings' doing, it's essentially a plan calculated by three parties. Since it happened on the Dong Family's turf, swift reactions from Dong Tianlu were needed, so she sought authorization from Ma Zongting.

Actually, the Lin Family, although strong, wouldn't be a concern for Dong Tianlu's Beifeng Holdings and Ma Zongting's Yuema Group if it weren't for the current clash with the Tengyun Series.

But now, with a critical climax in striking down Tengyun Series, if a heavyweight factor suddenly arises from their opposition, the balance of power would instantly shift!

Not only would all previous efforts be squandered, but they could also face significant losses!

Following Dong Tianlu's nature, she could eat meat alongside the Ma Family but would never suffer a beating with them.

Regardless of whether the news was true or the Lin Family truly intended to intervene, she needed to prepare a retreat plan for the Dong Family.

With someone as assertive as Dong Tianlu, seeking advice from Ma Zongting was just shirking responsibility.

As a key figure of the Yuema System, if Ma Zongting opts for an uncompromising approach, the Ma Family would face the Lin Family first, leaving the Dong Family to follow up based on developments.

If Ma Zongting suggests restraint, the Dong Family could choose to retreat, and the issue of taking responsibility wouldn't rest on her or the Dong Family.

Both individuals were sly old foxes. Hearing Dong Tianlu's words, Ma Zongting instantly knew her intentions.

Actually, he called to stabilize the situation, preventing any concerns over the woman who even he couldn't fully trust.

"Tianlu, I believe this is a deliberate confusion from the other side!" Ma Zongting asserted confidently.

"Oh? Is that your belief, Mr. Ma?" Dong Tianlu remarked.

"Exactly!" Ma Zongting spoke decisively over the phone, explaining his reasoning, "The Lin Family isn't a minor entity; they face our major groups, and we're certainly not trivial. If they truly wish to oppose us, any actions wouldn't be so petty, initially sending a junior ahead."

"Moreover, considering the timing of our battle with Tengyun, wouldn't it be late for the Lin Family to intervene now? If they were to stand with Tengyun, they would need to spend heavily upfront to save Tengyun, is it worth it?"

"Standing with Tengyun, what benefit would it bring them? It would be more advantageous to side with our three major groups! I think this calculation is clear for any businessman!"

"Furthermore, as far as I know, Lu Yun and the key figures in the Lin Family have no ties. In fact, when Tengyun's business expanded, it led to conflicts with them..."

Ma Zongting listed several reasons, which Dong Tianlu listened to silently.

"What do you think?" After he finished, Ma Zongting inquired.

"Mr. Ma's reasoning makes perfect sense," Dong Tianlu replied calmly, "It aligns with conventional thinking. However, I do have a slightly different opinion!"

Chapter 1823: It's All Up to You

The reason Ma Zongting called Dong Tianlu was because he quite understood this woman. Though Dong Tianlu was his ally, he truly couldn't be complacent about her. People often say women are capricious, and Dong Tianlu, being a beauty, a woman among women, is even more so. Her capriciousness in cooperation is not unheard of!

Frankly, she's not a good ally.

It's just that she's strong enough, or rather, the Dong Family under her leadership is strong enough!

So after carefully inquiring Luo Zitian about the matter of "Lin Sheng," Ma Zongting immediately called and presented his reasoning to Dong Tianlu, hoping to stabilize the alliance.

Although Ma Zongting couldn't immediately verify more information with the Lin Family, he trusted his own judgment that the "Lin Family member" was just a psychological tactic meant to spread confusion, and possibly behind it all was Lu Yun!

Ma Zongting explained his rationale to Dong Tianlu, but unexpectedly, she had a different opinion.

"What is your different opinion?" Ma Zongting asked.

"Mr. Ma is using common sense to judge situations, but what if they choose not to play by common sense!" Dong Tianlu said leisurely on the phone, "They're sending a junior under the pretense of helping a friend, or maybe investing in their own right to seize Shengsheng International, and at the first opportunity, letting that junior reveal his Lin Family identity to us."

Ma Zongting was taken aback, then chuckled, “Why would they do that?”

“To probe!” Dong Tianlu’s tone deepened, “The Lin Family uses this as a test to see if we, the three major families, would give them this bit of face, and give up a mere Shengsheng International — which is not overly important yet not trivial either, just perfect for testing our attitude. Of course, what they don’t know is what kind of scheme we’re planning with Shengsheng International!”

Dong Tianlu continued, “If we don’t even give this bit of face, don’t even concede this ‘small benefit’, then the Lin Family, who has been watching this Tengyun Yuema battle, will think that trying to interfere, trying to profit from it, running over to our side, is not feasible! They’ll think we’re too protective of our food!”

“And by interfering in the little enterprise’s shares dispute, they not only test us but also find a way to connect with Lu Yun—after all, Zhengdong Province is Lu Yun’s future son-in-law! With that bond, they can connect with Lu Yun and help Tengyun navigate difficulties or even turn the tide, think about how much the Lin Family will earn!”

Dong Tianlu didn’t wait for Ma Zongting’s reply, she continued, “Adding embellishments after success is not as good as providing timely help during difficulties! It’s the latter that gets remembered! Imagine, if the Lin Family saves Tengyun then Tengyun surely will do their best to reciprocate! If they help Tengyun overturn the situation, won’t the division of market and profits let the Lin Family earn big!”

Dong Tianlu continued, “Mr. Ma says there’s a dispute between the Lin Family and Tengyun, but that was years ago. Regardless of when, disputes are temporary, whereas benefits are eternal. As far as I know, the Lin Family has been wanting to expand business inland, and Tengyun controls what neither you nor I possess—network resources! I think if the Lin Family really wants to help them at all costs, they’re definitely eyeing those resources!”

Dong Tianlu spoke incessantly about her thoughts.

On the phone line, Ma Zongting was silent.

However, he wasn’t convinced by Dong Tianlu. In fact, her seemingly reasonable analysis appeared somewhat fantastical and unrealistic to him, with many loopholes!

But does such a possibility truly not exist at all?

Ma Zongting himself couldn't be certain.

After all, all kinds of impossibilities happen in this world, like Western politicians who, after numerous competitions, thought to be everyone's elite, spouting astonishingly "foolish" statements, indeed.

The world is unpredictable, and perhaps in this matter, Dong Tianlu's devious thoughts, wouldn't the Lin Family think similarly.

Even if there is a one in ten thousand chance, it is possible.

"Since you're worried, fine, I'll go find someone now and get in touch with the Lin Family. See if they have such an intent. Although extremely troublesome, at least it will put us at ease." Ma Zongting replied.

"Thank you, Mr. Ma." Dong Tianlu said.

Bai Xiaosheng probably couldn't have imagined that by casually taking on an identity, impulsively letting Luo Zitian misunderstand him, he unwittingly stirred up such an effect, causing such trouble for Ma Zongting and Dong Tianlu...

It's likely that the Lin Family would be even more baffled, feeling inexplicable.

If Bai Xiaosheng knew, he might laugh so hard it would hurt.

Dong Tianlu then continued on the phone, "Mr. Ma, you probably won't get concrete information from that side immediately. But if things are really as I said, would the Lin Family easily admit that it was arranged by the family? They'll just say it's a junior's unilateral decision, telling us not to mind. Then, what?"

On the phone line, Ma Zongting frowned, as all the words had been preemptively spoken by Dong Tianlu.

“So, Tianlu, what’s your suggestion then?” Ma Zongting still patiently asked.

“Well, tomorrow I’ll bring my brother along for observation, keeping a low profile.” Dong Tianlu said, “If I really feel there’s a risk as predicted, then Mr. Ma, what do you think I should do?”

Dong Tianlu tossed the initial question back to Ma Zongting.

If you say it’s fine, then your Ma Family will take the lead.

If you say retreat, then my Dong Family will step back first.

Anyway, asking you about principles, whatever happens, my Dong Family won’t be responsible.

This was Dong Tianlu’s point.

Ma Zongting knew this woman’s mind and was rather helpless.

Even Haoyu mentioned that women and petty people are hard to maintain, Dong Tianlu being a beauty was sometimes indeed a petty person, more vexing than an enemy.

“Tomorrow, my son Tianqing will also go over with you guys. If things truly are as Miss Tianlu anticipates, very troublesome, then whether to abandon or not will solely be your decision. Stepping back, even if this plan halts now, I won’t blame you!” Ma Zongting finally said.

Dong Tianlu’s lips curled into a smile.

Ma Zongting spoke kindly, but also sent his son over.

Perhaps to keep an eye on the situation...

"Alright, since Mr. Ma has given such a privilege, I will be extremely careful to decide." Dong Tianlu replied politely.

Anyway, it was Ma Zongting who said it, and he can't deny it later.

"Actually, even without this scheme, we're already in a favorable position against Tengyun, so it entirely depends on your judgment." Ma Zongting laughed.

The two chatted a bit more before hanging up the phone.

Dong Tianlu hung up the phone, placed the mobile on the coffee table, looked calmly before expressing a meaningful smile, "Relying on my decision? Alright..."

At this moment, Bai Xiaosheng and others were also chatting with Zhengdong Province for quite a while, considering all aspects thoroughly, finally, everyone sighed a breath of relief.

Zhengdong Province stood up, stretched, and said to the three with a smile, "I think we've thought thoroughly enough, detailed enough, tomorrow definitely foolproof. Next, let's gather our spirits, rest well, so we can face it with energy. You guys haven't been here for a while, let me take you out for a walk and have a grand dinner tonight!"

"I agree." Bai Xiaosheng stood up smiling, "Rest well, we'll break the impasse tomorrow!"

Honestly, he was somewhat looking forward to it!

Chapter 1824: Two Directors!

At nine in the morning, a large conference room at Shengsheng International was already filled with people, roughly counting, there were over two hundred.

A large red banner hung in the room, bearing the words “Shengsheng International General Shareholders Meeting.”

This meant that everyone present was a shareholder, although their shares varied in proportion.

Of course, usually only about a dozen people make round-table decisions on major matters, as they collectively hold over 80% of the company’s shares, forming the “Shareholder Executive Council.”

But today, with the addition of a major shareholder and executive director replacement at hand, according to Shengsheng International’s internal regulations, all shareholders present, who were also originally old employees, had to attend.

This is uncommon in other companies.

At this moment, Luo Zitian and Guo Nan were at the end of the corridor, standing by a window near the corner, seeming to be out for fresh air, but actually waiting for someone. The corner position was just right, allowing them to see both the conference room and those arriving at the elevators.

They were waiting for certain “honored guests.”

The “honored guests” hadn’t arrived yet, but two groups of old employees passed by, each with a dozen or twenty people.

As those old employees passed by Luo Zitian, at most they politely but distantly called out “Mr. Luo,” some didn’t even greet him.

For these people, Luo Zitian smiled and nodded back to show magnanimity.

Yet, once they had passed, Luo Zitian’s smile quickly faded.

Actually, Luo Zitian had also gathered a group of people within Shengsheng International, but they were almost all new employees without any shares in Shengsheng International.

Yesterday, Bai Xiaosheng and others saw those clasped around Luo Zitian by the elevators; they were the new employees.

Because they weren't veteran employees who fought for the company with Zhengdong Province, they naturally had no deep affection for Zhengdong Province or the company.

The old employees were different; today, most in the conference room still deeply respected Zhengdong Province.

Beside Luo Zitian, Guo Nan also darkly watched the backs of those people.

"These people might not amount to much, but among them, a few have prestige and cohesion, constantly standing by Zhengdong Province. If you become the executive director, who knows what they might pull, for safety's sake, I think we'll need to deal with them!" Guo Nan hissed ruthlessly beside Luo Zitian.

Luo Zitian also glanced coldly in that direction, speaking in a voice only the two of them could hear, "We'll see if they have sense. If not, I have ways to deal with their shares and kick them out! Guo Nan, as long as you work with me and handle what I ask, I'll give you some shares later!"

Hearing this, Guo Nan's eyes lit up with surprise and excitement, he quietly said, "Don't worry! For you, I'm ready to brave anything!"

Guo Nan's urge for Luo Zitian to deal with those people was precisely for the shares, seeing Luo Zitian promise them, he was naturally elated.

Luo Zitian smiled and patted his shoulder, not saying anything more.

As they waited, fewer people passed, after a while a few appeared.

Just then, a few people arrived from the elevator direction.

“They’re here!” Luo Zitian looked up, his eyes brightening, he whispered.

Guo Nan quickly looked towards those people.

Leading them was a middle-aged man, a shareholder holding quite a few shares.

However, Luo Zitian didn’t focus on him, his gaze passed over him to land on the two followers behind.

The two followers were young and looked somewhat handsome, walking with flair, one seemed to have a cold, wearing a grey mask, while the other’s long bangs shielded his eyes with oversized tea-colored glasses, obscuring their faces.

Luo Zitian of course knew who they were!

One was the young director of Yuema Group, his distant “uncle”—Ma Tianqing!

The other also held a notable status, Haoyu Group’s young director—Wang Helei!

Yesterday, Luo Zitian had received the news that these two would come!

At the time, Luo Zitian was both deeply surprised and thrilled.

Because this was a rare chance, a chance to get close to two young directors.

If the two young directors from Yuema and Haoyu openly attended Shengsheng International’s shareholder meeting, it’d be highly inappropriate. Luckily, with a crowd here, they didn’t stand out, as long as they donned slight disguises, nothing too overt would help them blend in.

Wearing a mask for a cold or glasses for nearsightedness is quite normal.

Luo Zitian and Guo Nan immediately went over to greet them.

The approaching shareholder stepped aside, helping to cover the two, allowing Luo Zitian to speak with Ma Tianqing and Wang Helei.

“Mr. Ma, Mr. Wang, you finally arrived, my apologies for not welcoming you at the entrance!”

Luo Zitian was exceedingly respectful towards the two young men.

After all, their status was evident, Ma Tianqing had the additional weight of being a senior.

“Old Luo, don’t be so courteous. There are many eyes here, not convenient, let’s skip the formalities.” Ma Tianqing said politely with the mask on, “Is everything ready here? I heard someone named Lin is here who seems quite prominent and arrogant, vying with us for controlling interest.”

As he spoke, Ma Tianqing glanced at Wang Helei beside him, Wang Helei showed no reaction.

Actually, they were informed of the situation before coming.

“Yes.” Luo Zitian nodded, “As soon as I learned about it yesterday, I immediately reported to Mr. Ma and Mr. Wang!”

Luo Zitian seemed eager for credit, then grinned, “That person will surely come. But even if he does, with Mr. Ma and Mr. Wang here, there’s no way he can be arrogant!”

Guo Nan nodded repeatedly beside him.

“Exactly.” Ma Tianqing nodded slightly, seemingly indifferent to the person named Lin.

“My dad mentioned that the Lin family is not simple, it’s mostly better to keep friendly, and avoid rash conflicts.” Wang Helei said, “My dad advised that even if something unpleasant happens, it’s best kept as a matter among juniors without escalation, thus leaving room for negotiation on both sides.”

After speaking, Wang Helei added, “Oh, and my dad mentioned Mr. Ma’s instructions; this time, the lady from Beifeng Holdings is coming, it’s crucial to let her lead decisions and not act impulsively.”

Luo Zitian nodded frequently, although inwardly he felt a bit peculiar.

This Wang Helei, repeating “my dad said,” was undoubtedly similar to a “mama’s boy,” rather “dad’s boy.”

This sort of man essentially lowers the average intelligence of the rich second generation, straightforward and without cunning.

“Mr. Wang has a point.” Ma Tianqing laughed in agreement.

He hadn’t had much interaction with Wang Helei before. His constant “my dad said” was secretly disdainful, but his surface showed no trace. In fact, Ma Tianqing found it an advantage; people like this are easy to bamboozle and control.

“Has the lady from Beifeng Holdings arrived?” Ma Tianqing asked quietly to Luo Zitian.

“Not yet!” Luo Zitian quickly responded, “However, she did call earlier, instructing that if the two of you arrive, you should enter the venue first, better not to be together with her to avoid drawing attention.”

After all, individually changing appearances isn’t conspicuous, yet several gathered like this would be too obvious.

“Understood.” Ma Tianqing nodded, prompting Wang Helei to go inside.

Luo Zitian didn’t escort them, instead watched them leave, still waiting for the siblings Dong Tianlu.

As they left, Luo Zitian overheard Ma Tianqing quietly urge Wang Helei.

“Brother Wang, your father’s advice was prudent, keep the conflict within juniors, implying you can act if necessary without accommodating the Lin family, avoiding embarrassment for our family.”

“Really, there’s this implication too!” Wang Helei’s brightening voice drifted.

Luo Zitian didn’t catch the rest.

However, his lips couldn’t help but curl with a cold smile.

“It seems, my distant uncle is trying to use ‘dad’s boy’ as a pawn!”

Chapter 1825 All the "VIPs" Have Arrived

After Ma Tianqing, Wang Helei, and their group passed by, five minutes later, Luo Zitian and Guo Nan saw two more people arrive at the elevator.

The two newcomers were a man and a woman, instantly attracting their attention.

The woman was dressed as a secretary, wearing big black-framed glasses from afar, her hair cascading like a waterfall. As she walked, she slightly bowed her head; despite the glasses and long hair partially obscuring her face, her beauty was still evident, her demeanor showing a hint of shyness and bashfulness.

Whether her face or her body, her skin was as pale as snow, seemingly soft and delicate.

Tall and shapely, her figure was impeccable, clutching documents in her arms, subtly hinting at the curves of her chest, making one’s heart race.

Her long legs were enveloped in black silk stockings, capturing male gazes instantly.

She wore high heels, taking tiny steps, making even her walking appear pleasing to the eye.

Beside her, a young male assistant, also with a clean and proper appearance, dressed neatly, clearly a novice in the workplace.

However, in the presence of such a beauty, the young man was practically transparent in terms of attention.

Luo Zitian's gaze fixed on the woman, praising her, practically drooling.

"Whose secretary is she? My goodness, so beautiful!" Guo Nan also couldn't stop clicking his tongue, with eyes subtly ignited with desire.

It's the nature of temptation.

Guo Nan then glanced at Luo Zitian, noticing his reaction, smilingly encouraged him, "Mr. Luo, why not stop her and ask whose secretary she is? You should hire her as your own secretary! Missing out on such a beauty would be a pity!"

If you manage to hire her, there's a chance.

Even Guo Nan fantasized about having the opportunity for intimacy.

Guo Nan's words hit the mark with Luo Zitian, awakening his interest.

As they discussed, the man and the woman drew near, and Guo Nan was about to step forward to stop them for Luo Zitian.

At that moment, the stunning secretary lifted her head, her initial shyness dissipating, her beautiful eyes transforming from gentleness to regal authority, like a queen.

"Have Ma Tianqing and Wang Helei arrived?" the woman asked Luo Zitian.

She directly mentioned the names of two prominent junior directors from major corporations.

Guo Nan was momentarily stunned.

Then he felt the powerful aura emanating from the woman, swallowing hard and looking at Luo Zitian.

"You... you are Miss Dong, the director!" Luo Zitian was instantly shocked, realizing who the woman was!

She wasn't just any secretary or assistant but Dong Tianlu, the queen of Beifeng Holdings.

Beside her was her brother, Dong Tianxiu, the future leader of the Dong Family!

The two of them had disguised themselves as a secretary and assistant, arriving directly without any entourage!

Luo Zitian was incredulous.

Dong Tianlu looked at Luo Zitian, her expression cold, eyebrows slightly displeased, seemingly blaming him for not answering her promptly.

"They have arrived. Director Ma and Mr. Wang entered the venue five minutes ago... As per your instructions, I informed them not to approach you two." Luo Zitian quickly responded as he came to his senses.

In front of Ma Tianqing and Wang Helei, he dared not slack, and even they had to be deferential to Dong Tianlu.

This realization made Luo Zitian even more cautious, careful not to upset her.

As for Guo Nan, he was suppressing his breath, afraid to continue admiring her beauty.

Now, Guo Nan truly felt the imposing aura of a significant figure, as if under a tremendous pressure, making it difficult to breathe.

Dong Tianlu paid no mind to their reactions; she didn't regard Luo Zitian or Guo Nan as significant.

"Understood." Dong Tianlu replied tersely, then said no more, resuming the guise of a newcomer, walking towards the venue with Dong Tianxiu.

"Take care," Luo Zitian whispered.

He wanted to escort them but didn't dare.

The setting was such that being seen or heard could be inconvenient.

Not until Dong Tianlu and Dong Tianxiu entered the venue did Luo Zitian and Guo Nan simultaneously exhale, feeling a bit relieved.

"So that was Beifeng Holdings'..." Guo Nan began murmuring, only to be glaringly silenced by Luo Zitian, making a hush gesture, causing Guo Nan to quickly close his mouth and scan around.

Seeing no one, Guo Nan relaxed.

"Their aura is truly substantial! Once she retracted her charisma, she appeared ordinary, even deceiving you!"

Guo Nan couldn't help but compliment alongside his admiration.

Women are indeed magical beings, capable of transforming through makeup.

Luo Zitian thought of the impression he had of Dong Tianlu as a commanding queen, then reflected on the youthful, bashful, yet sensual young woman he just saw, feeling impressed.

Who says changing one's appearance requires a cap, mask, glasses, or a scarf?

Enhancing a pretty face to be more striking can also mislead.

"Mr. Luo, shall we head over? It seems most people have arrived; the conference will begin soon." Guo Nan suggested.

Luo Zitian nodded.

Standing there under the guise of seeking respite from the crowded venue, he was actually waiting for "VIPs."

Now, with Ma Tianqing, Wang Helei, Dong Tianlu, and Dong Tianxiu all present, the "VIPs" were here!

He no longer needed to stay there.

Luo Zitian then prepared to return to the venue with Guo Nan.

"With so many important figures present, even if that Lin truly represents the Lin Family, it's not threatening!" Luo Zitian thought.

Seeing Ma Tianqing engaging Wang Helei hinted at potential mischief, making him feel more confident.

Luo Zitian's confidence surged.

Just as Luo Zitian turned, his gaze inadvertently swept over, coming to a halt, and quickly turned back to look towards the elevator area.

Guo Nan, caught off guard, nearly collided with Luo Zitian and promptly stopped, also looking over.

Seeing this, Guo Nan understood.

From the elevator area, four people approached. Leading them wasn't a stranger but Zhengdong Province, walking alongside him was "Lin Sheng."

The two were followed by a tall, strong man and a beautiful young woman.

"Oh, our Mr. Zheng is here!" Luo Zitian's lips curled into a meaningful smile, glancing at Bai Xiaosheng, "And Lin Sheng, Mr. Lin!"

"Since we've encountered them, might as well greet them!"

Chapter 1826: Good Dogs Don't Block the Way

Bai Xiaosheng, accompanied by Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, went to the venue along with Zhengdong Province. On the way, the four of them did not discuss anything about the meeting.

First, they had already talked extensively about many aspects yesterday, and second, there were too many people around, making it inconvenient to discuss such topics.

Just as they arrived at the floor of the meeting room, they stepped out of the elevator and saw two familiar figures in the distance—Luo Zitian and Guo Nan.

"Why are they standing there?" Zhengdong Province frowned and whispered to Bai Xiaosheng.

"It looks like they're waiting for someone, but it's definitely not us," Bai Xiaosheng smiled lightly and said softly.

Today's meeting is of great significance; it will determine the final direction of Shengsheng International and may even hide a conspiracy.

Yesterday, Zhengdong Province called Lu Yun and relayed Bai Xiaosheng's suspicions to him, which greatly surprised Lu Yun.

Recently, there have been too many issues with the Tengyun Series, and Shengsheng International was only being targeted by Beifeng Holdings, leaving Lu Yun to not think too much about it.

Upon hearing Bai Xiaosheng's speculation, Lu Yun immediately considered it a very likely crisis.

Lu Yun said over the phone that he would immediately make arrangements, and regardless of whether the opponent makes a move, he should prepare just in case.

Lu Yun also asked Zhengdong Province to relay his immense gratitude to Bai Xiaosheng.

After all, without Bai Xiaosheng in the past, even he might have overlooked this hidden danger!

For such an important meeting, Yuema, Beifeng, and Haoyu could not possibly send no one over.

With so many people on site, it's definitely possible to hide a few outsiders.

"However, it looks like they are also about to leave. The people they were waiting for must have arrived, and it's certainly not a nobody! Perhaps we might get to see them later!" Bai Xiaosheng mumbled.

Zhengdong Province trusted Bai Xiaosheng's judgment and nodded quickly.

After a few words, the two stopped speaking.

Because as they got a bit closer, the other party might be able to hear their conversation.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng and Zhengdong Province approaching, Luo Zitian, accompanied by Guo Nan, gave a fake smile and took a couple of symbolic steps forward to greet them.

“Oh, Mr. Zheng, Mr. Lin! You really are not early! The meeting is about to start, I was worried you might not make it!” Luo Zitian chuckled, “If you lost without even trying, wouldn’t that be regrettable?”

As Luo Zitian spoke, a mocking smile bloomed.

Since Luo Zitian misunderstood Bai Xiaosheng as a “Lin Family” member, he had been somewhat apprehensive, respectful, and even showed deference in front of Bai Xiaosheng.

But now, Luo Zitian had lost those feelings, reverting to his original confident and slightly arrogant demeanor.

Apparently, the people sneaking in today are quite significant, really backing him up! Bai Xiaosheng smiled faintly at Luo Zitian.

No matter who comes, even if Ma Zongting from Yuema Group arrives personally, Bai Xiaosheng wouldn’t be bothered.

“Worried we won’t make it?” Zhengdong Province snorted coldly, smiling with a frosty expression, “That really shows your kindness. But I am still the executive director, the largest shareholder of Shengsheng International. Even if I’m not here, you’ll have to wait for me!”

Zhengdong Province’s words were domineering, followed by a cold disdainful look at the two, “But coming over and seeing you both here really turns my stomach!”

Towards Luo Zitian and Guo Nan, Zhengdong Province was never polite.

“Mr. Zheng, how could you say something so unpleasant? My presence with Mr. Luo here is just to hang around, definitely not waiting for you,” Guo Nan retorted immediately, “Turning your stomach, you better watch yourself and make sure there’s no underlying illness.”

Guo Nan actually spoke before Luo Zitian, confronting Zhengdong Province.

Earlier, Guo Nan had already expressed loyalty to Luo Zitian, willing to go through anything for him. And now, he saw it as his time to shine.

With Ma Tianqing and Wang Helei, the two young directors of major groups, visiting, even the queen from Beifeng Holdings had “arrived.” Luo Zitian instantly became highly influential. Guo Nan’s confidence grew alongside, believing they were untouchable, and with this increased courage, he dared to interrupt.

Since today, Zhengdong Province is doomed to step down, and Luo Zitian is sure to take over; why should he be afraid?

“Luo Zitian hasn’t even become executive director, yet you call him ‘Mr. Luo,’ Guo Nan, you lack other skills but surely have talent in being a dog!” Zhengdong Province snorted and cursed, “How did I not see your dog-like behavior before!”

Forcing Zhengdong Province to curse showed how much he loathed Guo Nan.

“I may just soar after today, becoming the Roaring Heavenly Dog!” Guo Nan shamelessly boasted, “You, this dragon, will have to curl up today! So, you see, sometimes a Dragon in Shallow Waters is not even as good as a dog!”

This Guo Nan indeed admitted to being a dog face-to-face, yet seemed proud and displayed a “what can you do” attitude.

Guo Nan eagerly anticipated Zhengdong Province would, as he did yesterday, roll up his sleeves and punch him.

Then he would have done a great service!

Luo Zitian watched with a satisfied smile as Zhengdong Province's face turned ugly, feeling pleased.

"Mr. Zheng, thank you for everything you've done for the company all this time. We still need you to watch over how we overcome challenges and progress even further!" Luo Zitian smiled and added, clearly considering himself the future chairman.

This undoubtedly struck Zhengdong Province's sore spot!

Zhengdong Province was truly infuriated by these two clowns.

Every single one of you is so shameless!

Just as Zhengdong Province was about to explode, someone gently patted his shoulder.

Zhengdong Province turned around and saw Bai Xiaosheng smiling at him.

"Stop wasting time here. The meeting is about to start," Bai Xiaosheng said simply, which instantly calmed Zhengdong Province down.

That's right, the meeting is about to start—it'll be where victory and defeat, life and death are decided. With Bai Xiaosheng around, Zhengdong Province firmly believed that their brotherly alliance could turn the tide.

So why waste words here with these two people and get angry? It's totally unnecessary!

If someone considers themselves a dog, when a dog bites a person, does the person need to bite back?

Zhengdong Province suddenly figured it out and steadied himself.

Luo Zitian and Guo Nan saw Zhengdong Province being provoked to the brink of explosion, yet somehow calmed down with just a word.

They were taken aback, even a bit unwilling to accept it.

"I say, Mr. Lin, you..." Guo Nan wanted to redirect his aggression towards Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't even glance at Luo Zitian, let alone Guo Nan.

Before Guo Nan could finish his sentence, he felt a shadow blocking him. He turned his face and was instantly startled.

Beside him stood a big guy, at some point. The one who came with "Lin Sheng" and Zhengdong Province.

The big guy laughed menacingly, and his fan-like hand pressed down on Guo Nan's shoulder. No matter how Guo Nan struggled, he couldn't break free. The five steel-like fingers applied slight pressure, as if they were about to dig into his bones.

Guo Nan's expression twisted, and he cried out in pain, "Ouch, it hurts, it hurts! Ouch, ouch, my shoulder's going to break. Easy, easy, take it easy..."

"Is it your place to speak here?" Lei Ying spoke "tenderly." "Earlier, I heard you purposely trying to enrage Mr. Zheng, wanting to get hit, right? So, how about I fulfill your wish? You admit you're a dog, that's good, very self-aware. But a good dog doesn't block the way! Dogs that block the way are really annoying, and I excel at dealing with them!"

As Lei Ying spoke, he increased the pressure in his hand, just a little more force, and Guo Nan's expression twisted, sweat beading on his forehead.

With Lei Ying's size and strength, if he were to beat him up, Guo Nan would be done for.

At the very least, he'd end up in the hospital.

Guo Nan's face changed dramatically, all that's left is painful breathing.

The key is, this beating wouldn't be delivered by Zhengdong Province—it'd be a loss for him!

But if he begged for mercy now, how would Luo Zitian perceive it? Wouldn't the suffering have been in vain?

Guo Nan truly felt miserable.

"Stop, what are you doing!" Luo Zitian finally mustered the courage to shout from the side upon witnessing this scene.

After all, Guo Nan was his man. After all, this was the company, and he was one of the major shareholders.

Luo Zitian felt it was right for him to speak up, and he had the standing to do so.

"Mr. Luo?" Lei Ying turned his head, looked at Luo Zitian disdainfully, and chuckled, "Do you think letting him get beaten up is too lonely? Why don't I include you? But I'm afraid you won't be able to attend today's meeting!"

Implying that if he acted, the two of them would end up in the hospital.

Luo Zitian's expression changed immediately.

To him, Lei Ying was just a mere attendant. If he really swapped places with Guo Nan, they'd suffer a huge loss!

“Guo Nan didn’t know his place. I apologize on his behalf!” Faced with the threat, Luo Zitian backed down, speaking with forced confidence.

Bai Xiaosheng laughed heartily, patted Zhengdong Province’s shoulder, and led him towards the venue.

“See, some people just don’t understand reason, it’s better to be straightforward!” Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

Zhengdong Province glanced back at Luo Zitian and Guo Nan with disdain in his eyes, “Indeed, infuriating!”

Lin Weiwei followed behind, unable to suppress her laughter.

Lei Ying watched as Bai Xiaosheng and his group walked away, then released Guo Nan, sneered, and followed them.

Luo Zitian’s face was extremely grim, while Guo Nan was terribly frustrated.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng and Zhengdong Province were far away, and they were safe, Luo Zitian grudgingly shouted, “Zhengdong Province!”

Zhengdong Province turned back coldly.

“Today, you won’t win!” Luo Zitian shouted.

The one who was truly frustrated was him.

Chapter 1827 - 1447: It's Him!

Luo Zitian and Guo Nan originally planned to embarrass Zhengdong Province, hoping to make him agitated, angry, and even lose some rationality, so that during the meeting later, they could gain an unspoken advantage.

After all, facing a rational opponent is far less manageable than dealing with an agitated enemy.

Due to the arrival of Dong Tianlu and his group, Luo Zitian and Guo Nan thought that “Lin Sheng” was no longer a threat, and felt no qualms about mocking Zhengdong Province openly.

So they initiated a series of provocative remarks aimed at Zhen Province, but ultimately, they were the ones left feeling stifled.

First, Zhengdong Province was inexplicably calmed by a simple remark from Lin Sheng.

Then, Lin Sheng’s “underling” directly made them suffer a silent loss.

Now, Luo Zitian was truly fired up.

Seeing Zhengdong Province approaching the entrance to the conference room, Luo Zitian suddenly felt emboldened and shouted a retort.

The three of them, “Lin Sheng” and his team, acted as if they hadn’t heard and only Zhengdong Province turned around, gave them a look, and mouthed silently.

Luo Zitian has sharp eyesight, as does Guo Nan.

Even if they couldn’t see clearly, the classic lip shape was enough to guess what Zhengdong Province said—

Idiot!

Afterwards, Luo Zitian and Guo Nan watched as their opponents entered the venue.

If they were merely simmering earlier, now they were truly stifled, experiencing breathlessness and chest tightness!

“Such crude language, to curse so nastily! Is he really fit to be the executive director?” Luo Zitian pointed to the direction and angrily spoke to Guo Nan beside him.

“Yeah, did anyone see that? Zhengdong Province... Mr. Zheng cursed!” Guo Nan searched around for “witnesses.”

Unfortunately, the corridor was empty except for the two of them.

Even if there were surveillance, it wouldn't capture silent lips, as the footage wasn't so clear.

Truly frustrated, this duo was.

The meeting was about to begin, and they dared not delay any longer here, immediately left for the room with a sulking expression.

Meanwhile, as Bai Xiaosheng and Zhengdong Province emerged from the elevator, walked over, engaging with Luo Zitian and Guo Nan during this period, the conference room was quite lively.

Over two hundred people were present, not a small gathering, with each whispering to those around them, creating quite the cacophony together.

Today's meeting further tugged at everyone's heart.

“Is Mr. Zheng really stepping down this time, is someone else truly taking over as executive director?”

“I've heard it's true... Is there absolutely no room for negotiation?!”

“I’ve been with Mr. Zheng since the beginning, and it’s he who granted me shares! Now seeing things become this way, it’s truly upsetting!”

“I’m the same! I refuse to let Mr. Zheng step down like this, if it comes to bear, I will protest!”

“Precisely, without Mr. Zheng as executive director, what even is Shengsheng International?”

“Voicing out is essential... but can we truly make a difference...”

“Even if not, we can’t just watch Mr. Zheng step down without a word, what kind of person would that make us?”

...

Most of the old employees were sympathizing with Zhengdong Province.

In contrast, the major shareholders sat quietly in the first row, all very low-key and silent.

Although their shares were substantial, they dared not defy collective anger overly.

Actually, some major shareholders still felt that Zhengdong Province was the best choice.

Yet, with Luo Zitian joining forces with others, undeniable discourse was seized, leaving them helpless.

Dong Tianlu and Dong Tianxiu, siblings, sat in a hidden corner, initially drawing some attention which settled over time.

The siblings listened to the Shengsheng International employees unitedly sustain Zhengdong Province.

Dong Tianxiu couldn't help leaning closer and whispered admiringly to Dong Tianlu, "Looks like Zhengdong Province truly wins hearts! With leadership and subordinates like these, no wonder Shengsheng International has developed so well over the years!"

Before arriving, Dong Tianlu had thoroughly briefed Dong Tianxiu on the situation here and allotted him some time for research.

Of course, she hadn't delved into the intricate strategies involved.

Currently, Dong Tianxiu knew they were opponents but still admired the other party.

Dong Tianxiu even thought business ought to be done like this; Zhengdong Province might well be his ideal role model.

"Winning hearts, yet of what use is it? See, aren't the major shareholders still excluding him from his position? Regardless of these small fry here supporting Zhengdong Province, it ultimately amounts to nothing!" Dong Tianlu replied, her tone slightly mocking, in a low voice.

Taking over the family business, Dong Tianxiu intended to sway his elder sister's perceptions with actionable influence.

Dong Tianlu had no less intention!

Today, bringing Dong Tianxiu along was precisely to have him witness business's real cruelty, contrary to his imagination, filled with helplessness and ruthless realities.

No matter the goodwill towards employees, without absolute power and wealth, you'll be squeezed out and devoured!

The law of survival of the fittest still persists across various domains, nowadays tagged differently but unchanged!

Sentiment doesn't lead troops, nor benevolence manages finances!

Dong Tianlu also used facts to educate Dong Tianxiu; even if unable to fully align him with her business perspective, at least acclimating him to commerce's cruelty, urging a firmer stance!

Otherwise, those originally supporting shareholders in the end will devour you like wolves!

"I believe it is useful." Facing Dong Tianlu's "pointlessness theory," Dong Tianxiu absorbed the atmosphere around him, murmured.

He couldn't help repeating firmly thereafter, "I believe it is useful!"

Dong Tianlu smiled, no verbal quarrel with her brother.

She wasn't in a hurry.

As long as he was willing to explore what she shared, gradual exposure will suffice; growing awareness of this world's harshness inevitably induces maturity.

Glancing subtly in another direction.

Vaguely, two more figures caught her eye—Ma Tianqing and Wang Helei.

Yet those two hadn't found her, or perhaps just adhered to her instructions, refrained from seeking.

That was ideal, avoiding exposure, contacting via phone instead.

"Still some time before the meeting. Tianxiu, why don't you share those incidents you encountered on your way back home, along with the friend who helped you?" Dong Tianlu turned to her brother, smiling.

Though fleeting, engaging her brother personally and enhancing their bond was quite precious.

At mention of this, Dong Tianxiu's eyes sparkled, "I was just thinking the same, where to begin... let's start from how we helped on the plane!"

Dong Tianxiu, animated, recounted saving the boy with Bai Xiaosheng aboard the flight, progressing to their deceitful attackers outside a hotel, Chen Feiyu's injury, luck favoring Bai Xiaosheng's timely aid, their venture to an antique street for 'treasure hunting,' arriving at Bai Xiaosheng influencing his ideology.

Dong Tianxiu continually referred to "my friend" without naming Bai Xiaosheng.

Listening, Dong Tianlu found it rather exaggerated; someone versed in medicine, martial arts, assessment, business acumen, age-matching her brother's? Such an outstanding youth?

"Given the chance, I truly wish to meet him." Dong Tianlu queried, "Don't you know his name?"

"Certainly, I know his name!" Dong Tianxiu stressed.

Dong Tianlu smilingly asked, "What's his name then?"

Dong Tianxiu candidly responded, "His name is Bai Xiaosheng!"

Bai Xiaosheng?

On hearing, Dong Tianlu froze, "That name sounds very familiar..."

Bai Xiaosheng!

It's rumored that the young executive president of Zhenbei Group Greater China Region is named Bai Xiaosheng!

Dong Tianlu's eyes slightly narrowed.

Could it possibly be the same person?!

Her brother, by chance, acquainted with the Greater China Region executive president of Zhenbei Group?!

"Or, just a coincidence in names?" Dong Tianlu pondered.

At that moment, someone stepped into the conference room from outside, sparking commotion.

Many even stood from their seats.

The siblings looked over, hearing people shouting "Mr. Zheng."

Was that Zhengdong Province arriving!

Having heard praises about this Tengyun-Lu Yun's son-in-law, yet hadn't met him, Dong Tianlu too rose to look.

Sharing bewilderment, Dong Tianxiu's curiosity towards Zhengdong Province surfaced, joining in to observe.

Elsewhere, Ma Tianqing and Wang Helei also shifted focus.

Accompanied by Bai Xiaosheng and his trio, Mr. Zheng conversed along the way, heading for front-row reserved seating.

Exposing their group to all eyes.

Upon seeing Bai Xiaosheng, three individuals in the crowd couldn't contain similar exclamations, each with differing emotions.

"It's him!" Ma Tianqing felt fear.

"It's him!" Dong Tianxiu felt joy.

"It's him!" Dong Tianlu felt angry.

Chapter 1828 - Each Person's Schemes

At the moment Bai Xiaosheng appeared, Dong Tianlu, Dong Tianxiu, and Ma Tianqing—all whether seasoned or lacking sophistication—couldn't control their emotions.

Following the exclamation, Dong Tianlu glanced at Dong Tianxiu with a bizarre look.

"You know him?!"

The siblings simultaneously asked each other.

"He's actually my friend, Bai Xiaosheng!" Dong Tianxiu answered first, then looked doubtfully at his sister, "Sister, do you know him too? Why didn't you react when I mentioned his name earlier?"

Naturally, Dong Tianlu wouldn't tell her brother that she was publicly rejected twice by this man, wanting revenge but never getting it, and thus still feeling unsettled.

"I know him, but not well or for long," Dong Tianlu responded vaguely, once again glancing at Bai Xiaosheng.

If he's Bai Xiaosheng, then who is Lin Sheng from the Lin Family? Is it the big guy?

Dong Tianlu's eyes flickered.

No, the Lin Family's people, with such status, always carry an air of arrogance and wouldn't just follow behind someone else!

Dong Tianlu dismissed the possibility of Lei Ying being "Lin Sheng."

Among the three, she was most focused on Bai Xiaosheng.

This Bai Xiaosheng shares a name with the Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region Executive President—is it the same person?!

If it is, he's someone at a similar level to Lu Yun, here to assist Lu Yun perhaps?

Then it wouldn't make sense for him to personally step in!

Moreover, why does he seem like friends with Zhengdong Province, and what's their relationship?

If he is indeed that Bai Xiaosheng, what stance would the appearance of Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region here represent?

To "participate in the battle"?

Dong Tianlu, a giant in her own right, thought quickly with even Ma Tianqing and Lu Yun showing three parts of caution towards her.

Many things remain uncertain for the moment, but Dong Tianlu managed to deduce part of it to her certainty.

“This Bai Xiaosheng is Lin Sheng, a fake name merely as his disguise!” In Dong Tianlu’s brilliantly sparkling eyes, a touch of chilliness danced, “And if his identity as Zhenbei Group’s Greater China Region Executive President is confirmed, then... the situation might be worse than the Lin Family’s involvement!”

The Lin Family, though massive, is somewhere inland; their power and presence are somewhat discounted.

Zhenbei Group is different; its real strength is undeniable here inland!

During Xiahou Qi’s era, it was already formidable, and since Bai Xiaosheng took office, he enacted numerous reforms with bold measures.

Strategic reduction, strategic integration; all subsidiaries joined forces significantly and were closely watched and analyzed by mainstream domestic financial media.

Even Dong Tianlu herself, having never met Bai Xiaosheng, was intrigued by his reforms and had a hint of admiration deep down.

Such courage isn’t proclaimed, but demonstrated through actions.

The higher the status, the harder it becomes to accomplish something vastly courageous.

Not to mention the various resistances during implementation—overcoming one’s inner hurdles is challenging itself.

Without engaging in massive reform, one maintains high status and power indisputably; engaging in reform this huge leads either to skyrocketing success or deeply wounded vitality, with failure to revert to the original form not an option.

So at one point, Dong Tianlu specifically gathered Bai Xiaosheng's information to discern what kind of existence he truly was.

After all, within circles, he was known to be very young, yet unknown what kind of person he was!

But ultimately, the result left Dong Tianlu quite disappointed; Bai Xiaosheng seemed to emerge from thin air, never having served duties as a Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region small area leader, and more absurdly, his available data was sparse, without even any reliable online photos; those haphazard photos were not the same person, indistinguishable which were true or false!

"If this is truly him, then I've truly hit the jackpot!" Dong Tianlu muttered with a glimmering gaze.

Dong Tianxiu saw Bai Xiaosheng together with Zhengdong Province, seated in the front row, and couldn't hide his excitement as he said to Dong Tianlu, "Sister, I didn't expect my friend to come over today, this is great! When this matter is over, I'll invite him home for a meal—is that okay?"

"Sure." Dong Tianlu looked at her younger brother, smiling sweetly.

Regardless of whether he's the genuine Bai Xiaosheng, that person isn't ordinary!

She herself was also interested in further contact with him!

Of course, thoughts of revenge were now fewer.

"Actually, this meeting won't conclude in a short while, there will certainly be an intermission. See if we can greet him then." Dong Tianlu suggested.

Dong Tianxiu nodded frequently but then hesitated, "Can't we go greet him now?"

"No!" Dong Tianlu firmly rejected, glancing over with a smile, "My silly brother, we are still opponents now! The situation, is yet to be clear!"

Only then did Dong Tianxiu recall they were competitors with Shengsheng International and Zhengdong Province, this time “infiltrated.”

And Bai Xiaosheng was seated with Zhengdong Province, obviously indicating they were friends as well.

Dong Tianxiu suddenly felt a bit depressed.

It’s hard to reunite, yet they should “confront each other in combat?”

“Sister, is there no room for maneuver between us and Shengsheng International?” Dong Tianxiu couldn’t help but ask Dong Tianlu, “Do we have to be enemies?”

Not only is Bai Xiaosheng his friend, but Zhengdong Province is someone he admires; business competition doesn’t necessarily have to be life and death, couldn’t everyone rely on their own capabilities for fair competition?

Dong Tianlu didn’t respond. Dong Tianxiu sighed slightly and remained silent.

After all, personal relationships are personal, and business is business; he wasn’t naive enough to abandon family business at the sight of friends.

That would be immature and would disrespect his sister for arduously building her kingdom.

After a silent period, Dong Tianlu suddenly murmured softly, “He saved Tianxiu twice and enlightened him as well, accounting for significant favor to the Dong Family; he could also be someone I’d like to forgive... Let’s see if they can pass this test today!”

“Sister, what did you say?” Dong Tianxiu, hearing his sister speaking but unable to catch her words, couldn’t help but ask.

Dong Tianlu sat down in her seat and laughed, “Nothing, let’s continue to watch the show!”

Dong Tianxiu nodded and sat down as well.

He only hoped that during the mid-event break he'd have a chance to meet Bai Xiaosheng for a chat.

While the Dong siblings conversed, Ma Tianqing was also speaking with Wang Helei.

Ever since Ma Tianqing had exclaimed, Wang Helei looked over at him.

"Mr. Wang, do you know that Lin Sheng?" Wang Helei asked, a face full of bewilderment.

"I know him, of course I do!" Ma Tianqing, startled, had eyes filled with hatred, his tone was also exceedingly coarse.

Bai Xiaosheng once slapped him, turning his face into a pig's head, losing all dignity.

This vengeance, he'd pursue even unto death!

However, he was also aware of Bai Xiaosheng's identity—the Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region Executive President!

Someone on a level with his father, Ma Zongting.

This identity also implies that Ma Tianqing's revenge won't come easily!

More harshly put, it's indefinitely distant.

"I feel like you are quite angry with him." Wang Helei murmured from the side.

Upon hearing, Ma Tianqing felt a twinge of panic and hurried to gather his composure, reproached himself, then smirked at Wang Helei, "Why would I be? I was just surprised."

“Oh, really?” Wang Helei surprisingly believed it, grinned, and asked Ma Tianqing, “Then why are you so surprised by Lin Sheng?”

Suddenly moved, Ma Tianqing thought of something.

He chuckled at Wang Helei, “Mr. Wang, you might not know, this person isn’t Lin Sheng, he’s an impostor!”

“Oh!” Wang Helei’s eyes widened, his face clearly shocked, “Who is he then?”

“I don’t know this person’s identity either,” Ma Tianqing continued, “I only know he has some background, but he’s definitely not Lin Sheng; they’re deliberately fooling us with their tricks!”

“Really!” Wang Helei seemed somewhat annoyed, “Indeed sly! No wonder my father says these people are very cunning.”

“Indeed.”

“We ought to promptly contact Miss Dong, informing her of the situation,” Wang Helei suggested, “My father said she should make the decisions and not be misguided.”

Feigning action, Ma Tianqing took out his phone and smiled at Wang Helei, “In a bit, I’ll send the information over, so don’t worry.”

Wang Helei nodded approvingly.

Ma Tianqing’s eyes shifted thoughtfully, and he soon smiled, “Why not, later when there’s a break, we shall embarrass him a little—teach him for deceiving us!”

“I’m not sure about that. My father instructed that since Miss Dong is here, we shouldn’t...” Wang Helei felt some dilemma.

Ma Tianqing encouraged persuasively, “Mr. Wang, it’s fine; if we do nothing, wasn’t our visit here futile? Moreover, if you’re willing, I could help coordinate, giving you a chance to shine; His father would surely admire you greatly for effectively suppressing their arrogance!”

Chapter 1829: The First Half of the Meeting

Ma Tianqing was quite surprised that Bai Xiaosheng was actually “Lin Sheng”, feeling that this was something extraordinary.

Ma Tianqing had considered explaining the situation to Wang Helei and quickly informing Dong Tianlu on-site to let her decide.

But in the end, Ma Tianqing did not do so.

Not only did he refrain, but Ma Tianqing even encouraged the “dad’s boy” Wang Helei, urging him to embarrass Bai Xiaosheng!

The reason was simple.

Ma Tianqing hated Bai Xiaosheng.

Ma Tianqing wanted revenge, but couldn’t exact it in a short time.

The day Yuema could overshadow Zhenbei Group in the Greater China Region was still too far off, possibly elusive indefinitely.

Even if that day truly arrived, would Ma Tianqing count it as revenge?

Bai’s surname seemed to suffer no loss!

Therefore, driven by his inner demon, Ma Tianqing didn't care about the bigger picture, only thinking about dragging down the Wang Family, and even implicating the Dong Family!

This way, the hope for revenge was greater! At the very least, he could give Bai Xiaosheng some trouble, which he was more than willing to do!

For this reason, Ma Tianqing was even willing to risk their families' scheming.

An ancient saying goes, better offend a noble man than a scoundrel.

Because a scoundrel, driven by personal vendetta, will stop at nothing.

Sometimes, they even harm their own people.

Ma Tianqing was just that kind of scoundrel.

"Are you saying, if I do as you say, my dad will actually look at me differently?!" Wang Helei's eyes suddenly seemed to brighten.

As a "dad's boy", Ma Tianqing's words undeniably held great appeal for him.

"Certainly!" Seeing this, Ma Tianqing smiled and spoke with confidence.

"Will it expose our identity? After all, this is at Shengsheng International, will it ruin our plan..." Wang Helei was a bit hesitant, slightly worried, speaking in a lowered voice.

This "dad's boy" wasn't completely brainless!

He actually knew to prioritize the bigger picture?

Ma Tianqing felt disdain inwardly, but didn't show a hint on his face, speaking patiently in a low voice, "Mr. Wang, just don't mention your name, isn't that all it takes! If he still knows your name, then it proves you are famous. Besides, even if he knows, so what! Would he dare lift a finger against you?! Moreover, our families' planning is like a dragon hiding in the depths, unseen by ordinary people. Surely, we won't be exposed just because you and I are present!"

Ma Tianqing was offering Wang Helei reassurance.

"Makes sense, makes sense!" Wang Helei nodded immediately, smiling, "I'll go over later, what about you? Are you coming with me?!"

Ma Tianqing shook his head with a smile, "How can I steal your thunder, I'll be in the background, backing you up!"

Ma Tianqing could use Wang Helei as a pawn, but he dared not confront Bai Xiaosheng directly.

Though Ma Tianqing hated Bai Xiaosheng, he was truly intimidated by him.

That heavy slap from Bai Xiaosheng was indeed painful!

Even in front of everyone, he couldn't guarantee that Bai Xiaosheng wouldn't hit him again!

If he got slapped in front of so many people, he feared he wouldn't have the face to live!

So, while Ma Tianqing truly hated Bai Xiaosheng, he was also genuinely afraid of him.

"That's the way, then Ma, you really are a good friend!"

Upon hearing Ma Tianqing say he'd leave the opportunity to him, Wang Helei laughed cheerfully.

“Mr. Wang, let’s not rush now, let’s wait and see. When that person truly uses a false identity to compete for the new shareholder position, we’ll expose him on the spot, make him lose face!” Ma Tianqing suggested, “At the very least, stop him from becoming a new shareholder! Think about it, he came with Zhengdong Province, so he must be someone the province has high hopes for. If you can ruin him, wouldn’t it significantly lessen the troubles for our plan?”

Ma Tianqing then added, “Then you’ve done a great service, imagine, wouldn’t Wang commend you, and see you differently!”

Finding it reasonable, Wang Helei nodded with joy.

Ma Tianqing smirked secretly.

Wang Helei was practically an imbecile, obeying whatever he’s told, which was truly convenient!

Wang Helei, oh Wang Helei, you want to step on Bai Xiaosheng? That’s a mine! You want to embarrass him? The likely result is a heavy slap!

But that’s exactly what I want him to do to you!

By then, you will hate him as I do!

Your dad treasures you as his child, if you suffer such public humiliation, he couldn’t help but hate Bai!

By then, we’ll be true “friends”!

Ma Tianqing smiled meaningfully, patting Wang Helei on the shoulder and looked around.

Where Dong Tianlu was, he hadn’t really looked for.

But that woman Dong Tianlu...

According to the old man, she was very arrogant, never yielding in the slightest, especially with men!

This time, since it was her plan, if it got thwarted, she'd surely be furious!

Ma Tianqing smiled slightly, feeling he was the greatest beneficiary of this meeting.

Even if this plan failed, if he could provoke the three families into sharing a hatred for Bai Xiaosheng, he considered it worthwhile!

Ma Tianqing believed that to tackle the Tengyun Series, Yuema's advantage was already evident, needing no strategy, and would win nevertheless!

No conflicts, good planning!

Ma Tianqing's plans seemed ever more brilliant, satisfying particularly as he felt others were mere pawns, while he was the player!

Over there, Bai Xiaosheng, Zhengdong Province had already taken seats in the front row, Lin Weiwei, Lei Ying sat behind them.

These seats were arranged and reserved in advance.

After they took their seats, Luo Zitian and Guo Nan also entered the hall, went to their seats with grim expressions, not sparing Bai Xiaosheng and the others a glance.

Chapter 1830: The First Half of the Meeting

Another ten minutes passed, and a middle-aged man in formal attire strode onto the stage, holding a microphone in his hand.

The man first politely greeted everyone present, saying he was the host of today's meeting, and asked everyone to quiet down, mentioning that the meeting was about to start and he would first explain today's meeting rules.

This meeting today has indeed pulled at everyone's heartstrings; with the host's announcement, the crowd naturally quieted down quickly.

The middle-aged man first briefly outlined the meeting's agenda, which is divided into two parts.

One part is the selection of new shareholders, and the other part is the replacement of the executive director.

The host began with the first part of the agenda, talking about the principles for selecting new shareholders.

It's not just about having money and support for new shareholders to become part of Shengsheng International.

There are numerous audits they must pass, and this is carried out during the meeting with everyone witnessing it.

First, new shareholders must be recommended by old shareholders who rank in the top ten by shareholding percentage. Each old shareholder only has one recommendation slot, and each recommended candidate needs to pass a vote by the top ten shareholders, with six votes required for preliminary approval.

Secondly, the investment amount of the new shareholders and the proportion of shares are requirements, but they can compete for slots by offering "additional investment without taking shares" to outdo others...

Because there are only five slots for new shareholders.

In other words, regardless of whether the voting results in six, seven, or even eight to ten new shareholders, only five will remain in the end.

The ranking is first by number of votes, with the top two by votes directly elected.

The remaining candidates, regardless of the number of votes, will have to use the additional investment without shares to distinguish themselves and win opportunities.

This rule may sound bizarre at first, as new shareholders are investing real money and silver to get real shares, throwing money away just for a shareholder slot is unbelievable...

But in today's meeting, this is indeed the rule.

After all, new shareholders will take a portion of shares, which equates to diluting the shares of old shareholders, so they are naturally not happy.

Hence, new shareholders must chip in!

Those qualified to become new shareholders actually agree to such terms.

Shengsheng International is exceptional, developing rapidly over the years with remarkable potential, worthy of their investment to hold shares as new shareholders.

The host further mentioned that new shareholders could participate in the second half concerning the contest for the executive director of Shengsheng International!

The candidates for the new executive director are subject to strict requirements, needing to be in the top three among all shareholders in terms of stock holdings, and must deliver a speech on-site to win the support of the people before taking on the role.

The host stressed that Zhengdong Province, due to "certain reasons," cannot continue in his position, and he personally agrees.

At this point, the originally silent hall suddenly erupted into noise.

Old employees and minor shareholders were all emotional, shouting “why” “unfair,” and expressing their strong discontent, speaking up for Zhengdong Province.

Seeing this, the host could hardly suppress the scene.

Luo Zitian initially wanted to assert his authority, commanding everyone to be quiet.

However, upon seeing the situation, he faltered as well.

Eventually, the host had to seek Zhengdong Province’s assistance.

Actually, all the old employees combined only hold twenty percent of the company’s shares. No matter how indignant they are, they can’t change the big shareholders’ decision.

But if the clamor continues like this, there’s no way the meeting can proceed.

“Everyone, quiet down!” Ultimately, Zhengdong Province had to step forward.

Once he spoke, the scene quickly quieted down.

“I thank everyone for your trust and support, but this is a decision by the permanent shareholder council, which I must adhere to, as per the rules. However, I urge everyone to patiently watch on, as I’m confident there will be an outcome that satisfies everyone!” Zhengdong Province said.

The old employees present may ignore the big shareholders but can’t ignore the man they respect, and they quieted down immediately.

Such a scene inevitably evokes admiration; in Shengsheng International, Zhengdong Province holds unrivaled prestige in the hearts of old employees.

After Zhengdong Province calmed everyone down, the host continued to lay out the rules for the second half concerning the election of a new executive director.

Shares can be transferred on-site between new and old shareholders, but regardless of the transfer in or out, one cannot transfer all shares completely, or else they will lose their shareholder status...

This means if Zhengdong Province, Luo Zitian are willing, they can transfer the majority of shares to allow a new shareholder to immediately become the largest shareholder and compete for the executive director role.

After all, new shareholders hold limited shares in their hands.

The arrival of new shareholders signifies the dilution of old shareholders' shares; if it weren't for Shengsheng International's fragile cash flow and high-risk period lately, old shareholders wouldn't agree to bring in new forces to share the risk.

Of course, old shareholders have a compensatory plan, although it won't be disclosed to everyone present.

What the host is saying is essentially to inform the minor shareholders present.

The key shareholders in attendance are already aware since they collectively passed the information.

With the host concluding the explanation of the rules, the meeting officially began.

The first person to take the stage was Luo Zitian.

Luo Zitian first went through the formalities and then introduced the new shareholder he brought in.

This was a vigorous middle-aged man named Liu; his demeanor extraordinary.

His identity wasn't simple either, being an outstanding entrepreneur holding a business that ranks among the top five hundred domestically.