

Two Trillion 191

Chapter 191: The Ten Deadly Sins of Bai Xiaosheng_1

Assistant Qian delivered a rigid sentence, pointing his sword directly at Bai Xiaosheng.

The managers present, including Chen Daya, were instantly shocked into silence.

They all predicted that today's meeting would be fraught with tension, but nobody expected it to start with all guns blazing!

Assistant Qian holding Bai Xiaosheng accountable?

He hardly seems to have the authority to do so!

But his speaking up like this was an implicit representation of someone else's stance!

Vice General Manager Wang Ye looked leisurely at her teacup, seemingly admiring the tea leaves floating and sinking.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't even glance at Assistant Qian, his expression calm as he looked towards Wang Ye,

which caused Assistant Qian to seethe with humiliation and anger.

You bastard Bai, even now you're acting unperturbed! Wait a moment; I'll make you cry too late to regret!

Ignored by Bai Xiaosheng, Assistant Qian's anger blazed.

This Bai Xiaosheng had once made him the public enemy of the entire project, enduring countless disdainful looks and curses.

He, a favored person in front of the Vice General Manager, had fallen to the point of courting smiles from even the washroom cleaners on site, a truly pitiful state.

Today is the day I take my revenge! Assistant Qian roared in his heart.

"You want to criticize me in this meeting? I'm unaware of any mistakes I've made!" Bai Xiaosheng glanced at Qian with a dismissive smile, casually inquiring.

His demeanor and tone were as if an adult were asking a child, "Now tell me, what did I do wrong?"

Bai Xiaosheng's expression infuriated Assistant Qian so much that his hands trembled while flipping through his notebook for the content he needed.

"Bai Xiaosheng, as the project manager and head of the project, you have made ten major mistakes! Today, I will tally these in front of everyone and settle the score with you!" Assistant Qian, finally finding the page he needed, declared assertively.

Wow, ten heavy accusations—that's quite a few!

Bai Xiaosheng, smiling, made a gesture of invitation with his hand, implying—"Please, begin your performance."

"Bai Xiaosheng, Mrs. Wang trusted you so much, giving you the authority to take overall responsibility for the project. You should've been personally involved and fully responsible, but instead you pushed everything onto others! This dereliction of duty is your first major mistake!" Assistant Qian accused, "Furthermore, by directly dismissing the construction team that had a conflict with us, you delayed the stage construction for the project by over two days, which hindered the entire project schedule! That's your second major mistake! Conflicting with the media, which damaged the project's public relations, causing a standstill in our current promotional efforts, you bear an undeniable responsibility, that's your third major mistake!"

Assistant Qian's voice grew louder with each accusation, his expression fierce as he listed Bai Xiaosheng's issues.

This wasn't a meeting; it was a trial, an announcement of charges!

Chen Daya listened with bated breath, unable to help but look towards Vice General Manager Wang Ye.

Mr. Wang remained composed as Mount Tai, immovable, focused intently on the teacup, observing the tea leaves ebb and flow.

"The most unforgivable mistake is that just a few days before the opening, you took a leave on the ridiculous pretext of personal exhaustion! Is this the attitude a head of the project should have? What kind of example are you setting for everyone on the project? Do you realize how much time you've wasted, how much effort from others you've delayed? If the project faces problems at its opening, ninety-nine percent of them will be because of you, Bai Xiaosheng, and you will bear full responsibility!"

Assistant Qian's voice cracked, his emotion flaring as he couldn't help but slam the table.

What he was rebuking now was something he had carefully prepared for a long time.

Every time Assistant Qian read it over, he felt it was so logical and rhythmic. Reading it aloud was extremely stirring, felt like an arrow to the heart, deafening and enlightening.

Assistant Qian believed that just reading it once should be enough for the managers to call out in support, joining him in censuring Bai Xiaosheng.

Moreover, he, Assistant Qian, was performing it with passion and eloquence, which would surely enhance the effect!

"And I have one more point to add. Just now, you actually had a conflict with one of our project's merchants and expelled a key brand store! You're practically sabotaging the future of our project, yet you want to sue them? From now on, who would dare to collaborate with Teles Square? Without key merchants, our shopping center is finished!" Assistant Qian, overwhelmed by emotion, couldn't help but point at Bai Xiaosheng, "You must take responsibility for all of it!"

This accusation moved all the directors present.

"Bai Xiaosheng, do you have anything else to say?" Wang Ye lifted an eyelid and asked expressionlessly.

It was like a judge delivering a verdict, asking a criminal if they had any last defense.

Bai Xiaosheng replied to Wang Ye with an indifferent smile, fearless and composed.

Assistant Qian's denunciations, those ten forceful charges, were completely false, totally disregarding the facts.

Bai Xiaosheng could refute them one by one, surely rendering the accuser speechless and winning applause from everyone.

But, what was the point?

They were not here to reason today!

Nor had Bai Xiaosheng come to have a rational discussion!

"I would like to hear Mrs. Wang's thoughts," Bai Xiaosheng said softly.

Wang Ye nodded, his expression grim, his gaze sharp as a knife. Without saying a word, his whole persona radiated an intense and imperious aura.

Chen Daya, sitting close by, found his breath catching.

Wang Ye had been involved in the project for quite some time, and while it had always been Assistant Qian hopping around, he himself had been holed up in his office, indifferent to everything. With time, even Chen Daya had begun to forget.

Vice General Manager Wang Ye was the true embodiment of a domineering CEO at Century Construction!

He had challenged Mr. Shang to his face and publicly criticized him. When this man became overbearing, the whole head office had to give way, let alone a subsidiary project.

The typically restrained Vice General Manager Wang Ye was finally baring his fangs!

"Regarding your issue, I have seen it with my own eyes. What Assistant Qian has stated may not be entirely true, but it's not far off. Because of you, this project has become mired in the mud and is now a laughingstock in Tiannan. I gave you so much authority, so much freedom, and this is what you've done with it?!"

Wang Ye glared coldly at Bai Xiaosheng, "Based on the agreement we previously signed, you, as the project leader, must take full responsibility! Your behavior has significantly harmed the commercial interests of my company, and we suspect that you have betrayed the company's interests!"

This charge was a heavy one, elevating the list of crimes specified by Assistant Qian to a level of commercial crime, enough for a conviction.

"Effective immediately, you are no longer the chief person in charge of the project, nor the project manager. After the opening ceremony, we will resort to legal measures to hold you accountable!" Wang Ye declared.

The directors were shocked and speechless.

Those who had once envied Bai Xiaosheng for signing the confidentiality agreement, earning two hundred thousand a month, were now terrified and relieved it wasn't them.

Chen Daya hesitated to speak, realizing he had no say in the matter.

"Is that all?" Bai Xiaosheng looked at Wang Ye with supreme calm, giving him a smile, "Mr. Wang has made a good summary. But now you don't have the authority to dismiss me. The confidentiality

agreement was drafted by you. It clearly stated after the opening. To suspend my work as project manager? Then you'll need to get Mr. Shang's approval."

Bai Xiaosheng stood up, "Meeting adjourned!"

After saying his piece, Bai Xiaosheng glanced at Assistant Qian and Wang Ye, letting out a silent, scornful laugh before leaving on his own accord.

The two of them turned pale with anger.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't look back.

Wang Ye, Qian, I just love how you can't stand me, yet can't do a thing about it! Without notification from Mr. Shang, the whole project still has to listen to me!

"Bang!"

Wang Ye slammed the table fiercely and said in a stern voice, "Bai Xiaosheng, you want Mr. Shang's orders, then I'll get you Mr. Shang's orders!"

Chapter 192: Are You All Rebelling?!_1

Bai Xiaosheng swept out of the room, and Wang Ye flew into a rage. The managers remained silent as sparrows and dared not move.

Wang Ye picked up his cell phone, his face ashen, and dialed a number.

"Hello, is this Mr. Shang?"

Upon connection, Wang Ye looked around at everyone and pressed the speakerphone button.

"It's me. You've been overseeing the project work, Vice General Manager Wang Ye. It must be exhausting. There's a lot going on recently; make sure to get some rest," came the gentle voice of Shang Wenshu from the other end of the line.

He was as polite to Wang Ye as always.

The managers listened silently.

Chen Daya gave a slight sigh.

Bai Xiaosheng's stubborn resistance was truly reckless!

All along, Shang Wenshu had been subtly instructing him to assist Bai Xiaosheng from the sidelines. But he hadn't been ordered to help Bai Xiaosheng confront Vice General Manager Wang Ye head-on!

Who is Vice General Manager Wang Ye?

He's got powerful backers within Zhenbei Group!

To put it bluntly, Century Construction is just one of the countless subsidiaries of Zhenbei Group. How could Shang Wenshu possibly arm-wrestle with the big shots within the group?

Yield to Wang no matter what!

This time, with Bai Xiaosheng burning bridges, Mr. Shang would likely have to give up on him!

If Bai Xiaosheng, the project manager, was taken down, his own title as the chief person in charge of the project would no longer be legitimate!

Even if Bai Xiaosheng signed a confidentiality agreement, it would only be a piece of paper.

Who would dare follow Bai Xiaosheng's orders anymore?

And now, who could save the project? If anyone had to be named, Chen Daya believed that nobody except for Bai Xiaosheng was capable!

Not even Wang Ye!

Were they really going to let this project be destroyed over a struggle for power?

How much effort we have put in!

Chen Daya couldn't help but clench his fists.

He had been with the project from the very beginning, from land acquisition to planning, construction, and even the establishment of the project's name. Chen Daya had been involved in everything.

Every part of Teles Square bore his footprints, his sweat!

Watching the project grow bit by bit, on the verge of its unveiling, only to see it possibly ruined—Chen Daya felt extremely unwilling to accept this, and a strong sentiment was welling up inside him.

It wasn't just him. The managers here, despite their constant power struggles and factional conspiracies, shared one thing: most of them had poured their emotions into the project and were not willing to see it fall apart.

Everyone was silent, but within that silence emotions were brewing.

"Mr. Shang, there's something I have to tell you," Wang Ye said, glancing at Assistant Qian. With an outstretched hand, Assistant Qian swiftly passed her notebook to him, on which were listed "Bai Xiaosheng's ten major faults."

"Oh? Please go ahead, Mrs. Wang," came the reply.

"Regarding project manager Bai Xiaosheng, whom I appointed as the overall person in charge of the project, that was tremendous trust you and I placed in him. But he acted recklessly! Do you know what he has done? Listen..." Wang Ye read out the charges Assistant Qian had carefully prepared to Shang Wenshu without missing a word.

"Now, with the project in such a state, this Bai Xiaosheng bears an undeniable major responsibility!" Wang Ye said, pounding the table, "Therefore, I believe, after the grand opening, we should pursue Bai Xiaosheng's responsibility on behalf of the company in court!"

"And now, he refuses to hand over his duties, saying this project manager position was given by you and he wants your opinion." Wang Ye gave a cold smile as he looked around at the gathered managers, "Then please trouble Mr. Shang to go and tell him that he's no longer needed for this project manager job!"

Wang Ye, this is really going for Bai Xiaosheng's throat!

Chen Daya couldn't help but clench his fists.

He had been submissive his whole life, but now he couldn't take it anymore.

Indeed, Bai Xiaosheng sometimes behaved arrogantly and overbearingly, but he was decisive and resolute, each time managing to save the day, and he also turned a disparate team on a project into one that gradually became truly united and dedicated.

Such a person was the one to save this project, especially at this critical moment!

Not Mr. Shang, not you, Vice General Manager Wang Ye, it was him, Bai Xiaosheng!

"Vice General Manager Wang Ye, I think Bai Xiaosheng is qualified to be the project manager, and he is diligent and responsible. You can't replace him!" Chen Daya suddenly sat upright and said loudly.

His voice resonated with an unprecedented confidence.

Chen Daya's eyes showed no trace of the usual fear.

Indeed, what was there to fear? As a project manager that had become the acting director of the promotion department, he had put his heart and soul into a project that seemed doomed. What was there to fear!

Chen Daya was fearless, feeling the repressed gloom in his chest had been completely released, making his gaze toward Wang Ye all the more calm.

"I second the motion, only Manager Bai Xiaosheng can save this project!" Cheng, the engineering manager sitting next to Chen Daya, said loudly.

When Vice General Manager Wang Ye tried to make Cheng the scapegoat, it was Bai Xiaosheng who had spoken up for him. Cheng felt he needed to repay the favor.

How did that saying go in the novels? - "A man will die for those who appreciate him!"

"I second the motion!"

"I also second the motion!"

"Manager Bai Xiaosheng can't be dismissed!"

One after another, the managers spoke up, sitting up straight and unflinchingly looking at Wang Ye.

"What are you, what are you trying to do?" Assistant Qian couldn't help exclaiming in shock.

"Are you trying to start a rebellion!"

Wang Ye's eyes flared, he slapped the table with a smack and glared at the managers.

"Are all you managers tired of your jobs? You think the project can't go on without you! Let me tell you, I could pull together another team, even if you all leave. You dare to threaten your leader? Is there even a place for you in this project anymore!"

Wang Ye berated them, while the managers kept silent but continued to gaze at him without any fear.

The formidable Mrs. Wang wasn't really as terrifying as they had previously thought.

"Mrs. Wang, when Li Mingtong was still here, did he ever threaten the people in the promotion department, saying he would fire them? Do you know how the promotion department responded?" Chen Daya suddenly said smilingly.

Wang Ye frowned at him.

Chen Daya imitated what Wang had said back then, "Your words might intimidate managers, but they are useless against us. We lower-level employees can get by anywhere. Besides, I guarantee that if I change jobs, my next salary will be even higher!"

"Listen to that. Why should we managers be intimidated? Isn't it reasonable for us to get a raise if we find new positions?" Chen Daya laughed. "Indeed, we valued being under the Zhenbei Group tree, working for a large conglomerate's subsidiary company has a future, but..."

Chen Daya solemnly stood up, thumping his chest, "When I don't give a damn, you can't threaten me!"

The entire office fell quiet, exuding a silent tension.

Following that, one by one, the managers stood up.

Wang Ye's gaze was stern, and Assistant Qian appeared somewhat panicked.

Revolt, they all revolted; there was a collective rebellion within the management!

"Mr. Shang, did you hear this? It's not just Bai Xiaosheng, but Chen Daya and these others, they're rebelling too!" Wang Ye said loudly into the phone, "I suggest removing Bai Xiaosheng from his role as project manager, and removing Chen Daya from his, as well as these people..."

"Mr. Wang," suddenly a voice came from the phone, calm and slow yet steeped in an unprecedented authority.

"I said before, you're too tired, take a break." The voice of Shang Wenshu echoed through the entire conference room.

"What I mean is, in my capacity as general manager, I am revoking all of Wang Ye's on-site authority, effective immediately!"

Chapter 193 Don't be too arrogant, it's useless!_1

The large conference room fell into silence.

Every word spoken by Shang Wenshu was heard clearly by the managers; what was revoked was not the positions of Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Daya, but Wang Ye's authority over the project!

Everyone was stunned, and Wang Ye was taken aback.

Afterward, everyone's face reflected shock and incredulity!

Chen Daya had even prepared himself mentally to leave, but he didn't expect such a sudden turn of events!

The usually smooth and forbearing Shang Wenshu was unexpectedly domineering this time!

"Ha ha!"

Chen Daya suddenly burst into unrestrained laughter, not even glancing at Vice General Manager Wang Ye as he strode out of the large conference room.

The managers followed closely behind.

Vice General Manager Wang Ye had lost his right to speak!

Wang Ye's face turned instantly ashen.

Assistant Qian wore a look of shocked doubt, muttering under his breath, "How could this happen, how is this possible!"

In the large conference room, only Wang Ye and Assistant Qian remained.

The last manager to leave closed the door behind him, casting a pitying glance at them.

That look caused Wang Ye to completely explode.

"Mr. Shang, what is the meaning of this? Publicly undermining me? Huh!" Wang Ye roared.

Assistant Qian beside him, turned pale.

He wanted to leave, too!

To witness a leader's temper tantrum was not a pleasant thing!

Unfortunately, he dared not and could not, only shrinking in the corner, feigning deafness.

"I'll tell you, even if I'm not at the head office, I am still the vice general manager, and that, Mr. Shang, you can't revoke! I relinquished so much power to you, and you undermined me? I'm not to be trifled with! You'll regret this!"

Wang Ye bellowed furiously.

On the other end of the phone, all was calm.

Dry threats, useless against Shang Wenshu.

"You surely don't know who's behind me, Shang Wenshu, but I'm not afraid to tell you!" Wang Ye sneered.

Old Qian hurriedly covered his ears with his hands.

Some things were not meant for him to hear, hearing them would only bring trouble.

In a fit of emotion, Wang Ye still lowered his voice and uttered a name.

On the other end, the expressionless Shang Wenshu's face suddenly changed.

Chen Jiutian!

It turned out the person behind Wang Ye was Chen Jiutian!

The general manager of the Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region, East China District, Chen Jiutian!

Shang Wenshu had only seen him once during the annual meeting, along with hundreds of managers and deputy managers.

This was the man in charge of all Zhenbei Group's industries in the East China district, comparable to a local lord!

He was Wang Ye's backer?

In an instant, Shang Wenshu felt a chill run through his limbs.

No, that's not right?

Shang Wenshu immediately frowned.

If Wang Ye had Chen Jiutian's support, why then did he still engage in a fierce struggle with him? For Wang Ye to become the general manager of Century Construction or to enter the group, it should have been a piece of cake.

An idea struck Shang Wenshu.

There was more to this than met the eye!

What could make a powerful figure like Chen Jiutian wary, unable to promote at will—it was the inspection team; Chen Jiutian was wary of the inspection team!

Shang Wenshu suddenly remembered Bai Xiaosheng's identity.

If Chen Jiutian supported Wang Ye, he certainly wouldn't support him!

So Chen Jiutian was also an obstacle in his career path, and initially, he had no chance of winning...

But now it was different, he had—Bai Xiaosheng!

This was an opportunity given by the heavens!

Shang Wenshu felt a surge of warmth in his heart.

Was Wang Ye trying to take down Bai Xiaosheng without knowing Bai Xiaosheng's status?

No way!

He must know something.

Knowing and still daring to touch, it might be Chen Jiutian's idea to divert the inspection team's attention?

Could it be that the inspection team is looking for trouble with Chen Jiutian?

...

With an extraordinary mind, Shang Wenshu came up with so much in just an instant when Wang Ye dropped a name.

And he immediately made a decision.

"Wang Ye, I tell you, even if Mr. Chen is your backer, I am still your direct superior right now! I order you to return to the head office immediately, if you insist on staying on the project... then just stay there!"
Shang Wenshu said righteously over the phone, "I will immediately issue a notice, and the project staff have the right to reject all your orders!"

Wang Ye was stunned.

His sneering expression completely froze on his face, filled with disbelief!

Is this really Shang Wenshu?

The man who used to be overly cautious and dared not to confront him directly, how come upon hearing General Manager Chen Jiutian's name, he becomes defiant instead? He thinks I'm lying?

Or could it be that Shang Wenshu has gone mad!

"You, did you hear me clearly, I said Chen Jiutian, General Manager Chen Jiutian, the General Manager of the East China Region!" Wang Ye couldn't help but repeat, emphasizing to Shang Wenshu.

"General Manager Chen Jiutian, huh." Shang Wenshu laughed, "So what! Even he can't just dismiss me, a subsidiary's General Manager, with a single word!"

"Wang Ye, Mr. Wang, I actually wanted to tell you something earlier," Shang Wenshu took a deep breath, speaking earnestly, "Don't be so damn arrogant, it's useless!"

With that, Shang Wenshu hung up the phone with a snap, letting out a long sigh and bursting into laughter.

"Awesome!"

He had been having a blast lately, after putting Sun Xiangdong in his place and now Wang Ye.

An unprecedented thrill!

And all of this was brought to him by Bai Xiaosheng!

"Bai Xiaosheng, oh, Bai Xiaosheng, I have placed all my hopes in you, a member of the inspection team. You really must not let me down," Shang Wenshu couldn't help but mutter to himself.

In the large conference room, Wang Ye stood dumbfounded.

He never expected to be taught a lesson by Shang Wenshu this time.

"Damn it!" Wang Ye raged, hurling his phone to the ground, veins throbbing on his forehead, wanting to kill someone.

Having smashed his phone, Wang Ye stormed around in a fury before heading straight to the door.

Assistant Qian picked up Wang Ye's phone, gathered his belongings, and swiftly followed him.

The employees in the corridor watched Vice General Manager Wang Ye and Assistant Qian coldly; they were all aware of what had just happened, and even heard the angry roars from the large conference room as if not even Mr. Shang gave face to Vice General Manager Wang Ye.

Driven by their emotions, the employees showed no pleasant expression, nor did they show any fear, just silently watching the two people walk away.

As the door to the large conference room closed with a bang, an employee even muttered under their breath after the pair passed by.

Coincidentally, Assistant Qian heard it.

"Still calling himself a Vice General Manager, doesn't even know how to keep quiet, what kind of quality is that!"

Assistant Qian's eyelids twitched, not daring to scold back.

It seems this project is indeed unbearable to stay in anymore!

...

Someone told Bai Xiaosheng about what happened next.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled indifferently, unconcerned.

He was now ready to begin the next task! Bai Xiaosheng silently said to himself.

He immediately told the person who had come to report, "Notify the head of the administration department to come to see me!"

The person nodded and left.

After the head of the administration department met with Bai Xiaosheng, the leaders of other departments also went to see him one by one, each receiving a task, with the requirement to keep it confidential.

Though it seemed there wasn't much time left, Bai Xiaosheng's plan had plenty of leeway.

He had already outsourced some tasks in advance; the departments just needed to coordinate and take over in due course.

After making the arrangements, Bai Xiaosheng's eyes sparkled.

Opening, scoring points, and getting promoted.

Finally, it was all coming!

Chapter 194 Unfortunate Assistant Qian_1

Wang Ye sat in her office, her face extremely unpleasant. Assistant Qian tiptoed around cautiously, running back and forth alone, trying to be as quiet as possible while packing things up.

The project was no longer viable; staying here was meaningless, so the only option was to leave.

Watching stack after stack getting neatly packed, Assistant Qian couldn't help but let out a long sigh of relief, drenched in sweat, finally finishing packing. She was about to return to the headquarters soon.

She had had enough of this project!

Assistant Qian greeted Wang Ye and quickly had the driver prepare the car.

When she came back, Wang Ye was ready as well.

"That Bai Xiaosheng, don't bother with him. Let him fuss around. With the project in such a state, could he really turn things around?" Assistant Qian picked up a pile of things and comforted Wang Ye. "I just saw him calling supervisors one by one to arrange tasks. In a short while, he had called in three people. Isn't this just a senseless bustle?"

Assistant Qian's offhand remarks made Wang Ye pause in her tracks.

"You said Bai Xiaosheng is individually arranging work for the supervisors?" Wang Ye said with a frown.

"Yes." Assistant Qian continued to walk out.

"Wait... don't go!"

Just as Assistant Qian was about to open the door, Wang Ye suddenly interjected, then sat back down in her chair with a cold laugh, "I do want to see how this Bai Xiaosheng is going to jump around!"

Assistant Qian was startled.

She stood there holding her belongings, with a pained expression, wishing she could slap herself twice.

I'm the one who's sick, unnecessarily running my mouth! Now I have to stay on this damn project. No matter what happens, Wang will definitely have me do it. Damn, why put myself through this misery? Even the janitors look at us with disdain now!

Assistant Qian sighed inwardly.

Wang Ye sat there, her eyes twinkling.

This Bai Xiaosheng was too cunning, always unpredictable.

Wang Ye didn't believe that Bai Xiaosheng could truly turn Treles Square around, especially since on Xiang Dong's side, they had the diva-level Wei Moran as their trump card. With her there, Xiang Dong's victory was secure, and recently she'd heard news that Wei Moran was changing the date of her concert to coincide with East Square's opening event.

It even made Wang Ye somewhat envious. Sun Xiangdong was just too lucky!

However, she still couldn't underestimate Bai Xiaosheng. Compared to Xiang Dong, Bai Xiaosheng might really stir up some momentum on his side at Treles.

If that were the case, the opening wouldn't be a complete failure, and Bai Xiaosheng's responsibilities would be significantly reduced.

"I do want to see what tricks you will play. With me watching you here, even if you do have any means, I'll make it difficult for you to succeed!" Wang Ye muttered to herself with a grim face.

Botching this project was merely part of her cooperation with Sun Xiangdong. But toward her supervisor Chen Jiutian, she had another crucial task: to thoroughly sabotage Bai Xiaosheng.

Wang Ye didn't want her efforts to be wasted.

"Qian, go out and find out what Bai Xiaosheng is really up to!" Wang Ye instructed.

Assistant Qian's heart sank.

As expected, she was to play this unlucky role.

Gathering intelligence?

As if that was easy. My lord, look at how people on the project are looking at us now; if you're not the one going, is it really fair to expect me to be able to do it?

Assistant Qian left the room with a morose face, not daring to object, and after putting the stuff down, opened the door and went out.

Wang Ye sat there, waiting quietly, browsing recent news on her phone, observing the momentum on Xiang Dong's side.

Time didn't drag.

Finally, the door opened.

Assistant Qian came back.

"How did it go?" Wang Ye asked.

After being gone so long, Qian must have gathered some important information; even a rough idea would suffice.

Wang Ye always trusted Qian to get things done properly.

Wang Ye was full of anticipation.

"I couldn't find anything out!"

Assistant Qian said with a pained expression.

Now whenever he approached someone, the best response he got was a perfunctory smile; others merely greeted and ignored him. Some even blatantly turned their backs or gave him the cold shoulder.

Assistant Qian felt that he hadn't been this humiliated in nearly ten years; yet he had to keep flatteringly persisting.

After sacrificing his dignity for half a day, he ended up not getting even a single word out of them.

Wang Ye's expression darkened.

"Useless!" Wang Ye huffed angrily, "Didn't you tell them that I asked you to inquire?"

No matter what, Wang Ye was still the vice general manager. He couldn't believe his word had no influence!

"I did tell them," Assistant Qian said, looking rather uncomfortable and speaking hesitantly.

"Then why couldn't you get anything out of them, what did they say?" Wang Ye asked, frowning.

"They said that if Mrs. Wang wants to know, of course, that would be fine. But, they asked Mrs. Wang to inquire with Manager Bai themselves, as Manager Bai would have clearer answers," Assistant Qian said tentatively.

Wang Ye was taken aback, his face turning red with suppressed anger as he cursed, "Damn it, these bastards! All learning bad tricks from Bai Xiaosheng!"

To think they really didn't take him seriously!

"So now, what do we do?" Assistant Qian asked cautiously.

Since no information could be coerced, Mrs. Wang surely couldn't expect him to ask again.

Indeed.

"Alright, you don't need to ask them anymore," Wang Ye ordered.

Assistant Qian couldn't help but internally breathe a sigh of relief.

"Follow them, see what they're up to."

At Wang Ye's words, Assistant Qian almost cried.

It's all because I couldn't keep my mouth shut!

Assistant Qian decided that as soon as he was alone, he would definitely give himself a good slap in the face.

When Vice General Manager Wang Ye gave an order, it might not work on the project's staff, but it was certainly golden law for him, Assistant Qian.

Assistant Qian had to go out and run around the project site heedlessly, enduring the disdainful looks of others, to fulfill his laborious "surveillance" task.

However, the supervisors seemed to have become wary of him since the first time he tried to gather information, even assigning someone to follow him around.

By the end of the workday, Assistant Qian still hadn't been able to gather any intelligence.

When reporting back to Wang Ye, Assistant Qian got scolded fiercely once again.

Bai Xiaosheng left work on time and also reminded the project supervisors to let everyone on the project go home early to rest.

Bai Xiaosheng hated working overtime the most. Overtime was only the most helpless choice; if it happened during normal circumstances, he considered it a symptom of work inefficiency.

Bai Xiaosheng especially disapproved of making everyone work overtime right before the project's promotional event, leading to general grumbling and listless spirits, which was not wise.

The tasks Bai Xiaosheng had arranged for the day, in terms of time, had more than enough buffer and were managed properly, with several layers of safety added to each task—there was no need for overtime.

With the leader making such arrangements, the project staff were happy too and followed Bai Xiaosheng's schedule strictly.

After work, Bai Xiaosheng returned home and quietly went over the key points to be dealt with in the next two days. He felt very satisfied with no oversights.

Just when he was ready to go out to treat himself to a good dinner, someone knocked on his door.

"Who is it?" Bai Xiaosheng hurried to open the door.

As he opened the door, he was stunned and exclaimed in surprise, "It's you!"

The visitors this time.

Were unexpected guests that Bai Xiaosheng had not anticipated!

Chapter 195 Three Uninvited Guests_1

At the door of Bai Xiaosheng's home, there stood three people—Sun Tianli, Sun Xiangdong, Sun Yiran.

The Sun Family's three generations had all unexpectedly arrived!

Upon seeing Bai Xiaosheng, the expressions of the three generations of the Sun Family varied.

Sun Tianli had an air of haughty arrogance, twirling his mustache and looking at Bai Xiaosheng as if he were a junior who had taken the wrong path, even showing a hint of regret.

Sun Yiran's eyes faintly revealed scorn, with the corner of his mouth subtly mocking.

Sun Xiangdong had no excessive expressions, only a calm smile.

Bai Xiaosheng, looking at them, was at a loss for words.

This was truly unexpected guests; the old, the middle-aged, and the youth all visiting at the same time.

"Gentlemen, is there something you need?" Bai Xiaosheng politely inquired.

"Mr. Bai, this is how you welcome guests who arrive at your door?" Sun Xiangdong asked with a smile.

"Please!"

Bai Xiaosheng stepped aside from the doorway, making a welcoming gesture to Sun Tianli.

He respected Sun Tianli's age.

Sun Tianli, expressionless, nodded slightly, hands clasped behind his back as he stepped inside with square steps, followed by Sun Xiangdong, with Sun Yiran trailing last.

Bai Xiaosheng's home had previously been visited by Sun Xiangdong, but for Sun Tianli and Sun Yiran, this was their first time. The two of them looked around, one shaking his head, the other smirking disdainfully.

In their eyes, Bai Xiaosheng's living conditions seemed quite humble, despite being someone who had secured millions worth of jade raw materials; it was plainly decorated, lacking any sense of taste.

Bai Xiaosheng was indifferent to their reactions, casually pouring three glasses of water before turning to Sun Xiangdong with a smile, "Manager Sun, you should be able to speak now, right? Why have the three generations graced my humble abode?"

Sun Xiangdong leaned back on the sofa, stretching his arms across its back and propping up one leg over the other.

"This time, we've come to discuss some potential collaboration with Mr. Bai," he said confidently.

Bai Xiaosheng, observing Sun Xiangdong's posture, felt somewhat displeased. This was, after all, his home.

These three had arrived with frivolous demeanors and arrogant behavior as if they owned the place.

"Collaboration?" Bai Xiaosheng, repeating the word, laughed lightly, "Our two family's projects are about to face-off in life-and-death competition, and you come now to talk about collaboration? I'm curious to hear what kind of collaboration you have in mind!"

Bai Xiaosheng looked on with interest at Sun Xiangdong.

"Mr. Bai, don't be so emotional. There's no deep hatred between Century Construction and the East, nor is there any with you personally. It's purely a matter of business interests," Sun Xiangdong stated with a smile.

Meanwhile, Sun Yiran was coldly staring at Bai Xiaosheng.

The humiliation suffered by Antique Jade City in Tiannan made it so he couldn't even face going back to that circle. Wasn't this a grudge?!

Yet, today, they had other purposes; otherwise, Sun Yiran would have been the first to jump out and harshly ridicule and scorn Bai Xiaosheng.

"The rise of Xiangdong Plaza is unstoppable, and the fall of Teles Square is inevitable," Sun Xiangdong said with utmost confidence, "Even if I wanted to spare Treles a defeat, there would be no means to do so. As for you, it's not necessarily the case that there's no way out. To be honest, I admire your capabilities, my father admires your divining stone skills, even Yiran finds you extremely interesting."

"Then I thank your whole family!"

Bai Xiaosheng bowed slightly with sincere gratitude, speaking earnestly.

Somehow, that statement sounded awkward, almost as if it was an insult.

On the other side, both Sun Tianli and Sun Yiran frowned at his words, even Sun Xiangdong's eyelids twitched slightly.

"If you're willing, after Xiangdong Plaza opens, I'll give you a project manager position, how about that? The project manager of Xiangdong has shares! I guarantee you'll earn a fortune, no less than a senior white-collar in a first-tier city!" Sun Xiangdong said proudly.

He had this confidence.

In the future, Xiangdong Plaza would be a landmark in Tiannan, and it might even rank high in the East China region!

With such conditions, would Bai Xiaosheng refuse?

Everyone needs a backup plan for themselves!

"Having said that, what are your conditions? What do you want me to do!" Bai Xiaosheng asked bluntly.

Sun Xiangdong nodded approvingly at Bai Xiaosheng, "It's refreshing to talk with a smart person."

Naturally, they weren't offering such a deal just because they admired Bai Xiaosheng.

"We don't ask for much, only three conditions," Sun Xiangdong said.

"Oh?"

"First, the divining stone technique you used in the Antique Jade City betting arena, where did you learn it? Tell me," Sun Tianli asked eagerly, with a touch of expectation.

He didn't believe that Bai Xiaosheng could have outplayed his precious grandson by sheer luck alone. Old Man Sun had been immersed in this field for decades and was utterly fascinated with jade betting. He had been pondering it ever since that day.

"Second, although Treles Square has no chance of beating my Xiangdong Plaza, it still wouldn't have a problem with a normal opening or maintaining operations. But what I want to deal with is not this mere project but Century Construction, its market share in Tiannan. I don't want to see Treles operating normally but want it to become a quagmire, bogging down Century Construction!"

Sun Xiangdong leaned forward, his eyes full of ambition, "My future project manager, you'd also want us to have more benefits in the future, right?"

When speaking passionately, Sun Xiangdong couldn't help but offer Bai Xiaosheng a piece of encouragement, "Only when Xiangdong's cake grows bigger will you be able to earn more!"

Bai Xiaosheng almost laughed out loud, took a deep breath, and turned to Sun Yiran.

"The third condition, it must be Mr. Yiran's, right?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with a smile, "Let's hear it. If the terms are right, I, Bai Xiaosheng, might actually agree to your offer."

This remark made Sun Xiangdong's eyes shine.

"My condition is very simple. You apologize to me in public, declare that the jade bet that day was cheating by you, to clear my reputation. Also, I want you to be my personal assistant for three months!" Excitement flickered in Sun Yiran's eyes.

Having Bai Xiaosheng as his attendant for three months would repay any grudge a hundredfold!

"It's not too excessive; at the very least, you can be the project manager of Xiangdong Plaza and get shares. These three conditions really aren't too much," Bai Xiaosheng mused, "If you spread the word, there would definitely be a crowd clamoring for it!"

"So, does that mean you agree?" Sun Xiangdong asked eagerly.

Sun Tianli and Sun Yiran also looked at Bai Xiaosheng with gleaming eyes.

"As I said, if you spread the word, there would be plenty of people coming. Why would you need me?" Bai Xiaosheng stood up and said without any courtesy, "Please leave, I won't see you out!"

Bai Xiaosheng directly issued an order to leave.

"You!" Sun Xiangdong's face changed, a hint of coldness in his eyes, but then he stood up with a laugh, "Alright, you've got spine! I seem to have underestimated you!"

Bai Xiaosheng remained expressionless and gestured towards the door with his hand.

"Leave at once. You're not welcome in my home."

With a huff, Sun Xiangdong left with his father and son.

Thud, the door closed.

Bai Xiaosheng frowned slightly and muttered to himself, "Strange, Sun Xiangdong should have guessed my answer. Did they come all this way just to be turned down?"

Outside, Sun Xiangdong's anger vanished in an instant, and a sly smile appeared on his lips.

Chapter 196: You Dare to Play Dirty with Me!_1

The Sun family of three hurriedly left.

"Dad, you knew that Bai Xiaosheng wouldn't agree, so why did we even come here, just to embarrass ourselves?" Sun Yiran couldn't help but say, "I think we should just directly take down Treles Square, and then let Bai Xiaosheng come begging us!"

Sun Tianli nodded on the side.

"What do you know!" Sun Xiangdong glanced at Sun Yiran and sneered, "I want to take revenge on Bai Xiaosheng, the person! Even if I destroy Treles Square, would Bai Xiaosheng truly suffer any loss? Do you think he really lives and dies with the project, that if the project falls apart, he's finished? Don't be foolish!"

"My partner, he must be completely discredited!" A ferocious smile appeared on Sun Xiangdong's face, "Even have him end up in jail!"

Sun Xiangdong looked around to make sure no one was there, then reached into his suit and took out a button.

This thing, a specialist eavesdropping device, cost Zhuang Boyi a hefty sum to get.

Sun Xiangdong fiddled with it for a bit, and Bai Xiaosheng's voice came out of that button—

"Let's hear it, if the conditions are right, I, Bai Xiaosheng, might actually agree to you guys."

Sun Tianli and Sun Yiran looked at Sun Xiangdong in amazement, while Sun Xiangdong started laughing proudly.

"Just think, if this recording is edited a bit and sent to the media, what would happen! Cut a piece out, it can even be taken to court as evidence!"

Sun Xiangdong chuckled, "I wanted to spare him because I respect talent. Unfortunately, Bai Xiaosheng chose the hard way by rejecting my toast, and now he only has one path to death!"

The Sun family talked as they walked, swiftly heading toward the elevator.

"With this recording, I don't see how Bai Xiaosheng can escape this time; he's certainly doomed!" Sun Yiran was still excited and couldn't help blurting out.

"Shhh!"

Sun Xiangdong frowned and sharply hushed Sun Yiran to stop him from speaking further.

A ding sounded.

As the elevator doors opened, a beautiful woman stepped out, looking at the Sun family with a slight surprise before walking past them.

The Sun family followed one after another into the elevator, with Sun Yiran unable to resist staring at the woman's retreating figure, clicking his tongue in admiration.

"This girl is beautiful, she could compete with Wei Tianhou. Such a stunner, I should investigate her later, see if I can win her over!"

Sun Xiangdong also gazed at the beauty.

"Just now, when Yiran was speaking, the elevator arrived perfectly on time. I wonder if this woman heard anything... Forget it, maybe I'm overthinking it. Even if she did hear something, it's not likely that she knows who Bai Xiaosheng is." Sun Xiangdong shook his head slightly.

The elevator doors closed, cutting off the woman's figure from their sight.

The woman walked on for a bit, then suddenly stopped and turned around, furrowing her brows slightly.

"Were they talking about Sheng? What recording!" Wei Xuelian felt a vague unease.

Bai Xiaosheng was preparing to leave, and as he opened the door, he was surprised to find Wei Xuelian standing outside.

"What a coincidence, Xuelian, have you eaten yet?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with a smile, "I was going to knock on your door when I got off work, but you weren't there."

"I have something to tell you!" Wei Xuelian's expression was somewhat serious.

...

Two minutes later, Bai Xiaosheng's smile faded.

He carefully thought about it; today's events did seem rather unusual from the start. From Wei Xuelian's lips, he finally confirmed the Sun family father and son's true intentions.

They came to record him?

Such despicable tactics!

Bai Xiaosheng recalled what he had said, which indeed could be twisted and manipulated to put him in a very passive situation.

"Although I would be able to think of a way to deal with it when the time came, it's always better to resolve it now!"

There and then, Bai Xiaosheng apologized to Wei Xuelian with a smile, "Xuelian, I need to deal with this matter, I'll treat you to dinner another time!"

Wei Xuelian smiled tenderly.

"Go on, I'll have a late-night snack waiting for you!"

Bai Xiaosheng felt a surge of warmth inside, revealed his pearly white teeth, and grinned radiantly, "You're so good!"

Then, he hurried toward the elevator.

In Bai Xiaosheng's eyes, there was a streak of cold harshness.

Sun Xiangdong, you want to play dirty with me? You really have no idea what I, Bai Xiaosheng, am capable of!

Well, let me give you a taste of what I can do!

...

The three generations of the Sun Family were on their way home in a car.

In the vehicle, Sun Yiran was getting impatient and said to Sun Xiangdong, "Dad, let's call Zhuang Boyi over now and leak Bai Xiaosheng's recording to him!"

Sun Xiangdong shook his head slightly.

"Now, well, it could work, but it's not the best timing," he said.

Sun Tianli, the wily old fox, was twirling his mustache, squinting his eyes as he spoke.

"Dad is right!" Sun Xiangdong gave a smile to Sun Tianli, and then turned to Sun Yiran, "You, my boy, lack experience and can't keep your cool. To release it now would, at most, tarnish Bai Xiaosheng alone. As businesspeople, remember, if we can kill two birds with one stone, even three with one stone, we must not rush!"

After pondering for a moment, Sun Yiran's eyes slightly sparkled, "You mean... on the day of the opening at Treles Square, we release it! Ruining Bai Xiaosheng and hitting their project at the same time?"

Sun Xiangdong nodded with a smile, with a hint of appreciation in his gaze.

Sharp as a tack, truly my son.

Imagine, that project already steeped in low morale, on opening day, the news of the project manager's betrayal would be utterly devastating!

This scandal will also become the nightmare of Century Construction!

By then, even Century Construction might, in an attempt to protect itself, sue Bai Xiaosheng!

Sun Yiran's own excitement grew as he envisioned the scenario.

Beset on all sides, Bai Xiaosheng, I want to see how you won't die! By then, you'll kneel down before me like a dog, begging for mercy!

Sun Yiran trembled slightly with the thrill of anticipation.

At that moment, Bai Xiaosheng was sitting in a taxi, using Red Lotus to locate the Sun Family's address.

"The Sun Family lives in a high-end villa neighborhood, with top-notch security in the community, and no doubt a lot of servants in their home, maybe even private security guards," Bai Xiaosheng noted as he examined the information, lamenting, "It's like an impregnable fortress, utterly secure!"

But is it really utterly secure?

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but sneer to himself.

...

After the Sun Family Father and Son arrived home, Sun Xiangdong went straight to the bedroom and closed the door. He took down a painting from the wall revealing a perfectly ordinary piece of wall. He carefully pressed and pushed on it, a section of the wall slid aside, exposing a hidden compartment.

This wasn't a safe, but it was more expensive than a custom-built one.

There were no money in the compartment, just a pile of documents, and several mini-CDs, which were the treasures of Sun Xiangdong.

Sun Xiangdong carefully placed the button recorder into the compartment, glanced at it, then picked up a mini-CD labeled with two characters: "Wang Ye."

He had always kept a backup plan through his years of dealing with Wang Ye.

Sun Xiangdong put the disc back, carefully closed the hidden compartment, then smiled and left the room.

Outside the villa district.

Bai Xiaosheng got out of the car and stood under a streetlamp looking at the high walls and large courtyard, knowing he probably couldn't even get through the door by himself.

"Looks like I need to call a group of professionals," Bai Xiaosheng said with a quiet chuckle.

Chapter 197: Extraordinary Allies, Already Adept_1

Bai Xiaosheng searched around, but after a long time, he found nothing.

"It seems that the area around here is well-managed," Bai Xiaosheng sighed.

He could only call out to Red Lotus, search around, and then head off in one direction.

Just one street away from here.

That place was an urban village with few people left living there, all marked with large, white demolition characters on the walls.

According to the internet, construction was to start next year, and it would be turned into a high-end residential area.

Now, most of the people in this urban village had moved out, leaving only a few behind, but there were plenty of cats and dogs.

Those abandoned pets, left unchecked, had become stray cats and stray dogs, surviving only by scavenging through trash and hunting rodents.

At the entrance of the urban village was a small store with dim lighting. The neon sign at the door no longer lit up, leaving only a string of festive light bulbs barely illuminating, enough for everyone to see the words "XX Supermarket" on the sign, even with its name fallen off, leaving only the words "Supermarket," which were pasted on with thick paper and repeatedly outlined with a blackboard pen.

The owner was a man in his fifties, surnamed Liu, idly minding the counter, bored out of his mind.

In the evenings, his business was slow, but he had to stay open until nine or ten o'clock, after all, the villagers relied on his shop for their necessities like instant noodles, sausages, tea eggs, chicken feet, some drinks, and daily groceries.

Liu was bored when he saw a young man walk in, with ordinary looks but very energetic.

He looked unfamiliar, not from this village.

Liu thought about it and was certain of it.

The young man grabbed the largest plastic bag, walked over, and swept the shelves clear of the few sausages, chicken feet, tea eggs, and other edibles, filling the bag to the brim.

Now there was a big customer!

Liu greeted the young man warmly, made change, and watched him walk into the village.

"He must be gathering with someone, there's enough food here for a dozen or twenty people. But for a gathering, why not buy any alcohol?"

Liu was surprised.

At that moment, Bai Xiaosheng found a dark alleyway with a few lights left on, located the garbage bins, and startled a few small, thin figures rummaging through the trash, who quickly leaped into the darkness, disappearing from sight.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, set down his bag, took out some sausages and chicken feet, and without minding the smell of garbage, ate a few bites before tossing them into the area where darkness and light intertwined, repeating the process.

Tiny sounds came from the darkness, and Bai Xiaosheng even saw a few pairs of green eyes.

"Meow!"

"Woof woof!"

Finally, restless barking and meowing erupted.

Several shadows dashed out like greased lightning, snatched some of the food, and then in the darkness, they tumbled into a tumbling skirmish.

"Initiate secondary assist, language conversion..."

"Detected: domestic Chinese cats, domestic Chinese dogs, West Highland White Terriers, Folded-Ear Cat..."

Red Lotus kept identifying the species based on their barks and meows.

Bai Xiaosheng felt silently distressed; the humans had left, and these pets, unchecked, had become stray cats and dogs, living mixed together, competing for trash to survive.

After this is over, I'll call an animal rescue station, hoping they all have a good place to go, Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself, and then selected a language.

"Translate into the language of domestic Chinese dogs and domestic Chinese cats!"

These two breeds were native breeds, colloquially called "local dogs" and "local cats." Some looked down on them, but Bai Xiaosheng knew they were smarter than foreign breeds and more adaptable to the environment. What's most precious is that domestic Chinese dogs are good at group fights, displaying a sense of community, and domestic Chinese cats are even better hunters.

Bai Xiaosheng made calls in the languages of cats and dogs, inviting them from the darkness.

"I have a lot of food here for you to eat! There's enough for you all to be full. I need your help!"

Bai Xiaosheng's calls brought a moment of quiet to the darkness, as the animals' eyes flickered.

Abandoned animals find it hard to trust humans again.

"I come with sincerity. If you don't believe me, I can leave and seek help elsewhere!" Bai Xiaosheng said seriously, picking up his bag. "I can do more for you than just provide a meal. I understand your noises; I can help you more. If you miss out on this opportunity, you'll regret it!"

Bai Xiaosheng made as if to walk away.

From different directions in the darkness, suddenly came cries, from cats and dogs alike.

"Stop!"

"Stop!"

The voices translated into one rough, the other sharp.

Bai Xiaosheng saw a tall, lean dog leading a group of dirty, mixed-breed dogs out, while from another spot, a relatively clean tabby cat led a group of different breeds of cats out.

The cats and dogs formed a flanking position against Bai Xiaosheng, yet they were also wary of each other.

As long as there was something to talk about, that was good.

Bai Xiaosheng laughed, setting down his bag.

"How about we work together?"

...

Several minutes later.

At the entrance of the urban village's small store, Liu was just yawning when he saw a swarm of cats dash by like a streak, easily over a dozen, startling him; before he recovered, he saw a group of various-sized dogs run past silently, giving him yet another scare.

"My God, have the animals become spirits!"

In the villa complex.

The gate guards were suddenly drawn to a burst of urgent barking. A few large dogs charged towards them. The two guards were so frightened they fell over each other as they ran inside, screaming incessantly.

"My God, quickly call the disease control center!"

They didn't notice the dozen cats along with several swift small dogs, making no sound, darting into the complex within the shadows, like a well-trained special forces unit.

Upon entering the complex, the cats and dogs quickly scattered.

The frightened guards, clutching their phones, peered outside only to find the street empty and quiet, no large dogs in sight.

However, inside the complex, a silent storm had erupted.

Pets from every household—cats, dogs, all sorts of birds—became restless, with many "missing."

In one corner of the villa area, stray cats and dogs reconvened within half an hour. Under their lead or escort, the number of animals had doubled, including pet cats and dogs, as well as shivering parrots, Hwameis, pigeons, and even five or six large rats.

The stray cats surrounded them, with stray dogs on guard on the outer ring, ready to react.

The lead tabby cat began mewling at these animals. If Bai Xiaosheng were there, he certainly would have laughed out loud.

The tabby cat was saying,

"I've called you all here because there's a favor I need from you. Those who don't want to die should not refuse!"

It was like a mob boss giving a pep talk.

Some pets joined voluntarily, others were forced, and some dared not refuse.

And this was only the beginning.

The animal troop quickly grew in size and kept on "recruiting" new members.

At this moment, Bai Xiaosheng was sitting on a stone bench outside the villa area, accompanied by a few cats and dogs, with a pigeon perched on his shoulder, cooing away.

This was a newly promoted "liaison officer," with six of its companions taking turns to pass on messages.

The efficiency of the new partner had impressed Bai Xiaosheng.

Animals becoming spirits, simply invincible.

At this moment, Pigeon Number One was conveying a message to him, "Target spotted, request action!"

"Go ahead!"

Bai Xiaosheng issued the command.

Chapter 198 Sun Family Burglary Incident_1

"Mimi, Mimi?"

A servant of the Sun Family was softly calling out in the lobby on the first floor.

His search was fruitless.

Unable to hold back his frown and with a barely audible voice, he grumbled with some annoyance, "Stupid cat, where did you run off to? I'm so fed up with this damned job as a cat slave. I need to find a chance to feed that cat some sleeping pills!"

Mimi was a Ragdoll cat raised by Mrs. Sun Xiangdong and was particularly clingy.

This servant often fed the cat milk laced with sleeping pills, so it would snuggle in the lady's arms and doze off. No one could tell anything was amiss, and it gave him less trouble.

Suddenly, a cat's meow echoed from outside!

That Ragdoll cat was sitting in the courtyard, meowing towards the interior, ignoring all calls to come in.

The servant quickly opened the door and ran to pick it up.

In the time it took for the door to close on its own, at least two or three lean and agile figures had slipped inside.

Those stray cats, skirting along the edges of the walls, silently employed their street-honed evasion skills, skillfully avoiding the servant and heading straight to the second floor.

They squeezed into an empty room on the second floor, opened the window latch, and their companions outside on the big tree swiftly entered.

The Sun Family had many members, but the villa was even larger. They would never expect that their home today had many ghostly "guests."

Those animals that weren't convenient to bring inside all quietly stood guard around the villa, monitoring every move of the Sun Family people.

Initially, Bai Xiaosheng used only animal language to describe the Sun Family people's characteristics to these animals, and they managed to lock onto the targets more efficiently than humans. When the news came back, Bai Xiaosheng was indeed astonished.

Finding and entering the Sun Family home was not the goal; the key was to get the thing.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't describe what he was looking for; after all, even he had not seen it. If he made it too complicated, the animals would not understand.

"What I want is something they have hidden away," was all Bai Xiaosheng could say.

He was still a little worried whether the animals could understand the meaning of these words...

As wave after wave of information was relayed back by the pigeons, Bai Xiaosheng found he had clearly underestimated these animals' intelligence.

They had gathered all the animals they could find near the Sun Family villa, including pets, wild birds, and mice, and questioned them...

"I saw someone hiding something in a bottle on the second floor!"

"I saw someone hiding something in a drawer's secret compartment!"

"I saw someone hiding something behind the wall of a painting!"

There was too much information.

Bai Xiaosheng's head was spinning, so he simply gave an order, "Bring all those things out to me!"

That was easier!

Pigeon Number One swiftly flew off, delivering the command.

Watching the departing pigeon, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but touch his nose, thinking to himself with boundless emotion, "Perhaps, they had become spirits long ago. We just hadn't realized it yet!"

In an empty room in the villa.

Underneath the bed, a dozen mice, trembling under the nudging of a cat, suddenly rushed out as if obeying a command.

"Ah! A big mouse!"

From the first servant's scream until everyone was screaming.

The whole villa was in chaos, even Sun Xiangdong was disturbed and came out of the study.

While the servants were chasing after the mice, other animals quickly went into action, taking everything that was hidden, carrying and dragging it rapidly out of the windows. It was a steady stream.

Under a section of the wall in the villa area, the mice had dug a hole leading outside the wall, and the animals moved in and out from there.

At this moment, Bai Xiaosheng was dumbstruck.

He watched in shock as gold and silver jewelry, cash, cards, bankbooks, watches, and even love letters piled up quickly before his eyes.

These animals were strictly adhering to his instructions; whatever people hid in the house, they would steal.

"But these aren't what I want," Bai Xiaosheng said with a mix of laughter and tears.

In Sun Xiangdong's study, a painting on the wall trembled slightly.

One mouse after another relayed items down, pulling them out of a hidden compartment.

The animals at the window passed them on in a relay, transporting them outside.

Bai Xiaosheng was looking through the "treasures" scattered on the floor when he suddenly saw pigeons numbered two to five flying in, carrying items in their beaks—letters, mini CDs, and one with something the size of a button, who deftly landed on Bai Xiaosheng's shoulder.

Bai Xiaosheng took it curiously and examined it.

"What is this?"

"A German-made CC15 Type Disguiser Recorder, usage as follows..."

As Red Lotus had explained, Bai Xiaosheng began to play with the intriguing little gadget.

"Let's hear it. If the conditions are right, I, Bai Xiaosheng, might really agree to your terms," he said.

Suddenly, his own voice came from the device.

Bai Xiaosheng stood up abruptly, his eyes lighting up.

The items were in hand!

Bai Xiaosheng gathered the documents and CDs that came with the same batch and had pigeon number one signal the animals inside to "retreat"!

As for the pile of items in front of him, Bai Xiaosheng instructed the animals to take care of it themselves.

The animals inside the villa received the message and swiftly withdrew through the windows with practiced ease.

The maids who had been bothered by the big rats suddenly found that the scampering gray creatures had vanished.

They disappeared as if they had never been there, silently and without a trace.

The butler could only make calls to the property management, health and epidemic prevention stations, and rodent control departments, repeatedly stressing the gravity of the situation.

That evening, the Sun Family's villa returned to calm, but it was said that the next day, news of thefts spread far and wide, with nearly everyone having lost something.

When the police arrived, unexpectedly, they found a large amount of stolen goods in the room of a maid who often fed the cats, and despite her many protests, she was taken away for investigation.

As the maid was taken away, Mimi, the Ragdoll cat, lay lazily on the sofa, watching the scene unfold with a slightly mischievous glint in her beautiful cat eyes.

Of course, the butler only reported the theft to Manager Sun Tianli and did not alarm Sun Xiangdong.

After all, Manager Sun was not known for having a good temper...

Sun Tianli did not tell his son either because Sun Xiangdong had left early for a project and was away on site...

That night, after obtaining the items he wanted and bidding farewell to the animals, Bai Xiaosheng went online to contact a group of kind-hearted people, donating a large sum of money, asking them to feed the animals in the urban village every day and asking them to contact charitable organizations and shelters to care for stray pets.

Latter on, Bai Xiaosheng saw a loving adoption event featured in the media, taking place in that very location.

These were all matters for later.

Bai Xiaosheng ate the late-night snack Wei Xuelian had brought him while reviewing the data he had obtained.

It involved quite a few people, quite a lot of dirty dealings, and Bai Xiaosheng only glanced over it briefly.

Until he saw Wang Ye's name.

Bai Xiaosheng's expression turned grim.

Although he had suspected it all along, the sight of the evidence before him moved him once again.

"Wang Ye, you really are in cahoots with Sun Xiangdong!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a cold expression, "Now that the evidence is in hand, you'd better pray for luck!"

Chapter 199 Can We Really Do This?_1

After the Sun Family incident, all was calm.

Bai Xiaosheng did not immediately take action against Wang Ye.

Sun Xiangdong went to oversee the battle at Xiangdong Plaza.

The day before the opening.

The whole Xiangdong Plaza was on standby, armed and ready.

Their project team had been battling continuously for two days and nights, living on site without leaving the project, even setting up tents on the premises.

Sun Xiangdong did not go home either; however, he had a "Walking Palace" on the project site—luxurious accommodations with a dedicated chef—naturally incomparable to others.

Dealing with Bai Xiaosheng was not something Sun Xiangdong was in a rush for.

In his view, it would have a sensational effect if he released the recording on the opening day.

If he gave it to Zhuang Boyi too early, he was actually worried that it would leak, allowing Bai Xiaosheng to be on guard.

At this moment, Sun Xiangdong's chief concern was Wei Moran's concert.

If the concert went well, Xiangdong Plaza would soar, crushing Teles Square effortlessly. More importantly, it would make Wei Moran satisfied, greatly benefiting Xiangdong's future development!

Sun Xiangdong dared not slacken at all, wishing his employees would work around the clock without eating or sleeping, completely tied to their jobs.

Unlike Xiangdong Plaza, Teles Square was a completely different style.

Apart from the managers reporting progress to Bai Xiaosheng twice a day, those arranged for rotating shifts worked as usual while others left on time every day to rest at home.

Those on duty also received a huge subsidy. The project even provided work meals from brand takeouts.

Compared to the agitated and exhausted people of Xiangdong, the people of Teles were well-fed, well-rested, and spirited.

However, this became a subject of ridicule for the people of Xiangdong.

"There's no comparison, we're preparing for the diva's concert, now not just Tiannan, the whole country is watching us! We can't help but be busy!"

"We may be tired, but we're happy. They're leisurely, but who in Tiannan takes them seriously!"

The teasing voices from Xiangdong, once spread online by the media, infuriated the people of Teles, yet they found themselves unable to retort.

Currently, at Xiangdong Plaza, scores of media journalists were eagerly waiting to capture news. It was said that even the gatekeepers became the subjects of interviews, hounded by several media outlets, and whatever they said offhand might make it to the front page headlines.

When the media could not dig up any material at Xiangdong Plaza, they started to turn their attention to Teles Square, coming over to interview their feelings for a comparison piece.

This left the people of Teles even more vexed.

At Teles Square, the stage backdrop and perimeter barriers had arrived and were installed, but all of these were carefully covered with tarpaulins, as if afraid of people seeing them.

Not to mention outsiders, even the project staff, including the promotion department responsible for receiving materials, had no idea what was on them.

This became rather interesting—tomorrow was the opening, yet today, things were still being kept under wraps!

These promotional materials were meant to be seen by people—the more, the better!

Any other business would hate not finding a way to increase exposure.

Bai Xiaosheng, as if afraid of people seeing his materials, did not even bother to check their quality.

"Big brother, the opening is imminent, yet you still can't bear to let everyone have a peek at your barriers. Are you playing the shy bride?" Chen Daya went to ask Bai Xiaosheng at that moment.

Bai Xiaosheng just laughed it off and sent him to pay the printing facility.

Chen Daya was in a gloomy mood, and the out-of-town suppliers who delivered the materials were trying to cozy up to him.

"Your project is so quiet, the media hasn't come knocking? Impressive, really impressive!"

Was that supposed to be a mockery?

Chen Daya, not amused, quickly settled the payment with the printing factory and sent them on their way.

All the promotional materials were stored away as instructed by Bai Xiaosheng, with no one allowed to open them without permission.

Bai Xiaosheng brought in some "Zidun Security" company from outside for surveillance, specially tasked with guarding.

The security personnel only took orders from Bai Xiaosheng, not showing courtesy to anyone else.

Assistant Qian took a look around, trying to intimidate the security with his status, only to be unceremoniously driven away.

In the office.

Bai Xiaosheng listened to the last manager's progress report and smiled with satisfaction.

With that, the preparations were all complete, with half a day to spare.

"Let's hold a media release event," Bai Xiaosheng made a swift decision, instructing the promotion department to make the arrangements.

The media outlets received the invitation.

"Oh? A release event at Teles Square? What could they possibly have to release? No way, I'm not going! The headline report for East Square isn't even out yet; I'll just send an intern to cover it, get some petty cash, consider it a perk."

Said the chief reporter of a mainstream media outlet.

The other media outlets had pretty much the same reaction.

They sent interns or editors, or those who were otherwise benched.

All for the sake of that petty cash.

"We notified thirty outlets about this sudden release event, but only about ten have replied that they'll come, what should we do?"

Chen Daya was a bit anxious as he reported to Bai Xiaosheng.

"About ten, huh? That's not too few," Bai Xiaosheng said nonchalantly with a smile, "Let's just go with these."

By the afternoon, only eleven outlets had actually shown up, and from the business cards collected, it was clear they were either interns or assistants; it was a makeshift effort.

Chen Daya was so frustrated he could've gone crooked at the nose.

Bai Xiaosheng remained carefree as ever.

In any case, he was just leaking a bit of news.

The eleven media interns and reporters in the conference room witnessed the simplest press conference in history.

Bai Xiaosheng sat alone in the main seat, with the same backdrop that had been used during the previous media visit hanging behind him— "Teles Square Media Release Event."

This was blatantly perfunctory, creating a moment of awkwardness that even Chen Daya couldn't bear to watch.

Bai Xiaosheng looked calm and collected, smiling.

"Thank you all for coming. I am here to announce a significant piece of news regarding the opening time for Teles Square. It has been adjusted to tomorrow afternoon at three o'clock. Congratulations to everyone present; you will receive an invitation from us. Please keep it safe."

With just a few words from Bai Xiaosheng, the staff handed out petty cash and invitation letters together, and those interns smiled brightly at the handouts they received.

"Manager Bai, do you have a press release for today's event?" an intrepid media newcomer couldn't help but ask.

The other media people also looked towards Bai Xiaosheng.

Typically, at a project news release event, there are two scenarios. One is where the project provides a standard press release for all media to use indiscriminately, and the other, more troublesome one, involves reporters writing their own stories.

"For this release event, we did not prepare a press release. You all can write as you wish; just make sure to include the opening time. Other than that, there are no requirements," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

This was an effortlessly simple request. Naturally, the media reporters and editors were pleased to have it easy.

The event dissolved in less than half an hour.

It was so cursory that even Chen Daya felt it was child's play.

"We're opening tomorrow, can we really do it like this?!" Chen Daya couldn't help but ask.

No matter how much he trusted Bai Xiaosheng, he was feeling uncertain now.

Looking at the backdrop and the barriers, it seemed that Bai Xiaosheng had prepared some kind of show, but even the best show is nothing without an audience.

Without media promotion, even the finest wine will remain unknown in its alley!

If it were up to Chen Daya, he would have reached out to various media outlets, promised substantial benefits, and lured them to send someone over for tomorrow. If not a leading journalist, at least a seasoned one, but now Bai Xiaosheng wasn't even trying to win over these interns.

Bai Xiaosheng, savvy as he was, couldn't be oblivious to this fact!

As Chen Daya gazed in incomprehension, he watched Bai Xiaosheng walk away leisurely with his hands behind his back.

Chen Daya squinted his eyes and muttered in a barely audible voice.

"What's this guy up to with his mysterious schemes!"

Chapter 200 Give me a puff of cigarette_1

Tiannan, an intern journalist at a news agency named Xiao Bei, happily hurried back to the company.

The dispatch task to Treles Square this time had netted him a thousand yuan in travel expenses, a small windfall, and the request from the other party was too simple, just to release a news story highlighting the opening time of Treles Square, with the difficulty level practically being zero.

"Xiao Bei, you're back so soon, did everything wrap up over there?"

Cheng Yang, the newly promoted chief reporter at Tiannan News, asked with surprise as he looked up.

Xiao Bei had been his protégé all along, practically his half-disciple, and of course, Cheng Yang had sent him on this lucrative task.

"Yes, Mr. Cheng, it wrapped up very quickly, less than half an hour in total," Xiao Bei recounted the situation.

"Did Bai Xiaosheng run out of strategies this time?" Cheng Yang couldn't help but be a bit curious.

Last time, he went with Zhuang Boyi as the leading force in the questioning, only to see the man surnamed Bai handily defeated. He still vividly remembered Bai Xiaosheng's unexpected tactics and his ferocious rebuttal.

Luckily the man surnamed Bai wasn't in media, otherwise, he would have been a formidable opponent! Cheng Yang mused.

But this time, facing Xiang Dong's overpowering assault, hadn't the man surnamed Bai also been at a loss?

Cheng Yang let out a light chuckle and shook his head.

In his view, of course, there was no hope!

Unless Bai Xiaosheng could invite a superstar on par with Wei Moran!

But even so, in terms of publicity, Treles Square was far behind East Square!

Simply put, there was no comparison!

Cheng Yang racked his brains, but Treles Square simply had no chance of winning this time!

"I'm this chief reporter thanks to Treles Square, thanks to the man surnamed Bai. Speaking of which, I really should thank them," Cheng Yang thought lazily, but his heart was devoid of any grateful feeling.

"Treles Square is finished this time, Zhuang Boyi must be very pleased!" Cheng Yang muttered to himself and paid no more attention, focusing instead on an article on his computer.

It was a feature he had painstakingly created for Xiang Dong over two days.

This time, with Xiang Dong and Wei Moran, I will make a name for myself in the media circle! Cheng Yang's eyes gleamed with not so modest ambition.

"Mr. Cheng, this is the opening invitation from Treles Square, do you want to take a look?" Xiao Bei handed over a beautifully printed invitation card.

Cheng Yang scoffed and took it, crumpling it up and tossing it in the trash can.

"This is trash!"

Cheng Yang said disdainfully, and then told Xiao Bei, "Xiao Bei, just send some brief news for Treles. No need for review from me! Once you're done, get to know the material on Xiang Dong right away. This time, I'm taking you with me to the opening!"

"Yes, yes!" Xiao Bei immediately answered with shining eyes.

The opening of East Square tomorrow would not only be a grand event in the real estate circle but also a rare gathering for the media; even just to be seen there would be excellent!

Grateful beyond measure, Xiao Bei glanced at the crumpled invitation in the trash can and sneered with disdain.

With the gathering at East Square, who would want to go to Treles Square? Perhaps tomorrow that place will be deserted!

The same scene played out at several other media outlets.

The invitation issued by Treles Square had virtually become a laughing stock.

That evening, Manager Sun obtained an invitation from Treles Square and, leafing through the beautifully printed card lacking any substantive content or itinerary, couldn't help but burst into laughter.

"This Bai Xiaosheng really is amusing! He knows it's of no use, but he still insists on following these procedures! Well, well, as long as he's happy. After tomorrow, he'll have no reason to be happy anymore! I will see to his and his project's downfall!"

Manager Sun didn't just laugh by himself, he also called over the management team of East Square, letting everyone pass around the invitation.

"What's the point of Treles Square doing this? Is it of any use? Does anyone find it useful?"

"I think they haven't even covered the printing cost!"

"This Bai Xiaosheng really has no shame, still pretending and issuing invitations. I think we should send him one too, let him see what a real event looks like!"

A burst of laughter.

Sun Xiangdong couldn't help but slap the table, pointing at the last speaker and laughing loudly, "That's a great suggestion! I think it's feasible, but there's no need to waste my invitation, just have the media release an article that says, 'Treles Square project manager pays high price for scalpers to spy on East Square'!"

Sun Xiangdong's proposal sparked another round of laughter from the executives.

"Manager Sun has spoken brilliantly!"

"That's exactly what we should do, to properly shame this person and make their face thick!"

"Let the Treles Square project manager become notorious throughout Tiannan!"

...

Meanwhile, at Treles Square.

The opening was tomorrow, and aside from those on duty, everyone else left work on time.

Today's shift was the Engineering Supervisor's, who stood on the somewhat empty and quiet square, looking at the stage covered with tarpaulins, watching the security guards milling about, feeling quite anxious as he smoked one cigarette after another.

Someone patted the Engineering Supervisor, Cheng, on the shoulder, and he turned his head to find Chen Daya standing behind him, extending his hand.

"Give me a drag."

Cheng silently handed over the half-smoked cigarette, watching Chen Daya take a silent puff and then cough repeatedly from being choked by the smoke.

"If you can't smoke, don't force it. You quit a long time ago," Cheng said with a sigh, then asked, "It's not your shift today, why haven't you gone back?"

Chen Daya was silent, looking at the scattering smoke and said, "Going back, I wouldn't be able to sleep anyway!"

Two grown men, standing side by side in silence, both quietly watching the stage.

"Do you think, what kind of ace does Manager Bai have up his sleeve that he can turn things around tomorrow?" Cheng couldn't help asking.

"Stop asking. Do I look like I know?" Chen Daya sighed deeply, "At this point, it is what it is. We have no choice but to trust in Bai Xiaosheng, whether we do or not!"

"Otherwise, what can we do..."

After a long and deep sigh.

Chen Daya fell silent again.

Cheng was also silent, looking in a certain direction where the lights were brilliant. Although he knew he wasn't looking at Xiangdong Plaza, he thought that Xiangdong must be even more lively right now.

Tomorrow, one heaven, one hell.

"I heard that Wei Moran's concert is rescheduled to after the opening of Xiangdong Plaza. Damn, that Sun Xiangdong, impressive indeed!" Cheng murmured with a tone of reluctant admiration.

Chen Daya took a fierce drag, flicked the cigarette butt away, and turned to leave.

"Damn it, I don't want to think about it anymore! I've been with this project so many years, it's time to see an outcome!"

Under Cheng's gaze, Chen Daya's figure had a touch of aged loneliness.

"Manager Bai, I beg you, don't let us down this time!" Cheng sighed, "At the very least, don't let us die too ugly!"

At Bai Xiaosheng's home.

Bai Xiaosheng was sitting in front of the computer, chatting with several people on instant messaging software.

"Everyone is in place, the great show is ready for tomorrow, you all have to give it your all!"

As Bai Xiaosheng typed, a confident smile curled at the corner of his mouth.

Tomorrow, the decisive battle for life and death!

Tomorrow, the reckoning arrives!

Bai Xiaosheng looked forward with boundless anticipation, muttering to himself.

"Let the reckoning come more fiercely, let me jump to the rank of deputy manager in one go!"