

Two Trillion 1931

Chapter 1931 - I'm Not the Type to Suffer a Loss Either!

On their first day in Xianggang, Bai Xiaosheng and the others spent it shopping and wandering around, and later arranged for their purchases to be shipped home.

Several days later, Wei Xuelian called, delighted with the gift Bai Xiaosheng had sent her, expressing how much she loved it, which made Bai Xiaosheng feel quite happy.

Lei Ying was quite right; the gift itself isn't what's important, it's the thought that counts!

That day, Bai Xiaosheng and Wei Xuelian talked on the phone for an hour, filled with affection and longing to be together right away.

Of course, that's another story.

On the second day after arriving in Xianggang, Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Weiwei, and Lei Ying discreetly made their way to Zhenbei Group's local enterprise—the Guangyu International in the Greater China Region.

The person in charge here was directly selected by Bai Xiaosheng, an elite once hidden in the Greater China Region talent pool, named Chengnan.

When Bai Xiaosheng appeared, Chengnan was overjoyed, but at Bai Xiaosheng's gesture, he dismissed his secretary before showing his enthusiasm.

Chengnan personally served tea and water to welcome Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng engaged in some small talk before getting to the point, "What troubles and issues is Guangyu International really facing here? What business obstacles are we encountering? Chengnan, tell me in detail this time!"

Reports, even phone calls, couldn't fully convey the situation, so Bai Xiaosheng was taking this opportunity to listen carefully.

Chengnan nodded repeatedly; he had long wanted to talk face-to-face with Bai Xiaosheng about this.

However, before he spoke, Chengnan asked Bai Xiaosheng to wait a moment while he fetched some documents from his desk.

In the ensuing time, Chengnan elaborated on the strategies and plans he implemented since coming here, both in operation and market strategy.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded frequently.

In his view, Chengnan's arrangements had no issues, and could even be considered brilliant.

With the strong support from headquarters, Guangyu International shouldn't be in such a position at all!

"Earlier, I got the impression from you that the local firms have banded together to protect their home market?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

Chengnan smiled wryly, "Indeed, although they haven't openly targeted us, whenever we enter a niche market, issues arise. There are inexplicable problems in the supply chain, both upstream and downstream, as if an invisible hand is constraining us! These intangible setbacks are truly frustrating and difficult to describe! Even in the reports I sent you, I struggled to put it into words."

After speaking, Chengnan remarked with emotion, "But you trust me; another leader might think my incompetence is extreme, making excuses to avoid responsibility!"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and asked, "Have you investigated which companies are leading this opposition against us?"

Chengnan hesitated.

He wasn't usually so reluctant.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at him curiously, "Is there something you find difficult to disclose?"

Only then did Chengnan cautiously say, "According to my investigation, it's very likely that the Lin family is leading the charge!"

Chengnan's words stunned Bai Xiaosheng.

Even Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying exchanged surprised glances.

"Of course, I have no concrete evidence. I worry that saying this might affect your judgement, especially since I heard from Elder Xia that the Lin family invited you here." Chengnan cautiously stated.

Bai Xiaosheng waved his hand, indicating it was unrelated to him, and then fell into deep thought.

Logically, since the Lin family proactively invited him, seeking cooperation, they should be making overtures, supporting Zhenbei Group's enterprises instead of setting traps.

Was Chengnan's investigation mistaken or his judgement wrong, or...

Or were they really doing double-dealing!

Feigned friendliness while actually undermining?!

Bai Xiaosheng didn't want to make arbitrary judgements and returned to smile at Chengnan, "Alright, you just tell me your judgement. I'll investigate it later. For now, get busy, we should leave."

Chengnan was taken aback and quickly tried to persuade them to stay.

The president of Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region came in person, and after just two cups of tea, he was leaving without even having a meal?

Although Chengnan earnestly tried to keep them, Bai Xiaosheng still refused.

"Why rush about the meal? Let's wait. Once we resolve the issues here and you achieve your results, when you return to headquarters to report, I'll represent headquarters to treat you to a celebratory feast!"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, left these words, and stealthily left with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

Just as they came, they left quietly without a trace.

Chengnan was instructed not to see them off from the office, understanding that Bai Xiaosheng preferred a low-profile visit. However, he still stood at the office floor-to-ceiling window, gazing down, trying to catch a glimpse of Bai Xiaosheng.

Success rewarded the watchful. After his eyes stung from staring, Chengnan finally saw them departing, but they quickly vanished from sight.

However, even this brief sight brought Chengnan great reassurance.

"This Mr. Bai, he's truly young yet so mature and composed; I truly admire him!" Chengnan murmured to himself.

Bai Xiaosheng not only recognized Chengnan's talents but also had an admirable aura and qualities.

"It seems like this time, we might genuinely break free from these chains and soar high!" Chengnan soon became excited, turning back to work.

On the other side, Bai Xiaosheng walked briskly, deep in thought.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying silently followed behind.

When Bai Xiaosheng was contemplating, the two knew better than to disturb him.

After walking for no less than twenty minutes, Bai Xiaosheng finally snapped back to reality, looking around in confusion, "Where have we arrived now?"

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying couldn't help but find it funny; how would they know where they were if they'd just been following Bai Xiaosheng without question?

"Never mind, I got lost in thought and haven't an idea where we've wandered to anyway, not that we recognize anywhere," Bai Xiaosheng casually said, laughing at himself.

"Xiaosheng, what do we do now?" Lin Weiwei asked, and quickly followed with, "Did Chengnan say the Lin family was making things difficult for our enterprise here? Is this true? How could the Lin family act this way? If they intend for you to find out, they must not want to cooperate then?!"

Lin Weiwei wasn't doubting Chengnan but found the matter hard to believe.

Beside her, Lei Ying spoke up quietly, "If Mr. Chengnan's judgement is accurate, I can somewhat understand. Or rather, I have a sense of perspective. The market here is limited, localized to this region, so some enterprises prioritize safeguarding their own territory above all! Honestly, it's natural! They're practical-minded, separating cooperation and competition. I feel that even if we achieve cooperation with the Lin family, except for explicitly agreed collaboration terms, they'll continue acting how they always do, without conceding an inch in other areas!"

Lei Ying's analysis made Lin Weiwei think he had a point, albeit a somewhat peculiar one.

Bai Xiaosheng chuckled.

"I think Lei Ying's view is not bad. However, ultimately, for this matter, we need an investigation to confirm, using facts to validate our assumptions. But just for now, in analysis, I trust Chengnan's judgement and agree with Lei Ying's perspective!"

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes flickered, speaking in a low tone, "Since it's an analysis without a conclusion, we'll consider the worst-case scenario. In my opinion, the Lin family is a top-tier local family with the capability to organize a coalition of other local families and businesses to act against us, and this alliance should be quite solid! Otherwise, Chengnan wouldn't have nothing concrete to report after all this time!"

Bai Xiaosheng stroked his chin, "Additionally, restricting our enterprise here can also be seen as leverage in negotiation! It appears the Lin family intends to negotiate a deal without yielding any loss!"

Having said this, Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

Yet his gaze gradually turned sharp.

"But, isn't it fortunate? I, Bai Xiaosheng, am not one to accept even the slightest disadvantage either!"

Chapter 1932 - Two Great Families, Business Alliance

After visiting Tianyu International and engaging in discussions with the person in charge, Chengnan, over the next two days, Bai Xiaosheng, accompanied by Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, embarked on an investigation.

In fact, this kind of trouble didn't necessarily require Bai Xiaosheng, an executive president overseeing the entire situation, to intervene. However, since he was here and encountered it, it was better to solve it conveniently, especially as the market here is not small!

Moreover, this time, Bai Xiaosheng resolved the issue not through simple and crude methods.

Currently, Bai Xiaosheng is quite a prominent figure in the mainland, a person of interest, as they say, standing on high places brings coldness. For him, it's best not to engage in business wars lightly to avoid attracting gossip.

Additionally, this place is Xianggang, where their influence is weak. Even with Lu Yun and Dong Tianlu's presence, their power remains weak here, making it extremely unfavorable to start a business war.

Therefore, while investigating, Bai Xiaosheng also hoped to find a reliable solution.

This investigation was completed with the assistance of Red Lotus, through all the information available online, and by requesting support from the connections provided by Xiahou Qi, Lu Yun, and others, as well as the clues provided by Chengnan. Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying engaged in negotiations on behalf of Guangyu International, leading to the final completion of the investigation.

So far, they have figured out the root cause of the problem Guangyu International is encountering here!

Indeed, Guangyu International has received "special" treatment from an organized business alliance in this region.

In this, the Lin Family is not without blame!

Speaking of which, Xianggang does not have just one business alliance but several. However, only one crosses paths and conflicts with Guangyu International in various fields!

That business alliance also claims to be the most powerful in the locality, led by two major forces.

One of them is the Lin Family, which holds a place among the five major families in Xianggang.

Additionally, there is the Hong Family, whose strength rivals that of the Lin Family, also one of the five major families.

These two families reportedly have generational ties, now cooperating together.

To outsiders, unless the other three families band together and challenge them with determination, they truly have no opponents.

Of course, the five major families have coexisted in this area for decades or even a century, having business dealings, and friction is inevitable. However, neither side is willing to go to extremes. Like lions and tigers, they often don't fight to the death as people imagine, but rather cautiously maintain distance. Even with "friction" or "misunderstandings," they immediately communicate and resolve issues, politely dispelling misunderstandings.

After all, they are capable of inflicting fatal damage to each other, so without absolute assurance of subduing the other with one strike, none dare to act rashly, maintaining "a harmonious atmosphere."

The Lin and Hong families have absolute control and authority in the business alliance they lead and the market they are involved in. Almost all enterprises that have had friction or "awkwardness" with Guangyu International belong to that alliance. It is impossible to say that the Lin Family is entirely unaware.

At the very least, they condoned or are more likely directly plotted to participate!

Bai Xiaosheng analyzed the Hong Family's actions in the business world over the past five years. They are more confrontational, straightforward, and domineering. Combining this with various media reports about their current family head, Bai Xiaosheng concluded that the Hong Family head is a straightforward and vigorous person.

On the other hand, the current head of the Lin Family has a somewhat questionable reputation.

It can be determined that the Lin Family is driving that business alliance to suppress Guangyu International.

When Bai Xiaosheng received the final investigation results, he pondered for a long time.

"Looking at it now, what Lei Ying had said truly makes sense. These major families are indeed closely guarding their territory, unwilling to let outsiders interfere! The Lin Family is unlikely to relax their strategy against Guangyu International before formally cooperating with us!" Lin Weiwei said beside him, "I am really afraid that they might behave exactly as Lei Ying predicted, even if they cooperate with us, they will show no leniency to our company outside of the cooperation content. Their methods would just become more covert!"

“That’s for sure!” Lei Ying said from the side.

Bai Xiaosheng was still contemplating but casually uttered, “What else do you think about this matter? Go ahead and speak freely, you can say anything.”

This initiated a brainstorming session among the three of them.

Lin Weiwei continued, “During my outside visits, I also heard rumors that the business alliance led by the Lin and Hong families alternates leadership, each with half of the supporters. In fact, the Lin and Hong families have differences and friction, but whoever leads, the other will cooperate to present a united front, preventing a split. Some say that in recent years, their differences have become more frequent. To avoid complications in their relations, they intend to ease the situation through marriage alliances. However, the Lin Family always wants to use a waste from the Lin Family for the marriage, and the Hong Family has never agreed.”

“Is there such a thing?” Lei Ying asked curiously.

“There are such rumors, but no reports in entertainment magazines, possibly because the Lin and Hong families are such formidable entities,” Lin Weiwei replied.

These words, casually mentioned by Lin Weiwei, brought Bai Xiaosheng out of his contemplation, and he looked up at her.

“A waste from the Lin Family?” Bai Xiaosheng murmured, “That’s the one we heard about on the first day in Xianggang in the taxi... the Lin Family waste!”

“Yes, that driver uncle also said that he is a gambling addict, chased down the streets of Xianggang. At the shopping center that day, wasn’t there a bald guy with people mistaking us for him, pressing for debts?” Lin Weiwei said, “We were also set up by the henchmen around that Lin Family waste.”

Chapter 1933 - Two Great Families, Business Alliance (Part 2)

Remembered it.

"Interesting." Bai Xiaosheng suddenly laughed and muttered, "The Lin Family actually always wanted to use him for an alliance marriage with the Hong Family!"

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng so interested, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying couldn't help but exchange glances.

Then, Lin Weiwei asked, "Xiaosheng, why are you so concerned about this? Is there something wrong with it?"

At most, it's just gossip.

"If this news is true, don't you find it interesting?" Bai Xiaosheng countered.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying exchanged another glance.

"Xiaosheng, do you mean it seems irrational?" Lei Ying pondered for a moment and pinpointed the issue.

Someone who's been on the battlefield as a sniper often quickly identifies the core target.

Lin Weiwei also stared at Bai Xiaosheng, inquiring with her gaze.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded with a smile, "Exactly. Think about it. This is an alliance marriage, not adoption, there's no need to risk it all for the least capable one. The Lin and Hong families are both flourishing, and there are plenty of unmarried young people in the new generation. They could easily match up other people. Why insist on pushing the one recognized as the Lin family's useless slacker, especially — 'always'! Isn't the Lin Family afraid the Hong Family would be displeased? Instead of achieving the alliance's purpose, it might exacerbate conflicts between the two families!"

Listening to Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Weiwei suddenly realized, nodding repeatedly, yet she still said, "Xiaosheng, what I mentioned is just a rumor. Even if it's true, it's a trivial matter between two families, how is it related to solving our current trouble?"

Bai Xiaosheng merely chuckled at her words, providing no concrete answer, only saying, "I'm just curious."

The topic seemed to end there, but Lin Weiwei suddenly got a "creative spark" and said with a smile, "Xiaosheng, the other day, you were mistaken for that Lin family slacker, how about... you pretend to be him?"

Lin Weiwei's "wild idea" left Bai Xiaosheng momentarily stunned, then he couldn't help but laugh helplessly.

Even Lei Ying burst into laughter, "What happened that day must have some coincidence we're unaware of! Whether Lin or Hong family, how can they not know that 'notorious' person from the Lin family? Weiwei, are you suggesting Xiaosheng impersonate the Lin family slacker and go tell the enterprises in that business alliance to cooperate with Guangyu International and not cause trouble?"

"Even if the real Lin family slacker went, saying that probably wouldn't work either." Bai Xiaosheng said, unable to help laughing.

Lin Weiwei blushed and hurriedly said, "I just thought it was fun, I didn't mean it seriously... Hey, stop laughing!"

Seeing Lin Weiwei's embarrassment, the two wanted to laugh even more.

After the laughter, Bai Xiaosheng brought the topic back to the main subject, sorting through all the information.

First of all, it can be confirmed that under the Lin family's operation, the Lin and Hong families are leading a business alliance locally to attack Guangyu International.

In Bai Xiaosheng's view, it might be because Guangyu has Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region behind it. The Lin family fears allowing Guangyu International to establish a "bridgehead" here, Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region might continuously invest money and resources here, seizing the local market and hurting their own business!

While guarding their turf, the Lin family covets the inland market, wanting to "hitch a ride" with Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region.

Indeed, they want all the good things.

Secondly, the Lin family might be considering "helping" Guangyu International in exchange for more cooperation and benefits.

Of course, whether they help genuinely or deceitfully, overtly or covertly, is uncertain!

Closing the investigation report, Bai Xiaosheng muttered, "Confirming the opponent, these past two busy days were worthwhile!"

"Currently, to solve Guangyu International's issue, we either have to reach an agreement with the Lin family, asking them for help, or request them to 'please be lenient.' Yet, we can't ensure they wouldn't play a double game. They might fulfill their promise on the surface, but after letting Guangyu savor benefits, push them into bigger trouble." Bai Xiaosheng frowned.

That's something he didn't want to see!

Then, Bai Xiaosheng squinted slightly, "In that scenario, I'd not only be uneasy but also feel I've been taken advantage of!"

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying felt the same.

"Or, we could avoid cooperating with the Lin family and look for their adversaries. The enemy of our enemy is our friend," Lin Weiwei mumbled.

Lei Ying murmured, "Those major families wouldn't engage in antagonism, especially with the Lin and Hong families together. Who would defy them? Even if they cooperated with us and provided some assistance to Tianyu International, it wouldn't be much."

Lin Weiwei thought for a moment and indeed felt the same, inevitably feeling somewhat frustrated, as if being controlled by the Lin family.

"What if I want to shake things up between the Lin and Hong family's business alliance?" Bai Xiaosheng suddenly interjected softly.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying looked at Bai Xiaosheng in astonishment.

One Lin family is already troublesome enough, why is Bai Xiaosheng also thinking of involving the Hong family?

"You're not serious, right, Xiaosheng? What are you thinking?!" Lin Weiwei asked.

Lei Ying also looked at Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng suddenly smiled at them, "I'm just speaking casually."

...

While Bai Xiaosheng and the others were discussing matters, Baldhead hurriedly brought his men to meet Mr. Da at a high-end private club.

To be precise, it was Mr. Da who sent for them.

These days, Baldhead and his men were given a "break," allowing them to rest and recover from their injuries.

Until today, Mr. Da once again notified them, he needed them.

Baldhead felt quite suffocated these past few days, feeling that he was humiliated right from the start, becoming a laughingstock. It seemed difficult to move forward from here. Therefore, he educated his men every day, clamoring to avenge their humiliation and reestablish their brotherhood's prestige.

Now, the opportunity had arrived.

When Baldhead saw Mr. Da in the private room, he was rather excited because he heard that this time they were given an important task, once again confronting that Lin family good-for-nothing.

As the saying goes, where you fall, you must rise. Only then is it called avenging humiliation, building success step by step.

"Baldhead, this time I've asked Wu to grant you this opportunity. You should know that last time, you guys really didn't satisfy him," Mr. Da said, sitting comfortably on a large sofa, crossing his legs as he spoke to Baldhead.

"We will never forget your nurturing!" Baldhead responded sensibly, his eyes gleaming with fervor, "Just tell us, how should we deal with that Lin family wo...?"

Seeing Mr. Da's eyes narrow, Baldhead hastily corrected himself, "the very formidable one from the Lin family!"

Mr. Da's expression softened, "Today, we've received news that he will appear at a restaurant. You are to bring him back. But remember, do not be overly harsh, try not to injure anyone if possible. Persuading him to come would be best!"

With Mr. Da emphasizing this, Baldhead looked a bit troubled, but he eventually gritted his teeth and nodded, "Alright, no problem, we'll do it. Only..."

Baldhead cautiously said, "Could you reinforce us with more men, the strong ones."

Mr. Da glared, "Didn't I just tell you, try not to get rough, don't get rough! You're not there to hurt or abduct anyone, but to persuade them. Why would you need strong men?"

Baldhead's expression turned bitter, cracking a wry smile.

Easy for you to say!

You haven't seen how fierce that Lin family's good-for-nothing is. What if persuasion fails? Then it's roughing it, and they'll suffer!

"Use your brain, use your brain, you got that?" Mr. Da admonished, pointing to his own head in frustration.

Baldhead noticed Mr. Da's displeasure and dared not further argue, quickly nodding with a "got it, understood" look.

However, whether he truly understood, that's uncertain.

Mr. Da also felt a bit troubled looking at Baldhead; without additional manpower, he wouldn't choose these people.

Yet, if Wu wanted to meet, could that Lin family person truly refuse...

This should be a pretty simple task.

Mr. Da still couldn't understand how Baldhead and his men got beaten up that day, having heard that Lin family's guy had a very skilled bodyguard around?

But he couldn't be with him all the time, could he.

"Just handle it, make sure it gets done, go." Mr. Da impatiently waved them off.

Seeing Mr. Da's impatience, Baldhead dared not linger, promptly leading his men out.

Outside, Baldhead's brothers crowded around, all wearing sour expressions.

"Bald, Mr. Da asked us to bring that Lin family... that person over, how are we going to manage that, he's so tough!"

"Yeah, my injury still hurts!"

"That big guy with him packs a powerful punch, nearly broke my bone."

The group of brothers chimed in one after another.

Baldhead, already irritable, grew angrier at this, "All of you, shut up!"

Baldhead pointed to his own head, angrily saying, "Didn't you hear what Mr. Da said, use your brain, your brain! Understand!"

The surrounding brothers went quiet.

Baldhead vented his anger, but then he felt frustrated.

This brain, how should it be used...

Chapter 1934 - A Reunion Once More

Bai Xiaosheng sent a copy of the investigation results on Guangyu International to Xiahou Qi and discussed it with him over the phone.

After Bai Xiaosheng hung up the phone, Lin Weiwei came over and smiled at him, "Xiaosheng, where are we going for dinner tonight?"

Bai Xiaosheng glanced out the window. The sunset was a deep orange, and it was getting darker. It was indeed getting late, and he felt a bit hungry; it was time to consider where to have dinner.

"We've been quite tired these days, let's have a nice meal tonight," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

As he spoke, Bai Xiaosheng silently asked Red Lotus to search for high-quality specialty restaurants nearby.

Red Lotus quickly searched and informed him.

"A nice meal, that's great. Where do we go? I'll check," Lin Weiwei said happily after hearing Bai Xiaosheng's suggestion.

"Let me find a place. There's a private kitchen nearby," Bai Xiaosheng said, searching on his phone's map and then showing it to Lin Weiwei.

"Jiyi Private Kitchen?" Lin Weiwei read the name of the private kitchen, along with a long list of "notes."

"This restaurant operates on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays only, no waiting if you're late, no phone reservations, no specific dish orders allowed..."

In the distance, Lei Ying, who was reading some documents, couldn't help but look over.

So many rules, and quite peculiar ones at that.

Lin Weiwei read a lot and then stopped, amusingly saying, "The owner of this restaurant is really full of themselves, with such an air. Is it this exaggerated or just a gimmick for effect?"

Lei Ying chuckled, "Why don't we take a look and see for ourselves."

"I don't know if it's a gimmick, but a lot of celebrities have visited that private kitchen," Bai Xiaosheng joked while naming a few people.

These were all prominent figures in the Xianggang film, entertainment, and sports sectors.

"Then we must go have a look. We might run into some big star," Lin Weiwei said with a smile.

Actually, at their level, big stars didn't impress them much, just like ordinary people.

Over the past year, Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region companies held many big events, inviting nearly all celebrities across the land, and international stars too if the event was significant enough.

Of course, no matter how prominent the guests, they were not more prestigious than Bai Xiaosheng. When Bai Xiaosheng attended, they all had to greet him respectfully.

This is the power of capital.

With the destination decided, Bai Xiaosheng and the other two set out to go there.

Since it wasn't far, and the private kitchen was in a small alley, they walked there.

On the way, Lin Weiwei asked an interesting question, "Why do those elegant, character-driven, and unique restaurants love to hide themselves?"

Doesn't it always say, even good wine fears a deep alley?

Bai Xiaosheng jokingly answered, "Perhaps it's to emphasize their uniqueness, to express a sentiment above the mundane, making the dining environment more serene and detached, allowing diners to forget worldly affairs and indulge in the joy of food..."

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying listened in bewilderment.

Bai Xiaosheng then cut to the chase, "It just means, it looks more classy, and they can charge more."

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying suddenly understood, almost bursting into laughter.

Of course, it was just a joke.

The three of them weaved through the streets, heading to their destination.

Meanwhile, the so-called Lin Family's good-for-nothing, along with his sidekick Xu Jiahao, appeared at that private kitchen, heading to the reserved private room.

They had booked a room there, one for the whole year.

This private kitchen had rules and a "temper," but rules and temper weren't an issue in the face of enough interest.

Money isn't all-powerful in this world, but it solves ninety-nine percent of issues; if it doesn't, money might not be enough.

"It's been a while since I last had the private kitchen's dishes, I really miss them," said the Lin Family's young master as he entered the private room, sprawling in the solid wood chair admiring the paintings on the wall.

A beautiful girl with delicate features in traditional attire served them tea.

She was the only "receptionist" here, and her aura indeed matched the place's ambiance.

"Hello, Miss, long time no see, did you miss me?" the Lin Family's young master flirted with her cheekily.

"Of course, you're our honored guest here, how could we not miss you, Lin Chensheng, Mr. Lin!" the young girl joked with a smile.

Though dressed traditionally, she spoke with the straightforwardness of a modern girl.

The Lin Family's wastrel's real name was Lin Chensheng, coincidentally just one character different from Bai Xiaosheng's alias—Lin Sheng!

After bantering a bit, the young girl left.

"Ah, modern women, they have lost that classical charm, only keeping the form, but not the spirit," lamented Lin Chensheng while sipping tea once the beauty left.

Then, he leisurely looked outside, "Such a pleasant time. Tsk tsk, it would be great to live like this all the time. Blame that woman from the Hong Family, always chasing and badgering me relentlessly. I have to be so cautious when I go out; I've really had enough!"

Lin Chensheng complained as he continued.

Beside him, Xu Jiahao glanced at the young master with a strange look, then cautiously said, "Actually, Mr. Lin, Miss Hong is nice, pretty, and capable, and she's quite attentive to you. Mr. Lin and Madam are very satisfied, why are you so unwilling?"

Chapter 1935 - Reunion, Again (Part 2)

Traditionally, the male side always visits the female side to propose marriage, and the world believes that it is the Lin Family who insists on arranging a marriage with this worthless young master. But the truth is quite the opposite; it was Miss Hong's mother who first approached Lin Chensheng's mother, and of course, the Lin Family was more than happy to oblige.

This Mr. Lin Chensheng initially had a good impression of Miss Hong. They used to go out together quite often, but somehow, things turned out differently.

When asked, Lin Chensheng wouldn't say anything; he just avoided Miss Hong, while the lady was persistent, chasing him relentlessly like a plot straight out of a novel about a woman pursuing a man, like a phoenix seeking a mate.

That doesn't really matter; the main issue is that Xu Jiahao feels he has had a lot of bad luck following this young master in this matter, which is something he is unwilling to accept...

"Whether I want to or not, how is it your business? Why do you have so much nonsense?" Lin Chensheng disliked hearing about this topic the most, glared, and shouted.

Xu Jiahao sighed and thought, "Well, let's not talk about it then."

Unexpectedly, this Mr. Lin started mumbling to himself, "It's a wonder she hasn't come over to block me... Hmm, she knows to be shy and doesn't want to leave a bad impression on my family... But wait, causing such a stir outside leaves a bad impression on my family just the same. This woman, perhaps, is not thinking straight..."

Having listened to his own Mr. Lin's comments about Miss Hong, Xu Jiahao decided to turn a deaf ear and kept silent.

Lin Chensheng muttered for a long time without a response, suddenly glaring at Xu Jiahao, "Hah, you're not even responding when I speak? You punk, you dare act this way in front of me?"

Xu Jiahao: "..."

"You've even learned to play silent treatment!" Lin Chensheng sneered angrily.

"Mr. Lin, shouldn't we be reasonable?" Xu Jiahao couldn't help but say.

"Hmm, we should be reasonable." Lin Chensheng nodded, snorting coldly, "But before being reasonable, I'm craving crisp pears, lychees, and honey peaches. There's a fresh fruit shop just three kilometers down this alley. Go there and make a round trip for me."

Xu Jiahao wanted to remind Lin Chensheng that the private kitchen offers fruit too, but before he could speak, he saw Lin Chensheng looking at him coldly.

"Oh!" Xu Jiahao swallowed back his words, complied obediently, got up, and left.

What Mr. Lin was craving wasn't fruit, but a slight penalty for Xu Jiahao wanting to reason with him.

Watching Xu Jiahao leave, Lin Chensheng snorted lightly and muttered, "That's what you get for not speaking when you're supposed to, and saying what you shouldn't!"

Xu Jiahao glumly walked out of the private kitchen, reaching the courtyard gate, where he ran into two men and a woman.

Compared to the seemingly ordinary young man leading the group, Xu Jiahao's attention was immediately drawn to the tall person behind, "So tall!"

Then, he was captivated by the woman beside, "Beautiful, such good temperament!"

This private kitchen often welcomed low-profile big shots, but staring wasn't polite, so Xu Jiahao just stepped aside to pass.

Naturally, he encountered Bai Xiaosheng and the others.

Bai Xiaosheng and his companions had been searching and finally found their destination. From the outside, it appeared to be just an ordinary courtyard. The stone and wood entrance exuded a classical charm, with traces of weather and time, quite tasteful, and a signboard hung above the door with five large characters— "Jiyi Private Kitchen".

The courtyard entrance had no extra decorations, not even a greeter, just a wooden plaque by the door with large brush strokes saying, "Please, come in."

Bai Xiaosheng and the others found it quite intriguing and stepped inside.

Inside, it was tidy and elegant, and further in was a "Chuihua Gate," which served as the "reception".

A Chuihua Gate is a distinguished gate in a courtyard, serving as a boundary between the inner residential area and the outer residential area (front courtyard). Its eaves columns don't reach the ground and hang under the eaves, called hanging columns, with a hanging bead often painted as petals, thus termed a Chuihua Gate.

A girl dressed in classical attire with a gentle smile quietly waited there. As Bai Xiaosheng and his companions approached, she spoke, "Excuse me, do you have a reservation?"

"Miss, it should be us asking you that." Lin Weiwei laughed.

What restaurant asks if the guests have tables? It should be the other way around.

Such a question implies reservations; didn't they say reservations couldn't be made by phone here?

"Oh, then there are no tables." The young woman smiled directly, "I'm really sorry, but we're full. Please come again next time."

Unexpectedly, they were being turned away.

Lin Weiwei found it unbelievable and couldn't help but say, "Can't we wait for an empty table?"

"I'm really sorry, that's not possible. However, you can register to reserve for next time. We just don't accept same-day reservations over the phone." The young woman said with a smile, pulling out a thread-bound book and lifting a brush, "Would you like to register?"

Bai Xiaosheng and his companions couldn't help but find it amusing; they were just there for a meal, booking for next time wasn't what they intended.

"No need." Lin Weiwei muttered.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying exchanged a helpless glance, shrugging.

It seemed they would have to find somewhere else today.

"Hey, miss, that Eight Immortals Soup you had last time, tell the chef to add a bit more sea salt for me."

Someone raised their voice nearby, walking around the column and coming over.

The person was Lin Chensheng, who was feeling bored in his private room and decided to step out for some fresh air.

Lin Chensheng also noticed people on this side, but paid them no mind until he rounded the column and locked eyes with Bai Xiaosheng and his companions.

At that moment, both sides were stunned.

"It's you!" Lin Chensheng's voice changed in surprise.

Chapter 1936 - Reunion Once More (Part 3)

"It's you!" Bai Xiaosheng narrowed his eyes.

Lin Weiwei directly frowned and glared at Lin Chensheng, while Lei Ying's eyes showed a trace of coldness.

This guy had tricked them at the shopping mall a few days ago.

It seemed they could only let it go like that, but what a coincidence to run into him here again, they had to have a good chat.

Lin Chensheng instinctively wanted to slink away, but Lei Ying strode over with a cruel smile on his face, pressing his hand on Lin's shoulder with a slight squeeze, "What, in a rush to leave again?"

Lin Chensheng immediately felt a sharp pain in his shoulder, gritted his teeth, but forced a smile onto his face, "How could I? I'm not leaving, I still have to host you guys, thanks to your righteous help that day!"

This guy sure knows how to talk, flattering them.

"Mr. Lin, you wanted extra sea salt in your soup, right?" The woman over there asked.

Mr. Lin?!

Lin Weiwei was stunned.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying both looked at Lin Chensheng with playful eyes.

They had thought he was just a sidekick of that Lin Family waste, but unexpectedly, he was the real deal!

It seemed not only they were deceived that day, but also Baldhead's crew.

This guy was quite skilled!

Even with Lei Ying's large hand gripping him, Lin Chensheng still forced a smile to the lady over there, "No need, just make it as usual."

The woman glanced curiously at the Lin Family young master being held by the big man, but didn't say anything or make any extra gestures.

After all, this was a matter between guests.

"You guys don't have a spot to eat, do you? I have a private room you can use, consider it my thanks to you," Lin Chensheng hurriedly said to Bai Xiaosheng and the others, and then shouted to the lady, "Put everything on my tab."

The lady at the private kitchen nodded immediately.

"Care to join us?" Bai Xiaosheng smiled and asked.

"No need, no need!" Lin Chensheng quickly replied, "I have things to do, I'll take my leave first, don't want to disturb your meal."

Lin Chensheng was genuinely afraid Bai Xiaosheng and his group might get rough with him.

Lei Ying looked at Bai Xiaosheng, questioning silently.

Forcing Mr. Lin to stay wouldn't serve any purpose; Bai Xiaosheng's strategy to solve the Lin Family problem still existed only in his mind and was not yet complete, requiring more thought.

"If that's the case, Mr. Lin has business to attend to, then please go ahead." Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

Lei Ying let go of his hand.

Lin Chensheng smiled and nodded repeatedly as he retreated, not forgetting to tell the lady, "Take good care of my friends, put all the expenses on me."

His words hadn't faded before he had almost rushed out the door.

Bai Xiaosheng and the others found it amusing.

The lady from the private kitchen came over and smiled to the trio, "This way, please."

Bai Xiaosheng and the others did not hold back and followed her to the private room.

Lin Chensheng left the private kitchen in a manner of fleeing, feeling genuinely frustrated, moved to call Xu Jiahao and told him to change the restaurant.

Just as Lin Chensheng turned the corner of an alley.

Another group of people appeared on the other side, none other than Baldhead's crew.

Throughout the journey, Baldhead frowned and racked his brains on how not to get physical, but to politely invite the Lin Family waste back.

It would be better if Lin Chensheng agreed; if not, violence might ensue, but what to do! Himself was manageable, but that burly guy was truly fierce, like a grizzly bear; he had to find a way to remove him. Be it luring away the tiger from the mountain or other methods, they couldn't confront head-on!

Seeing the door of the private kitchen, Baldhead finally exhaled heavily, making up his mind.

Baldhead's brothers followed him, muttering non-stop.

They dared not even think of getting physical anymore, all advocating for a "civilized" solution. To push this bunch of societal roughnecks towards "redeeming" themselves, it must be said they had suffered enough the other day, truly frightened.

"Stop the noise, everyone quiet down! Later, act on my command!"

Baldhead took a deep breath, stepped into the "Jiyi Private Kitchen," saying, "This time, I want to treat the Lin Family young master with courtesy before the show of strength!"

Chapter 1937 - An Unexpected Identity

Bai Xiaosheng and the other two were led by the beautiful receptionist of the private dining restaurant into Lin Chensheng's private room. Upon entering, they discovered the entire room appeared to be classically and elegantly decorated, looking so comfortable.

The window was slightly open, and leaning against the railing to look out, there were green bamboos, a stream, and flowing water, all brushed with a light golden hue in the glow of the setting sun, giving off a unique charm.

Bai Xiaosheng and the other two sat down, and the beautiful lady changed the teapot for them, pouring tea for each one.

"The three of you, can we serve the dishes as originally planned?" The beautiful lady explained with a smile, "Mr. Lin ordered a lot of dishes, some of which were originally to be taken away, but can now be served directly. Our dishes here are not spicy or greasy, suitable for most tastes. Also..."

The lady was very candid, "Our kitchen doesn't have many ingredients prepared, so making new dishes would be extremely troublesome."

After speaking, the lady looked lovingly at Bai Xiaosheng. With such demeanor, no one could easily refuse.

"No problem, just serve the original dishes as you said," Bai Xiaosheng replied with a smile, "This meal is considered to be hosted by that Mr. Lin, and if he can 'repay' us with a meal, it's a gain. As his guests, we shouldn't be too picky."

The real name of Lin Chensheng was also found out by Bai Xiaosheng and the others during their investigation.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng agree, the beautiful lady smiled sweetly, thanked him, and turned to leave.

Just as the receptionist walked out, two girls dressed as waitresses came in, carrying trays painted in red lacquer, each holding plates of dishes.

“So quick to serve the dishes?!” Bai Xiaosheng exclaimed in surprise after taking a sip of tea.

“Perhaps, they were originally scheduled to be served at this time, and we coincidentally arrived,” Lin Weiwei speculated.

The “waitress” who was serving smiled too and explained to Bai Xiaosheng, “Is this your first time here? Are you a guest of Mr. Lin? This private room has its own cooking stove, so naturally, the service is faster. If you want it slower, just let me know.”

This private room even has its own cooking stove?

Indeed, the “VIP” treatment is quite exceptional!

“No need to slow down, the faster the better; we are all hungry,” Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

The head “waitress” nodded, smiled sweetly, and started placing dishes from the tray onto the table with a certain finesse. She would also announce the name of each dish as she laid it down.

“White Bird Encircles the Phoenix.”

“Pearl Curtain Jewels Fall.”

“The Phoenix Cries.”

“Blooming Wealth.”

“Buddha Jumps Over the Wall.”

“And our unique Fragrant Precious Dew Wine, refreshing and sweet, doesn’t cause a headache.”

...

Except for the dish Buddha Jumps Over the Wall, Bai Xiaosheng and the others hadn't heard of any other dishes, but upon closely examining the dishes matched with their names, they found it quite intriguing and fitting.

The names of the dishes were pleasant to hear, and the dishes themselves were visually appealing and fragrant, truly appetizing.

"Please enjoy at your leisure." After serving this round of dishes, the lead "waitress" smiled and led the way out.

With no outsiders around, Bai Xiaosheng and his two companions did not stand on ceremony, picking up their chopsticks and beginning to taste the food.

"Not bad!"

"Delicious!"

"Mm, good!"

The three praised continuously.

The food was good, and the wine was also nice, not high in alcohol content, but fragrant, mellow, and refreshing, suitable for light drinking.

The three raised their glasses, enjoying the food and drink.

However, after a couple of cups, Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying both noticed someone poking their head around the door.

Initially, they thought it was someone from the restaurant, but upon looking, they spotted a very shiny bald head.

That fierce yet slightly sleazy look was very familiar!

Wasn't this the bald guy who had been chasing them for debts at the shopping center!

The person who originally seemed fierce was now peeking in with a hint of cuteness.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying look over, the bald guy quickly grinned, revealing what he thought was his kindest and most enthusiastic smile, though it looked quite sycophantic.

It really was as ugly as it could get...

"Hey, why did you guys stop eating," Lin Weiwei was just about to take a sip of the Fragrant Precious Dew Wine, with her cherry lips lightly parted, when she saw Bai Xiaosheng and the others looking outside. She also looked over instinctively, and just caught the sight of Baldhead and his "charming" smile.

"Pfft!" Lin Weiwei sprayed out a mouthful of wine.

She was so grossed out that she spat it all out...

Baldhead suddenly felt a bit embarrassed, stepped forward, and with a compensating smile said to Bai Xiaosheng, "Mr. Lin, are you eating, eating dinner?"

Behind Baldhead, his gang appeared, grinning along with him.

"Why are you all here again?!" Bai Xiaosheng frowned and asked.

This group of debt collectors, like a bone-clinging pest, could follow them anywhere!

Explaining to them that he wasn't Lin Chensheng fell on deaf ears.

Lei Ying wasn't as patient as Bai Xiaosheng, glaring at them, raising his hand and pointing, with just one word, "Scram!"

"Mr. Lin, and this big brother, we're not here to collect debts this time, we really have something!" Baldhead quickly explained.

Baldhead originally thought chasing debts meant collecting two hundred thousand or so from the Lin Family's prodigal son. After being enlightened by the Great Advisor afterward, he realized he had misunderstood!

That small amount of money was just a meal's worth for Brother Wu...

Baldhead looked at Bai Xiaosheng, stating his purpose, "Our Brother Wu wants to invite Mr. Lin to come over, he has something to discuss."

Something to discuss? Bai Xiaosheng frowned lightly.

"Are you sure there's something?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

"Absolutely sure!" Baldhead confirmed emphatically.

"In that case, you should find Lin Chensheng, he just left. I'm indeed not any Mr. Lin, and I don't even have the surname Lin; there's no need to explain this misunderstanding to you all," Bai Xiaosheng still patiently replied.

After all, this meal was hosted by Lin Chensheng, and they couldn't delay his important business.

Besides, with Baldhead and his gang around, how could they enjoy their meal?

“Indeed, my brother Xiaosheng is not Lin Chensheng,” Lin Weiwei said.

Brother Xiaosheng...

Immediately, Baldhead looked at Lin Weiwei with an expression suggesting “you slipped your tongue yourself, yet you’re still deceiving me.”

Lin Weiwei also felt she might have deepened the misunderstanding and suddenly frowned, “You can ask the receptionist of the private dining restaurant to verify, wouldn’t that clear everything up?”

Baldhead chuckled and said to Lin Weiwei, “Miss, before coming, someone told us that this is a private room exclusive to the Lin family, only usable by them. Even if Mr. Lin is hosting, he won’t be absent, right? We rough folks know some of the restaurant’s rules; they’re not interested in the private matters of guests, nor will they speak out of turn. But as for a VIP like Mr. Lin, if he instructs them on what to say, they would naturally follow.”

Baldhead simply didn’t believe it.

No matter how Bai Xiaosheng and the others explained, he was convinced that Bai Xiaosheng was Lin Chensheng.

Baldhead internally justified: If the followers’ nonsense at the shopping center initially deceived them, this time the Great Advisor personally instructed them to come here, encountering them right away couldn’t possibly be wrong!

Saying that the so-called Mr. Lin Chensheng had just left, isn’t that just trying to fool them!

“Mr. Lin, our Brother Wu genuinely means no harm this time; he just wants to see you! Oh, by the way, the Great Advisor beside Brother Wu said, if you go over, perhaps even the debt will be waived!” Baldhead earnestly persuaded.

Bai Xiaosheng was also quite helpless. Waiving the debt was a good thing, but how was it his business, it was Lin Chensheng's debt, not his. Going over there just to be exposed and having no debt waived, what would be the point?

Bai Xiaosheng was also getting annoyed, his face slightly darkened.

"I think we shouldn't waste words with them, I'll just throw them out," Lei Ying said as he saw Bai Xiaosheng's expression, immediately getting up.

Baldhead and his gang immediately got scared, collectively shivering, some of his accomplices at the back were already preparing to run.

This big guy was indeed formidable, fierce as a tiger!

They were like lambs; the wounds from last time hadn't even healed yet. To take another beating? Who wanted to court pain!

"Don't get excited! This... big brother, let's talk this out peacefully!" Baldhead's face turned pale, his voice sharpened.

Lei Ying wasn't about to talk it out nicely.

Baldhead looked at Bai Xiaosheng with a pleading expression, urgently saying, "Mr. Lin, after all, we are Brother Wu's people, and we're working for the Hong Family! The Lin and Hong families are like one!"

Baldhead's last sentence suddenly caught Bai Xiaosheng's attention.

"What did you just say?" Bai Xiaosheng looked at Baldhead in surprise, "Your Brother Wu is from the Hong Family?!"

Chapter 1938 - This Is an Opportunity!

This group of Baldhead and his men are really annoying, and they just don't listen to any explanations, making it impossible for Bai Xiaosheng and his companions to have a proper meal.

Originally, Bai Xiaosheng also tacitly approved of Lei Ying using force to expel them.

However, upon hearing Baldhead shout that Lin Chensheng's creditor "Wu" was from the Hong Family, Bai Xiaosheng hurriedly spoke to confirm.

Lei Ying was also taken aback upon hearing this and stopped in his tracks.

Even Lin Weiwei looked at Baldhead with surprise.

"Huh? Ah!" Faced with Bai Xiaosheng's question, Baldhead initially froze, quickly confirming, still quite puzzled.

What is Mr. Lin pretending for, pretending not to know Wu? Doesn't he know Wu is from the Hong Family? What's going on...

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes took on a meaningful depth.

Lin Chensheng was from the Lin Family, and Wu was from the Hong Family. The two families had maintained a good relationship for generations, jointly leading a business alliance.

There was even a rumor that the Lin Family wanted to arrange a marriage with the Hong Family through Lin Chensheng, although it eventually didn't happen, and the Hong Family didn't have a strong reaction...

Looking at it this way, the two shouldn't have any debt relationship, right?

And yet Wu sent people to chase Lin Chensheng on the street, repeatedly, and the Lin Family tolerated it? The Hong Family didn't care?

No matter how you look at it, Lin Chensheng still carried the Lin surname and Lin blood in his veins.

Suddenly, Bai Xiaosheng had some interest in that "Wu"!

He had some calculations in his mind regarding the Lin Family, and the Lin and Hong business alliance, but the conditions were far from mature.

If he could find a breakthrough through this "Wu," that would be ideal!

Bai Xiaosheng instantly made a decision in his heart; he could go with Baldhead to meet that "Wu."

He could even possibly do a "deal" with that "Wu."

A deal big enough to leverage the Lin and Hong business alliance, solving all Guangyu International's problems in one stroke — a "big deal"!

In just a moment, Bai Xiaosheng came up with a plan.

"What does whether Wu is from the Hong Family have to do with you disturbing us? His status can't suppress us!" Lin Weiwei said angrily.

"Yes, yes, I didn't mean that, what I meant was..." Baldhead hurried to explain.

However, before he could speak, Bai Xiaosheng spoke up, "I can go with you to meet your Wu!"

Bai Xiaosheng agreed.

This statement stunned Baldhead and his group behind him.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying also looked at Bai Xiaosheng in surprise.

Baldhead and his group didn't expect Bai Xiaosheng to agree so readily this time.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were puzzled. Even though Wu being from the Hong Family was beyond their expectations, Bai Xiaosheng was called over as Lin Chensheng, which could expose him. They previously mentioned that Bai Xiaosheng "impersonating" was meaningless, so what was his purpose in doing this?

However, since Bai Xiaosheng said so, he must have his reasons, so Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying said no more.

"That's great! Thank you, Mr. Lin, thank you, Mr. Lin!" Baldhead was so happy he couldn't stop smiling.

"We can go, but you have to let us finish our meal first." Bai Xiaosheng said.

"No problem, no problem. Please enjoy your meal." Baldhead nodded eagerly, smiling.

Just completing the big master's assignment, not to mention waiting for people to finish a meal, even waiting for them to take a bath and get a foot massage would be fine. They came ahead of schedule anyway. This matter was thought to be troublesome, but it turned out to be resolved so quickly! Although Mr. Lin's attitude had changed quite inexplicably...

"Sorry, this meal is sponsored by someone else, and the food is only enough for the three of us, so we won't invite you all." Bai Xiaosheng said.

"Please enjoy, we'll just wait outside." Baldhead said with a cheerful smile.

Seeing Lei Ying glance at him before sitting down, Baldhead quickly became considerate, "Oh oh, we'll move to the side so that we don't affect Mr. Lin's appetite by staying at the door."

As he spoke, Baldhead did as he said, leading his group to vacate the entrance and sit against the wall to rest.

This time, each of Baldhead's brothers was all smiles.

Successfully completing the big master's assignment, let's see who dares to look down on them in the future.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced outside, chuckling and shaking his head, and invited Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying to drink and eat.

With each sip of fine wine and each delicious dish, the three savored their meal with gusto.

The aroma of the wine and dishes wafted out. Initially, Baldhead and his group were too excited to notice, but as they calmed down, the smell tempted their hunger.

Listening to the trio inside compliment the dishes, even Baldhead couldn't help but smack his lips and swallow.

Soon, two women dressed as maids came to serve dishes, and seeing the group sitting outside, the two girls looked on curiously.

Baldhead smiled and nodded at the two women, gesturing to indicate they were waiting for someone inside.

The two women dressed as maids paid them no mind.

Then, a few more rounds of dishes were served, and inside, cups clinked amidst laughter.

Outside, empty stomachs growled. A group of big rough guys sat quietly, their faces dull, sniffing the aroma and swallowing hungrily.

Someone couldn't help but murmur softly, "Tonight, let's go for a barbecue, lamb skewers, the fatty ones with oil sizzling, and a big piece of bloody kidney, washed down with beer... Damn, I'm so hungry!"

When the restaurant's "maid" brought soup and fruit, Baldhead grabbed the girl's sleeve, nearly startling her into a scream.

"Sister, do you have any steamed buns?" Baldhead asked pitifully, turning into a sad figure, "Can you spare a few?"

The girl looked at Baldhead with a strange expression.

Were they really with the people inside...?

Bai Xiaosheng and his two friends were full, enjoying fruit to cleanse the palate.

Lin Weiwei glanced outside and whispered, "Xiaosheng, why are you going to meet with their Wu, is it because of his connection with the Hong Family?"

Lei Ying also looked at Bai Xiaosheng, his eyes questioning.

"This could be a breakthrough," Bai Xiaosheng looked at the two and smiled mysteriously, "If my plan goes smoothly, not only will Guangyu International's problems be solved, but our trip to Xianggang will also be greatly rewarding!"

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying exchanged a surprised look.

Although unsure how Bai Xiaosheng would achieve this, they instinctively believed that Bai Xiaosheng could do what he said!

Outside, Baldhead's men were dazed, sitting against the wall, some bored, chewing on grass roots just pulled from the ground.

Earlier, that beautiful lady said they had no extra steamed buns...

Just then, there was movement from inside the door.

Baldhead immediately sat up and looked over.

Bai Xiaosheng was leading the way out, and upon seeing the group sitting in a messy manner outside, was also momentarily confused.

"You finished eating, we can go now, the timing is just right." Baldhead stood, his face brimming with a smile as he spoke to Bai Xiaosheng.

The rest of them also hurried to their feet.

No steamed buns, but if they could quickly take this master back, they could complete their task and go have their skewers.

Now they understood; initially, they thought demanding money from a waste like Lin from the Lin Family was okay, but their target was the Hong Family's Wu, still demanding money, yet they realized it wasn't just about money.

This Lin Family waste, no, Mr. Lin, was a master as well.

This time, the big master gave them special instructions, letting them know not to provoke Mr. Lin.

No wonder previous attempts to collect money failed; in truth, none dared to go overboard.

All along, it was their mistake.

At this moment, Bai Xiaosheng nodded at Baldhead, instructing, "Let's go, lead the way!"

Chapter 1939 - This Isn't Right!

Baldhead carefully accompanied Bai Xiaosheng and his group as they exited the alley. Outside the alley, several cars were parked, all brought by Baldhead's crew.

This time, following the arrangement of the 'Great Master', Baldhead and his crew had come to "invite" Lin Chensheng, or Mr. Lin, and they were thoroughly prepared.

Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Weiwei, and Lei Ying boarded a custom-made business-style MPV, luxuriously furnished. According to Baldhead, this was one of Brother Wu's personal vehicles, worth several million even without modifications.

To give Bai Xiaosheng and his friends some private space, Baldhead took the front passenger seat, leaving the passenger compartment for just the three of them. The front and rear compartments were almost completely separated, with only a small window for communication. Of course, unless Bai Xiaosheng and his companions initiated conversation, Baldhead would not disturb them.

Sitting on seats as comfortable as first-class ones, Bai Xiaosheng felt quite at ease. The car's leather seats were spacious and comfortable, equipped with top-tier audio and a wine cabinet filled with bottles costing thousands.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't hold back and opened the most expensive bottle for them to taste.

"Didn't expect Brother Wu to really know how to enjoy life," Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but smile, "I thought he was just a gambling industry mogul, but turns out he's associated with the Hong Family!"

The gambling industry is legal here, often accompanied by other businesses.

It seems that Brother Wu must be involved in other enterprises as well.

"Xiaosheng, did you notice something unusual about this car?" Lin Weiwei suddenly leaned over and asked.

"What?" Bai Xiaosheng asked curiously.

“There’s a scent of perfume,” Lin Weiwei replied.

Bai Xiaosheng took a light sniff, indeed. He had actually noticed it upon entering the car but didn’t pay much attention. Now that he thought about it, Red Lotus quickly analyzed it for him, revealing it as a limited edition luxury brand perfume—“Angel’s Secret Garden”.

“This car must have recently chauffeured a woman. The scent lingers strongly, indicating that the woman spent quite some time here. Brother Wu is quite the playboy,” Lin Weiwei teased.

Bai Xiaosheng chuckled. However, he had a slightly different understanding. “Angel’s Secret Garden” was not an ordinary perfume; since angels are genderless, the fragrance was unisex and could be used by men as well.

Two images immediately surfaced in Bai Xiaosheng’s mind:

One, a woman with a unique taste, short-haired, cool and handsome, yet with a rough demeanor resembling a slick opera star. The other, an effeminate man fond of wearing perfume.

However, regardless of which image Brother Wu fit, it would make anyone feel uncomfortable.

Don’t overthink it, don’t overthink it! I’m just going to discuss some business and leave when it’s done!

Bai Xiaosheng quickly shook his head, trying to shake off the improper assumptions in his mind.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng suddenly shaking his head, Lin Weiwei grew curious, “Xiaosheng, what’s up?”

Lei Ying also glanced over in surprise.

“Oh... nothing, just a stiff neck, moving it around...” Bai Xiaosheng murmured.

Sitting in this car, with the curtains drawn, one couldn't hear the outside noise or see the bustling city under the night sky. Everything felt smooth without a trace of jolting.

The three of them sipped wine and listened to music, quite relaxed.

The car drove for an hour before coming to a halt. Someone came to open the door.

The person was dressed as a hotel bellhop. Upon seeing Bai Xiaosheng and the others, he beamed a welcoming smile and bowed in greeting.

Bai Xiaosheng and his friends got out one by one, realizing they were at the entrance of a five-star hotel. Baldhead also got out, walked over, waved away the bellhop, and smiled at Bai Xiaosheng, "This place should be familiar to Mr. Lin, one of Brother Wu's enterprises."

"Is it now? I didn't know that," Bai Xiaosheng replied deliberately.

Baldhead grinned, "You must be joking. Isn't this hotel, the venue behind it and the adjacent shopping mall all under Brother Wu's management? You would know that."

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, but inwardly thought, "Indeed, Brother Wu oversees the Hong Family's other businesses besides gambling. That's quite advantageous!"

Baldhead led the way, guiding Bai Xiaosheng and the others into the hotel. However, they didn't go upstairs but passed through the hotel lobby, heading to the back.

Baldhead mentioned that Brother Wu wanted to meet Bai Xiaosheng at the private club located behind.

The fact there was a private club attached to this five-star hotel?

It was indeed a hidden gem.

Bai Xiaosheng and his friends grew more intrigued.

Leaving through the back of the hotel, they entered a garden, with lights gently and mysteriously illuminating the area. Well-dressed people rushed by, exuding an aura of sophistication.

The garden was just a corridor leading to an area that resembled a traditional Chinese courtyard, though the buildings within the surrounding walls were all Western-style villas. Baldhead led Bai Xiaosheng and his companions to the innermost part. Along the way, there were two gatehouses, each guarded by sharply dressed bodyguards.

At the first gate, Baldhead's crew was stopped.

They weren't qualified to proceed further.

Even Baldhead was halted at the second gate.

"The Great Master sent me to bring this Mr. Lin here, whom Brother Wu wishes to meet!" Baldhead emphasized to the two guards.

The two remained expressionless, merely nodding slightly, casting indifferent glances at Bai Xiaosheng and his entourage, ultimately fixing their gaze on Bai Xiaosheng with a hint of suspicion.

"This gentleman, are you sure?" a guard couldn't help but ask Baldhead.

"I'm certain, and absolutely sure! The Great Master ordered it!" Baldhead thumped his chest in assurance, evoking the Great Master's name.

Only then did the guards remain silent.

Although they recognized the former Mr. Lin, this unexpected Mr. Lin wasn't the same individual. However, there are many Lins, and Mr. Lin was not unique; perhaps Brother Wu wanted to meet this particular one.

Didn't Baldhead mention that the Great Master had confirmed it, so there was nothing to worry about. The Great Master would handle any issue, freeing them from unnecessary concerns...

"Is the Great Master inside?" Baldhead cautiously asked.

One guard acted as if he hadn't heard, ignoring him.

The other guard said, "The Great Master had something else to attend to and isn't here now. However, he did mention this matter before leaving, and Brother Wu also gave explicit instructions. Here's the deal: I'll take this gentleman in; you take the other two to wait in the front building."

Baldhead knew the rules and immediately nodded.

But with the Great Master absent, he felt slightly disappointed that he couldn't showcase his capabilities directly before him.

Nevertheless, since Bai Xiaosheng agreed to come, Baldhead had already made the call here, so the Great Master must be aware.

A reward would be inevitable later on!

Hearing that only Bai Xiaosheng could proceed, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying exchanged worried glances.

Judging by the setup, Brother Wu didn't seem like an easy character. If Bai Xiaosheng was not Lin Chensheng but was impersonating him, what if Brother Wu reacted angrily and ordered a punishment for Bai Xiaosheng? It was unpredictable!

Without Lei Ying by his side, Bai Xiaosheng would face a crowd alone, essentially fighting solo, assuming considerable risk.

However, refusing wasn't an option as this was their territory, and they had to follow the rules. Otherwise, there would be no negotiation.

So, what to do?!

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying immediately looked toward Bai Xiaosheng.

"Go ahead, don't worry. I'm just having a chat with Brother Wu; it's not a problem," Bai Xiaosheng smiled, reassuring Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

Actually, he was quite capable; even if he couldn't win in a fight, he could escape. With Red Lotus boosting his body's hormonal response, no average person could catch up with his speed and agility.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying glanced at the bodyguards again.

Lowering her voice, Lin Weiwei told Bai Xiaosheng, "Be careful!"

Lei Ying added, "Call if there's trouble!"

As long as Bai Xiaosheng made a call, even at the slightest hint of danger, Lei Ying would rush in to rescue him, regardless of any obstacles!

Bai Xiaosheng nodded with a smile.

Baldhead took Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying away. As they left, they turned back to glance at Bai Xiaosheng one last time.

Meanwhile, Bai Xiaosheng was being led inside by a bodyguard.

The final courtyard was even more beautiful, with the scent of flowers filling the air.

The building inside was warmly lit, exuding gentle ambiance.

The guard at the gate of the courtyard led Bai Xiaosheng to the building entrance, where another guard escorted Bai Xiaosheng upstairs. Finally, at the elevator entrance, a female butler awaited, ready to guide Bai Xiaosheng to the designated room. Each “handoff” involved another round of scrutinizing Bai Xiaosheng’s identity, as if slightly incredulous. Yet, the prior instructions were consistently reiterated and confirmed as valid.

To reach this point required passing through several security checks. Even Bai Xiaosheng was impressed by Brother Wu’s elaborate setup!

Arriving at a room’s entrance, the woman butler unlocked the door and gestured invitingly for Bai Xiaosheng to enter.

Bai Xiaosheng felt something was off but still stepped inside.

Once inside, the door closed behind him and audibly locked.

Bai Xiaosheng paused, observing the scene before him, suddenly apprehensive.

Something was not right!

Chapter 1940 - I Help You, You Help Me

On the way here, Bai Xiaosheng had actually envisioned the scene of his meeting with that “Wu Ge.” Based on the business Wu Ge manages and the way his subordinates operate, Bai Xiaosheng thought this person must be a gloomy, scheming, violent, and straightforward person.

Perhaps the scene of their meeting would be just like in the movies. On one side is him, Bai Xiaosheng, and on the other, surrounded by bodyguards, an atmosphere of gangster panache, Wu Ge smoking a cigar, half-lying on a chair with his feet on the table in front of him...

The image was very vivid...

But once he was led into this room, the sight before Bai Xiaosheng completely overturned his original imagination.

It was a large suite, lavishly decorated.

However, the lighting here was ambiguous. In the center was a long table covered with a white cloth, adorned with fresh flowers and red wine, with a sweet and fragrant aroma lingering in the air.

Is this really a negotiation between two men?

Not some couple celebrating a holiday?

As soon as the door behind him clicked shut, Bai Xiaosheng suddenly felt a chill run down his spine.

What kind of appointment on behalf of Lin Chensheng had he come to?!"

Bai Xiaosheng turned around, raised his hand, and pounded on the door, shouting sternly, "Open the door!"

Outside, there was no reaction at all.

Suddenly, the lights in the room went out, leaving only a dim atmosphere light.

Bai Xiaosheng sensed movement behind him and quickly turned around.

In the dim light, a figure emerged, with a decent body shape, but walking like a zombie, swaying and twisting.

Bai Xiaosheng immediately felt his hair stand on end.

Is this a ghostly encounter?!

“What’s the matter, just arrived and want to leave already? Are you afraid I’ll eat you?” The figure spoke in a coy voice.

Rather than feeling soothing and pleasant, it gave a chilling sensation that made one shudder.

“Are you a human or a ghost!” Even calm as Bai Xiaosheng was, he couldn’t hold back from shouting.

This shout was as effective as a priest’s command.

The figure walking stiffly, twisting as it approached him, halted. The voice wasn’t coy anymore but powerful and domineering, “Who are you?!”

Bai Xiaosheng noticed a switch on the wall beside the door and went up to press it.

Immediately, the room was brightly lit.

On this side was Bai Xiaosheng, and on the other was a woman dressed provocatively in high heels. Her looks were quite pretty, but her eyes were cold and fierce, exuding hostility.

Apparently uncomfortable in high heels, the woman kicked them off and grabbed a wine bottle from the table, raising it as she coldly demanded, “How did you get in?! What are your intentions? Speak, or you’ll never leave here alive!”

This woman was like a female tyrant, with the looks of a beauty but none of the gentle essence of a woman.

Looking at the domineering presence in front of him, Bai Xiaosheng connected the dots, recalling the scent in the car and how later it was a female housekeeper replacing someone, and suddenly he understood everything.

“You’re Wu Ge?!” Bai Xiaosheng exclaimed in surprise.

Wu Ge! The same one the Bald Guy and others referred to as their boss!

It turned out to be a woman!

At that moment, Bai Xiaosheng felt thunderstruck, his worldview thoroughly shaken.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng’s shock, Wu Ge furrowed her brows, sizing him up and down.

She distinctly instructed people to bring Lin Chensheng. How could it be this person! He couldn’t possibly sneak in here unnoticed. There had to be a reason for this!

Being able to manage so many assets of the Hong Family, “Wu Ge” wasn’t just lucky. She quickly calmed down, but still holding the wine bottle, exuding an imposing presence as she approached Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng gestured her to stop with a smile, “Wu Ge, right? First, let me explain, okay?”

“Wu Ge” furrowed her brows slightly but eventually stopped, motioning for Bai Xiaosheng to continue with a nod of her chin.

“Here’s the situation.” Bai Xiaosheng organized his thoughts and said, “A few days ago, you sent the Bald Guy to find Lin Chensheng. However, Lin Chensheng somehow tricked the Bald Guy into thinking I was him, and your Bald Guy inexplicably believed it. Uh, afterward, we taught him a lesson. Then, today, you sent that Bald Guy to invite Lin Chensheng again, and coincidentally, Lin Chensheng invited us to dinner. He left, and that Bald Guy saw me and insisted I was Lin Chensheng and brought me here. And I happened to want to discuss something with you, Wu Ge, so I came along.”

Bai Xiaosheng used concise words to explain the situation, leaving the Hong Family's "Wu Ge" Hong Wu stunned from start to finish, but then her eyes flashed with cold light, gritting her teeth, "It was the Bald Guy who messed up, and twice?! Wang, that bastard, where did he find this bunch of useless people! Always posing as a genius adviser, making people call him the 'Great Master,' he's just a big idiot!"

Then, Hong Wu lifted her gaze, with a cold sneer at Bai Xiaosheng, "What relationship do you have with that scoundrel Lin Chensheng? Why did he have you impersonate him and invite you to dinner? You came to speak to me about what? Acting as his mouthpiece? Hmph, tell him, I have my eyes on him. Alive, he's mine; dead, he's my ghost! I personally went to his Lin Family and proposed, and their elders agreed. Now he's backing out, where's the fairness in that? Unless he jumps off the big bridge, does he have the guts?!"

Originally, from what Bai Xiaosheng saw before him, combining with rumors, he'd already linked Lin Chensheng with the Hong Wu in front of him and made some assumptions.

Now, with this woman so angry, saying so much, Bai Xiaosheng finally understood completely.

Turns out, this was a "man is heartless, while the woman is intent" scenario!

Now everything made sense!

Bai Xiaosheng mused aloud. Rumors, after all, are just rumors; sometimes they are the complete opposite of reality. The one proposing an alliance was the woman, and the one now unwilling was the male, Lin Chensheng, himself, while this Hong Wu remained persistent...

Geez, it's quite melodramatic...

If that's the case...

Bai Xiaosheng's mind raced rapidly, completely dismissing and overturning the prepared method of negotiating cooperation with Hong Wu that he had thought of before coming. Actually, trying in that way only had a fifty-fifty chance, not stable. Knowing this situation between Lin Chensheng and Hong Wu, Bai Xiaosheng began restructuring a new plan.

With the assistance of Red Lotus, Bai Xiaosheng quickly thought and had a new idea in just a few short moments.

The odds of success were overwhelmingly high!

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but smile himself.

"What are you smiling about?!" Hong Wu saw Bai Xiaosheng's expression and became angry.

"Miss Hong Wu, I'm considered half a friend of Lin Chensheng, but that's not important." Bai Xiaosheng smiled, calmly and unhurriedly, "What's important is that I'm now planning to help you, to connect you with Lin Chensheng, and I guarantee a 100% success rate. How about it?"

Hong Wu didn't expect Bai Xiaosheng to say such a thing and was taken aback, looking at Bai Xiaosheng in disbelief.

This person came all the way to see her to help her matchmake?

Isn't he Lin Chensheng's friend? Lin Chensheng is already avoiding her...

"What are your intentions?!" Hong Wu asked Bai Xiaosheng vigilantly.

Bai Xiaosheng, with his keen vision, immediately read hope in Hong Wu's eyes. It seems this woman truly cares deeply for Lin Chensheng.

In Bai Xiaosheng's view, although this woman had some looks, being a leader for so long, every word, action, and expression were extraordinarily domineering and formidable. Ordinary men preferred gentle women; really, they couldn't handle her. Who would like a domineering leader? A man's attraction and charm got nowhere to put.

It seemed justified that Lin Chensheng was unwilling...

However, Bai Xiaosheng didn't care.

Just like Miss Hong Wu herself said, Lin Chensheng had embraced and hugged her, so he had to be responsible, right?

Moreover, recalling Lin Chensheng's past mentions of Wu Ge, Bai Xiaosheng noticed there was no real dislike, even a hint of entanglement in his eyes.

There must be an issue within.

So he decided to play the role of a good person to the end, helping them out.

Of course, who said being a good person was free...

"Not really a plot." Bai Xiaosheng smiled at Hong Wu and said, "Just that after it succeeds, my friend's company would like to collaborate on some normal business with the industries you manage, Miss Hong Wu. I help you, you help me. Is that okay?"