

Two Trillion 2011

Chapter 2011 - Acceptable Conflict_3

This punch is so heavy!

Isn't this guy in the workplace? What kind of training does he usually do?

NO.2 was absolutely horrified.

"What are you thinking about!" NO.2 suddenly heard Lei Ying ask softly, instantly causing his hair to stand on end.

The barrage of punches stopped abruptly, but a faster and stronger kick flew out, hitting NO.2 right in the abdomen.

NO.2 was kicked two meters away, kneeling on one knee immediately.

Just the sound of him hitting the ground made the entire room silent.

Others heard the noise and felt the pain on behalf of NO.2.

Daisy was utterly stunned. She never imagined that the one to be toppled so quickly would be NO.2!

Donna Chen, Molly, Meifu, and others were also horrified.

After a brief silence, Lin Weiwei was the first to applaud.

Bai Xiaosheng also nodded with a smile.

This is the Lei Ying he knew, strong and invincible!

"I thought you had become more formidable these past years." Lei Ying walked towards NO.2 step by step, murmuring, "Turns out you're just worse!"

"Do you think just because you're called NO.2, you're truly No.2?"

"Back then, the Viper, the Vulture, and the Fire Hawk didn't dare claim second place, and who do you think you are?"

NO.2, kicked in the abdomen, was in unbearable pain, sweating profusely on his forehead, and when he looked up to see Lei Ying standing in front of him, his eyes widened, and his pupils shrank suddenly.

In the eyes of others, Lei Ying seemed calm, but looking down at him, those eyes, that gaze, made NO.2, the self-proclaimed "Killer God," feel a chill to his core!

That's an invisible pressure from a superior to an inferior!

At that moment, NO.2 knew he truly couldn't get up, and he genuinely wanted to escape!

Just then, a rush of footsteps sounded, and twenty fully armed guards arrived, well-equipped and even legally carrying firearms.

Seeing their boss half-kneeling on the ground with a big guy standing in front of him, they were also utterly shocked.

They knew NO.2's prowess best; to bring NO.2 to his knees, what kind of monster could do that!

Several of them instantly placed their hands on their waists, ready to draw their weapons at any moment.

Lei Ying saw this, but he didn't show any fear.

However, his gaze changed.

The battlefield specter from before seemed to have returned all of a sudden.

NO.2 originally relaxed a bit upon seeing reinforcements arrive, but upon seeing Lei Ying's gaze, he was suddenly filled with indescribable terror, his whole body turning stiff!

If weapons were truly drawn, Lei Ying would explode on the spot.

Those people wouldn't kill him, and they wouldn't think they'd survive!

And he, he would definitely be used as a human shield, definitely would be the first to die!

The moment NO.2 saw Lei Ying's gaze, he understood—

This man was someone he couldn't provoke before and still can't provoke now!

"Nobody move! Don't draw weapons, the old lady is present!" NO.2 shouted with all his might, disregarding his body's pain.

If Lei Ying used him as a shield, he'd be doomed for sure!

Life is good now, so even he wants to live well; defeating Lei Ying is just a dream compared to his life, which is nothing!

The reason NO.2 shouted "the old lady is present" was a sudden inspiration; shouting this would make others think he was afraid of injuring the old lady, or startling the old lady, and at least, it would save some face and win some favor with the host family.

Once NO.2 shouted, his subordinates didn't dare to draw their guns at all.

Facing a man who could knock down NO.2, none of them dared to step forward and seek trouble, finding it to be foolish.

Seeing NO.2 being taken care of and the guards hesitant, Donna Chen was both shocked and angry.

The surrounding servants also fell silent, staring at Lei Ying with fear.

At this moment, they realized that the Huaxia big guy they always ridiculed was truly a supreme king!

Donna Chen wanted to shout more, urging everyone to attack together, but accidentally met Lei Ying's gaze.

That single glance nearly gave the old woman Donna Chen a heart attack.

At this moment, Lei Ying, with just a look, could intimidate NO.2, let alone an old woman with no experience.

Donna Chen glanced around; now, she and Lei Ying weren't far apart, and if the guards moved, Lei Ying might capture her.

Although under normal circumstances, that big guy wouldn't do anything to an old woman like her, but if faced with so many people attacking, she couldn't guarantee he wouldn't act desperately. And she would be in danger!

Donna Chen, thinking of her own safety first, dared not make any more noise.

As for Molly, she was the same, gripping the old lady's arm tightly, retreating further back, her face filled with fear.

Seeing Lei Ying alone intimidate the entire scene, Bai Xiaosheng also smiled, silently exhaling a breath of relief.

To "turn a big issue into a small one," controlling the situation to a manageable state without exposing his own identity, couldn't be better.

Beforehand, Bai Xiaosheng also said that as long as they didn't attack the Landvo family, hitting a few servants wouldn't be an issue; it could be settled well afterward because it was those servants who were disrespectful to Bai Xiaosheng. Even if Landvo found out, it wouldn't be a big deal.

Looking at it now, this was an acceptable conflict. Bai Xiaosheng was quite pleased.

Just as Bai Xiaosheng thought of this, he suddenly heard a scream from Lin Weiwei beside him, "What are you doing, let go of me!"

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes sharpened instantly, and he turned his head quickly. He saw someone pulling at Lin Weiwei, seemingly about to embrace her and take her hostage.

What audacity!

Who is it?! Daring to touch Weiwei, trying to use her to threaten us!

Without thinking further, Bai Xiaosheng's eyes turned incredibly sharp, and he swiftly stepped forward, delivering a high roundhouse kick, steady, accurate, and ruthless, directly knocking the rascal out, rendering him unconscious.

Lin Weiwei, her face pale with fear, ran to Bai Xiaosheng's side, holding onto his arm.

Bai Xiaosheng quickly comforted her, but the whole room exploded with an uproarious clamor, exclamations echoing one after another.

Bai Xiaosheng looked over in astonishment, only then realizing the identity of the thug on the ground, possibly kicked into a concussion by him.

It was none other than Meifu!

Chapter 2012 - An Unfinished Ending

Bai Xiaosheng's kick was clean, decisive, and beautiful, knocking Mr. Meifu unconscious without harming Lin Weiwei beside him at all, instantly drawing applause—or more accurately, shock—from the whole room.

This Andeliao Castle, although technically belonging to Mr. Landvo, has Mr. Meifu as its nominal master. He holds a high status in this house, yet today he was knocked out by an outsider in his own home?

Everyone from the butler to the servants and attendants were dumbfounded and didn't know what to do.

The castle guards were also stunned.

Compared to seeing the boss of NO. 2 on his knees, this scene truly shocked them.

Over there, Donna Chen and Molly were also dumbfounded, speechless.

Even Bai Xiaosheng, after realizing it was Mr. Meifu, was at a loss for words.

Originally, Lei Ying alone intimidated the entire scene, reducing the conflict to a level Bai Xiaosheng thought was acceptable and controllable. But that kick of his broke the limit.

"Xiaosheng, what do we do now?!" Lin Weiwei was a bit anxious and a bit regretful.

If it hadn't been for her urgent cry, Bai Xiaosheng wouldn't have acted so decisively, or rather, kicked so hard.

Lin Weiwei didn't want to cause such a big trouble for Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng quietly took a deep breath, keeping his expression unchanged, and instead smiled to reassure Lin Weiwei, "It's okay, it's not your fault. I'll handle everything!"

In Bai Xiaosheng's view, since things had already come to this point, there was no need to dwell on whether it was right or wrong!

In fact, he didn't regret it in the slightest. Even if he knew it was Mr. Meifu, he would still have kicked.

If blame was to be assigned, it was Mr. Meifu's own fault for trying to sneak attack Lin Weiwei.

Mr. Meifu probably wanted to force them into submission, but unknowingly touched Bai Xiaosheng's bottom line, so it served him right!

Bai Xiaosheng remained unaffected, as the event had already occurred. Overthinking was unnecessary; the soldiers would block it, and water would cover it.

"Why are you all still standing there? Hurry up and find a doctor! Anyone who knows first aid, go check on him!" The elderly Donna Chen snapped back to her senses, anxiously stomping her foot and loudly instructing.

Only then did the butler, servants, and guards rush forward, some checking on Mr. Meifu, others calling for a doctor, causing a scene of chaos.

Lei Ying also walked back to Bai Xiaosheng's side, silently giving him a thumbs-up.

If nothing else, that kick just now was indeed elegant and beautiful!

Bai Xiaosheng chuckled self-deprecatingly.

It was impressive, but the trouble following wouldn't be minor either!

The people surrounding Mr. Meifu busied themselves, with NO. 2 first raising his hand, reporting to the old lady Donna Chen, "Mr. Meifu is fine, he just fainted."

After speaking, NO. 2 glanced cautiously at Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying, adding, "He might have a slight concussion..."

Hearing that it was nothing serious, Donna Chen seemed to be somewhat relieved.

Even if Mr. Meifu wasn't her son, she would still have to explain this incident to her husband.

In front of everyone, she had to show enough concern!

After checking on Mr. Meifu, Donna Chen was full of anger, pointing at Bai Xiaosheng and scolding, "How dare you! Assaulting Mr. Meifu and knocking him out right here!"

"He attacked me first!" Lin Weiwei saw this and exclaimed loudly.

If we're talking about right and wrong, there should be some reason!

"I don't care what the reason is; in any case, you injured Mr. Meifu, so you aren't leaving today!" Donna Chen shouted, "Guards, take them and beat these three Huaxia scoundrels to death for me!"

Though Donna Chen's fierce words might not actually mean death, severely injuring them was quite possible.

After all, they held esteemed positions and had high connections in New Orleans. Accusing the three Huaxia people of having malicious intent and assaulting Meifu, Bai Xiaosheng and his group would have no way to defend themselves. As long as nobody died, Bai Xiaosheng and the others would have to suffer in silence.

Daisy saw this unfolding and was extremely anxious, yet didn't know what to do.

The guards were eager to move but looked towards NO. 2 before proceeding, as he was their captain.

NO. 2 inwardly lamented.

Getting them to deal with Lei Ying and those three? Seeing the speed, power, and skill in that kick by the young Huaxia, he's also a master. Together with Lei Ying, they'd be difficult to handle. If things escalated, the consequences would be unimaginable!

NO. 2 knew all too well the terror of the former Lei Ying, able to break through encirclements. If he intended revenge, no one here would ever have peace.

He may have forgotten over the years until he received a beating, recalling it again and fearing even more.

But if he didn't obey the old lady's words, he wouldn't escape repercussions either.

At this moment, NO. 2 felt extremely bitter and indecisive. The guards saw their previously superior and loyal leader in such a state, also realized the complexity, and no one wanted to bring trouble upon themselves.

Donna Chen, realizing her orders were ineffective, was about to fly into a rage, "Get moving, you worthless lot! Useless fools!"

Molly also raged and cursed from beside her.

"Quiet!"

Suddenly, a voice rang out, like a thunderclap, echoing in all directions.

It was clearly just one person's voice, yet it was heard clearly by everyone without any speakers' aid, echoing and buzzing in their eardrums.

In an instant, everyone fell silent. Everyone looked incredulously towards the source of the voice.

The one who shouted was Bai Xiaosheng.

Chapter 2013 - An Unfinished Finale (Part 2)

At this moment, he stepped forward.

The reason Bai Xiaosheng's shout resounded like a thunderclap in a clear sky wasn't due to any "aura of regal power" he possessed, but because the construction of the hall on the first floor of this castle, including its indented walls and building materials, created an effect where sound could gather and explode.

Of course, achieving such an effect requires finding the right angle, having a strong enough voice, and using instruments for precise measurement, along with incredibly complex calculations.

Bai Xiaosheng doesn't need that; he has Red Lotus.

The entire hall became his loudspeaker.

Seeing everyone looking at him with shock, including the elderly lady, Donna Chen.

Bai Xiaosheng calmly said to Donna Chen, "Madam, you are well aware of the conflict between us and its cause. I don't need to elaborate further!"

"Today, we are visiting Mr. Landvo's home properly, not to cause trouble! We came normally and expected to leave the same way. What reason do you have for having people surround us?"

"Here, your servants have insulted me personally, which we cannot accept, and we have every right to retaliate! Mr. Meifu's attempt to assault my assistant in public is inexcusable and unjustifiable. I'm sorry he ended up like this, but I have no regrets. He brought it upon himself!"

With reason on his side, Bai Xiaosheng's voice was like a great bell, full of confidence.

His powerful voice caused a ringing in everyone's ears, and they couldn't help but feel awed and respectful.

However, the people there also gasped, finding Bai Xiaosheng's unshakable demeanor unbelievable.

"Insult you? Who do you think you are!" Donna Chen recovered and shouted angrily.

No matter how sharply she shouted, it couldn't compare to Bai Xiaosheng's resonant voice.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

Whether Donna Chen asked or not, he intended to speak; since she did ask, it made it easier for him.

However, before Bai Xiaosheng could speak, someone had already spoken on his behalf.

"This is Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, the Chief Executive Officer of Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region, almost on par with Mr. Landvo!" Lin Weiwei declared proudly to everyone, "Anyone who dares disrespect him today will have to explain to Mr. Landvo personally!"

Lin Weiwei's voice was equally strong and penetrating.

Once Bai Xiaosheng's identity was revealed, the entire room fell silent, and everyone stared in shock.

On par with Mr. Landvo?!

Even Donna Chen was speechless with shock, unable to believe her eyes as she looked at Bai Xiaosheng and his two companions.

Donna Chen always considered herself the supreme authority in this house, but never dared overstep in front of her daughter and son-in-law, especially the latter. She knew well on whose coattails her lifestyle depended!

If they had offended someone of equal stature as the Landvo Corporation, making things difficult for Landvo, she dreaded the consequences.

"Do you... you have any proof of your identity?" Donna Chen couldn't help but swallow and ask.

Lin Weiwei directly presented Bai Xiaosheng's identification proof, a badge awarded by the corporation, made of pure gold, inscribed with a name, position, and a series of numbers.

The old butler of this castle, being someone close to Landvo, had naturally seen such things before. His pupils shrunk instantly, and he quickly whispered to Donna Chen.

That item was something outsiders had never seen, let alone counterfeited, and it was more than enough to prove his identity.

Suddenly, Donna Chen's face turned pale, and even Molly Dun beside her appeared flustered.

Daisy was astounded as she looked at Bai Xiaosheng and his two companions, never expecting that they would hold such prestigious positions.

NO.2 was shocked, but mumbled, "I knew it! I just knew it! Anyone who could command Lei Ying's loyalty couldn't be an ordinary person!"

"Later, I will have a good discussion with Mr. Landvo about this matter!" Bai Xiaosheng said, looking directly at Donna Chen, "I must thank the elderly lady for her generous hospitality!"

These words made Donna Chen's expression extremely unnatural, her eyes flustered.

"Farewell!" Bai Xiaosheng said coldly, motioning for Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, who had retrieved his clothes, to stride out confidently.

No one dared to stop them!

Donna Chen remained silent.

Once Bai Xiaosheng and his companions left, Molly quickly grabbed Donna Chen's arm and cautiously whispered, "Mom, what do we do now? If we've really offended someone on my brother-in-law's level, will it cause him trouble? Will he... be unhappy?!"

Donna Chen was somewhat at a loss as well and gestured for Molly to stop talking.

After a moment's calm, Donna Chen directly called the old butler over.

"Quickly, contact my son-in-law... Mr. Landvo, and inform him of what happened here!" Donna Chen instructed the old butler urgently.

The old butler nodded quickly.

But, just as the butler was about to leave to contact Landvo, Donna Chen stopped him again.

"No, it's better if I call Catherine myself and tell her personally!" Donna Chen changed her mind.

Catherine, her eldest daughter, Landvo's wife, and his most competent aide and counselor.

The old butler nodded immediately upon hearing this, feeling relieved inside.

If he had to report it, he wouldn't know how to convey the situation over the phone. After all, Donna Chen wasn't entirely in the right...

Donna Chen, ignoring the chaos in the hall, and the unconscious Meifu, hurriedly took Molly along to tell her eldest daughter about the incident in detail, sure to cry out her grievances and blame the other party entirely.

Meanwhile, Bai Xiaosheng, with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, left the castle, unceremoniously stopping a car returning from outside and having the driver take them away.

Chapter 2014 - An Unfinished Ending (Part 3)

The driver initially wanted to consult, but Lei Ying placed his big hand on the other's shoulder, using a bit of force as a threat, making the man comply without daring to refuse.

In this way, Bai Xiaosheng and the other two left Andeliao Castle and returned to the city of New Orleans.

The journey was silent, not convenient for conversation. Only after they got off the car and watched it leave did they start walking to their hotel.

"Xiaosheng, this incident has blown up quite big, I'm afraid we've alerted them. What should we do next?!" Lin Weiwei couldn't help but ask.

Lei Ying also looked at Bai Xiaosheng, waiting for him to decide.

"Let me think," Bai Xiaosheng said in a deep voice. After a brief pause, he continued, "I'll first inform Elder Xia about the situation here!"

Sometimes, Bai Xiaosheng also needed others to give him advice.

As he spoke, Bai Xiaosheng dialed the phone. Although it wasn't a convenient time in China, the urgency of the matter left him no choice but to disturb Elder Xia.

On the road, Bai Xiaosheng recounted everything that happened here to Xiahou Qi, including the possibility that "there may be issues" with Landvo.

Xiahou Qi was quite surprised, not expecting that Bai Xiaosheng, while negotiating a cooperation, hadn't even met the counterpart's representatives but had encountered so many issues.

"Xiaosheng, you come back first, we'll put our cooperation with the South American region on hold! From what I know about Landvo, he might cause a scene at headquarters against you, but it's just distance bickering! You come back, he's across the ocean, what can he do to you! You've already set an example in the Greater China Region, the headquarters won't do anything to you over these conflicts!" This was Xiahou Qi's suggestion.

Xiahou Qi was concerned that Bai Xiaosheng was on his own, in someone else's territory, where the risks were unpredictable.

Especially since Bai Xiaosheng had sensed something he shouldn't have.

Notoriety surrounded Landvo long before, but he had deep connections at headquarters. If Bai Xiaosheng went up against him, he really shouldn't act rashly!

Otherwise, he would suffer greatly.

Bai Xiaosheng naturally knew that Xiahou Qi cared about him, worried for his safety, but if he left hastily, the problems here might remain unresolved.

Informing headquarters? Without evidence, it would only lead to endless wrangling and might also alert the enemy!

For others, if the same level had issues, they'd adopt a "not my business" attitude, avoiding fierce disputes, potentially why anyone sensing problems with Landvo remained silent.

But Bai Xiaosheng couldn't do that, he was the future heir of the group—how could he sit idly by!

"Elder Xia, I want to stay here for now," Bai Xiaosheng pondered for a moment, telling Xiahou Qi, "I know you're concerned about me. I will be extra careful here! If I leave abruptly, it would make it seem

like I noticed something, which would make Landvo less likely to let me go. I might as well wait for him to return and meet him for a straightforward conversation to clear up the misunderstandings and investigate a bit! You know, I'm not impulsive, I know the limits!"

Xiahou Qi persisted in urging Bai Xiaosheng to come back, but Bai Xiaosheng was equally stubborn.

Ultimately, the old man sighed, made some concessions, and repeatedly cautioned Bai Xiaosheng to communicate with him first whenever anything happened.

At the same time, Xiahou Qi said the business group would temporarily halt, though they would still publicly claim it was in preparation.

After hanging up, Bai Xiaosheng's demeanor showed a trace of gravity.

In an away game, isolated and without support, could they really achieve anything as before?

"Let's go, we'll return and have a detailed discussion about what to do next!" Bai Xiaosheng said to Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying in a deep voice.

Both nodded.

At this time, Donna Chen also finished a conversation with her eldest daughter, Catherine, while sobbing.

The event's account was seven parts true, three parts false, with the additional embellishments entirely concocted by her imagination.

"My daughter, your brother Meifu is still unconscious. Think about how Bai Xiaosheng bullies others, bullying your mother, bullying your brother, and causing a ruckus at our home, I didn't even know his identity! I tried reasoning with him, but he just used his status to press me, saying he'd bring it to the main company and argue with Landvo! What a mess, I truly didn't want to bring trouble to you. If I had known, I would have apologized publicly and humbly pleaded for his forgiveness!"

Donna Chen cried with a heart full of bitter tears, every word absurd.

From the other end of the phone came a heavy nasal sound, seemingly full of anger. Then a steady female voice followed, the tone hinting at deep thought.

"Mom, I know, you don't have to worry about this anymore! I'll handle it and talk to Landvo!"

Chapter 2015 - Landvo's Fury

America, Massachusetts, Ganande City. The lights are just beginning to glow.

In a penthouse suite at the Star-Spangled Intercontinental Hotel, a middle-aged man with brown skin and distinctly Caucasian features wrapped in a towel walks in from the balcony to the living room. He has just finished half an hour of "wandering" in the open-air swimming pool, and his expression is refreshed.

The man, despite being middle-aged, is neither fat nor skinny, with a well-proportioned figure, which is quite rare to maintain at this age.

His appearance is rather ordinary, almost plain, but his eyes reveal a calmness and coldness that wouldn't blink even if a mountain collapsed in front of him. When he looks at people, his gaze is like a knife, making others feel eerie.

He is Landvo, the President of the South American Region of Zhenbei Group, and concurrently the Executive President.

As Landvo enters the living room, a graceful woman dressed in a silk nightgown greets him with a smile, holding two glasses of red wine.

This woman has features that combine East and West, not overly seductive but extremely attractive, the kind that grows on you the more you look at her.

She is Catherine, Donna Chen's eldest daughter, the older sister of the mixed-race girl Molly.

Landvo takes a glass of red wine from Catherine's hand, showing a rare smile, and says, "Thank you, darling."

Catherine smiles and clinks glasses with him, and the two savor the wine.

"Landvo, why do you seem so unhappy as soon as you return? The two vice-chairmen of the group want to see you, one of them is your benefactor, it shouldn't be a bad thing, right?" Catherine asks.

To be highly appreciated by one of the vice-chairmen of the group means endless resources and connections at the headquarters of Zhenbei Group.

But when Landvo returned from the headquarters, his mood was not very good, and his face was also quite unpleasant, surely something had happened.

"Hmph!" Landvo's expression turns cold upon hearing Catherine's question, letting out a cold snort, not in a hurry to respond, but first steps toward the sofa.

Catherine doesn't rush to ask further, following him obediently.

A man of Landvo's status and position lacks neither money nor women, yet he never tires of Catherine, his wife, one reason being that Catherine knows her boundaries, knowing when to timely shut up.

After sitting down, Landvo instead actively speaks to Catherine, who sits down beside him, "What else could it be? That person... thinks my performance is not outstanding enough! Damn it, he wants to see the South American Region have an earth-shattering turnaround, overshadowing the six regions in a short time!"

Catherine listens, nodding.

"Hmph, he even found me a good example!" Landvo seems annoyed, mocking, "The Asian region, that newly appointed executive president, what's his name? Bai Xiaosheng! Today, those two people praised that guy for doing well, even encouraged me to learn more from that young man!"

Landvo pronounces Bai Xiaosheng's name in Chinese, revealing a bit more disdain.

"They specifically called me over just to reprimand me because that Huaxia person is doing too well while mine is too dull? Isn't that hateful!" Landvo grumbles.

That newly appointed executive president of the Asian region has indeed caused quite a stir, but it's said he's not very old. Who knows if he is doing well, or if Jiang Kuo and those people had already planned this move, leveraging the change of executive presidents to cause such an action.

If achievements are everyone's, problems are the new executive's; it's indeed a clever calculation.

Landvo sniggers continuously thinking about this.

He doesn't notice the change in Catherine's expression.

Catherine originally wanted to find a chance to talk to Landvo about Bai Xiaosheng, but unexpectedly, her husband's unpleasant experience at headquarters was also related to that person, one could even say it was caused by him!

Landvo continues in a deep voice, "Speaking of which, we've started reaching out to the Greater China Region a year ago, trying to connect with Bai Xiaosheng for possible cooperation, but it's been so long, the other side always brushes us off!"

When Landvo gets to this point, his look clearly darkens, and his voice becomes lower, "Is that Huaxia kid trying to put on airs in front of me? Who does he think he is!"

Being unjustly "affected" by Bai Xiaosheng, and "half-hearted" in response to collaboration discussions, all made Landvo feel very displeased, even angry.

Catherine remains silent, looking at Landvo.

Landvo finally notices Catherine's silence, frowning as he looks at her, "Why aren't you speaking?"

Soon, Landvo notices Catherine's odd expression and immediately turns to sit, asking, "Why are you looking at me with that gaze?"

Catherine still looks like she wants to say something but hesitated.

Landvo can't help but frown, speaking in a deep voice, "Darling, is there something you're hiding from me?"

"Speak!" Landvo commands in a tone that leaves no room for Catherine to refuse, laced with severity in his voice.

Catherine has no choice but to speak.

"At this moment, I really don't want to spoil your mood with this matter..." Catherine hesitates for a moment before finally revealing the fact, "Just now, I received a call from my mother."

Landvo's expression eases, thinking it's some trivial family matter. That Huaxia-born old lady, though she changed nationality and name, still can't make him more receptive.

Landvo thinks it's Donna Chen making some fuss. For Catherine's sake, he listens for the moment.

"My mother was in Riggis, terribly harmed by a Huaxia person, someone you hired to handle it, remember." Catherine says.

Landvo nods.

"Then, that Huaxia person even came to our house causing a scene and injured my brother—Meifu!" Catherine says in a deep voice.

This sentence makes Landvo's eyes suddenly widen, his eyebrows stand on end.

Just today, that Bai Xiaosheng already made him extremely displeased, how could another Huaxia person bully his mother-in-law in Europe and then find trouble at his own house!

Outrageous, simply despicable!

That Bai Xiaosheng is also from Huaxia, why do all Huaxia people seem to be against him!

"Who is it, such audacity to even dare mess around at my house? What are my useless NO.2 bunch doing?" Landvo's anger surges, it's like a fire ignited.

Messing with him at his own doorstep, do they really think Landvo is a soft persimmon, easy to squash!

"No matter who he is, inform the family to make use of all connections, I want to teach that Huaxia person a hard lesson, let him know what kind of existence he provoked!" Landvo slams his wine glass down, declaring fiercely, "I'll make him regret coming to New Orleans, coming to South America!"

Facing Landvo's explosive emotions, Catherine remains unmoved, as if she didn't hear.

"You might not know, that person also left a message at our house, wanting you to personally explain the conflict between each other!" Catherine says calmly.

Landvo is momentarily stunned, then his eyes turn sinister, his face muscles twitch, even laughs in anger, "Who is this, such a big mouth! Causing a scene at my house and still wants me to explain to him!"

Speaking to this point, Landvo suddenly frowns, looking at his wife with a peculiar gaze.

No way, daring to make trouble at Andeliao Castle, still being a Huaxia person, with such an attitude...

Catherine had just shown unwillingness to say anything...

Landvo, being able to preside over one of the six major divisions, becoming an influential figure, isn't an idiot, he suddenly realizes, "Him?!"

"Bai Xiaosheng!" Catherine reveals the mystery, "The one bullying my mom in Europe! The one causing trouble at our home to my brother! The one making life difficult for you at headquarters! The one stirring up trouble in your territory and asking you for an explanation, is that Bai Xiaosheng!"

"The newly appointed Executive President of the Greater China Region!"

Chapter 2016 - A Woman Whose Schemes Are Like a Demon

Landvo listened as his wife revealed the answer. When he found out that the person who had come to trouble his family was Bai Xiaosheng, his entire face became filled with fury, his look was terrifyingly dreadful.

"FUCK!" Landvo roared, slapping the glass of red wine off the table.

The wine glass hit the ground and shattered, the red wine splattering conspicuously.

"Bai, Xiao, Sheng! Fine, very fine!" Landvo gritted his teeth, his eyes filled with venomous resentment, wishing he could tear Bai Xiaosheng apart to vent his anger.

It's not that Landvo lacked restraint or was bad at hiding his emotions, but dealing with those old folks lately had exhausted him mentally and physically, so in front of his wife, he didn't need to disguise himself; he could get angry if he wanted, curse if he wanted.

After roaring and venting his anger, Landvo calmed down a bit. Suddenly, a thought occurred to him, and he squinted at his wife, Catherine, as though he realized something, "The way you're hiding and telling me about this, it's not like you! Are you trying to add fuel to the fire? Do you feel that your mother and brother were humiliated and can't take it, so you want me to launch a revenge?"

What kind of person is Landvo? To reach his current position, he isn't stupid or a fool. Even when emotionally out of control, he quickly sensed there was more to the matter.

Catherine nodded calmly and admitted, "A bit of that, indeed!"

Landvo scrutinized Catherine, remaining silent as he continued to listen.

While Landvo was devious, Catherine was not far behind!

Otherwise, how could Catherine become both his wife and his most capable assistant!

Catherine's perspective wouldn't be swayed by trivial personal grudges.

To urge her husband to fall out with someone of equal status over minor resentment isn't her style.

If personal vendettas impacted wealth and long-term interests, wouldn't that be utterly foolish!

"Do you have anything else to tell me?" Landvo stared at Catherine, he asked.

Catherine leaned back against the sofa, swirling the wine in her glass, and said unhurriedly, "At first, I really wanted to vent for my mother and brother, but after analyzing it, I realized there's no benefit in clashing head-on with that Bai Xiaosheng from Huaxia. It would only increase the risks of our current operations, it's not worth the loss! So, I considered abandoning the idea of revenge!"

Landvo listened quietly.

"But then, upon reviewing the whole situation, something felt off," Catherine sipped her wine and said in a deep voice while looking at Landvo, "That Bai Xiaosheng wouldn't be so arrogant as to brazenly come running across the ocean to your house, where he knows you are practically a superior, and openly harass your family! So afterwards, I asked Meifu who had woken up about the details!"

Landvo's eyes showed interest.

"Meifu said that Bai Xiaosheng clashed with his subordinate—Ruby, who manages grey industry—before meeting him, while keeping his true identity hidden!"

Catherine's words made Landvo frown.

"This means Bai Xiaosheng had touched the edge of our underground dealings and probably sensed something. Otherwise, he wouldn't need to hide his identity until a critical moment to protect himself!" Catherine said in a deep voice.

Judging from these two points, she boldly hypothesized and hit the mark.

Landvo nodded.

Catherine continued, "I had Meifu recount every word he exchanged with Bai Xiaosheng, not missing a single punctuation mark. Although I only got about fifty to sixty percent of the content, I deduced one fact..."

Landvo immediately looked at Catherine.

"That Bai Xiaosheng was probing Meifu!" Catherine's tone carried a hint of strangeness, "Why would he be probing Meifu?!"

This question was enough to send chills down anyone's spine.

Even Landvo appeared solemn.

"Regrettably, Meifu didn't immediately detect his intentions," Catherine sighed.

"Did that Huaxia person discover something on my turf? Did he find out about our business!" Landvo said in a deep voice.

Over the years, it wasn't just one person who suspected Landvo of embezzling. Some intended to share the pie, becoming his "friends," while others wanted him dead, naturally becoming his "enemies," but unfortunately, not a single "enemy" had their wishes come true!

And Bai Xiaosheng wouldn't succeed either!

With personal grudges mingled with personal interests, even Landvo was truly harboring murderous intent towards Bai Xiaosheng.

"So what do we do next?" Catherine asked.

In fact, she was always the one to make suggestions, not the one asking for solutions.

"What's your suggestion?" Landvo looked at her.

"My suggestion is to have someone contact him and see if he insists on going after us. If everyone can get along, then I'll accept the issues with my mom and brother. But if it doesn't work out, then let's settle new and old scores together!" Catherine's eyes turned vicious, "Letting this legendary young man from Huaxia fall in South America doesn't sound bad!"

Watching his wife, Landvo slowly revealed a smile, "It seems like you already have a plan to ruin him completely?"

Catherine pursed her lips and smiled, a chilling smile.

There's a saying in Huaxia: There's nothing more venomous than a woman's heart!

Meanwhile.

In New Orleans, Bai Xiaosheng and his two companions checked into their hotel room. After a day's discussion, they had some preliminary plans.

Bai Xiaosheng was summarizing with them—

"Meifu and that Ruby are definitely two key figures involved with Landvo's grey industry. Lei Ying, you're responsible for keeping an eye on them! Regarding certain special ways, you understand them; spend however much, don't worry, I'll cover it! Find your own people! Make sure to find clues, even evidence, in the shortest possible time!"

Lei Ying nodded, accepting the command.

"Weiwei, as we agreed, you're in charge of logistics and communication with Elder Xia's side. Have the best financial, economic, and business analysts from home join in to assist. I want them to analyze any commercial clues in the shortest time, preferably drawing inferences from one instance to another!"

Lin Weiwei nodded.

"As for me, I'll be engaging with Jiang Kuo, the people at headquarters, and others like Fang Beijun, probing discreetly. I can't tell them the truth to prevent any leaks, but probing and analysis will still get us what we want!"

Bai Xiaosheng established the strategy and emphasized while looking at the other two, "Most of our opportunities lie before Landvo returns, maybe even before then! I believe with his alertness and abilities, he will definitely notice we are up to something! Therefore our time is short!"

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying both nodded.

"Don't worry!"

"We will uncover something!"

Bai Xiaosheng gazed into the distant void and said in a deep voice, "This time, being the away team means there are many unfavorable factors for us!"

"But since I've decided to get involved, I, Bai Xiaosheng, absolutely cannot return in defeat!"

"Perhaps, this is precisely my opportunity!"

As Bai Xiaosheng thought of this, he suddenly heard a crisp sound that others couldn't, coming from Red Lotus's notification.

"Freeze period for promotion tasks: Ended!"

"Promotion task release!"

"Investigate and report the head of the South American district to the company until the other party is punished!"

"Upon completion of this task, you will be promoted. Due to the selected side task in this stage, the score gain in the next stage will increase by five percent! The next stage's position will be uncontrollable! The assistance obtained in the next stage will be in a weaker category!"

The promotion task was finally issued!

Bai Xiaosheng's heart grew increasingly fiery.

Chapter 2017 - A Circuitous Investigation

Since Bai Xiaosheng and his team decided to privately investigate the South America regional manager, Landvo, and established their course of action, they had no more hesitation.

The next day, the three of them went about their respective tasks.

However, by midday, when they reconvened to report their progress, the results were meager. Only Bai Xiaosheng managed to gather a faint trace of useful information from headquarters.

This time, Lei Ying came back empty-handed.

Meifu and Ruby didn't leave the house today, and it seemed everything around them had entered a state of alert.

Even when Lei Ying attempted to gather information from the underground world of New Orleans, he achieved nothing. He couldn't even spend any money because no one dared to accept it!

Only then did the three realize that just Ruby alone had such deep roots here, with a terrifying underground influence that no one dared to take their deadly money.

The clues Bai Xiaosheng found were so minimal that he analyzed them himself without needing Lin Weiwei's backup support.

Lin Weiwei had, however, communicated with Xiahou Qi and established a huge analysis team, staffed by top personnel. Unfortunately, without data, what could they analyze...?

At this rate, even if ten days or half a month passed, Bai Xiaosheng and his team wouldn't gain anything useful.

"It seems Landvo must have sensed something!" Bai Xiaosheng decisively asserted, his eyebrows furrowing deeply. "He is even more alert than I imagined, with a response and efficiency that can be called frightening!"

Bai Xiaosheng hadn't felt this kind of pressure from confronting such a formidable opponent in a long time.

The two were currently engaged in a cross-continental strategic game, each trying to guess the other's next move.

"It can't be, Landvo already knows we are investigating him?" Lin Weiwei still didn't believe it, "How is that possible!"

There were conflicts, true, but at most, they were personal vendettas. How could Landvo know the true intentions of Bai Xiaosheng and the others aiming at him? They had just started acting; it shouldn't have leaked out.

"I feel the same way as you do." Lei Ying agreed with Bai Xiaosheng.

"Based on my conversation with Meifu, if I were him, I would definitely detect something was amiss. Wouldn't Mr. Landvo be just as sharp?" Bai Xiaosheng shook his head.

For someone in such a prominent position, how could they not have this kind of wit and intellect!

Bai Xiaosheng never underestimated his opponents, and this time was no different. He would rather err on the side of overestimation based on his original judgment.

Otherwise, major problems could arise.

"No way! If Landvo really knows we are investigating him, then, then..." Lin Weiwei dared not say any further.

They were essentially targeting something that could risk lives, so how could Landvo allow them free reign!

Next, being in New Orleans, on someone else's turf, wouldn't they be deeply ensnared and constantly in peril!

"No matter whether my speculation is correct, or how much subjective animosity Landvo currently has towards us, the original plan can no longer be used. Switch to backup plan B." Bai Xiaosheng affirmed.

When competing with an expert, one cannot slack off in the slightest, nor hesitate.

We must dare to predict, dare to get ahead, or else we'll be overwhelmed!

Yesterday, after discussing all day, besides the main plan, they also set up several backup plans.

The backup plan B was for them to leave New Orleans quietly, disappear into other cities, and start investigating some companies to uncover any shady dealings.

As for which companies, Bai Xiaosheng already had ideas.

Just like when he tentatively mentioned to Meifu those top ten supported companies and the top ten best collaborators, there were many directions to investigate.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't believe that Landvo could, in a short time, make all related companies in the entire South America region into an impenetrable fortress.

New Orleans was, after all, their deeply entrenched stronghold, with fast reactions, unlike other places!

Of course, those companies mentioned to Meifu should be chosen carefully since the information was already leaked.

However, if the opponents think the same, a reverse thinking approach might lead to better breakthroughs...

The directions and companies to investigate next would be carefully reconsidered by Bai Xiaosheng.

For now, it was crucial to leave New Orleans soundlessly and disappear from their sights!

After spending half an hour deliberating, Bai Xiaosheng finally decided on the city they were going to. The three of them took essential belongings, left their rooms without checking out, and went out separately.

They met up on the street, hired a taxi, offered a price the driver couldn't refuse, and quietly left New Orleans.

This clandestine operation was like something out of a spy movie.

It led Lin Weiwei to marvel that, had Bai Xiaosheng been born in that era, he surely would have been an exceptional underground operative.

On the very day Bai Xiaosheng and the others departed, by evening, several individuals of notable bearing arrived at the hotel where Bai Xiaosheng and his team stayed.

Accompanied by the hotel manager, they found Bai Xiaosheng and his team's rooms.

These people were arranged by Catherine to "have a talk" with Bai Xiaosheng.

They knocked on the doors of Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Weiwei, and Lei Ying, each for over five minutes, and even had the front desk call multiple times, but there was no response.

Finally, the hotel manager unlocked the rooms, allowing these people to enter quietly.

It must be said, Landvo was the real owner behind this hotel, otherwise, such actions would not have been possible.

These people merely went around the rooms, looked around, didn't touch anything, and then left, asking the manager to relock the doors.

The leader of the group immediately called Catherine to report, ending with, "Miss Catherine, they are still here; they just haven't returned. We'll come back to find them a bit later."

Catherine agreed and told them to mind their manners and not to enter the rooms without permission again.

At eleven in the evening, the group reappeared at the hotel. They believed Bai Xiaosheng and his team, no matter how busy, would have returned by now.

Despite the busy in and out of the hotel and staff reporting no sightings, it didn't necessarily mean they weren't there.

The group made a second visit, again knocking and calling, with the same no-response outcome.

This time, they finally sensed something was wrong and reported to Catherine.

From North America, Catherine received the call and immediately became alert, instructing them to verify again.

The group directly accessed hotel surveillance, only to discover Bai Xiaosheng and his team had left separately earlier with their belongings and did not return.

By the time they got the final results, it was already midnight. Catherine went to report to Landvo.

"That Bai Xiaosheng and his team quietly left New Orleans!"

Landvo was in his bedroom listening to classical music, waiting for his wife to sleep. Hearing his wife's words, he sat up immediately, opened his eyes, and a glint of cold light flashed in his gaze, "They left? What do you mean, where did they go?"

At noon, they received a report saying someone was purchasing information on Ruby and Meifu for a hefty price in New Orleans' underground world.

According to the description, it matched the big Huaxia guy who was with Bai Xiaosheng.

This confirmed that Bai Xiaosheng was indeed investigating them!

However, the true purpose behind Bai Xiaosheng's investigation into Landvo's shady dealings wasn't known — whether it was for extortion or to report to headquarters for rewards!

No matter the purpose, if it involved interests, there was always room for negotiation.

If negotiations broke down, targeting their lives would not be the best choice, but seeing that Huaxia person lose everything and ruin his reputation in South America would be a satisfying result!

But unexpectedly, the adversaries managed to slip out of their grasp.

Did they sense their movements and retreat to South America, back home, or hide their tracks to continue investigating elsewhere?

"I've arranged for contacts to check public transportation records," Catherine said, "But judging by their left belongings, they were using it as a diversion. They didn't leave South America! Instead, they are operating secretly in another city!"

Upon hearing Catherine's judgment, Landvo's expression became chilling, and he spat out two words through clenched teeth, "Courting death!"

Catherine calmly spoke, "I'll head back and see if I can track them down; I'll personally engage in dialogue!"

Catherine gave Bai Xiaosheng the highest regard, "Based on Bai Xiaosheng's current performance, ordinary people aren't likely to be his match!"

Chapter 2018 - Me? I Don't Need Money

South America, eastern city, Lanling Fort. In a rather stylish local café, Bai Xiaosheng sat by the window, with an open laptop in front of him, browsing the news.

It had been five days since they quietly left New Orleans.

During these five days, they visited three cities, contacted eight companies, and conducted numerous investigations privately. The clues they gathered were unexpectedly delightful!

Now, over at the Greater China Region Headquarters, Xiahou Qi personally leads an analysis team, meticulously unraveling the clues to achieve significant insights.

This made Bai Xiaosheng very satisfied.

At this moment, Bai Xiaosheng was reading the news about Mr. Landvo signing contracts with some North American companies after returning to South America.

Several days ago, Mr. Landvo had already figured out what Bai Xiaosheng might be up to and had been taking actions. Bai Xiaosheng and his team were racing against time to gather information wherever possible.

But in these days, the resistance to Bai Xiaosheng's investigation became especially noticeable.

Bai Xiaosheng judged that their location and range must have also been locked down by the opposite party!

This cat-and-mouse game had reached a point where it seemed time for a "showdown."

Bai Xiaosheng was prepared for this.

At this moment, the old-fashioned bronze bell hanging at the café's entrance rang crisply.

A woman dressed elegantly pushed the door open, holding a clutch, wearing large sunglasses.

Outside the door stood a dozen figures, seemingly her accompanying entourage.

The café manager hurried up with respect, nodded and bent over to the woman, whispered something, and pointed towards Bai Xiaosheng's location.

The woman nodded, gestured for the manager to back off, and walked towards Bai Xiaosheng's position.

The café manager wasn't idle either, briskly going to other customers, offering to settle bills, pack up, give cash, or provide discount coupons to clear the area.

Bai Xiaosheng seemed oblivious to everything that happened in the café, continuing to browse the news leisurely until the woman came near him, at which point Bai Xiaosheng moved his gaze from the screen and looked at her calmly.

The woman gracefully removed her sunglasses, revealing a face that was not overly enchanting but quite charming.

"You must be Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, I'm Catherine, Mr. Landvo's wife." The woman introduced herself with a smile, "May I take some of your time to chat with you?"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, stood up, and gestured to the opposite seat, "Please, sit down, Lady Landvo."

"Please just call me Catherine." Catherine sat down with a smile.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded and sat down as well, "So, Ms. Catherine, what brings you to see me?"

Catherine smiled with her lips pursed, "I wouldn't dare to 'teach' you. I'm currently serving in the South America division as the Senior Director Adviser to the Executive President, similar to Mr. Xiahou Qi in your area. You could say I'm your subordinate."

Bai Xiaosheng had investigated and knew about this, so he expressed his admiration, "That position is said to be prepared for the highest advisor to the executive president!"

Being in that position, it seemed this Catherine was quite extraordinary!

After all, if Mr. Landvo were to play favorites with her position, he could certainly arrange for her a more inconspicuous, higher-paying, and more relaxed position.

This Senior Director Adviser position indeed requires true capability to earn respect!

Bai Xiaosheng had been observing Catherine from the first glance, but with his current skill, he couldn't see through her true thoughts.

Just this, made Catherine quite extraordinary!

Facing Bai Xiaosheng's scrutiny, Catherine smiled again, "This isn't a position Mr. Landvo arranged for me; I earned it through my own abilities."

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and nodded.

Just her capability to hide her emotions and thoughts, able to fool even him, proved that this woman was very unusual!

The café manager personally brought over coffee, and Catherine accepted it with a smile, elegantly crossing her legs and stirring the coffee.

This posture was not only not rude but also inexplicably graceful.

"Earlier Mr. Bai mentioned 'teaching', but I wouldn't dare. I'm just here to discuss a few matters with you." Catherine looked up at Bai Xiaosheng, smiling, "You seem to know I was coming, and that this café... belongs to me!"

Catherine was also observing Bai Xiaosheng, gradually testing.

"If I said I'm here waiting for Mr. Landvo, would you believe me?" Bai Xiaosheng chuckled and asked back.

Catherine didn't respond, just smiled as she sipped her coffee, looking at Bai Xiaosheng.

This young man from Huaxia appeared exceedingly ordinary at first glance, with black hair and black eyes, not exceptionally handsome nor very robust, yet he gave a feeling of standing before a mountain or watching the sea, an... invisible pressure!

Particularly his eyes, as deep as the night sky, seemingly able to see through everything!

Facing him, she inherently felt a sense of awe.

Catherine was profoundly amazed by Bai Xiaosheng.

So young, with such a presence, truly an exceptional individual!

"Mr. Bai came to South America at our invitation, for the purpose of cooperation." Catherine stated.

"Yes." Bai Xiaosheng admitted.

"My husband and I had just gone to the headquarters there, and Mr. Bai was traveling around here. Was it to understand our situation?" Catherine asked again.

"Yes." Bai Xiaosheng smiled and admitted again.

Catherine provided "steps" for both sides, and Bai Xiaosheng accepted them all without refusal.

"Then has Mr. Bai learned enough now, and is there any interest in joining us—" Catherine fixed her gaze on Bai Xiaosheng, "in the next phase of cooperation?"

Catherine emphasized the word "cooperation."

Without waiting for Bai Xiaosheng to express his opinion, Catherine continued, "I know Mr. Bai had some unpleasant experiences when visiting South America. My family has offended you, and I can offer an apology here!"

Catherine unexpectedly apologized proactively!

One should know, Bai Xiaosheng and his team might have intruded into their affairs!

Logically, Bai Xiaosheng should be the one to apologize.

"It's also my fault for not handling some matters appropriately." Bai Xiaosheng smiled and apologized.

This was considered mutual apology, and the atmosphere became quite harmonious.

So much so that Catherine thought the matter could be resolved satisfactorily, and that Bai Xiaosheng would next "discuss cooperation" and propose some rather harsh cooperation conditions to seek benefits.

However, under Catherine's expectation, Bai Xiaosheng just smiled, without saying anything further.

"Mr. Bai?" Catherine probed.

"Yes, Ms. Catherine, is there anything else?" Bai Xiaosheng smiled and asked back.

Catherine looked at Bai Xiaosheng, and Bai Xiaosheng looked at Catherine.

Two wise individuals, just playing dumb in mutual gaze.

Catherine stared at Bai Xiaosheng for a good two minutes, while Bai Xiaosheng also looked at her for two minutes. Others might have thought Lady Landvo had eyes for someone, developing feelings.

"You truly have nothing to say to me?" Catherine asked again, her voice slightly cold.

"If it's about our cooperation, then I'll schedule another time to meet Mr. Landvo." Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

That smile appeared so sincere.

Catherine's smile slowly faded.

"If you have this attitude, Mr. Bai, then it's truly uninteresting!" Catherine's expression showed some laziness and coldness.

This Bai Xiaosheng, indeed, wants to hold onto her husband's issues!

"Ms. Catherine, if you knew me, you'd have been straightforward from the start. Beating around the bush is rather uninteresting, as after all you're a smart person, and I can fool fools but can't deceive the wise."

Bai Xiaosheng sighed, seemingly resigned.

This woman's eyes were skeptical from the start, no matter what he said, she wouldn't believe it.

Might as well speak openly, after all, there wasn't an outsider in this café!

Catherine looked at Bai Xiaosheng, nodded, and slowly said, "We know, Mr. Bai, that you found some... dirt about my husband here. Regardless of its truth, we'll consider becoming friends with you! After all, with your and my husband's status, fighting would harm both, cooperation would bring wealth!"

"We can offer much better conditions than you'd imagine to become your friend! Mr. Bai is so young, surely you don't want to struggle for a position your whole life, even if you become the Group's Vice President, so what! Aren't you still constrained by others, perhaps a word or meeting could make you lose everything."

Catherine's face was earnest, sincerely persuading Bai Xiaosheng.

"In this world, only money does not let people down!"

This last sentence seemed to be Catherine's precious life advice.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but nod, as if in agreement.

"And Mr. Bai's stance?" Catherine smiled again and asked.

"My stance?" Bai Xiaosheng grinned, "Oh, money... I don't lack money!"

Chapter 2019 - The Path Catherine Offers

Catherine discussed interests with Bai Xiaosheng, attempting to "befriend" him, but Bai Xiaosheng claimed he wasn't short on money? Clearly, this meant he didn't want to "go along with" them!

Is Bai Xiaosheng determined to expose Mr. Landvo's affairs to the group headquarters, causing them to be discredited?!

Catherine slightly frowned and gazed at Bai Xiaosheng, her eyes carrying a hint of coldness. Raising her chin, she said, "I know, Mr. Bai, you don't lack money, but does anyone ever complain about having too much money? Naturally, the more, the better. Look at the Forbes Billionaire List, is there any tycoon who has ever retired after earning enough!"

"Besides, there has never been any grudge between us. Even if my family has offended you, I've already apologized. Moreover, Mr. Bai, you have already punished them. Isn't that enough?"

"Mr. Bai, you have said it yourself: let's not speak foolish things in front of sensible people, it's just you and me here! You might as well tell me directly, what do you want?"

"Why make it a situation of mutual destruction!"

Catherine's last sentence was spoken to Bai Xiaosheng in Chinese, already carrying a few hints of murderous intent.

In her words, "you" had also been changed from the formal "您" to the informal "你"!

All these days, Catherine had been following the traces of Bai Xiaosheng and his two companions, tracing their path, and further speculating on how much they controlled.

But along the way, Catherine discovered she was completely being led by Bai Xiaosheng, chasing shadows everywhere.

Finally meeting face-to-face, it was deliberate on the other party's part.

Bai Xiaosheng was becoming increasingly troublesome for Catherine.

Therefore, she tried her best to negotiate peace.

But if they truly had to tear each other apart, she would definitely spare no effort to deal with Bai!

"You're exaggerating, Ms. Catherine, you're exaggerating!" Bai Xiaosheng chuckled, "What's this mutual destruction nonsense, it's too much. What I said just now was a joke, if it misled you, Ms. Catherine, I apologize. I admit, I like money, is that alright now? I would also love to befriend Mr. Landvo. Let's set a time to meet with him, discuss some cooperation, and sign some joint agreements, shall we? If Mr. Landvo feels uncomfortable with me spending too much time in the South America region, I can pack up and return home."

Bai Xiaosheng's words were completely in line with what Catherine was saying.

It was, in theory, what Catherine had hoped for.

But she couldn't feel happy about it.

Because Bai Xiaosheng's words were too casual!

Bai Xiaosheng didn't mention his private investigation of Landvo at all, as if it never happened, which annoyed Catherine.

Additionally, Catherine felt she couldn't understand this young man's thoughts at all.

"What do you think of this, Ms. Catherine?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with a seemingly sincere smile.

Catherine paused, gazing at Bai Xiaosheng before saying, "Mr. Bai, you're agreeing too easily, which makes me uncomfortable!"

Bai Xiaosheng immediately pulled a wry smile.

"If I refuse, you're unhappy; if I agree, you're still unhappy. Then, Ms. Catherine, why don't you draw me a path?" Bai Xiaosheng said with an expression of helplessness.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng speak like this, Catherine's expression softened, covering her mouth as she laughed, "How could I possibly dare! You are an influential figure holding fort at one side; how could I draw a path for you!"

Though Catherine claimed she didn't dare, she continued, "Mr. Bai, you've been busy investigating in various locations these days, so we must make some gesture. We hope to offer you some company shares, which will result in over five hundred million US Dollars being transferred to your private account every year!"

Catherine offered Bai Xiaosheng a mountain of gold from the outset.

"We need your assistance in managing the ownership of these shares, you just need to provide information and sign. As for which companies, we cannot disclose it to you for ten years, but the money will definitely be there." Catherine said with a smile, "Transfer it to your account in America through safe channels."

This woman, she really is quite formidable. Bai Xiaosheng secretly sighed.

Firstly, Catherine tempted Bai Xiaosheng with huge sums of money.

Secondly, she was enticing Bai Xiaosheng onto a pirate ship without telling him which one. Not revealing which company shares they were, worried he might openly accept them while secretly investigating.

After ten years, whether Bai Xiaosheng could abandon such a massive fortune in his account, and even if he wanted to wash his name clean by then, it wouldn't be possible!

Most ingeniously, she asked Bai Xiaosheng to set up an American account. Once the huge fortune was transferred, they would have leverage over Bai Xiaosheng, enough untraceable, untaxed assets in that account to make him susceptible to a heavy penalty.

Once agreed, everyone on the pirate ship is tied together, neither of them can escape.

Five hundred million a year, in ten years that's five billion!

Truly an amount one can't spend in a lifetime!

Enough to tempt anyone to willingly take risks!

Frankly, even an executive president of a business division is worth that price!

The convenience provided to Landvo over ten years is worth far more than that!

What a calculation, what a strategy to "turn an enemy into a friend"!

"Truly an irresistible temptation!" Bai Xiaosheng seemed intrigued, smacking his lips. "So much money, if something goes wrong, it would mean hundreds of years in prison, right?"

Bai Xiaosheng essentially laid bare the trap Catherine had set for him.

"As you people over there say, 'fortune and glory are sought in danger'!" Catherine gazed at Bai Xiaosheng, smiling, "If Mr. Bai is always our friend, what could possibly go wrong! And such a sum of money requires no effort on your part, we will handle everything for you. Is there an easier way to make money than this?"

There's no denying, this woman is excellent at enticing people.

"As friends, is it not reasonable for me to offer some 'modest help'?" Bai Xiaosheng chuckled.

"It's for all of us!" Catherine corrected with a smile.

In this world, there's no such thing as a free lunch.

Even if she said there is, Bai Xiaosheng might not believe it.

"If even an executive president of a department needs fifty billion US Dollars to buy off, I wonder what the price would be for a position higher up!" Bai Xiaosheng seemed casual as he asked with a smile.

Catherine remained silent, her gaze sharp.

"Forget I asked." Bai Xiaosheng joked with a laugh at her reaction, then continued, "For such a big matter, Ms. Catherine, you have to let me think about it."

Faced with this request, Catherine nodded, "Alright."

"How about a week, I'll respond to you in a week." Bai Xiaosheng replied.

Catherine directly shook her head.

"Then five days, or even three." Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

Catherine seriously replied, "Mr. Bai, you should know that from the moment I told you about this matter, you don't have much time to think. We need your answer by midnight tonight!"

Bai Xiaosheng thought of delaying for time, but that's impossible!

Catherine was well aware of this.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at Catherine. This kind of woman, who competes with oneself every step, thinking everything through, is truly tough to deal with. The key is she doesn't trust anything you say, won't fall into your rhythm, but continues staunchly down her own path.

That means, no matter how convincingly you perform, it's useless to her.

So it all comes down to relying on one's own capabilities to decide who's superior.

"By tonight at midnight?" Bai Xiaosheng nodded, "Alright then!"

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng agree, Catherine's face broke into a smile.

"But, what if I ultimately reject your offer?" Bai Xiaosheng suddenly asked with a smile, "Then what will happen to me?"

Chapter 2020 - Winning by a Move

Catherine's smile had just begun to show, but after hearing Bai Xiaosheng's words, it faded away. What did he mean by "if he ultimately disagrees, what will happen"?

Catherine laughed again, but there was no real humor in her laughter.

"If it truly comes to that, we wouldn't be able to pose any threat to Mr. Bai's life safety. After all, we rely mainly on legitimate business here," Catherine said softly.

We won't take your life, but we will ruin you as a person! Catherine didn't say it, but her eyes already showed it.

"However, we hope Mr. Bai you will consider it carefully!" Catherine looked Bai Xiaosheng up and down, then added, "Being as young as you are, sitting in such a position—it must be due to the support of benefactors and unmatched opportunities. Are you truly willing to see the high position you've painstakingly climbed to crumble and collapse?"

Catherine was warning Bai Xiaosheng with a different kind of threat beyond life and death.

If you insist on "going against," you'll be ruined and left with nothing!

By then, you'll be better off dead!

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, lowered his head to sip his coffee, slowly drank it, then looked up at Catherine with a half-smile, "Mrs. Catherine and Mr. Landvo are so confident to let me fail in South America!"

As he spoke, Bai Xiaosheng's eyes revealed a sharpness.

Even Catherine felt a sudden chill in her heart.

Bai Xiaosheng's level of danger increased another notch in Catherine's mind!

Among all the opponents she had encountered so far, Bai Xiaosheng ranked in the top three!

Perhaps even the highest!

"Mr. Bai, you must be joking. I didn't say that." Catherine smiled, softening the situation.

Any game is based on the possibility of advancing and retreating. If one only retreats, it's no longer a negotiation but an acceptance of the outcome. If one only provokes, the negotiation will collapse immediately.

Not knowing Bai Xiaosheng's final stance, Catherine was unwilling to make matters too tense, which would be unwise for both parties.

"Let's talk about something else," Catherine suggested proactively.

Bai Xiaosheng also relaxed, adopting an attitude of listening.

"These past few days, I've been following in your footsteps, Mr. Bai, visiting several cities. I know your concern for us here, so I've been proactively... patching things up wherever our enterprises have issues in those cities," Catherine said while holding her coffee with a smile. "Although a few days aren't enough to 'mend the fence after the sheep are lost,' we'll promptly correct any shortcomings Mr. Bai noticed, even if it means sacrificing. My husband, Mr. Landvo, and I especially adhere to the principle of prudence!"

The implication of Catherine's words was to tell Bai Xiaosheng—

The things they investigated would be covered up afterward, and whatever evidence they had wouldn't significantly threaten Landvo.

Faced with Catherine's reminder, Bai Xiaosheng showed no reaction; instead, he chuckled leisurely, "Mrs. Catherine, have you heard of a snow wolf that's skilled at hunting prey in thick snow?"

Catherine, unsure why Bai Xiaosheng brought up animals, looked at him with a questioning gaze.

"In contrast, there is a snow fox, one of the prey of the snow wolf."

Bai Xiaosheng spoke unhurriedly, "When the mountains are buried in snow, and the snow is knee-deep, the snow wolf must hunt, and the snow fox, to avoid being hunted, cleverly changes its fur to pure

white. Yet, when it runs, it still gets spotted, and on such a pristine flat snowfield, its footprints are inevitably left behind."

"The snow fox cleverly uses its tail as a broom, sweeping away its footprints as it runs. But guess what? The snow wolf still finds it by following the drag marks!"

"Then the snow fox thinks of jumping onto exposed rocks to leave no trace. Still, the snow wolf finds it!"

Bai Xiaosheng asked with a smile, "Why do you think that is?"

Catherine knew that Bai Xiaosheng's story wasn't just a simple tale and couldn't help but answer, "The scent."

"That's right," Bai Xiaosheng chuckled. "What's the moral of this story?"

Bai Xiaosheng asked as if posing a child's question, and naturally, Catherine wouldn't answer.

He then provided the answer, "It tells us that everything we do will be discovered. Some things can't be covered up; the more they are concealed, the more evident they become. What seems seamless is the biggest flaw to a huntsman's eye! Don't you think so, Mrs. Catherine?"

Catherine gave Bai Xiaosheng a "soft" threat, and Bai Xiaosheng returned her with a "soft" warning.

Catherine stared into Bai Xiaosheng's eyes, discovering that he was composed and smiling.

"A good story," Catherine responded calmly. "Mr. Bai, please remember that by midnight tonight, you must give us an answer!"

Bai Xiaosheng nodded slightly.

Catherine, who initially intended to stand up and leave, suddenly glanced around with curiosity and asked Bai Xiaosheng, "I remember Mr. Bai always has a male and a female companion. Why are they not here now?"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "Naturally, they went to take care of some business."

Such a simple sentence put Catherine on high alert.

"Mr. Bai, knowing this café is mine, deliberately exposing your whereabouts to lure us here, aren't you using yourself as bait to make it easier for your two assistants to act, pulling a 'tiger leaving the mountain' trick?" Catherine asked with narrowed eyes.

"Mrs. Catherine, you seem so tense, thinking of me as so cunning, how terrible," Bai Xiaosheng laughed heartily.

Catherine looked at Bai Xiaosheng, not feeling the least bit amused.

Indeed, you're not cunning...

You're clever as a monkey if you stick some fur on yourself!

Catherine silently retorted. She hadn't encountered someone so difficult in years and had to tread carefully in every step against him, wary of falling into a trap.

"I made a new friend at Andeliao Castle, a girl named Daisy," Bai Xiaosheng seemed in a good mood, proactively telling Catherine.

Some things, even if not mentioned, Catherine would quickly find out.

"Daisy?!" Catherine squinted slightly. She remembered a servant by that name, whom Meifu coveted and arranged to serve him daily.

"She and her brother depend on each other, but her brother was forced to Asia by Mr. Meifu. A few days ago, her brother sent a message saying he went to Huaxia, where it's extremely safe, and he wanted to bring his sister over. Daisy is also willing. So I had my subordinate, Lei Ying, pay the breach of contract fee for Daisy and handle her paperwork to go to Huaxia. She should have left by now." Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

Catherine raised an eyebrow, her eyes full of suspicion.

Does Bai Xiaosheng have the presence of mind to handle such trivial matters now?

At such a critical moment when talent is urgently needed, he sent away a capable assistant to help a recently acquainted girl?

Catherine felt this matter wasn't as simple as Bai Xiaosheng made it sound.

Just then, the ringing of a phone interrupted them, and Catherine received a call on her phone.

"Do you mind?" Catherine politely asked Bai Xiaosheng.

After all, they were in the middle of a discussion, and it's appropriate to check before taking a call.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded with a smile. He even had a hunch about the call.

Looking at her phone, Catherine saw it was a call from Meifu.

She and Landvo hadn't been back to Andeliao Castle these days.

"What's the matter, Meifu?" Catherine asked while looking at Bai Xiaosheng, speaking with her brother.

For reasons unknown, this call made her feel a bit uneasy.

That 'sixth sense' sort of thing.

On the other end, Meifu urgently reported to her.

The house had been burgled; some private business documents were stolen, initially suspected to be the work of the departed Daisy, as she was the only one who had the convenience!

Those documents aren't fatal, but they are extremely important!

Hearing this, Catherine's gaze turned sharp, immediately focusing on Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng remained very calm.

This Bai Xiaosheng truly used himself as bait to attract all their attention here.

It wasn't limited to today; it was all along!

Their investigation was one aspect, yet he relied on a mere servant to steal evidence, delivering a blow to them!

Catherine's heart turned solemn.

Now that things reached this point, Daisy couldn't be found, and taking revenge on a servant was meaningless!

But as it stands, what Bai Xiaosheng holds is genuinely enough to threaten Landvo!

Seeing the killing intent and alarm in Catherine's eyes, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but smile slightly.

That matter was handled by Lei Ying.

Meanwhile, Lin Weiwei had gone somewhere else on another extremely important task!

Catherine and her counterpart only assumed they held some threatening evidence but were unaware that the accumulated evidence on Bai Xiaosheng's side was enough to shake Landvo!