

## Two Trillion 211

### Chapter 211: There's No Feast That Doesn't End\_1

Teles Square's charity dinner gathered numerous magnates, with the attendance slightly fluctuating from day to night.

The mayor and Master Song Kai made appearances, Wei Moran attended, and Lu Qingfeng from the Lu Family arrived, the lineup was extravagantly luxurious.

Guided by a well-known local beauty and host, the evening unfolded with one climax after another.

Bai Xiaosheng sat quietly in a corner, smiling and holding a glass of wine, without joining the magnates or trying to schmooze.

Sitting beside him was Shang Wenshu.

"Sun Xiangdong has been placed under investigation. The offences he committed will lock him away for no less than ten to eight years. Without him, Sun Corporation probably won't last a few years. Some people who were close to Sun Xiangdong, like Zhuang Boyi, have also been arrested," Shang Wenshu told Bai Xiaosheng, somewhat reporting to him, yet neither of them paid it much attention.

Sun Xiangdong really picked the wrong opponent this time, Shang Wenshu lamented.

All along the way, those who have opposed Bai Xiaosheng—Wu Qiuyan, Li Mingtong, Wang Ye, Sun Xiangdong—none had ended well.

Could ordinary people really contend with the elite of the corporate inspection team?

Shang Wenshu's reverence for Bai Xiaosheng deepened by another measure.

"Wang Ye has also been put under investigation. I've nominated Manager Chen Jiutian to pursue his accountability. I think, Manager Chen will agree!" A hint of mockery couldn't help but flash in Shang Wenshu's eyes.

From the moment Shang Wenshu realized that Chen Jiutian intended to take action against Bai Xiaosheng, he'd been anticipating this outcome quietly.

Indeed, playing tricks with the inspection team never leads to a good result!

Bai Xiaosheng nodded slightly.

"Currently, regarding your position, I'd like to propose your promotion to Deputy General Manager," Shang Wenshu probed.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, knowing well that he was not yet at the Deputy General Manager level, still fifteen minutes of stature short.

"Mr. Shang, I've been here for three months now, haven't I?" Bai Xiaosheng looked at the stage and suddenly spoke up, asking softly.

Shang Wenshu nodded, his gaze flickering with complex emotions, feeling the premonition of what Bai Xiaosheng was about to say.

"It's time to leave," Bai Xiaosheng said, and unexpectedly felt a bit of reluctance. He looked seriously at Shang Wenshu and earnestly added, "Actually, you're not a bad person!"

Shang Wenshu, although initially intending to use him, had later put in a lot of effort and had a firm stance, which Bai Xiaosheng appreciated.

If he continued to stay, Bai Xiaosheng would need to challenge the position of General Manager, inevitably having to take down Shang Wenshu, and seize his position.

Bai Xiaosheng did not wish to do so.

Moreover, there was no work of challenge here anymore, and relying on daily operations to get by, he had no idea when he would be promoted.

Bai Xiaosheng had decided to leave.

After all, Zhenbei Group had countless subsidiaries.

Shang Wenshu was quite moved.

The inspection team's evaluation was ending, and leaving was the norm.

Shang Wenshu awaited the final assessment from the inspection team like a student after an exam. Bai Xiaosheng's comment, "you're not a bad person," stirred some excitement within him.

"All feasts must come to an end. I hope I have the fortune of encountering you again!" Shang Wenshu's tone shifted as he respectfully switched to a more formal 'you.'

This was not flattery, as the inspection team held higher status than him.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled faintly and nodded.

Without a word, Shang Wenshu stood up, bowed slightly, and walked toward the front.

This was, after all, Century Construction's grand banquet, and as the general manager, he couldn't always be out of the public eye.

"Now, if I may invite the mayor to say a few words!"

The beautiful host called out on stage, prompting enthusiastic applause.

Bai Xiaosheng fixed his gaze.

The charity fundraising segment had ended, with the government of Tiannan and Tengyun jointly establishing a new foundation.

The mayor took the stage, thoroughly endorsing the charitable actions of those present and recognizing the contributions of Century Construction.

Then, the mayor shifted gears, "I have some good news to share: the selection for a green eco-friendly landmark has been initiated, and Teles Square will officially become one of Tiannan's top three landmarks!"

This news was unexpected and astonishing.

The venue was instantly abuzz.

Bai Xiaosheng sat there, watching the excited people on the project like Chen Daya, Cheng, and Wang, who were as thrilled as children, which made him nearly break into laughter himself.

After this, these people should also reap a bountiful harvest.

"This is what you deserve," Bai Xiaosheng silently mused.

The only regret for Bai Xiaosheng about this charity gala was that Wei Xuelian had not come; it was said that she had something come up at the last minute.

What could come up so late at night, especially here where her beloved Wei Moran was present?

Xuelian...

Lately, Bai Xiaosheng had increasingly felt that Wei Xuelian's mood was subtly off, as if something were bothering her...

Bai Xiaosheng was slightly distracted.

"Project manager Bai Xiaosheng, where are you? Come up and say a few words!"

On the stage, the mayor asked with a smile, searching for him in the crowd.

Many in the audience, who didn't know Bai Xiaosheng, looked surprised.

After all, that was the mayor, who was personally inviting a project manager to speak?

Simply unthinkable!

"Bai Xiaosheng, come on up, don't be shy," Lu Qingfeng teased with the microphone in hand.

The big shots were all deeply moved.

This Master Lu was the eldest son of Tengyun. How many tycoons in attendance wanted to cozy up to him, and it seemed he was acquainted with that Bai Xiaosheng?

From the tone, they seemed to be quite close?!

This was impressive!

"Bai Xiaosheng, come on, say a few words. I came here especially for your dinner," Wei Moran also chimed in, holding a microphone.

Wei Tianhou actually knew Bai Xiaosheng!

Every top boss was astounded.

The mayor, Lu Qingfeng, Wei Moran—three pinnacle figures—all inviting this Bai Xiaosheng. Who on earth was he?!

Could it be that he was the one who made the Teles Square press conference and charity dinner happen?

After all, the tycoons were well aware of how Sun Xiangdong had been pressing down on Century Construction and Teles Square before.

And yet, Teles had turned the tables all of a sudden, with top-tier personalities showing up to support—they had been wondering how Century Construction had mustered such power.

Attributing it to Zhenbei Group's operations wouldn't fit the bill, as not a single Zhenbei bigwig showed up today.

With this in mind, it had to be this Bai Xiaosheng!

Moguls from various industries looked around with awe and reverence, only to discover a young man holding a glass of wine walking from the back to the front.

Everyone tacitly made way for him, watching the young man with awe and surprise, committing that face to memory.

After today, Bai Xiaosheng's name would be known throughout Tiannan.

At this moment, in contrast with the festive and auspicious atmosphere here, Chen Jiutian, who had already left Tiannan and was in another city, was in a room smashing everything smashable to pieces.

He was like a furious lion, eyes bloodshot, face ferocious as he roared, "Wang Ye, you son of a bitch! I trusted you so much, and you dare to betray me! I'll make sure you die a horrible death, a horrible death!"

"It must be you, Bai Xiaosheng, you're behind this! You've taken out another of my aces. I will not share the sky with you!"

After cursing out one person after another, with nothing left to throw, Chen Jiutian's phone rang, and he yanked it out with the intention to smash it as well.

But the incoming number made him freeze.

After a few breaths, Chen Jiutian's angry and fierce expression vanished into thin air; he answered the call calmly and gently, with a hint of reverence, "Hello, is this... the Inspection Team?"

"General Manager Chen Jiutian, regarding the matter of Wang Ye, we've reported to the corporation that this person must be severely punished. As of now, aside from Shang Wenshu, do not touch any other management personnel in your subsidiaries."

"Shang Wenshu will be promoted to the provincial industry head, and the notice will be issued later!"

"Okay!"

Chen Jiutian's expression subtly changed, but he quickly agreed with apparent pleasure.

This time, Shang Wenshu was really getting a promotion!

Chapter 212: Miss, It's Time to Leave!\_1

After hanging up the phone, Chen Jiutian's expression fluctuated.

It had been only an hour since he received the news that Wang Ye had officially been arrested when the inspection team called, the speed was terrifying.

"Now is not the time to be angry, I must quickly eliminate any hidden dangers. Fortunately, Wang Ye doesn't have any evidence against me, and I believe he's not that foolish!" Chen Jiutian acted cautiously, never leaving any loose ends, but still felt it was not enough.

The inspection team could penetrate through anything!

"This time, Shang Wenshu hit the jackpot and got promoted! This man, I can't touch him anymore. Otherwise, it will attract the attention of the inspection team!" Chen Jiutian made up his mind quickly and picked up his phone to make a call.

"Damn Wang Ye, you make the money, and I clean up your mess!"

For a long time to come, Chen Jiutian harbored a grudge regarding this matter, and for the moment, he laid low to avoid the limelight.

At the charity event.

Bai Xiaosheng handled everything appropriately, earning unanimous praise from all the magnates present.

Although they knew nothing of the young man's background, they firmly believed he must come from a noble family, for he would not possess such poise otherwise.

That evening, Bai Xiaosheng became the center of attention.

The charity event went on until late before finally concluding.

The project team was very satisfied, Teles Square was a success, their wishes were fulfilled, and a handsome bonus and a long vacation awaited them, as personally promised by Shang Wenshu.

Shang Wenshu was satisfied, with the Teles Square project set to boost the company's performance substantially, giving him an extra chip for promotion, and the satisfaction expressed by Bai Xiaosheng was an endorsement by the group; Shang Wenshu could clearly see the glory of promotion.

Master Song Kai was satisfied, as his artwork had become a landmark in Tiannan, a cause for great celebration.

The mayor was satisfied, the charity event had raised a large amount of funds, and the united attention from the business, entertainment, and news spheres to the impoverished areas would make poverty alleviation work more effective.

Lu Qingfeng and Wei Moran also reaped significant rewards, having reached a cooperation agreement that was a win-win for both parties.

In a word, everyone was delighted.

"The successful hosting of the charity event increases project cohesion, project image, and government goodwill by seven points; as the current chief project manager, points are doubled, adding seven more points."

"Your current total points are ninety-nine at the manager level, one point away from the deputy general manager level!"

The sound of Red Lotus adding points startled Bai Xiaosheng.

Mixed with happiness was a bit of amused frustration.

Just one more point, and he would have reached the deputy general manager level, but it was precisely this one point he lacked.

"Can you, maybe, give me one more point?" Bai Xiaosheng asked tentatively.

Red Lotus rejected him cleanly and decisively.

After the charity event, Bai Xiaosheng said his goodbyes and hurried back to his apartment. Though he felt quite exhausted, he was also very excited.

Bai Xiaosheng had gotten a signed latest album from Wei Moran, which he intended to give to Wei Xuelian.

But when he arrived at Xuelian's door, he knocked for a full five minutes without any response, and his calls went unanswered as well.

"Maybe she's busy, she'll see the missed calls later and call me back," Bai Xiaosheng comforted himself and returned to his own home.

After a simple wash-up, Bai Xiaosheng collapsed onto his bed, thoroughly exhausted. He fell into a deep sleep without even changing out of his clothes.

Meanwhile.

In a certain office, this was where Wei Xuelian prepared her courses.

Wei Xuelian sat quietly at her desk, expressionlessly surveying the several people in front of her.

A few well-dressed burly men stood respectfully opposite her, led by a delicate-looking young man with rosy lips and white teeth who, by internet standards, would be considered a "fresh meat."

"Miss, we've come to pick you up," said the handsome young man with a smile and reverent manner to Wei Xuelian.

Wei Xuelian's brow furrowed slightly.

"Liu Wudao, did my father send you?" Wei Xuelian asked.

"Of course, it was the master's command," Liu Wudao replied with refined grace.

"Then he didn't tell you that it's not time yet?" Wei Xuelian pointed to the alarm clock on the desk and said calmly, "Even according to our agreement, I have more than an hour left, don't I?"

"Yes." Liu Wudao smiled and nodded as if he was a person who would never speak loudly or object.

"Good, as long as you admit it!" Wei Xuelian stood up, "I need to go somewhere, to meet someone."

Wei Xuelian circled the table and headed for the door but was stopped by a suited bodyguard who reached out his hand.

"I'm sorry, Miss, but you can't go out," the bodyguard said.

"Liu Wudao, what do you mean by this!" Wei Xuelian frowned and exclaimed.

With an innocent shrug, Liu Wudao's delicate voice offered advice, "Miss, at this point, why bother with attachment and reluctance? It isn't good for you, and it's certainly not good for the people you care about. I advise you... to let go."

Liu Wudao spoke with great sincerity.

Wei Xuelian became a little angry, took out her phone, but was shocked to find there was no signal.

"It's useless, we've blocked the signals in this building," Liu Wudao chuckled, "And soon, all your means of contact will be destroyed. You do have an hour, but you can only spend it here."

Such thorough measures!

Wei Xuelian bit her lower lip, tossed her phone aside, and tried to forcefully make her way out.

"I'd like to see who can stop me!" She became defiant, no one could hinder her.

The bodyguard blocking her, feeling hurried, gently pushed on Wei Xuelian's shoulder and whispered, "Miss, please don't make this difficult for us..."

"Who allowed you to touch the Miss!"

Before the bodyguard's voice faded, a chilling voice arose from beside them, and the bodyguard's forehead instantly beaded with large droplets of sweat as he looked at Liu Wudao in terror.

The handsome and gentle Liu Wudao, his complexion dark, and his eyes glinting coldly like ice.

"Mr. Liu, I'm sorry!"

"You haven't wronged me, the person you need to apologize to is the Miss!"

Liu Wudao spoke with an indifferent voice, and though shorter than the bodyguard, he moved quickly, causing everyone to see nothing but a blur.

The bodyguard who had pushed Wei Xuelian watched in horror as Liu Wudao's dagger pierced deep into his own arm.

"Ah!" The bodyguard's scream had just started when he was struck under the jaw by Liu Wudao's palm.

The large man's eyes rolled back as he fainted to the ground.

"Take him out!" Liu Wudao commanded coldly.

Instantly, people came and carried away the large man.

"The Miss has been startled," Liu Wudao said with a sunny face, apologetically addressing Wei Xuelian with his melodious voice.

Wei Xuelian furrowed her brows.

"Miss, please feel free to go out. They have a duty to stop you, of course, but if they dare touch you, I will not be so lenient next time!" Knowing Wei Xuelian's kind heart, Liu Wudao set a tricky situation.

Those strong men had expressionless faces, as if they had heard nothing.

Afterward, Liu Wudao found a seat, sat down with a smile, and watched the clock as he waited.

If the Miss said she had an hour, then she had an hour.

Wei Xuelian bit her lower lip, her complexion slightly pale.

After a while, she approached Liu Wudao, "I can go with you, I can avoid meeting anyone. But Liu Wudao, I beg you, please convey a message to someone for me!"

Liu Wudao's smile receded, he had never heard the Miss utter the word 'beg' before.

After a long moment.

Liu Wudao nodded, "I promise you!"

Chapter 213 Before Departure\_1

Bai Xiaosheng woke up with the sun already high in the sky. Although he slept in his clothes, the sleep was sweet and deep.

These days, he had been utterly exhausted, after all, Red Lotus's assistance was not a physical enhancement, and he, Bai Xiaosheng, was not made of iron.

Having slept soundly, Bai Xiaosheng felt relaxed both in body and mind.

With the project complete, he had no intention of staying with Century Construction any longer and naturally wasn't in a hurry to go to work.

Casually sending a message to Chen Daya to let him know, Bai Xiaosheng slowly got out of bed, leisurely washed up, and then slowly went downstairs.

Bai Xiaosheng bought two breakfasts and then knocked on Wei Xuelian's door. As usual, there was no answer, and her phone seemed to be turned off.

Bai Xiaosheng wasn't overly concerned; sometimes Xuelian would do this, perhaps she was teaching a class.

"Later, I'll ask Zheng Pangzi, the school president should know where his staff are teaching," Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself as he ate his breakfast.

At this very moment, Shang Wenshu was dealing with affairs at the headquarters. Despite having had plenty to drink and entertain the previous day, he still went to work as usual.

Once a person is accustomed to diligence, it's hard to slow down.

Shang Wenshu was busy when his office phone rang.

"Hello?" Shang Wenshu picked up the receiver and brought it to his ear, asking carelessly.

This was an internal phone; external calls would be transferred through the secretary, so the first one to respond would definitely be an insider.

"Shang Wenshu, currently serving as the General Manager of Century Construction, a real estate company in Tiannan City under Zhenbei Group in the Greater China Region East China Area." The person on the other end announced Shang Wenshu's position.

Shang Wenshu frowned, looking curiously at the handset. People within the company wouldn't normally talk to him like that.

"I am a member of the Zhenbei Group inspection team, ID number..." The caller immediately reported their identification, and Shang Wenshu was taken aback, but he quickly composed himself.

Although he was not as cautious as Chen Jiutian in verifying identity, the fact that the caller could speak with him on an internal line made him believe them somewhat.

"May I know what this is about?" Shang Wenshu asked cautiously and politely.

"Shang Wenshu, according to the group's appointment, you are to be dispatched to a certain province as the provincial head, overseeing all industries owned by the group within the province! Do you accept the appointment!" the person on the other end stated.

Provincial head?

Shang Wenshu's body shook. Had he been promoted?!

This was simply unbelievable, and the promotion was directly to a small regional leadership role, which was still a huge gap from Chen Jiutian's large regional responsibility, but compared to his current position, it was a world apart!

"Do you accept?"

The voice on the phone asked again.

Such an inter-regional transfer required personal consent, and if Shang Wenshu refused, the call would be immediately cut off, and his promotion would come to an end.

"I accept!" Shang Wenshu took a deep breath and said these three words with emphasis.

Even so, his voice still trembled slightly.

"Received. The formal document will be sent to your personal email soon, and the announcement will be posted on the Greater China Region website within twenty-four hours." The voice on the other end spoke calmly.

Then, the call ended.

The busy tone droned on for a long time, and Shang Wenshu still held the receiver, standing there, stunned.

He couldn't believe it, couldn't imagine, the appointment had come so quickly!

He, Shang Wenshu, had leaped through the dragon's gate!

Shang Wenshu put down the phone and let out a long, relieved sigh.

If someone walked in now, they would be surprised to find Mr. Shang, who always maintained his composure, with tears streaming down his face.

"Thank you, Bai Xiaosheng, no, Mr. Bai! Thank you!" Shang Wenshu couldn't help but mutter, his chest filled with gratitude towards Bai Xiaosheng.

Like an old steed finding a master, his life changed overnight.

At this moment, after cleaning up the breakfast table, Bai Xiaosheng suddenly heard a notification in his mind.

"Auxiliary project successful, influenced the performance and job promotion of Shang Wenshu, head of the subsidiary company, added one point. Points cannot be doubled, and your total score has reached 100 points at the managerial level."

"Congratulations on your promotion to the level of Deputy General Manager! New auxiliary system added..."

Bai Xiaosheng was overwhelmed with joy, but before he could check out the new functions of his auxiliary system, there was a knock at his door.

Who could it be this early?

Bai Xiaosheng frowned, then felt a touch of anticipation.

Could it be Xuelian returning!

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't care about anything else and hurried over to open the door.

As soon as the door opened.

Standing at the door was a young man with delicate features, even slightly bewitching, who looked at Bai Xiaosheng with a faint smile.

"Who are you looking for?" Bai Xiaosheng asked, perplexed.

"Are you Bai Xiaosheng?" The bewitching young man asked with interest, sizing Bai Xiaosheng up and down. After getting confirmation from Bai Xiaosheng, he smiled again, "I am Liu Wudao. Someone asked me to deliver a message to you."

Bai Xiaosheng looked at the man, not knowing why, but feeling an intense strangeness in his heart, a heavy sensation.

Perhaps it was a sixth sense.

Bai Xiaosheng's smile faded as he stepped aside, "Please come in."

"No need, it's just a message," Liu Wudao refused crisply.

Bai Xiaosheng paused, not insisting.

"Go ahead," Bai Xiaosheng urged, staring at Liu Wudao.

"A three-year promise, I'll wait for you!"

Liu Wudao's expression turned solemn as he murmured these words softly.

For a man to say such things to another man in an almost flirtatious tone would be unbearable for some.

But not for Bai Xiaosheng.

His eyes narrowed slightly, and he fell silent.

"I understand," Bai Xiaosheng responded softly, without a trace of emotional excitement.

His reaction was beyond Liu Wudao's expectations. He didn't say or ask anything more.

What a strange man!

Liu Wudao took one deep look at Bai Xiaosheng.

"I'll give you another personal message," Liu Wudao turned around, hands in his pockets, and walked away slowly, "Give it up!"

Bai Xiaosheng quietly watched him leave, returned home silently, and closed the door.

The three-year promise was an agreement between him and Xuelian.

Now, Xuelian had left without even saying goodbye, yet had someone pass on this message.

I'll wait for you!

Leaning against the door, Bai Xiaosheng clenched his fists so tightly that his veins bulged.

"In three years, I will come looking for you. Any problem that stands between us will no longer be a problem!" Bai Xiaosheng repeated the promise he made back then. He silently surveyed his rented home.

It was time to leave this place and strive to climb the heights, to meet with Xuelian once again.

...

The next day.

There was a knock on Han Shuying's door, and when she opened it, the apartment property's assistant was there.

"What is it?" Han Shuying asked curiously.

"The gentleman who lived next door to you checked out this morning. He asked me to give this to you as a memento from a friend," the assistant said, handing over a box.

Bai Xiaosheng, gone?

Stunned, Han Shuying opened the box. Inside lay a pendant, a Glass-Type Imperial Green pendant!

"Gone," Han Shuying murmured, unable to snap back to reality for quite some time.

At work, Chen Daya, Cheng, Wang, and the others were waiting for Bai Xiaosheng to show up. Instead, Shang Wenshu arrived with an appointment notice.

"Effective immediately, Chen Zhongshi will take the position of vice general manager at Century Construction, head engineer Cheng will be the project manager for Treles Square, and Wang, you are the deputy project manager," Shang Wenshu stated, his face unable to hide his joy, "Gentlemen, I am transferring to a province for a new post, may we meet again if fate allows."

"What about Manager Bai Xiaosheng?" Chen Daya and the others asked eagerly.

"Mr. Bai..." Shang Wenshu's voice hesitated, then he said with certainty, "He has more important things to do, more exciting places to be!"

Chapter 214 Returning Home in Glory\_1

Long-distance bus station.

On the bus from Tiannan to Zhongjing, Bai Xiaosheng sat next to the window, staring blankly outside.

Outside the window, light rain began to drizzle, just like many years ago when he first came to Tiannan.

It was precisely because of this weather that Bai Xiaosheng spontaneously changed his plans from flying or taking the high-speed train, deciding to take a long-distance bus once more.

Years ago, he had taken a bus to Tiannan to study under similar weather conditions, and now years later, he was leaving Tiannan by bus in the same kind of weather.

This time, Bai Xiaosheng was preparing to head back to his hometown—Zhongjing for development.

Zhongjing and Tiannan belong to two different provinces.

Zhongjing is the provincial capital, more prosperous than Tiannan, and is the top performer among second-tier cities.

Bai Xiaosheng's home was in a county near Zhongjing.

He had come to Tiannan to study. Something had happened during university, and Bai Xiaosheng wanted to make something of himself in Tiannan before returning home in glory.

And now, he had more or less achieved that goal.

He had paid off the balance for his house in Tiannan, handed over the property to Zhengdong Province to manage, and still had two million left in his bank account.

And having been newly promoted to deputy general manager, Bai Xiaosheng unlocked an amount of ten million!

That is to say, in his supreme bank card, he now had a total of twelve million!

According to Red Lotus, the additional amount that managers could apply for had been canceled after the upgrade, but deputy general managers could apply for another ten million.

Of course, this "application amount" was different from the unlocked funds and could only be used for work, for matters related to the conglomerate.

Thinking back on the deputy general manager level system assistance, Bai Xiaosheng still found it to be a very interesting feature.

Just as Bai Xiaosheng was pondering, his phone rang.

The caller was his mother.

Bai Xiaosheng answered the call.

"Mom, I'm on the bus, yes, I'll be in Zhongjing the day after tomorrow at this time," Bai Xiaosheng said.

"Why didn't you take a plane or the high-speed train, you child! Taking a long-distance bus is so dangerous!" Bai Xiaosheng's mother couldn't help reprimanding him, her voice filled with worry.

Bai Xiaosheng felt a warmth in his heart.

"I just wanted to experience what it was like back then, don't worry, Mom, nothing will happen!" Bai Xiaosheng laughed, "Where's Dad?"

"Right beside me, eavesdropping," Mother Bai snorted coldly.

Bai Xiaosheng faintly heard his father's somewhat embarrassed and angry voice, deliberately lowered, "Who's eavesdropping, why talk like that in front of the kid?"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

The old man had always been strict with him and shy about expressing emotions towards his son.

"Sheng, be careful on the road," his dad took over the phone, murmuring a word.

Afterwards, the phone was handed back to his mother.

"It's good you're coming back. In a few days, it will be your grandmother's eighty-eighth birthday. Our whole family will be there for a big family gathering. Also, I've found you another prospect for a date, come home and have a look, she's still the granddaughter of your grandfather's friend!"

Another arrangement for a blind date?

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but remember Xu Fang and felt somewhat bemused.

But it's Grandma's birthday in a few days, I actually forgot about it, and the old lady is turning eighty-eight! No wonder there's such a big celebration!

Bai Xiaosheng suddenly felt a bit annoyed that he hadn't bought anything!

Never mind, I'll buy something when I get back to Zhongjing!

Thinking of his grandmother, Bai Xiaosheng recalled how the old lady, in her eighties, was still full of vigor, always doting on him since he was a child. However, in recent years, she had become a little hard of hearing and her eyes were not as good.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help feeling sentimental.

But the thought of the entire family gathering made Bai Xiaosheng smile wryly.

The family was indeed quite extensive.

Grandpa had a large number of siblings, and so did his father's generation, scattered across various places, rarely seen except once a year.

With so many people, it's inevitable to have those who do well and those who don't, leading to endless comparisons among aunts and uncles when they chat.

Bai Xiaosheng had been compared with this person or that one since he was young and had suffered plenty of mocking and ridicule.

Now, I'm no longer who I used to be, I'm at least a multimillionaire!

Bai Xiaosheng thought of his more than ten million and smiled faintly.

After chatting with his mother for a few more phrases, Bai Xiaosheng hung up the phone, suddenly feeling some regret; perhaps he really should have taken a plane or high-speed train to get back earlier and spend more time with his family.

The coach bus stopped for about fifteen minutes, and people kept getting on.

The row of seats where Bai Xiaosheng was situated consisted of three together, and he was by the window.

After Bai Xiaosheng hung up the phone, as he looked up, he saw a girl wearing a sports shirt, a baseball cap, and a ponytail walking toward him.

At first glance, she was a sporty beauty with a great figure, wearing shorts, her white thighs straight, and white sneakers on her feet.

Her face was delicate and fair, her looks could be considered exceptional.

However, for Bai Xiaosheng, having seen Wei Xuelian, Wei Moran, and Han Shuying, each one of them top beauties, this girl still fell short in comparison.

"Alright, alright, I'm on the bus now, oh yes, I know. How could I, Yang Qian'er, lie to you?" The beauty chatted cheerfully using her earphones, and when she looked up, her gaze met Bai Xiaosheng's for a moment.

Bai Xiaosheng was appraising the girl, when she slightly frowned and imperceptibly gave him a displeased look.

"Okay, okay, I won't chat anymore. Otherwise, this great beauty might inadvertently have her 'tofu eaten' by someone." Yang Qian'er hung up the phone and looked for her seat.

Her seat was next to Bai Xiaosheng, in the middle.

Yang Qian'er couldn't help but frown; she wanted the window seat.

Bai Xiaosheng had already turned his gaze away, looking at the fine raindrops on the bus window.

Yang Qian'er observed Bai Xiaosheng.

From head to toe, Bai Xiaosheng was probably not worth 500 yuan in total; even his clothes appeared washed out to the point of turning white.

This man, he really is doing poorly!

Yang Qian'er shook her head slightly; on her own, just her baseball cap cost 500 yuan.

After placing her bag down, as she was about to sit, her eyes twinkled, and she smiled at Bai Xiaosheng, saying, "Hey, hello there."

Bai Xiaosheng looked over in surprise, pointed to his own nose to confirm she was addressing him.

"I'd like to sit by the window, could you switch places with me?" Yang Qian'er asked with a sweet smile and soft voice, while inwardly looking down on him.

You country bumpkin, I'm giving you a nice face, so hurry up and switch with me.

"I'm sorry, but I also like the window seat," Bai Xiaosheng straightforwardly shook his head.

Yang Qian'er pleaded a few more times, but Bai Xiaosheng was unmoved.

Yang Qian'er was annoyed, cursing inwardly: He looks just like a single dog, with no intention of showing pity or cherishing beauty.

You deserve to be single!

"I'll give you 200 yuan to buy your seat, that should be enough, right?" said Yang Qian'er as she actually took out 200 yuan.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at her and, without uttering a word, continued to look out the window.

Yang Qian'er felt belittled and was extremely irritated.

"Miss, could you please move a bit?"

Someone behind Yang Qian'er urged, so she could only sit down huffily, shooting Bai Xiaosheng a fierce glare.

More and more people filled the bus.

Next to Yang Qian'er sat a young man, refined and elegant, wearing gold-rimmed glasses. When he accidentally touched Yang Qian'er, he apologized very politely.

Yang Qian'er's impression of him improved greatly while she couldn't help but throw another glare at Bai Xiaosheng, contemptuously thinking:

"They're both men, of similar ages, but look at the comparison, he's got looks and manners, and importantly, he has money, while you have a dim future!"

Thinking this, Yang Qian'er couldn't help but revel in a sense of satisfaction.

Chapter 215 Unqualified Woman\_1

The long-distance bus entered the provincial expressway, moving swiftly and smoothly.

Sheng reclined in his seat, ready for a quick nap.

However, a blast of sound from a neighboring seat interrupted him, a mix of singing and cheering.

Sheng couldn't help but frown and look over; Qian'er was excitedly holding her phone, watching some video.

A Wei Moran concert, live footage?!

Sheng recognized it; it was at Treles Square.

This girl was also a fan of Wei Moran!

"Miss, could you please use headphones or keep it down a bit?" Sheng couldn't help but ask.

He repeated himself three times.

Only then did Qian'er snap out of her excitement, furrowing her brows and giving Sheng a look, her beautiful eyes rolling slightly.

Actually, she had played her music out loud as a sort of "revenge" against the crude fellow beside her.

"Whether I watch or not is my business, what does it have to do with you?" Qian'er huffed coldly.

"But you're disturbing my rest, and others' as well," Sheng said seriously. "This is a public space, not your home. You're free to watch and listen as you like, but please use headphones!"

"I don't feel like wearing them, so what! It has a better atmosphere this way, and I prefer to listen like this!" Qian'er replied with a defiant look, scoffing.

As she spoke, she provocatively turned up the volume.

The noise escalated.

Passengers around began to voice their dissatisfaction.

"Young lady, your volume is too loud, it's disturbing!"

"Exactly, this is a space for everyone. What you're doing isn't right!"

"Yes, we were all resting quietly. We've still got a long way to go!"

The criticisms from the surroundings intensified.

Frowning, Qian'er looked around, annoyed, turned off the video, and glared at Sheng as if she had suffered a great injustice.

"I am a highly educated intellectual, and I can't be bothered to argue with you all! This is verbal violence from the group against an individual. I'll write an article when I get back and denounce you all!" Qian'er said, lowering her voice angrily.

The high ground she claimed was indeed a lofty one!

Sheng shook his head.

This Qian'er was like a spoiled child.

Listening to her, was she a reporter? With her temperament, could she really maintain an impartial stance in her news coverage?

Sheng sighed.

He himself had started out at Tian Hai Media, a company with a semi-journalistic nature.

"Alright, enough, everyone. The lady has turned off her phone, hasn't she?" a voice beside Qian'er spoke up.

It came from a handsome man with glasses.

With someone mediating, the bus gradually quieted down.

"Thank you."

Qian'er gave the handsome man a grateful smile, then cast another disdainful glance at Sheng, "Unlike some people who start by criticizing others. Absolutely no class!"

Sheng couldn't be bothered with her; he leaned back in his seat and rested with his eyes closed.

"Let's get acquainted. My name is Sun Zicheng. What's your name?" the handsome man with glasses extended his hand, greeting Qian'er.

"Yang Qian'er." Qian'er shook hands with him, her impression of Sun Zicheng quite favorable.

"Are you also heading to Tiannan to see Wei Tianhou's concert?" Zicheng gestured toward Qian'er's phone.

"Yes, are you?" Qian'er was thrilled to meet a fellow fan.

"Yeah, it's worth the trip. Not only is there a concert, but also a new album release!" Zicheng adjusted his glasses, smiling.

"You've actually managed to snag concert tickets, impressive! I came here without a ticket to try my luck, and who would've thought, for both concerts, no tickets required!" Yang Qian'er said with delight.

"Haha, my ticket, actually, I bought it from a scalper at a high price, it cost me over twenty thousand."

He really is a devoted fan of Wei Tianhou, and with the casual way Sun Zicheng spoke, one could hardly tell the ticket was over twenty thousand.

The handsome and wealthy man made Yang Qian'er take an extra couple of glances, unable to help herself.

Soon enough, the two of them heatedly discussed and compared the helicopter show at East Square and the pigeon display at Treles Square.

"I wonder who came up with the idea for Treles Square's opening show, it's so romantic. Even though they used pigeons, the training they must've gone through probably cost more than several helicopters!" Yang Qian'er remarked with emotion, "I heard that the person in charge of Treles Square, last name Bai, is very young and well-connected. Apparently, even the mayor, Master Song Kai, and Lu Qingfeng know him! Wow, that's impressive!"

Yang Qian'er couldn't help but admire him a little.

Bai Xiaosheng was annoyed from the noise and couldn't sleep; even compliments about himself didn't cheer him up.

In the reports from Tiannan, Bai Xiaosheng had specifically instructed Lu Qingfeng to exercise media control, so any coverage on Bai Xiaosheng was edited and abridged.

Bai Xiaosheng did not wish for fame.

At present, he was only at the deputy general manager level, and at the time just a manager; he really didn't need the recognition.

"That charity gala at Treles Square, did you go?" Sun Zicheng suddenly asked.

"No, they didn't sell tickets to the public." Yang Qian'er sounded a bit disappointed, then suddenly stared at Sun Zicheng and stammered, "You mean, don't tell me... you were there?!"

Yang Qian'er was somewhat surprised.

That event was a gathering of the real big shots. Normally, with her job, she could have gotten in using her company's name, but sadly she was on vacation without any credentials, so naturally, she couldn't enter.

"Mhm, I participated a little," Sun Zicheng said modestly, speaking in a matter-of-fact tone.

It seemed to him, it wasn't worth mentioning.

But being able to get in there, that in itself suggested his status was no ordinary one!

"What do you do?" Yang Qian'er asked, unable to hold back, but then she felt it may be too forward and laughed awkwardly, "Never mind if it's not convenient for you to say."

"It's nothing to be proud of. To be honest, it wasn't due to my own abilities, but through my father's company's name, no real merit." Sun Zicheng shrugged and smiled.

A second-generation rich kid!

And such a modest and polite one at that, which only increased Yang Qian'er's good impression.

There was nothing strange about a rich second-generation catching a bus.

Yang Qian'er had even met a second-generation who liked to pick up bottles, even though both of his parents were bankers.

Everyone has their own way of living.

"So did you, meet that project manager?" Yang Qian'er asked with keen interest.

"We just chatted casually, we're not very familiar. He's quite insightful though," Sun Zicheng nodded slightly.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but open his eyes and look at this guy.

Bullshit, keep bullshitting!

That day I only spoke with Shang Wenshu, the mayor, Song Kai, Lu Qingfeng, and Wei Moran. Which one of them are you supposed to be?

"What, you're interested too, brother?" Sun Zicheng noticed Bai Xiaosheng looking over and smiled faintly.

Yang Qian'er glanced at Bai Xiaosheng and scoffed, muttering, "Psh, don't mind him."

"Alright, keep telling me about that guy, I need to write an article when I get back," Yang Qian'er urged, her expression somewhat excited, "I'm a reporter for a media company. Too bad, I couldn't do an onsite interview; Treles' media control is too freakish."

"Sure," Sun Zicheng readily agreed.

As Sun Zicheng vividly recounted the story, Bai Xiaosheng smiled enigmatically to himself.

Is he talking about me?

While Sun Zicheng spoke, his gaze occasionally swept toward the front of the bus.

This guy, what's he looking at, acting all sneaky.

Bai Xiaosheng suddenly became quite interested.

"Activate the third auxiliary, Primary Micro-Expression Analysis System!"

Chapter 216 Encounter with a Landslide!\_1

Bai Xiaosheng listened as Sun Zicheng rambled on, gradually dozing off without realizing it.

He didn't know how much time had passed.

With a jolt of the vehicle, Bai Xiaosheng's head suddenly knocked forward, and he awoke instantly. He blinked and couldn't help but yawn deeply.

Bai Xiaosheng turned his head to look beside him; Sun Zicheng and Yang Qian'er had stopped talking as well, leaning on their seats with closed eyes, seemingly asleep.

Bai Xiaosheng stretched his numb body and straightened his back, then craned his neck to look ahead.

The driver had been switched.

For a long-distance bus like this, having two people take turns driving was quite normal.

Half-asleep, Bai Xiaosheng felt as if the bus had stopped for a while; perhaps that was when they had switched drivers.

Outside the window, it was pitch dark, with only the streetlights still on along the way.

The bus had left the highway and was traveling on a road that was relatively flat but occasionally had damaged sections.

Next to the streetlights was a dark, continuous mountain wall.

They had entered a mountainous region!

Bai Xiaosheng remembered.

Speaking of a mountainous region, it was really just passing by the foot of a mountain. With the infrastructure improvement over the years, Bai Xiaosheng recalled this section of the road used to be in very poor condition, prone to mudslides and landslides during bad weather. Now that the road had improved to this extent, it was already quite remarkable.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at Yang Qian'er, who curled up like a cat, her arms pressing up her chest prominently, making her figure stand out even more. Her delicate cheeks and long eyelashes trembled slightly, creating a unique sense of beauty.

Bai Xiaosheng was not gawking at her, seeking visual pleasure. After all, he had seen too many beautiful women.

The reason was quite simple.

This girl had asked a lot about his affairs and was really planning on writing an article about them. Although what she knew wasn't entirely accurate, the more it strayed from the truth, the more daunting it became.

Sorry, but when the time comes, I'll have to ask Lu for help—your article is doomed to have a short life online, and you don't have to try so hard, Bai Xiaosheng thought silently to himself.

Yang Qian'er had no idea that the piece she was so earnestly planning to create was already sentenced to death before she even began writing it.

Bai Xiaosheng yawned again and continued to rest with his eyes closed.

On the other side of Yang Qian'er, Sun Zicheng suddenly opened his eyes, looked out the window, then at Yang Qian'er. He even lifted his neck slightly, sneaking several peeks into the cleavage of her raised breasts.

Afterward, he smiled silently.

...

As Bai Xiaosheng was drifting off to sleep, he suddenly heard a piercing screeching of brakes, and the inertia from the abrupt stop pushed his body upright.

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes snapped open.

"What happened, what just happened, why did the bus stop!"

"Oh my God, that scared me to death, I was sleeping so soundly!"

"Yeah, me too, I woke up instantly!"

"Driver, what kind of driving is that!"

"Exactly, that was too sudden of a braking!"

A chorus of discussions and complaints filled the bus.

The passengers were all awake.

"What's going on!" Yang Qian'er couldn't help but ask in alarm. As her face was turned in his direction when she slept, she first asked Bai Xiaosheng, but Bai Xiaosheng didn't know either and shook his head slightly.

Yang Qian'er frowned and turned to ask Sun Zicheng.

"I just woke up too," Sun Zicheng said, spreading his hands.

The one with the most information now was the driver, so everyone began asking him.

"Everyone stop the noise, there's a problem up ahead!" the driver responded impatiently, turning on the high beams.

The passengers in the bus craned their necks to see, and cries of alarm rose one after another.

"What happened? A landslide!"

"The road ahead is blocked!"

"What's going on here, the road is blocked and nobody's dealing with it?!"

Bai Xiaosheng slightly rose to his feet and, through the bus's windshield, saw that a few meters away, indeed, some rocks had fallen and blocked more than a third of the road; the remaining path was just wide enough for the width of the bus.

This wouldn't affect small cars too much, but under these visibility conditions, few large vehicles would dare cross, not to mention a bus full of people.

Beyond the road, there was a deep ditch—if you drove into it, the vehicle would probably flip over.

"So what do we do now?!" someone couldn't help but anxiously ask.

The driver answered in a muffled, gruff voice, "If it were daytime, I'd dare to try in an empty bus, but with a full load of people now, I would need to be brave enough to drive, and you'd all need to be brave enough to sit in it! Enough talk—everyone out, let's move some rocks!"

"Hey, us women don't need to get out, do we? Isn't it enough for you men to go?" a middle-aged woman couldn't help but shout.

"Everyone gets out, even the kids! I'll drive the bus across after that!" the driver said with a hint of impatience, "Why should men be the only ones to work? Just because they're men doesn't make them your personal men. You don't want to ride?"

The driver's words elicited a round of laughter from the men.

"That's right, everyone off the bus. Those who can help, help; those who can't, at least stay off the bus to avoid any danger when the bus is crossing," Sun Zicheng called out to everyone.

The young man spoke sensibly, and everyone thought it made sense.

"That's right, if we all work together to clear the rocks, it'll be quick," Yang Qian'er approvingly looked at Sun Zicheng and said to everyone.

Some people were carrying big and small bags.

Upon seeing this, Sun Zicheng immediately said, "Don't bring anything, leave it on the bus. How can you work holding so much stuff? Don't worry, there will be no one on the bus later; it'll be very safe!"

When he said this, those carrying bags put them down one after another, and even the women left their purses on their seats.

The driver opened the door, and the passengers filed out. Sun Zicheng was the first to go over and beckoned the men to work.

"Now, that's style!" Yang Qian'er couldn't resist praising as she watched Sun Zicheng's back. Then, turning her head, she saw Bai Xiaosheng sitting still and frowned, "Why aren't you going down?"

"You're in the way, you go first," Sheng calmly said.

Yang Qian'er couldn't help but roll her eyes at Bai Xiaosheng, disdainfully.

What kind of man is this? Clearly just lazy!

Shameless!

Yang Qian'er had no desire to fuss with Bai Xiaosheng and hurriedly got off the bus.

Bai Xiaosheng stood up but didn't go to the back; instead, he walked to the front.

"What are you doing? Get down," the driver looked back and startled when he saw Bai Xiaosheng.

Sheng ignored him and glanced at the single seat by the door, where another driver was sound asleep, clutching a water bottle in his arms.

"This guy seems to be sleeping rather soundly," Sheng said expressionlessly.

"Oh, he's been tired these last few days," the driver mumbled, and then raised his voice, "Everyone's gone down, hurry up and get off to move rocks."

At the front, the first group of passengers that had gone down were already getting to work.

Sheng turned his head and saw the last few elderly ladies dawdling and reluctant to get off the bus.

"Hey, you ladies there, no need to get down. Come here," Sheng called out.

"What are you doing?" the driver exclaimed in surprise.

Hearing this, the women briskly walked over, "Young man, what's up?"

Not having to work naturally pleased them.

"Ladies, I'm a distinguished graduate of the Lanxiang Advanced Technical School, majoring in bus driving," Sheng shamelessly said, "The way ahead is now somewhat clear, and I can drive through, so you don't need to go down!"

Chapter 217 Someone Robbing\_1

"What are you blabbering about? Get down there, did you hear me!" The driver, a bit frantic, couldn't help but bark out.

Bai Xiaosheng ignored him and continued to boast about his "professionalism" to the older ladies, praising their fashionable outfits for the day.

"This young man is good-looking and speaks so nicely!" The leading sister said with a beaming smile to the driver, "Look here, you, just let this young brother have a try."

"I'm not letting him try a damn thing, stop your nonsense and get down from here, did you hear me!" The driver was getting anxious and couldn't help but let out a curse.

"You damned scoundrel, looking for death, who do you think you're talking to? I tolerated you earlier when you were rude to me, but now you think you're the only one who can drive, and you dare spout such foul language?" The big sister's face twisted fiercely, she rolled up her sleeves, and her thick arms were not much thinner than those of a laborer.

Bai Xiaosheng watched and couldn't help but click his tongue.

"Exactly, this driver is so rude! And disrespectful towards women, we insist on letting this young man have a try today!" Another older sister joined in the shouting.

The others chimed in with a cacophony of voices, overwhelming him.

Every word the driver said was met with hundreds more from the opposition, leaving him utterly powerless to retort.

The two most vociferous sisters went straight over and actually dragged the driver out of the cockpit!

Fierce! Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself with inward admiration.

"Young man from Lanxiang, go and give it a try!" The older sister said kindly to Bai Xiaosheng, still twisting the driver's arm.

The poor guy screamed continuously, completely unable to fight back.

"Don't worry, sister, I won't let you down!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, walked into the cockpit, and looked ahead.

The road ahead had already been partially cleared.

The landslide wasn't as bad as everyone had imagined.

Bai Xiaosheng honked the horn twice.

Sun Zicheng immediately made room for everyone to move aside, but when he raised his head and saw the person in the cockpit, his face changed.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't look at him.

"Red Lotus, search for driving techniques for this kind of road condition with a bus!" Bai Xiaosheng murmured to himself.

"Understood!" Red Lotus's voice rang out.

Bai Xiaosheng took a deep breath and started the bus with calm composure.

The bus drove steadily across the landslide.

Without any trouble or danger.

Once he applied the brakes, Bai Xiaosheng turned off the engine and left the cockpit.

Only then was the driver released.

The older sisters couldn't help but give Bai Xiaosheng a thumbs up, "Young man, that was impressive, your bus driving major, it really teaches something!"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

The driver glared at Bai Xiaosheng fiercely and then hurried back to the cockpit, suddenly crying out, "Where are my car keys?!"

"Oh, look at my memory, I took them out without thinking." Bai Xiaosheng said with an apologetic smile and casually tossed them, accurately dropping the car keys at the driver's feet, causing him to search for a while.

During this time, the passengers gradually returned.

Although the people getting on the bus found it strange that there were still people on board, many checked their bags and, finding nothing missing, let it go.

Sun Zicheng stood with a sullen face, glancing at Bai Xiaosheng and then at the driver.

Yang Qian'er, however, was full of anger and said dissatisfiedly to Bai Xiaosheng, "You, what kind of low-quality person are you, not even getting off to work in the end? As a grown man, aren't you ashamed!"

Yang Qian'er's face was full of scorn.

"Hey, why are you being like this, young lady? Don't you know..." An older sister couldn't help but speak up for Bai Xiaosheng.

"Sister, please go back, the bus is about to leave." Bai Xiaosheng quickly urged.

Only then did the older sister hold her tongue, shooting Yang Qian'er a glance and leading the other sisters back to their seats.

Yang Qian'er gave Bai Xiaosheng a look of disgust and smiled at Sun Zicheng, "Earlier, thank goodness you organized people to move rocks."

"Ah, it was nothing." Sun Zicheng gave a distracted smile.

Bai Xiaosheng remained silent and returned to his own seat, while the other two persons also sat down.

However, Yang Qian'er made every effort to maintain her distance from Bai Xiaosheng as if she was afraid to come into contact with such an annoying person.

Bai Xiaosheng was pleased to have a bit more space and gave Sun Zicheng a deep look before closing his eyes to rest.

While Sun Zicheng was chatting with Yang Qian'er, he couldn't help but glance at Bai Xiaosheng, his eyes containing a hint of coldness that was barely perceptible.

Without any incidents, the night passed peacefully.

In the early morning, the bus stopped at a rest area for a while, where passengers went to use the bathroom and buy breakfast.

Yang Qian'er considerately brought a portion back for Sun Zicheng, paying no attention to Bai Xiaosheng and even deliberately savoring her food.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled indifferently and, under the displeased frown of Yang Qian'er, excused himself by saying "Excuse me" before getting off the bus and having a meal.

While eating at an outdoor table, Bai Xiaosheng saw some sparrows foraging on the ground nearby, chirping away.

"Activate system aid—language conversion, accessing Sparidae species house sparrow calls, initiating conversion..."

Bai Xiaosheng addressed the sparrows, and his series of bird calls astonished the other passengers from the bus.

"Brother, that's awesome!"

"Nothing much, I'm a top student specializing in ventriloquism at Lanxiang Advanced Technical School," Bai Xiaosheng fibbed.

"Lanxiang Advanced Technical School has a ventriloquism major? Badass!" the person exclaimed.

A skinny sparrow flew over to Bai Xiaosheng's side, tilting its small head to look at him, chirping constantly.

Bai Xiaosheng broke off some steamed bun and fried dough for it and even petted its little head while the little sparrow gobbled up the food.

Just like a domesticated one.

To be able to play like this with ventriloquism?!

The neighboring seats were dumbfounded, watching Bai Xiaosheng as if he were a divine being.

"Impressive, big brother!"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and made an agreement with the little sparrow in the language of birds.

"From now on, I'll call you Sentinel, you'll follow me on this journey, and I'll make sure you're well-fed," Bai Xiaosheng said.

When he returned to the bus, Yang Qian'er was surprised to find a little sparrow perched steadily on Bai Xiaosheng's shoulder.

She was very curious but felt it inappropriate to ask, so she held back.

Bai Xiaosheng disregarded her gaze, got on the bus, and went to sleep. The previous night, he had kept himself half-awake at all times, which was quite uncomfortable, but now with Sentinel, he could sleep soundly.

Half a day later, the coach traveled through a desolate area where the wide road saw no other vehicles for a good while.

Ahead, suddenly, a large SUV appeared, blocking the road.

Three people wielding knives and wearing masks stood there.

The coach came to a stop a few meters away with a sharp brake.

"What's wrong now?" someone couldn't help but shout.

"Yeah, why have we stopped? Is there another landslide?"

The passengers couldn't help but look forward anxiously.

Sentinel pecked Bai Xiaosheng awake.

"Hijackers!" someone recognized the masked figures approaching and screamed out loud.

"Driver, go on, drive!"

"Driver, whatever you do, don't open the doors, they won't be able to get on!" another person screamed.

The driver turned around and beamed a brilliant smile at everyone, then turned his face and pressed a button.

Amidst the screams of the passengers, the front door of the coach opened.

Yang Qian'er screamed in fright.

Bai Xiaosheng remained expressionless, unable to help stretching out his body; his rest had been quite satisfactory.

The three masked figures boarded the bus, their knives pointing at the people inside, and they shouted fiercely.

"Nobody move, this is a robbery!"

Chapter 218 Surrender Now\_1

Broad daylight robbery?!

Most inconceivable was the fact that the bus driver was in cahoots with the robbers!

The women in the vehicle screamed, and the men all wore faces of terror.

A scenario from a TV show was unfolding right before their eyes—who wouldn't be scared!

"Stop yelling, I dare anyone to make a noise!" A fat thug barked, knocking his knife against a metal rod.

Clang clang clang.

The crisp sound sent shivers down the spine.

The screaming women quickly covered their mouths with their hands, fearful of attracting the thugs' attention.

"We're only after money; we won't hurt anyone. But if you're not cooperative, don't blame us for being impolite!" the fat robber holding the knife sneered.

"But we don't have much cash on us," someone timidly said.

Indeed, how many modern people carry a lot of cash with them when they go out?

"No problem, we're not those out-of-touch robbers; we need to keep up with the times," the speaking fat robber said politely.

Behind him, a tall thug raised two items in his hand—one a POS machine, the other a cardboard printed with a QR code.

"You can use cards, you can scan the code!"

The fat robber chuckled, "Everyone can relax now. Hurry up, robbing with this gadget isn't easy, it's too traceable, and we don't have much time left."

The whole bus was speechless with shock.

Bai Xiaosheng watched, both impressed and dumbfounded.

These robbers dared to resort to anything, even card swiping and QR code scanning.

On this card of mine, there are twelve million, but I don't want to give them a single dime! Bai Xiaosheng scratched his face.

"Just do it. Once we give them the money, we'll be fine. We can earn money again, but life is only once!" Sun Zicheng shouted, his voice trembling.

When someone took the lead, the others in the bus immediately felt relieved.

"That's the spirit!" the fat robber said with a smile.

A groan was heard.

The driver, sitting alone in the front, held his head as he struggled to his feet, weakly saying, "Oh dear, fellow countryman, this cold medicine you gave me, why does it make me so dizzy?"

By the time the driver fully opened his eyes, three gleaming knives were pressed against his neck.

The driver immediately woke up completely, with beads of sweat forming on his forehead.

"Fellow countryman, sorry about that, but I advise you to stay calm. Knives don't have eyes," the faux driver sneered.

"Enough chit-chat, get the money!" the fat robber barked.

Although there were few vehicles on this road, more would definitely come soon; it was imperative to move swiftly.

The tall robber nodded and began to move into the bus, but his eyes lit up when he saw Yang Qian'er, "Bro, bro! That chick isn't bad, let's take her with us. Since the deed is already done, one more won't make a difference. Cover her eyes, after we're done, how would she know who we are!"

The fat robber craned his neck to take a look, his eyes flashing with lecherous intent, "Sure! You've got quite the mind there, kid!"

Yang Qian'er, already beside herself with fear, had still been surreptitiously eyeing those people, possibly due to her instinct as a reporter.

However, she noticed the two robbers staring at her and discussing taking her away.

Her face turned pale with terror, "No, please no! I'll give you money, I'll swipe my card, I'll give you everything, just don't take me!"

"Save me, Brother Zicheng!" Yang Qian'er grabbed Sun Zicheng's arm, pleading desperately.

Sun Zicheng shook his head ruefully.

With three men opposing, and the cramped space inside the bus, playing the hero was pointless.

"I'm sorry." Sun Zicheng lowered his head.

Yang Qian'er felt nearly hopeless.

The two robbers watched her panic and helplessness, and laughed heartily.

"Save me, someone save me! There are so many men here, save me!" Yang Qian'er cried out to the people in the bus.

No one responded.

The men buried their heads deep.

"Don't waste your strength. What's more important, living or your eggs? For the sake of staying alive, they would give up their very balls!" the fat robber laughed uproariously.

The robbers laughed without restraint.

"Clap, clap, clap."

In the carriage, applause suddenly broke out.

Everyone was stunned and looked over.

Bai Xiaosheng stood up, patted Yang Qian'er on the shoulder, and squeezed his way out through the narrow gap.

"What are you doing!" the fat robber bellowed fiercely.

"You want money, right? Someone's got to be first," Bai Xiaosheng soothed, and once he stood in the aisle, he smiled, "But I don't want to give it."

You're mocking us!

The fat robber was furious and grabbed the knife to come over.

"Why are you provoking them!"

Yang Qian'er trembled with fear and couldn't help but reproach Bai Xiaosheng.

"Maybe, you all don't know who I am." Bai Xiaosheng spoke calmly, "Actually, I'm a police officer!"

Police officer!

A glimmer of hope rose in the passengers' eyes.

Yang Qian'er was startled and became excited.

The fat robber frowned, then burst into hearty laughter, "You're trying to scare me, kid. I'll let some blood out of you and see if you keep bragging!"

"Do you know why you failed last night?" Bai Xiaosheng eyed the approaching fat man and suddenly asked.

The fat robber really did pause mid-step, his eyes filled with suspicion and uncertainty.

"Last night, you deliberately caused a collapse to get everyone off the bus so the fake driver could try to run off with everyone's belongings, right?" Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

There was a buzz of murmurs among the people in the carriage.

So that was the plan!

The fat robber looked uneasy.

Indeed, that had been their plan!

"But it wasn't successful. You saw the bus go by, but it didn't run according to plan; instead, it stopped to pick people up, ruining your plan. Afterwards, your inside man informed you of the change and told you to block the road ahead, right?"

The fat robber's expression changed again.

That's right!

How did this guy know everything so clearly, could there have been a leak?

Could he really be a police officer?

But if he were really a police officer, he would have shown his weapon by now!

The fat robber was uncertain.

"He's not a police officer!" Sun Zicheng suddenly shouted loudly.

There was another stir in the carriage.

Yang Qian'er was bewildered.

"Police are on the way, they'll be here soon. You can't escape," Bai Xiaosheng said as he patted Sun Zicheng on the shoulder, "I advise you to surrender."

Sun Zicheng suddenly sprang up, aiming a punch at Bai Xiaosheng.

The moment he moved, Bai Xiaosheng's palm had already chopped at the back of his neck, quick and clean.

Yang Qian'er saw Sun Zicheng leap up, then roll his eyes back and faint.

She cried out to Bai Xiaosheng, "What, what are you doing?"

"He's also a robber, believe it or not," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

Yang Qian'er didn't believe it!

How could Sun Zicheng, so humble and polite, possibly...

Bai Xiaosheng had no interest in explaining to her.

"If you're a police officer, then go catch them!" Yang Qian'er urged Bai Xiaosheng, no longer concerned about what had happened to Sun Zicheng.

In Yang Qian'er's mind, police were supposed to protect everyone, supposed to rush forward regardless of everything.

"Just him?!" the fat robber snarled and lunged over, "Even if he's a policeman, he's just an unarmed cop. I'd like to see how he fares against this weapon in my hand!"

"You have weapons." Bai Xiaosheng looked at the knife in the fat man's hand and chuckled, "Funny enough, the last time we stopped, I also prepared a little weapon."

Chapter 219 The Miserable Bandits\_1

"You little bastard, you think you can put on airs with me? Do you really think I wouldn't dare to make you bleed?!"

The fat hijacker barked coldly and stepped forward.

Passengers on the left and right shrieked in terror, cowering and covering their heads.

"Be careful!" Yang Qian'er cried out in alarm.

The disparity in size between the two was stark, and the fat man had a knife in his hand. Had it not been for Bai Xiaosheng claiming to be a "police officer," Yang Qian'er wouldn't have believed he could defeat his opponent.

Bai Xiaosheng met the situation with a smile, neither dodging nor evading.

As the fat man advanced, eyes bulging like a fierce General Zhang Fei, and got within two or three steps of him,

Bai Xiaosheng suddenly raised his hand.

A cloud of red powder burst forth.

Without hesitating, Bai Xiaosheng flipped his coat over his head and lunged toward Yang Qian'er, wrapping them both in it.

"Ah!"

The fat hijacker immediately let out a terribly piercing scream and, with a clatter, the knife fell to the ground.

"Ah!"

"Wow!"

That wasn't all; the spreading powder caused utter chaos.

Yang Qian'er and Bai Xiaosheng bumped heads under the cover of the garment, but dust still managed to drift in.

Yang Qian'er, stimulated by the irritant, couldn't help but sneeze, tears uncontrollably streaming out.

"Pepper powder!"

Yang Qian'er exclaimed.

Was this the weapon Bai Xiaosheng had prepared?!

The bus had stopped for a meal, and the stall owner from Hunan sold pepper powder, a blend of several types of peppers, including facing heaven and Er Jing Tiao pepper, generously and authentically used.

When Bai Xiaosheng tasted it, just a dash had sent him into tears.

So, he stole half a jar of it.

...

In just a few seconds, Bai Xiaosheng and Yang Qian'er heard wails and cries from outside.

Stirred by the air conditioning.

Even the passengers at the rear of the bus were screaming.

"There was no other way, it was an emergency decision. If I had alerted you all, the other side would have been prepared, so... my apologies to everyone."

Bai Xiaosheng mumbled, seemingly apologetic, yet there was a clear hint of schadenfreude on his face.

"You, aren't you a cop? How can you use such despicable means?" Yang Qian'er coughed violently, asking in shock.

The two were very close to each other, and Bai Xiaosheng could even smell a sweet fragrance coming from her.

"Well... you see, our police use a riot-control spray, and even the pepper sprays used by women include pepper components. So, pepper powder is standard equipment..." Bai Xiaosheng rambled on for a moment, then shaking out his clothes, stood up.

In that short time.

The bus was empty.

When Bai Xiaosheng stood up, all the doors were open and he saw several figures stumbling out.

A bout of severe coughing.

Sun Zicheng was awakened by the pepper.

Bai Xiaosheng threw a punch, and Yang Qian'er, startled, hurled a package at him.

Bang.

Accompanied by the sound of shattering, Sun Zicheng's eyes rolled back as he collapsed, a bleeding wound visible on the side of his head that was near Yang Qian'er.

Bai Xiaosheng was stunned, and Yang Qian'er screamed, "My brand-new cosmetics!"

Bai Xiaosheng suddenly felt a chill.

The cosmetic bottles were thick enough to break glass; was this man... going to be all right?

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't bear to look.

The bus was too stuffy, and Bai Xiaosheng couldn't take it anymore. He hurriedly pulled Yang Qian'er and rushed off the bus.

Outside, quite a few people were jumping around, howling in distress.

The hijackers were worse off; the fake driver and two others desperately poured water over the fat man, who knelt on the ground, reduced to nothing but howls.

Bai Xiaosheng casually took out his phone and glanced at WeChat.

Earlier on, he had specifically searched for the local police's WeChat.

When the robbers blocked the road, he had already sent an alarm message and video, and received a reply.

The most recent message from the police was two minutes ago, stating they would arrive in five minutes.

Faced with such a major incident, the police response was decisive and swift.

Bai Xiaosheng put away his phone and looked at the robbers.

"Catch that kid and avenge our boss!" the fake driver shouted upon seeing Bai Xiaosheng.

His eyes were bloodshot and burning with pain, seething with anger.

The two robbers were also filled with rage.

As robbers, they had reached an unlucky impasse unlike any other.

Armed with knives, they charged forward menacingly.

Bai Xiaosheng furrowed his brow.

Although in novels, scenes where characters snatch blades barehanded are common, those are still just stories. In reality, even a battle-hardened martial artist when faced with knife-wielding desperados would best opt to run.

To fight, he needed a weapon!

Bai Xiaosheng retreated, picked up a large rock from the ground, and then snatched Yang Qian'er's bag from her hand, throwing the stone into it.

Yang Qian'er's bag was a classic Louis Vuitton canvas shoulder bag with a long strap.

Now, it had been turned into a weapon by Bai Xiaosheng stuffing a rock inside.

Yang Qian'er watched the two robbers pounce with bright knives in their hands and was too scared to move.

"Kid, you dare to trick us, die!" one robber with a fierce face lunged with his knife.

Bai Xiaosheng stepped back, swung around with momentum, and hurled the bag, which whistled through the air with the weight of the stone inside.

The robber saw the large stone being stuffed inside and quickly dodged backward.

Bai Xiaosheng raised his hand and shouted, "Watch out for the pepper!"

The leading robber and his companion behind him, hearing the words "pepper", nearly wet themselves.

With how fearful their boss was, it chilled their spines, and almost as a conditioned reflex, they used their sleeves to shield their eyes.

But the pepper did not appear as expected.

"Not good!"

The foremost robber suddenly yelled out in alarm, then heard a peculiar sound.

It was as if something had been kicked and shattered.

His face turned deathly pale, he clenched his groin with his legs, let his knife slip from his grasp, and knelt down, clutching himself.

The other robber had just lowered his hands when a sparrow landed on his face and began to scratch frantically. By the time he chased the bird away, he saw Bai Xiaosheng airborne, his arms flung back at an angle.

That robber's face turned ghastly, and his pupils reflected the image of the incoming bag.

The bag filled with stones smashed into his face.

A gush of blood and a tooth flew through the air.

This robber spun in mid-air and landed unconscious on the ground.

Bai Xiaosheng kicked the man to make sure he was truly out, then lifted the bag, curious how Yang Qian'er managed to smash the makeup bottle.

The fake driver, helping the fat boss, went pale upon seeing what happened.

Completely defeated!

As he turned to flee, he was swarmed by the passengers and captured.

The wail of police sirens approached.

In the distance, several police cars sped their way.

The police had finally arrived.

Exhausted, Bai Xiaosheng returned the bag to Yang Qian'er.

"Officer, this is my new LV," Yang Qian'er lamented tearfully.

"Don't you understand, I'm not a cop," Bai Xiaosheng scratched his face, turned to leave, and muttered, "You're really quite silly..."

Half an hour later, after the police had recorded statements and taken down some people's contact information, they affirmed Bai Xiaosheng's bravery and took the robbers away.

This time, the real driver was behind the wheel.

Bai Xiaosheng settled comfortably in his seat.

Just as he settled down, a small hand tapped his shoulder.

It was Yang Qian'er.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't want to deal with her and pretended to sleep, but then he heard a faint whisper, like the buzzing of a mosquito.

"Thank you..."

Chapter 220 Who's the Unlucky One\_1

The long-distance bus took to the road once again.

But Bai Xiaosheng couldn't sleep anymore, as he had been showered in praise by the passengers for a couple of hours.

What brave and fearless, what wise and resourceful, if it weren't for Bai Xiaosheng's packet of chili powder that had also given everyone a hard time, he might as well have been voted one of the top ten outstanding youths of the year on the spot.

At long last, everyone got tired of praising, and Bai Xiaosheng got tired of listening, and it finally stopped.

Unable to resist, Yang Qian'er sneaked glances at Bai Xiaosheng, this man who at first glance seemed so ordinary, yet turned out to be so dazzling when it mattered.

However, as Yang Qian'er continued to watch, she couldn't help but frown.

"What's wrong?" Bai Xiaosheng caught a glimpse and wondered at the look she was giving him.

"You realized something was wrong early on, why didn't you warn us beforehand, or call the police in advance? Do you know how dangerous that was!" Yang Qian'er couldn't help but say.

Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback.

The tiny bit of goodwill that had sprouted because Yang Qian'er thanked him vanished in an instant.

"If I start getting suspicious of someone, should I make everyone else suspicious too, or call the police just on a hunch?" Bai Xiaosheng snorted coldly, hugging his shoulders and tilting his head to the side, leaning against the seatback with his eyes closed muttering, "I might as well have gone to save the Earth."

Bai Xiaosheng's tone was not without sarcasm.

Yang Qian'er snorted and ignored him.

The rest of the trip passed in silence.

The bus would stop for lunch and dinner or let the passengers off to use the restroom.

Bai Xiaosheng and Yang Qian'er hardly spoke two words, both occupying three seats between them, roomy and peaceful.

The only thing Yang Qian'er initiated was, "What about the sparrow you caught?"

"It's gone," Bai Xiaosheng replied truthfully, "Also, I didn't catch it; we had an employer-employee relationship."

Making fun of me again, who could hire a bird!

Yang Qian'er immediately glared at Bai Xiaosheng, regretting initiating conversation with him.

Throughout the trip, Bai Xiaosheng noticed that Yang Qian'er's admiration for Wei Moran was bordering on worship.

A live version of "Heaven's Melody," Yang Qian'er could listen to it over and over, sometimes even softly humming along.

To be fair, her singing talent was not low, and she could mimic the style quite well.

When playing the music out loud, Yang Qian'er kept the volume very low, barely affecting others.

Bai Xiaosheng thus couldn't be bothered with it.

When he wasn't sleepy, Bai Xiaosheng took out his smartphone to chat with someone, first scolding the dead fatty from Zhengdong Province, demanding that he become motivated and marry a rich and pretty girl, and not to lose all the money his partner had invested.

The dead fatty from Zhengdong Province immediately sent a 'hehe' emoji, telling Bai Xiaosheng, his future uncle by marriage, that he was helping with the promotion and even giving him business development tips.

This made Bai Xiaosheng contemplate deeply.

The dead fatty really was lucky!

When others so much as step into the doorway of a relationship, the wealthy side is dead set against it, with parents, sisters, brothers, and hordes of aunts and uncles trying to split them up.

That fatty seemed to be completely free of such troubles!

Even Lu Qingfeng was willing to help out!

Bai Xiaosheng felt deeply envious.

After finishing the chat with the fatty, Bai Xiaosheng started talking to another person—Wei Moran.

Wei Moran wasn't always available; she had allowed herself a few months of unfettered indulgence, which was already quite extreme and willful.

Now, she was busy with promotions, traveling all over and quite exhausted.

"I'm squeezing in time from my busy schedule to message you. I heard you left Tiannan?" Wei Moran asked.

"Yeah, heading back to my hometown to develop."

"Where's your hometown?"

"Zhongjing."

"Zhongjing, I've heard of it, it's a very nice city to live in, and I think it's the provincial capital too. If you go to Zhongjing, would you consider entering the entertainment industry?"

Wei Moran flashed a mischievous smile.

"No need, I have my own plans."

Bai Xiaosheng declined Wei Moran's kind offer and glanced to the side, where Yang Qian'er was watching a live concert video again, still a bit excited.

Casually, Bai Xiaosheng sent a message to Wei Moran, "I'm on the bus, and next to me, I've spotted one of your die-hard fans."

Yang Qian'er noticed Bai Xiaosheng looking at her, which was just a coincidence.

She couldn't help but frown and give Bai Xiaosheng a sideways glance, feeling somewhat displeased:

I've already turned down the volume, what more do you want, this is Wei Moran's "Heaven's Melody," the ultimate spiritual enjoyment!

Yang Qian'er was indignant.

Because of her idol, she was starting to dislike Bai Xiaosheng a little bit.

Being in Tiannan and not attending Wei Moran's live performance of the divine song was a sin too grave to bear. In her heart, Yang Qian'er added another charge against Bai Xiaosheng.

To forcibly improve Bai Xiaosheng's artistic taste, Yang Qian'er purposefully turned up the volume.

Bai Xiaosheng chuckled and sent Wei Moran a message, "Can you hear this? En route, I must have listened to it no less than ten times; I could probably recite the lyrics of your song backwards by now."

"Haha, that's great, next time we meet you should recite it, and I'll listen."

Wei Moran sent a laughing emoji.

...

After ending the chat, Bai Xiaosheng listened to the somewhat noisy sound and soon fell asleep.

After a tranquil night, the coach entered the territory of Zhongjing, with three to four hours left until arrival.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but stretch his body.

Though the coach was not as comfortable as a sleeper, a high-speed train, or a plane, it had its own charm, and enjoying the scenery along the way was not bad either.

At last, Zhongjing was finally near.

"Red Lotus, search for group industries in Zhongjing, looking for the company with the fastest development, greatest potential, and most suitable for my current situation," Bai Xiaosheng silently wished.

"Certainly!" responded Red Lotus.

The search result took Bai Xiaosheng by surprise.

"A media company!" Bai Xiaosheng exclaimed in astonishment.

Back in Tiannan, he had worked for a small media company—Tian Hai Media. After that, he moved to Century Construction, a real estate company. Surprisingly, upon returning to Zhongjing, he was heading to media again.

Speaking of which, media is actually my major, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but scratch his face.

"Mom, you don't need to worry about me, I'm still young, what marriage are you talking about, aren't you being a bit old-fashioned?" Yang Qian'er was on the phone with her earphones on, startling Bai Xiaosheng out of his contemplation.

"What are you thinking, my goodness, am I living in the last century?" Yang Qian'er's voice rose unconsciously as she expressed strong aversion. "And besides, you said their family is average, just middle class, I, Yang Qian'er, might not dream of marrying into a rich family but I don't want to fret over daily expenses! No, I'm not money-crazed, but people should have some aspirations right? I'm asking you, what does that guy do, his career..."

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but glance at Yang Qian'er.

This girl seemed to be facing a problem all older single ladies confront:

Your mother thinks it's time for you to get married!

To be honest, with Yang Qian'er's looks and taste, her demands weren't excessive. Asking about the man's qualifications, not merely his income, and inquiring about his career indicated that she had aspirations.

Having aspirations isn't wrong at all.

Nonetheless, Bai Xiaosheng still felt a bit of sympathy for Yang Qian'er's matchmaking candidate, and even a slight schadenfreude as a man.

It's not so easy to win over a beauty.

I wonder which unfortunate guy will be set up with Yang Qian'er!

Listening to Yang Qian'er complain and get angry yet be helpless, Bai Xiaosheng found it inexplicably refreshing.

This girl, one never knows what kind of weirdo she'll run into.

But then again, what's it to me, I won't be able to see it.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but shrug his shoulders.