

Two Trillion 2321

Chapter 2321 - A Guest Arrives

Ma Xiaoxiao was captured by Gan, and her brother and his accomplices were all subdued. Chen Feiqiu's crisis was resolved with the help of Bai Xiaosheng and his team.

Chen Feiqiu, after being untied, grimaced and rubbed his wrists, stretching his ankles.

"I say, next time you take hostages, could you be gentler? This harsh treatment is inhumane!" Chen Feiqiu looked indignant, condemning Ma Xiaoxiao.

Will there even be a next time...

Is it really okay to offer such advice...

Bai Xiaosheng and his friends found it amusing.

Ma Xiaoxiao's wrist was held by Gan, who was actively showing off, completely oblivious to her charms.

Ma Xiaoxiao winced in pain and kept struggling to feel a bit better.

Hearing Chen Feiqiu's words, Ma Xiaoxiao quickly forced a smile and said, "Brother Fei, it's not what you think. There's been a misunderstanding! We just... just wanted to borrow some money from you to solve our immediate troubles. We truly had no intention of harming you."

Ma Xiaoxiao blinked her beautiful eyes, looking pitifully at Chen Feiqiu, trying to defend herself.

Nearby, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but chuckle, casting a teasing glance, "You've already kidnapped and tied him up here, yet you say there's no malice. This is the first time I've heard of such a way to borrow money."

Knowing she couldn't argue back, Ma Xiaoxiao quickly said, "It was my brother... It was all them. They said they wanted to meet Brother Fei, so I brought him here. Who would have thought they wanted to kidnap! I truly had nothing to do with it! Even though I couldn't stop them, I definitely wouldn't let Brother Fei get harmed!"

This woman actually started clearing herself, pushing the blame onto others.

Lucky for her, her brother's group was dazed and moaning, not hearing these words, or they'd be furious.

Bai Xiaosheng chuckled, not arguing with her, and turned to look at Chen Feiqiu.

"If you had just asked me directly for help, I wouldn't have minded lending you money, even considering not asking for it back. But kidnapping me—this is tolerable—" Chen Feiqiu said indignantly to Ma Xiaoxiao, "You're insulting my intelligence with such explanations! Intolerable!"

Ma Xiaoxiao's face immediately fell, as she was about to say something, but Chen Feiqiu didn't give her a chance, shouting, "No more talking, Gan, call the police!"

In the end, Bai Xiaosheng and the others helped Chen Feiqiu call the police, providing them with detailed location information.

Chen Feiqiu and Gan stayed there, waiting for the police to arrive.

Seeing the inevitable outcome, Ma Xiaoxiao's face turned pale, collapsing with sobs, whether truly afraid or just acting, it was impossible to tell.

Fortunately, no one paid her any attention.

Bai Xiaosheng pulled Chen Feiqiu aside and said, "I have urgent matters to attend to at home, and I need to hurry and handle them. I'll leave my colleague here to assist you, just in case. I'll leave first, and we'll get in touch later."

Honestly, Bai Xiaosheng wanted to avoid trouble and leave early.

After all, as the Greater China Region Executive President of Zhenbei Group, it would be undesirable to end up in the news and attract a bunch of reporters for something like this.

Of course, Bai Xiaosheng didn't directly explain his identity or the reasons for his inability to stay to Chen Feiqiu, mainly to avoid loose talk from Ma Xiaoxiao and her people.

"Alright, take care of your business. With your friend here, we can ensure nothing goes wrong," Chen Feiqiu said, nodding without any doubts.

So, Bai Xiaosheng gave Lei Ying some last words before leading Lin Weiwei away.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei, without pressing matters to attend to at the company, took half an hour to find the pastry shop they originally intended to visit.

Upon arrival, they discovered a long queue of mostly young people, who had come to the shop known for its popularity on social media.

They queued at the end for an hour and a half before it was their turn, only to find the pastries sold out and new ones not ready yet.

Having come this far and queued already, they had to endure the wait patiently, spending a total of two hours to buy three servings of signature pastries and finally headed back home.

As they arrived at the headquarters entrance, they coincidentally saw Lei Ying getting out of a taxi, with everyone having arrived at headquarters.

"You went to buy pastries... only now returning?"

"You finished recording the testimony?"

The three were taken aback upon meeting.

As they walked inside, Lei Ying conveyed Chen Feiqiu's gratitude to Bai Xiaosheng, saying, "That young man expressed he wants to treat you to a meal before leaving Linshen to properly thank you, since you saved him—otherwise, he might have faced life-threatening danger."

"Didn't you tell him it was just a small effort from us?" Bai Xiaosheng laughed, "Actually, it was you who acted; strictly speaking, you're his real savior."

Lei Ying chuckled, "Wasn't I following your lead? The credit should be yours."

"This is an invitation from a future chieftain, we should honor it," Lin Weiwei joked next to them, "Make sure he treats us to a grand dinner."

Lin Weiwei's mention of "future chieftain" seems exaggerated.

A chieftain is a tribal leader, and the size of tribes varies, so their power and status differ significantly.

Given Bai Xiaosheng's current wealth and status, he wouldn't seriously consider turning Chen Feiqiu into a resource for him.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying naturally understood it was a joke, so they laughed, "Hearing you say this, we must go."

"Indeed, for international friendship."

With laughter, the three headed upstairs.

On their way, they encountered Feng Li, striding quickly with a phone in hand, seemingly about to make a call.

"Mr. Bai, I was just about to call you. I didn't expect you all to be back!" Feng Li smiled upon seeing Bai Xiaosheng, put away the phone, and hurried over to greet Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

Feng Li is very professional and formal when greeting at headquarters, but she spoke freely without restraint with Bai Xiaosheng and his friends.

After all, she was friends with Bai Xiaosheng and his team.

"You were looking for me? Is there anything wrong?" Bai Xiaosheng asked upon hearing Feng Li.

"Well, a visitor has come to see you, and with Elder Xia not around, Mr. Li Haofeng is currently entertaining them," Feng Li explained.

A visitor?

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes gleamed with curiosity as he asked, "Who is it, do you know?"

With Bai Xiaosheng's position as the Greater China Region Executive President of Zhenbei Group, a visit to him, coupled with Mr. Li Haofeng hosting, must be from an industry notable.

"It's Han Zizhi, the boss of Zhizhi Live," Feng Li said.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng's puzzled expression, Feng Li immediately added for clarification, "It's a tech company, primarily operating a short video community platform. You might not have heard of the boss Han Zizhi, but you should recognize his father, Han He."

Han He?

This name wasn't unfamiliar to Bai Xiaosheng; he'd heard it multiple times, though without any current connection.

In fact, on the Forbes Fortune list, Han He from Han Yewanhe Group wasn't inferior to Lu Yun, even surpassing him and Dong Tianlu in some years. Though the differences weren't significant.

Han He's son, huh...

Bai Xiaosheng's mind raced, immediately recalling information about this Han Zizhi.

In just a thought, Bai Xiaosheng had grasped some understanding of him.

He was a man around Bai Xiaosheng's age, exceptionally capable, considered a business genius by financial media.

Utilizing the Han family's wealth and connections, Han Zizhi established a strong live and short video platform, occupying a significant market share in the industry.

Additionally, he vigorously expanded the ecosystem under his brand, diversifying into electronics, toy manufacturing, clothing, portals, e-commerce... Involving dozens of areas, with rumors of ongoing collaboration with the automotive industry, hinting at launching new electric vehicles within the year.

This person is passionate about trends and chasing opportunities, truly bold and daring.

Yet, with such a broad business scope, are there no issues...

Bai Xiaosheng pondered, feeling somewhat skeptical.

Some of Han Zizhi's ventures were beyond "reasonable" boundaries.

"Shall I inform Mr. Li to dismiss them if you decide not to meet?"

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng's silent deliberation, Feng Li mistook his hesitation as unwillingness to meet, tentatively offering.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying also looked at Bai Xiaosheng.

"Let's meet," Bai Xiaosheng said, recovering, smiling gently at Feng Li and the others.

"Honestly, I'm quite curious about this unexpected visit—what's their purpose!"

Chapter 2322 - The Negotiations Fell Apart

Bai Xiaosheng, accompanied by Lin Weiwei, Lei Ying, and Feng Li, hurried to the reception room. Upon arrival, he pushed the door open directly. This was, after all, his own company, and given Bai Xiaosheng's position, there was no need for prior knocking or greetings.

In the reception room, two people sat on the sofa discussing matters. One of them was naturally Li Haofeng. Opposite him sat a man in his thirties. He looked vigorous with a straight posture, and his attire was tasteful. As he spoke eloquently, he exuded an extraordinary aura.

Behind the man stood two young and beautiful female assistants, both tall and professional, one holding a briefcase and the other a notebook and pen, seemingly jotting down key points of the conversation.

While retrieving information through Red Lotus, Bai Xiaosheng had come across an image of Han Zizhi, which matched this person exactly.

It seemed that this was indeed Han Zizhi.

Bai Xiaosheng promptly stepped forward.

The people over there also heard the commotion at the door and turned their heads to look.

"Our Mr. Bai is here!" Li Haofeng said with a smile to Han Zizhi, standing up as he spoke.

Han Zizhi's eyes were fixed on Bai Xiaosheng, curiously sizing up the man who was about his age, and he slowly stood up too.

The two beautiful secretaries behind Han Zizhi also glanced over with sparkling eyes. This young president, Bai Xiaosheng, who was famous in the business world and often surrounded by legends, intrigued them as well.

Bai Xiaosheng wasn't as sharp as Han Zizhi, but the longer one stared, the more one could feel the unique depth about him.

"Mr. Bai, this is Mr. Han Zizhi from ZhiZi Live, here to visit you and discuss cooperation matters."

"Mr. Han, this is Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, President of the Greater China Region of Zhenbei Group!"

Li Haofeng introduced the two with a smile.

"It's a pleasure, Mr. Bai!" Han Zizhi said with a smile.

Although Han Zizhi extended his hand first, the tone of his speech, demeanor, and the manner in which he offered his hand did not show the lowered posture of someone visiting another.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, standing behind Bai Xiaosheng, couldn't help but glance at each other, both simultaneously feeling that Han Zizhi carried a certain arrogance, possibly because his father is a tycoon in the business world—Han He. Growing up in a superior environment likely cultivated this inherent pride.

"Pleasure to meet you, Mr. Han!" Bai Xiaosheng was indifferent to Han Zizhi's demeanor, offering a slight smile and shaking hands with calm composure.

"Please, have a seat!" After shaking hands with Han Zizhi, Bai Xiaosheng gestured for him to sit and said, "Mr. Han, have you come to discuss cooperation? Mr. Li, where did your conversation leave off?"

Han Zizhi sat across from Bai Xiaosheng, leaning slightly back against the rear cushion, glancing at Li Haofeng beside him and smiling, "I only just started with Mr. Li, we barely exchanged a few words, and now that you're here, Mr. Bai, we can discuss things in person."

Han Zizhi's attitude again positioned himself as an equal in status to Bai Xiaosheng.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying stood behind Bai Xiaosheng while Feng Li went to pour tea. After serving Bai Xiaosheng a cup, Feng Li stood behind Li Haofeng.

Witnessing Han Zizhi's demeanor and statements, Lin Weiwei slightly furrowed her brows.

This Han Zizhi was perhaps a bit too "disrespectful," seeking cooperation without modesty. Did he think his successful ventures, and perhaps being listed in the Forbes Wealth Rankings, made him remarkable?

Bai Xiaosheng wasn't listed because he chose not to be.

It's known that many great figures exist outside those rankings, with wealth comparable to or even surpassing those listed.

In terms of personal strength, Bai Xiaosheng's nine companies were arguably beyond the reach of the Han Family.

Moreover, in Bai Xiaosheng's overt position as the Executive President of the Greater China Region of Zhenbei Group, he could easily stand on equal footing with Han He.

For Han Zizhi to equate himself with Bai Xiaosheng was perhaps overestimating himself.

Lin Weiwei found herself increasingly displeased with Han Zizhi's posture and tone the more she observed.

Bai Xiaosheng, sitting opposite Han Zizhi, smiled faintly and asked, "I wonder, Mr. Han, what kind of cooperation are you here to discuss? Is it in the realm of live streaming or short videos? As far as I know, your ZhiZi Live is flourishing, capturing nearly a quarter of the market share. Do you still need a partner? The Han family, and your father, Mr. Han He, could easily support your platform to become one of the top three players. Why would you need a partner?"

Bai Xiaosheng's remarks made Li Haofeng secretly nod in approval.

Upon learning that Han Zizhi sought cooperation, Li Haofeng shared this doubt.

Would this person willingly share the lucrative opportunities at hand?

Even if Han Zizhi truly lacked funds or needed assistance, he should seek his father; after all, wealth should remain within the family!

Li Haofeng looked at Han Zizhi, eager to hear his response.

Han Zizhi smiled at Bai Xiaosheng and said, "Mr. Bai, you misunderstand. I am indeed here to discuss cooperation, but it's not related to the live streaming business. I want to diversify the company's operations, expand the ecosystem, and seek partnerships in industries such as sports, foreign trade, and mobile phones. These are areas where the Han Family Enterprise is not particularly adept, but where Mr. Bai excels. Therefore, I came to you, Mr. Bai."

Chapter 2323 - The Negotiations Fell Apart (Part 2)

Li Haofeng looked in surprise at Han Zizhi upon hearing this. This livestreamer truly has an astonishing appetite, not avoiding any food, be it meat or vegetables.

Just now when Li Haofeng was chatting with Han Zizhi, he heard Han Zizhi mention that his family's main business is an online platform, with its ecosystem expanded to seven major industries, and just in the first half of this year, they have expanded into two major sectors. Now, they're going to enter three more industry circles at once, isn't this speed a bit exaggerated? It's like inflating a balloon!

This is actually not a good thing; spreading too thin and failing to digest in time could lead to a collapse, which would result in a chain reaction...

Bai Xiaosheng pondered briefly and then smiled at Han Zizhi, "Mr. Han, you have quite the eye. These three types of businesses all have significant opportunities this year. It could be said that in a few months, there will be a small boom, a good time to make money. If Mr. Han wants to set up early, and if things are done rightly, your company could really prosper and make money hand over fist."

Han Zizhi looked at Bai Xiaosheng, his eyes shining with surprise and admiration.

He has high aspirations and high standards; ordinary so-called successful businessmen may not even catch his interest.

This Bai Xiaosheng has indeed made him see him in a higher light!

Because Bai Xiaosheng, like him, has excellent foresight; in layman's terms, he can see the "windfall opportunities" in various industries!

"Yes, under the catalyst of several major international and domestic events this year, these industries indeed have promising opportunities, so I also want to take the opportunity to expand some business. I think Mr. Bai is a smart businessman, well-versed in the logic of strong partnerships and knowing that it's impossible to monopolize the market from your side. Why not share a piece of the pie with a brother to spread the risk? Wouldn't that be a win-win?" Han Zizhi said with a smile.

Li Haofeng and the others couldn't help but look deeply at Han Zizhi, as they didn't hear what kind of win-win cooperation he's talking about.

"A win-win?" Bai Xiaosheng chuckled at the word, "If it's just about sharing some risks, then Mr. Han doesn't need to worry about it. Once we decide to invest in those fields, even if we lose everything, our Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region can handle it. Even if we can't cope, we have the American headquarters above us. We aren't afraid of any risks!"

Bai Xiaosheng said this with a completely indifferent demeanor.

Implying that he had little interest in this cooperation.

Han Zizhi furrowed his brows slightly, then quickly smiled, "Although that's the case, Mr. Bai, you're ultimately an employee, and this huge setup isn't yours. Achieving performance and gaining praise from above is better than reprimand, isn't it? Moreover, I can bridge the connection, allowing Mr. Bai on your side to collaborate with my father, which would truly be a mutually beneficial, win-win collaboration. No matter how you look at it, Mr. Bai, you're not losing out, isn't this good?"

Han Zizhi actually threw out the bargaining chip of collaborating with his father to persuade Bai Xiaosheng to open up the doors of cooperation to him.

Does he think his father is remarkable, or does he think the Han family is remarkable, assuming Bai Xiaosheng would eagerly agree?

This Han Zizhi really overestimates their Han family.

Li Haofeng and others couldn't help but find it amusing.

Years ago, if the Executive President of Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region heard that someone like Han He, or Lu Yun wanted to seek cooperation, they would indeed be overjoyed. But times have changed. Now Bai Xiaosheng, eager for reform, is desperate to find strong partners worldwide to cooperate with. The Greater China Region of Zhenbei Group doesn't actually lack a collaborator like Han He right now.

This Han Zizhi just can't figure out the current situation!

Bai Xiaosheng laughed, maintaining a calm face, not showing any emotion, and smiled lightly, "I do hope to cooperate with Mr. Han He. I've even thought about visiting early. If Mr. Han Zizhi could bridge the connection, it would be wonderful."

Han Zizhi, hearing this, thought Bai Xiaosheng was moved by his words and a smile appeared. Just as he was about to say something like wishing for pleasant cooperation, he heard Bai Xiaosheng calmly saying, "I agree that collaborating with Mr. Han He is a win-win. However, I still don't see any win-win situation in collaborating with Mr. Han."

Han Zizhi's smile froze, looking at Bai Xiaosheng with a hint of displeasure deep in his eyes. To him, Bai Xiaosheng's words were clearly saying: collaborating with your dad is mutually beneficial, but with you, it doesn't even count!

How arrogant and self-assured Han Zizhi is, always proud of making it into the Forbes list with his own effort, not to mention his solid family background, which he believes is far superior to a "worker" like Bai Xiaosheng.

No matter how capable Bai Xiaosheng is, isn't he just a worker who can be fired at any time?

Bai Xiaosheng's words were clearly looking down on him!

Han Zizhi can endure other things, but he finds it hard to tolerate anything involving "dignity."

However, Han Zizhi still suppressed his anger and said with a forced smile to Bai Xiaosheng, "Mr. Bai, is that really what you think? But you need to understand, introducing you to cooperate with my father is not the same as you negotiating yourself or finding someone else to do it. Only when I mediate will you benefit more. From this point of view, cooperating with me can truly result in a win-win, right? Moreover, my company isn't just a simple company; its strength is comparable to a dozen big companies! If you wish to see our publicly released semi-annual report, I can get it for you. Collaborating with me basically adds a strong partner to your side. Isn't that what a win-win is?

When Han Zizhi said this, his tone was quite firm, carrying a hint of blame that Bai Xiaosheng didn't recognize value.

Li Haofeng and others immediately frowned slightly. Bai Xiaosheng listened to Han Zizhi's boasting because of his father Han He's face, but he isn't self-aware.

A person like him, if really made a collaborator, would inevitably lead to trouble later!

Including Li Haofeng, everyone felt some resistance in their heart.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled at Han Zizhi, "Frankly speaking, Mr. Han, in the fields you mentioned, we do plan to increase investment this year. Not long ago, I personally laid out plans. But unfortunately, we do not need partners. This time, I'm afraid we'll be sending you away for nothing. How about this, stay for dinner tonight, and I'll let Mr. Li accompany you."

Bai Xiaosheng was plainly refusing him.

And arranging for some Mr. Li to deal with him, who does he think he is looking down upon!

Han Zizhi couldn't help but clench his fists, veins bulging on his forehead.

However, he didn't show any expression; he maintained a surface level of restraint.

"Mr. Bai, are you really not going to reconsider?" Han Zizhi said in a deep voice, "Even if we proceed with some cooperation first, not on a large scale, that's also possible!"

Han Zizhi thought he had already humbled himself and made significant concessions, also giving himself a step down.

Even if Bai Xiaosheng initially partnered with him in part, his trip wouldn't have been in vain.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and looked at Han Zizhi, gently saying, "There's no need."

Bai Xiaosheng's words were gentle but his attitude was firm.

Seeing Han Zizhi's demeanor earlier, Bai Xiaosheng, like Li Haofeng and the others, found it displeasing; nowadays, even Han He would have to come personally seeking cooperation, what more with someone like Han Zizhi who doesn't realize his status wanting to cooperate?

Before Han Zizhi could say anything else, Bai Xiaosheng stood up and said blandly, "I have other matters to attend to, Mr. Han, please excuse me."

Upon seeing Bai Xiaosheng's attitude, Han Zizhi felt a surge of anger and humiliation.

He felt like a beggar, being turned away without even a bite.

"Mr. Bai—" Han Zizhi said coldly, standing up abruptly and speaking in a deep voice.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at Han Zizhi.

"You'll regret treating me this way!" Han Zizhi said fiercely, "Goodbye!"

"Mr. Han, aren't you staying for dinner?" Bai Xiaosheng showed no change in color because of Han Zizhi's harsh words. Instead, he smiled and said to Li Haofeng, who also stood up, "In that case... Mr. Li, why are you still standing there, see the guest out!"

Chapter 2324 - Harboring a Grudge

Han Zizhi was escorted downstairs by Li Haofeng, all the way to the building entrance, where the latter stopped and said with a smile, "Mr. Han, I won't see you off any further. Feel free to visit us when you have the time."

Of course, this was merely a courtesy from Li Haofeng.

Han Zizhi nodded expressionlessly and said to Li Haofeng, "Thank you for having me today, Mr. Li, goodbye!"

After speaking, Han Zizhi turned away and strode off without looking back.

His two beautiful secretaries, in high heels, followed closely, making a rhythmic "click-clack" sound.

Li Haofeng smiled, knowing well that Han Zizhi must be extremely upset at this moment.

Such a proud person was humbled today by Bai Xiaosheng, perhaps harboring resentment.

But Li Haofeng didn't mind, glanced at Han Zizhi's departing figure, and turned back.

The gap between Han Zizhi and Bai Xiaosheng was vast, like that between a hyena and a lion. Such resentment meant nothing to Bai Xiaosheng.

Han Zizhi strode with a sullen face towards the parking lot, heading for his vehicle.

This time, he personally took action, only to return defeated, completely losing face!

That Bai Xiaosheng certainly didn't give him any respect, nor did he show respect to the Han Family!

"Who does he think he is? Just a hireling, a dog! Yet he dares to look down on others, damn it!" When no one was around, Han Zizhi cursed Bai Xiaosheng through gritted teeth.

From childhood to now, Han Zizhi felt he had never suffered such humiliation as today.

Relying on the Han Family's reputation and resources, and his father's shelter, over the years, he had encountered people with higher statuses than Bai Xiaosheng's presidency in the business field, but who hadn't given him any face? Never like today! Treated like a beggar, just wanting a meal to dismiss him!

No, it was worse than a beggar—beggars are still given alms, a little leftover food and crumbs. Bai Xiaosheng wouldn't even talk to him!

As Han Zizhi walked and thought, the more he thought, the angrier he got. He glanced back at the Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region Headquarters and clenched his teeth so tightly they made a "grinding" sound.

Everyone around Han Zizhi knew his temperament well. He had "one big and one small" characteristics: a big temper and a small mind, and he particularly loved to bear grudges.

When Han Zizhi found his car, his driver was waiting beside it in boredom, smoking a cigarette.

Suddenly seeing the boss returning, the driver was startled and quickly threw the half-smoked cigarette on the ground to extinguish it, smiling broadly as he greeted Han Zizhi.

"Mr. Han, you've finished talking so quickly? Why did you walk over yourself? You could have called me, and I would have picked you up." As he spoke, the driver hurriedly opened the car door for Han Zizhi.

"So much nonsense! I hired you to flap your gums?" Han Zizhi gave the driver a glare and got into the car.

The driver, inexplicably reprimanded, froze for a moment, but soon realized.

This master of his looked not quite right; could he have suffered a setback or humiliation?

The driver was also a clever person, knowing well that speaking more at such times was just asking for trouble—the more he said, the more errors he'd make.

He quickly shut his mouth, returned to his driver's seat, and awaited orders.

Han Zizhi's two female secretaries also rushed over, getting into the car on either side of him. One took out a cigar to hand over, while the other prepared to pour him a glass of red wine.

"No need!" Han Zizhi snapped at the two women, somewhat heated.

The two women had to put the items back as they were, remaining obediently silent to avoid inciting his anger.

Han Zizhi furrowed his brows, pondering in silence.

"Mr. Han, where are we headed now? To the usual club you frequent, or home?" The driver started the car and cautiously asked.

"Just drive!" Han Zizhi snapped, still angry.

The driver dared not speak any more, deciding to drive first and talk later.

Han Zizhi remained silent until the car drove for five minutes, then suddenly said, "My father's side is preparing to negotiate cooperation with the Zhenbei Group, with that Bai Xiaosheng, how is this specifically arranged?"

Han Zizhi had mentioned when talking with Bai Xiaosheng that he could bridge the gap between Bai Xiaosheng and his father.

In truth, Han He's Han Yewanhe Group intended to negotiate cooperation with Bai Xiaosheng's side.

Han Zizhi came today just to take advantage of this opportunity to benefit his own company.

Han Zizhi is Han He's own son and naturally holds significant shares in the Han Yewanhe Group, being one of the shareholders. He attends company decision-making meetings to listen in, which is also his father's painstaking effort to train his son.

A female secretary, upon hearing this, immediately took out her notebook to check.

The other added, "Indeed, the old chairman has put the plan on the agenda."

The secretary flipping through the notebook continued, "It's planned for later this month, within these ten days it will take place, and our group's Vice President Zhou is originally assigned to contact them."

"Old Zhou?" Han Zizhi squinted slightly, then took out his phone and dialed a number.

Soon the call connected.

Han Zizhi spoke to the person on the other end, "Old Zhou, are you in charge of contacting Zhenbei Group? When does it start?"

"Tomorrow? You arranged it quite quickly!"

"Now I tell you, the original travel plan is on hold for now."

"What do you mean 'why'! I will explain the reason to my father, just wait for the news!"

Han Zizhi, without leaving any room for argument, commanded Vice President Zhou and then rudely hung up the phone.

Afterward, Han Zizhi called his father, Han He.

Once the call connected, Han Zizhi adjusted his emotions, a natural smile appearing on his face, and first greeted, "Dad, have you eaten?"

"Still busy, take care of your health!"

On the other end of the line was a deep voice, low in volume yet full of presence, "Got it. Are you still outside? Come home for dinner tonight."

"Alright, I'll come home and join you for dinner tonight!" Han Zizhi quickly agreed, then paused slightly and added, "Just now, I went to see Bai Xiaosheng and had a little talk with him..."

"Oh? You talked with Bai Xiaosheng from Zhenbei Group?" Han He questioned suspiciously, "Isn't this matter under Old Zhou's responsibility?"

Knowing his son well, it seemed Han He detected something in his tone.

"I went to see Bai Xiaosheng not representing our family business, but as a part of my own ventures." Han Zizhi said, "Aren't I just thinking of expanding into new business areas and wanted to chat with Bai Xiaosheng first..."

"Your ventures..." Han He pondered briefly, "So what was the outcome of the talk?"

Upon being asked this, Han Zizhi immediately felt a bit irate, "That Bai Xiaosheng is unbelievably arrogant and rampant! He practically implied that my ventures aren't worthy of cooperating with him, dismissing my business as too small! I told him that our Han family intends to collaborate with him further! And what happened? He still acted disinterested and indifferent, which really made me lose my temper! Speaking of our Han family, I feel he lacks any respect or reverence for us or for you!"

Han Zizhi spoke with righteous indignation.

"Oh? What happened?" Han He's voice turned a little stern.

Once asked, Han Zizhi relayed his premeditated statement to his father.

Han Zizhi exaggerated some of Bai Xiaosheng's behaviors and added embellishments.

Han He listened silently until he finished.

Taking the opportunity, Han Zizhi continued, "This Bai Xiaosheng really disregarded us!"

Han Zizhi spared no effort in fanning the flames.

"Ha, why should Bai Xiaosheng give you face!" On the other end, Han He sneered, "Just because you are my son, Han He's son? I see you are using my name as a mantle, which is your problem!"

"Also, your business is getting a bit out of hand, any mature and visionary businessperson wouldn't agree to it!"

"I'm allowing you to take charge even if you fail, so you can gain some lessons to take back home and inherit the family business. Bai Xiaosheng's refusal to cooperate with you is also normal!"

Han He wasn't fooled by Han Zizhi at all.

Just as Han Zizhi was about to say more, Han He interrupted him sternly, "Enough, there's no need to say more! Come home for dinner tonight, that's that!"

After speaking, he hung up.

Putting down the phone, Han Zizhi looked at it, the corner of his mouth curling into a slight smile.

A son knows his father best.

His father must have absorbed what he said.

Bai Xiaosheng, due to your arrogance towards me today, you will lose the massive cooperation opportunity with our Han family, how foolish!

With this thought, Han Zizhi finally felt somewhat relieved, but then suddenly frowned, looking ahead, "Where are we heading?"

"According to your instruction, we're... just going straight." The driver hesitantly responded.

"My instruction? Did I say that? Making assumptions! Head home!" Han Zizhi reprimanded.

The driver, having suffered such grievances more than once or twice, said nothing in response and complied.

"And you two, what's going on! Where are the cigars and red wine!" Han Zizhi scolded.

...

At this moment, in a manor two hours away from Linshen, where the Han family residence is located.

In a study room, a sprightly elderly man in his sixties, with graying hair, stood at the desk. He was Han Zizhi's father, Han He.

Han He, expressionless, was holding a calligraphy brush and writing the character for magnanimity.

The first three characters were skillfully done, but due to the disturbance from Han Zizhi's call, the last character had some flaws.

Han He examined it, exhaling a slight, heavy sigh through his nose, then drew a large X on the final character with the brush before throwing it away, crumpling it.

Han He picked up the phone nearby and dialed a number, "Hello, Old Zhou."

"It's me. Don't make contact with Zhenbei Group yet."

"Because of Zizhi, it's not appropriate for you to go now."

After exchanging a few words, Han He hung up the phone, paced to the study's bay window, and stood with his back to the view outside.

"Bai Xiaosheng, you may have gone a bit too far."

"Even if Han Zizhi's business isn't worth investing in, he's still my son!"

Chapter 2325 - To Cooperate or to Compete

Han Zizhi left Bai Xiaosheng with nothing to show for his visit, leaving in frustration.

For a guy who's so full of himself, this ending is quite satisfying!

But after calming down, Lin Weiwei couldn't help but remind Bai Xiaosheng, "Sheng, while working with Han Zizhi wasn't consequential, his father, Han He, could be an excellent partner for us. The way we were so blunt with Han Zizhi today... was that really the right move?"

Lin Weiwei was somewhat concerned that Bai Xiaosheng might have created a rift with Han He.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled slightly, "Though the business world values relationships, in the end, it's all about strength. You've got to be strong to succeed; relying on flattery won't sustain a partnership. We are powerful enough that Han He will come to us for collaboration voluntarily. As for today's minor disagreements and unhappiness with his son, as a successful and exceptional businessman, he shouldn't take them to heart. Even if Han He does mind, so what! For us, not partnering with him is a small regret; for him not partnering with us, it's a major loss!"

Bai Xiaosheng sees this matter very clearly and believes someone like Han He should have such magnanimity.

It's worth noting that, to some extent, Han He is as renowned as Lu Yun, and Bai Xiaosheng is making this comparison with Lu Yun.

In Bai Xiaosheng's mind, Mr. Lu Yun holds an extremely high image as a sage-like businessman. Being comparable to Lu Yun, Han He likely isn't too narrow-minded.

Lin Weiwei listened and found it reasonable, nodding in agreement and ceased worrying about this issue.

While Lei Ying was not concerned from beginning to end.

Han Zizhi's visit concluded, for now.

Afterward, Bai Xiaosheng returned to his office and reviewed the key tasks of the headquarters for today.

As he was looking, the door to Bai Xiaosheng's office was knocked twice, and then Xiahou Qi entered with a smile, "Sheng."

Bai Xiaosheng looked up and saw Xiahou Qi, immediately smiling and standing up, walking around his desk, "Elder Xia, you haven't gone home to rest yet?"

It was already after normal office hours.

"Yes, I have something to discuss with you." Xiahou Qi smiled and walked over.

Bai Xiaosheng quickly guided him to the sofa, personally brewing tea.

As Xiahou Qi watched Bai Xiaosheng busy himself, he laughed, "I heard you talked with that kid from the Han Family, Han Zizhi, and ultimately didn't reach any agreement, letting him leave with nothing."

Bai Xiaosheng realized this was told by Li Haofeng to Xiahou Qi.

"Pretty much." Bai Xiaosheng laughed and confessed, pouring tea for Xiahou Qi and handing it over.

Taking the tea, Xiahou Qi laughed, "I heard that Han kid is quite arrogant, so this outcome isn't surprising. However, what I want to discuss with you next actually involves his family."

"Oh?" Bai Xiaosheng was surprised upon hearing this, looking at Xiahou Qi, waiting for him to continue.

"Here's the thing, didn't you want us to continually study our development direction in several industries for the second half of the year, and expand our strong partners?" Xiahou Qi said.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

Xiahou Qi continued, "Now, due to the national western development strategy, several provincial governments over there have recently launched industry support policies. We happen to be investing

over there, inadvertently catching a strategic opportunity. It's an exceptionally rare chance worth increasing our investment! Over time, it'll surely become a new growth engine for our revenue!"

The content Xiahou Qi talked about hadn't yet been formalized in written form, and Bai Xiaosheng had just returned, thus hearing about it for the first time, his eyes lit up.

Seeing Xiahou Qi speak with such enthusiasm, those opportunities must be extraordinary.

Bai Xiaosheng gladly said, "This is great news; as you mentioned it's an opportunity, I trust it's unmistakably so! Let's then increase investment, let loose, and go all out!"

In terms of development, Bai Xiaosheng has always been decisive.

"Put together a detailed plan, and I want to take a look." Bai Xiaosheng eagerly said.

Xiahou Qi chuckled, lifting his teacup, taking a sip, and said, "But here's the problem right now—"

Bai Xiaosheng was momentarily stunned.

Xiahou Qi continued, "While we coincidentally hold a great advantage there, another group similarly enjoys proximity and a vast resource advantage. This pie, if competing, involves risks; if cooperating, it minimizes strength. Of course, I believe cooperation is best. However, our attempts to contact the other enterprise yield no results."

Bai Xiaosheng thought of what Xiahou Qi had just said and immediately understood, "The big enterprise you're talking about is Han Yewanhe, right!"

Otherwise, why would Xiahou Qi initially say it was related to the Han family.

"Yes, it's Han Yewanhe!" Xiahou Qi nodded in acknowledgment.

"Several of Han Yewanhe's subsidiaries hesitated in connecting with us, saying they were waiting for directives from above. It seems Han Yewanhe also considers cooperating with us."

"I was actually prepared for this, thinking this time Han Zizhi came, sent by Han He."

"I had Li Haofeng put aside all priorities to engage him, thinking if he truly represented Han Yewanhe, I'd step in, even have Feng Li bring you back."

"But I didn't expect Han Zizhi was purely here representing himself."

"This leaves me somewhat perplexed, whether it's Han He's intention or Han Zizhi acting on his own accord."

Xiahou Qi explained this to Bai Xiaosheng.

Han Zizhi assumed Li Haofeng was just an ordinary subordinate, considering even the vice president of Han Yewanhe as no more than a hired worker.

Han Zizhi had no idea Li Haofeng's status with Bai Xiaosheng and Xiahou Qi was actually quite exceptional, mistakenly thinking he was being ignored.

"I can tell that Han Zizhi isn't carrying out any other tasks; he's not sent by his father. He just wants to use his family's name to talk business with me," Bai Xiaosheng paused and confidently said to Xiahou Qi, "In my view, his business is not worth cooperating with, so I let him go."

Bai Xiaosheng continued, "Now, listening to what you said, we can cooperate or compete with Han Yewanhe in several industries in the West."

Xiahou Qi nodded, "From a rational standpoint, cooperation is better; their family has the upper hand in those areas compared to our advantages. Of course, if we involve our allies in the country, the scenario changes significantly."

Xiahou Qi laughed, "Especially, I didn't expect that after returning this time, you managed to establish alliances with Jia Chengshan from Jia Group, Lu Tiandao from Wanhua Group, and Zhang Qinglin from Ziyu Group. Our actual team strength cannot be matched by their family."

"But cooperation is still the best choice, right?" Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

Despite Bai Xiaosheng's unimpressed view of Han Zizhi, he still preferred to become a collaborator with Han He.

Xiahou Qi nodded.

"Then let's arrange a high-level meeting and visit as soon as possible to discuss cooperation with Han He," Bai Xiaosheng said, "If things go smoothly, I'd like to meet Han He before going to Africa at the end of the month, hopefully securing some partnership terms."

Bai Xiaosheng is a practical person and swift to act.

Xiahou Qi laughed, "I knew you would make this decision; if we can cooperate, it's better to cooperate."

"But I've also said!" Xiahou Qi's expression slightly turned serious again, "With the strength we and our powerful group of allies possess, even if we venture into the new areas where the Han family has the advantage, we are not afraid! We can overpower those so-called local tyrants, so this is a backup plan; with this confidence, we don't need to give in to certain conditions!"

Bai Xiaosheng nodded accordingly.

To cooperate, he's not afraid; to compete, he doesn't fear.

This is the confidence of the strong!

Bai Xiaosheng continued chatting with Xiahou Qi until they finished a cup of tea.

Xiahou Qi put down his teacup, stood with a smile, "Alright, we've discussed what we need to; it's getting late, and I'm heading back for some rest. It's been a tiring day! Xiaosheng, you should go home early and rest too. In the coming days, you and Lin Weiwei, Lei Ying can visit your elders at home. I suppose, by the time you return, there will likely be some progress with the Han family."

Bai Xiaosheng also smiled and stood up, "Alright, as you say. Please rest early and delegate any tiring tasks to others; don't tire yourself out."

Xiahou Qi laughed and nodded, then headed out. Bai Xiaosheng personally escorted him out of the office.

After seeing Xiahou Qi off, Bai Xiaosheng returned to finish his paperwork, packed up his things, and called Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying to go back home.

That night passed without conversation.

The next day, Bai Xiaosheng held a high-level meeting, organized the framework for future work, and planned to visit home in a day or two.

By midday on the third day, Bai Xiaosheng received an invitation from a new friend - Chen Feiqiu.

On the phone, Chen Feiqiu said he was leaving Linshen and wanted to invite Bai Xiaosheng and others for a meal to express gratitude.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't refuse and arrived as agreed with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

Even though it was Chen Feiqiu's first time in Linshen, he picked a very nice place, a high-standard private restaurant, where prices per person start from a thousand.

But to this wealthy future chieftain, such a sum is really nothing.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng's trio again, Chen Feiqiu was very happy, smiling widely.

Bai Xiaosheng's trio had saved him greatly before, so he genuinely considers them friends.

"According to our Huaxia customs, this farewell banquet should actually be hosted by me, the local host," Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

"No, you all have been kind to me; if I don't even get to treat you to a meal, that would be heartbreaking! I'll be back; it's not like I'm gone for good. When I return, I'll invite you to my home," Chen Feiqiu joked in fluent Chinese to the three.

To this, Bai Xiaosheng smiled and also said, "There will be a chance."

Concerning going to Africa at the end of the month, Bai Xiaosheng didn't mention it to Chen Feiqiu. Firstly, Chen Feiqiu might not return to Africa at that time, and secondly, Bai Xiaosheng and his team are traveling with a group, which might not include stopping by Chen Feiqiu's country. So even if Bai Xiaosheng agrees, it might be useless.

Therefore, Bai Xiaosheng didn't mention it.

Chen Feiqiu chatted and laughed with Bai Xiaosheng, with Lin Weiwei occasionally joining in with jokes.

On the side, Gan, suddenly much less aloof, approached Lei Ying with a wide smile.

If Gan's Chinese were as fluent as Chen Feiqiu's, he would probably be calling Lei Ying "big brother" in a friendly manner.

Although Gan pretended to faint before, he secretly saw Lei Ying's incredible bravery and admired this warrior from the bottom of his heart.

Faced with this enthusiastic approach, Lei Ying was also courteous.

Overall, this meal was a joyous occasion for both hosts and guests.

After a satisfying meal and lengthy conversation, everyone bid farewell.

Bai Xiaosheng and others wished Chen Feiqiu a smooth journey; Chen Feiqiu thanked them again for their kindness and repeatedly emphasized that Bai Xiaosheng must visit his home someday, where he would treat them with great hospitality and so forth.

That day, they bade farewell to Chen Feiqiu.

The next day, Bai Xiaosheng and his group also set off on their journeys home to visit their families.

After all, they needed to prepare in advance for the African trip.

Chapter 2326 - When a Woman Comes of Age, She Should Marry

Bai Xiaosheng returned to his hometown to visit his parents and grandmother and brought gifts for all his elders and siblings. Thinking that the last visit was half a year ago and this time he could only stay for two days, Bai Xiaosheng cherished his time with his family.

He spent the time tending flowers and plants with his grandmother, playing chess with his father, and shopping with his mother—two days of simple and pleasant time.

Bai Xiaosheng's experiences in South America and North America had actually stirred up quite a stir online, which his family knew about and were glad he was okay.

Bai Minghang, Li Qiuyun, and grandmother Li Fengguan frequently reminded Bai Xiaosheng to be careful while away.

Even after promising them, they would still repeat themselves a few times, seeming a bit verbose. It's just how people get as they age; they worry more and, not knowing all of Bai Xiaosheng's situations, can only keep reminding him again and again.

Bai Xiaosheng naturally understood and listened patiently.

These words didn't bother him at all; instead, they warmed his heart.

On the third day, Lei Ying arrived.

Originally, Bai Xiaosheng and his two friends agreed to gather at his place that day and return to headquarters the next day.

Thus, this family visit was coming to an end.

However, until evening, Lin Weiwei still hadn't appeared.

Just as Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying were about to contact her, Lin Weiwei sent a video call.

At that time, Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying were sitting and having tea together, and they immediately connected to the video.

On the screen, Lin Weiwei had a slight frown with a hint of worry on her face.

"Xiaosheng, has Lei Ying arrived at your place?" Lin Weiwei actually already saw Lei Ying through the screen, hence her question.

"Yes." Bai Xiaosheng nodded, tilting the camera towards Lei Ying.

Lei Ying waved at the screen, greeting Lin Weiwei.

"You didn't come today. Are you planning to meet us at the station tomorrow?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

He thought Lin Weiwei's expression was because her time at home was too short, and she was reluctant to part with her family, wanting to stay an extra night.

This feeling was quite understandable.

Bai Xiaosheng naturally assumed so.

"No, I've run into trouble here and need help! Emergency call for assistance!" Lin Weiwei said urgently.

Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback, realizing he guessed wrong. He noticed the "worry" on Lin Weiwei's face seemed to have a different cause, not the emotion of parting.

"What happened? What's the matter?" Bai Xiaosheng put down his teacup and asked at once.

Lei Ying also listened attentively.

"I might not be able to leave." Lin Weiwei said with a wry smile, her expression one of both frustration and amusement. "My mom insists on setting me up for a blind date. If I don't agree to meet the guy tomorrow, she says she'll cut ties with me! My dad is also making a fuss! You guys come and get me out of here!"

Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying were left speechless.

The two exchanged looks, not expecting Lin Weiwei to face a "forced marriage" on her return home.

They had only heard of such things before, never encountered it, let alone thought Lin Weiwei would face it.

"Well, it could be a good thing. You might as well meet the guy. What if he's a handsome fellow? As long as it doesn't delay the schedule, it's fine." Lei Ying joked with a cheerful tone.

This big guy showed a surprisingly enthusiastic side.

"Meeting him wouldn't hurt; it might ease your parents' minds. If you don't like him, just don't contact him afterward." Bai Xiaosheng also said.

Besides all of Lin Weiwei's holdings, her bank savings already exceeded a hundred million, she's beautiful, and so young.

With such conditions, a blind date?

What kind of man could match her!

Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying found it unimaginable.

Perhaps it was some heir of a prominent family in her city?

Lin Weiwei looked at them with a resentful gaze, "What are those expressions... The situation is not what you think at all! It's hard to put into words... Anyway, you'll understand when you come over. Remember, you must be here by 9 a.m. tomorrow!"

Lin Weiwei said firmly.

"How can we rescue you then?" Lei Ying couldn't help but ask.

They couldn't just go to her house and tell her parents they were her colleagues and superiors, and that the company needed her immediately, so the blind date had to wait...

Obviously, that excuse wouldn't work...

Bai Xiaosheng was also puzzled.

This wasn't a business competition; they couldn't use schemes and had no time to prepare in advance.

"How about one of you two... either is fine, poses as my boyfriend temporarily to get through this." Lin Weiwei suddenly suggested in the video, her pretty face blushing, her gaze mostly on Bai Xiaosheng.

"That, that could work..."

Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying were momentarily stunned.

"Anyway, that's final! Otherwise, if I can't leave tomorrow, it'll be many days before I can, and my future troubles will be huge!" Lin Weiwei said vehemently, "If you refuse to help, don't agree at all!"

Then Lin Weiwei promptly hung up the video call.

On one side, Lin Weiwei placed a hand on her chest to calm her heartbeat, her face still flushed, murmuring, "I wonder if he'll agree to help me with this..."

Lin Weiwei looked charmingly distressed, feeling a bit anxious.

On the other side, Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying started a heated "discussion."

"That's actually a plan," Lei Ying said, then asked, "So who will act as Weiwei's boyfriend tomorrow?"

Bai Xiaosheng opened his mouth but hadn't uttered a word.

"You do it," Lei Ying interrupted decisively, saying, "I'm a married man; playing this role just doesn't feel right. Besides, I'm not good at socializing, and if her parents aren't satisfied later, it's a problem. Plus, considering your promising looks and future, I can't compete with you!"

Bai Xiaosheng looked at Lei Ying, his expression dark, "You're not lacking in eloquence? You speak quite fluently! You being a married man, well, I have a girlfriend! If Xuelian finds out, do you think I'll live?"

Upon hearing Bai Xiaosheng, Lei Ying chuckled, "Fine, we'll forget about Weiwei then. Anyway, since you're such a cold-hearted boss, not giving a hand, let her face the storm herself!"

Bai Xiaosheng was frustrated looking at Lei Ying, suddenly realizing he had underestimated this guy's verbal skills all along.

Lei Ying might not be talkative, but that doesn't mean he's not articulate.

"How about... we discuss it a bit more?" Bai Xiaosheng suggested softly.

"Sure," Lei Ying nodded with a smile, "In any case, no matter what, I'm not playing her boyfriend. That's on you. Everything else, let's discuss."

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at him sideways.

Then what's there to discuss!

"If there's really no other way," Bai Xiaosheng held his breath, "I'll do it! After all, it's just pretend..."

Chapter 2327 - Such a Man

Bai Xiaosheng's family and Lin Weiwei's family are in the same municipality, belonging to two small cities, but they are not far apart, only a little more than two hours' drive away.

Lin Weiwei and Bai Xiaosheng have been together for so many years, and now, her wealth has changed dramatically. She bought a comfortable big four-bedroom house for her family, and the development is even famous as a "luxury residence" locally, with unit prices double the local average.

After buying the house, Lin Weiwei frequently gives a large sum of money to the family to supplement household expenses. Outside, Mr. and Mrs. Lin boast to anyone they meet about how capable their daughter is, a senior white-collar worker, able to buy such a big house for the family, and being filial.

But as time went by, as Lin Weiwei aged, they became worried again.

A grown daughter must marry is a topic that cannot be avoided.

A daughter who never marries is a big problem, no matter how much money she earns, the two old parents can't be happy about it.

Outside, those who are jealous of the Lin family also started to gossip, spreading all kinds of rumors, saying all sorts of unpleasant things.

They claimed that the Lin family's daughter had a disease, didn't like men but women, and couldn't bear children...

Some even went as far as saying Lin Weiwei had become someone's mistress outside, and that was how she got the money to buy the house!

In short, the unpleasant words were more and more harsh.

Faced with some people pointing fingers and slandering them behind their backs, Mr. and Mrs. Lin were furious more than once, but it did no good.

Helplessly, they finally came up with a "solution," which was to have their daughter settle down in marriage.

This way, any rumor would collapse on its own.

However, Lin Weiwei has long avoided home and consistently resists this topic, which has been a major headache for the two elderly parents.

This time, with great difficulty, their daughter is back, and the couple is determined, despite all obstacles, to first solve the major life issue of their daughter.

At first, when Lin Weiwei heard about it, she adamantly refused, but couldn't resist her mom's tears and threats to break off their mother-daughter relationship.

In the end, Lin Weiwei had to concede.

She is a filial child who doesn't want her mother to be sad, so she thought she'd just go along with it for now.

In fact, even Mr. and Mrs. Lin do not know the true extent of Lin Weiwei's wealth, unaware that their daughter holds over a hundred million in savings and owns staggering valuable stock shares.

Mr. and Mrs. Lin naturally assumed their daughter is just a senior white-collar worker and told the matchmaker so when asking someone to arrange a marriage.

This time, the person introducing a date for Lin Weiwei also has the last name Lin. She usually has a good relationship with Lin Weiwei's mother, often calling each other sisters and can be considered a close older friend. Lin Weiwei even has to call her "Auntie."

But in truth, this Mrs. Lin has said plenty of those gossips about Lin Weiwei, and many are of her "original" creation.

Of course, Mr. and Mrs. Lin are unaware of this.

Mrs. Lin even considers her good sister as a true friend who cares deeply about her daughter's affairs, thinking she is quite nice.

Lin Weiwei initially decided to go to Bai Xiaosheng's house on the third day after returning home to join Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying. On the fourth day, the three of them would return to Linshen together.

At the moment, she can only handle this blind date first, fortunately, Mr. and Mrs. Lin also said, if all goes well, it wouldn't delay her return to the company.

Early in the morning, before eight o'clock, that Mrs. Lin arrived at their house, sat in the living room, drinking tea, and eating fruit, she started chatting with Mr. and Mrs. Lin.

Lin Weiwei had heard before that the person introduced to her might be a bit older in age, have a somewhat solitary disposition, and possess a more traditional nature, which is why she told Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying that she was not looking forward to it.

At this moment, Mrs. Lin's voice in the living room was quite loud, so much so that Lin Weiwei heard without meaning to what conditions the man introduced to her had.

"Oh dear, to speak of the young man I introduced to our Weiwei, he's really something! Mind you, he is an honest and proper civil servant in our city. Although his salary isn't very high, his job is respectable! He is also honest, reliable, and considerate. Our Weiwei would be enjoying herself living with him."

Listening to Mrs. Lin's tone, if it weren't for her daughter being already married, she'd want this son-in-law herself.

"Yes, we're truly grateful to you for this," Mrs. Lin said with a smile.

Mr. Lin also expressed his gratitude continuously.

"To speak of girls, no matter how much they earn, in the end, they still have to get married! Working hard for money only to become a haggard old maiden, in the end, isn't it a lost deal? 'Marry a man to clothe and feed, it's the man's job to provide for the family, no matter how much you earn, it ends up benefiting the husband's family, not our own family. It's better if she marries early, then our hearts can settle, and it's better to hug a grandchild sooner!"

These words from Mrs. Lin made Mr. and Mrs. Lin nod repeatedly in agreement.

In her room, Lin Weiwei couldn't help but roll her eyes.

Apart from greeting when Mrs. Lin first arrived, Lin Weiwei truly didn't want to interact with that woman anymore, more so as not to let her parents lose face, so she excused herself, saying she needed to groom and dress up, and returned to her room.

Hearing Mrs. Lin outside boasting about the matchmaking partner, Lin Weiwei felt not the slightest spirit.

Finally, Mrs. Lin switched her topic and said to Mr. and Mrs. Lin, "This young man, he doesn't mind Weiwei's high education, doesn't mind her earning more than him, and is willing to meet our girl. So, naturally, he also has some... imperfections."

In her room, Lin Weiwei found it amusing.

Since when did having a high education and earning more become a disadvantage, requiring someone else not to look down on it?

Is it this Mrs. Lin who has issues, or is it the outside world that has fallen ill?

Mrs. Lin, somewhat hesitantly, said, "I have to tell you ahead of time, that, that young man is older than Weiwei, I just found out, he's some... seven or eight years older."

"That much older!" Mrs. Lin exclaimed in shock, "Didn't you say four or five years before!"

"That's what I had heard before, only realized now it's seven or eight years." Mrs. Lin sounded "wronged," saying, "I say, sister, this little older is good, older men do cherish women."

With this said, Mrs. Lin also fell silent.

"Well, let's at least meet," Mr. Lin also said dully.

Seven or eight years? Any older and they'd be setting me up with a father, Lin Weiwei sighed in frustration in her room.

"And also..." Mrs. Lin started cautiously again outside.

"What else?!" Mr. and Mrs. Lin couldn't help but call out in surprise.

In the room, Lin Weiwei couldn't help but grip her eyebrow trimmer, sneering repeatedly as she was curious to know what other flaws that man had.

"Before, there was... he had a wife who left, ran away with someone," Mrs. Lin continued.

"He's divorced!" Mrs. Lin exclaimed.

"How can this be!" Mr. Lin also shouted.

In her room, Lin Weiwei felt both angry and amused, herself a high-educated, young, beautiful, and high-income woman, being introduced to an older, lame, divorced man!

This is such a damn lousy date!

"No, this won't do!" Mr. and Mrs. Lin were also set to refuse.

Just then, the doorbell rang outside. Mrs. Lin quickly said, "The man is here, you can't just refuse to meet at all, even if there are flaws, he is a civil servant, meet him whether it works or not."

By now, Mr. and Mrs. Lin also stopped talking.

One of the couple went to open the door to welcome the guest, while the other stood outside Lin Weiwei's room, knocked on the door and, with a slightly awkward tone, said, "Sweetie, he's here, why not just meet him first?"

Chapter 2328 - World-Class Jerk

Under Mrs. Lin's call, Lin Weiwei opened the door to her room. Facing her mother, her face was filled with resentment, and her eyes were on the verge of intolerance.

A daughter giving her mother this look means she's really been pushed to her limit.

"I mean, do you really see your daughter as so undesirable that she needs to be with such a man?!" Lin Weiwei said with a voice full of grief and frustration.

Faced with her daughter's expression, Madam Lin also felt a bit awkward and guilty, embarrassed.

The more Mrs. Lin thought about it, the more she felt dissatisfaction with that man too, but they had already agreed to the meeting. Besides, he was introduced by her good friend, and he's right at their doorstep. It would be too impolite not to meet him. Both she and her husband are educated people, and they couldn't lower themselves to do such a thing.

"At least meet him, after all, it was Mrs. Lin who introduced him, and he's already here." As Mrs. Lin continued, her voice grew softer, full of pleading.

Lin Weiwei remained silent.

Gathering her resolve, Mrs. Lin said, "Just meet him today, and if you're not satisfied, we can talk about it later. At worst... I won't bring up arranged meetings with you again this year!"

With Mrs. Lin's words, Lin Weiwei found this condition acceptable and reluctantly nodded.

"Oh, my little girl, please don't keep a stern face, give your mom some face, and smile!" Mrs. Lin pleaded gently.

Lin Weiwei mechanically opened her mouth, revealing her white teeth, as if she was smiling.

Mrs. Lin couldn't bear to watch and quickly nodded, "Alright, alright, that's fine."

With that, mother and daughter walked towards the living room together.

Mrs. Lin went to call Lin Weiwei when Mr. Lin was opening the door.

When the door opened, there stood a man outside.

At first glance, Mr. Lin thought it was the parents of the other party who had arrived.

The man had a bit of a receding hairline and wore outdated clothes, making him look much older. In contrast, Mr. Lin himself looked more fashionable and youthful in his attire.

He almost called the man "old brother."

"Are you Mr. Lin? I'm Chen." The man said cheerfully, making Mr. Lin finally realize who had come.

So this is the man who is seven or eight years older than my daughter, the one intended to be introduced as her partner!

My goodness! They've really found a father for my daughter!

Mr. Lin immediately felt dissatisfied, but still forced a smile on his face.

"Chen... ah, come in, please." Mr. Lin adjusted his mood and invited him in.

Chen walked into the Lin Family, looking around with evident satisfaction towards the big house.

Then, Chen noticed Mr. Lin observing him, he smiled immediately and raised his hand, revealing a bag of green tangerines. However, the tangerines didn't look good, like leftover goods from a fruit stand.

"I brought you some fruits, just a token." Chen said with a smile.

Mr. Lin glanced at them, his mouth twitching, and dryly laughed, "Look at you... just coming is enough, no need to bring anything..."

Visiting someone's house for the first time, especially on a blind date, if not a fruit basket, buying several kinds of fruits would be better. Bringing a humble bag of tangerines already looks bad, and the worst part is, they seem leftover...

Mr. Lin, being a cultured person, despite feeling a bit displeased inside, didn't show it on his face and led Chen into the living room.

This Chen, surprisingly, was rather oblivious, still discussing the bag of tangerines with Mr. Lin.

"Fruit is so expensive nowadays! Almost as costly as meat! Ordinary folks can hardly afford it. Look at what I bought, a real bargain, yes, it was two dollars cheaper." Chen said with evident satisfaction.

He seemed to think that saying this would show he was efficient and knew how to live.

Mr. Lin responded ambiguously.

As they spoke, Chen continued glancing around the Lin family's big house, commenting, "Your house is really large, spacious, even with a few more people living in it, it wouldn't feel crowded!"

"Indeed." Mr. Lin replied casually.

"However, let me tell you, the area your house is located isn't as good as mine. We live in an old community with just dozens of square meters, but it's in the real city center, and in a few years once it's redeveloped, we'll get at least ten apartments in compensation. I'm a public servant, well-informed, and it won't be long before the government relocates our area." Chen said importantly.

As he spoke, Chen walked further inside, his uneven steps made Mr. Lin's head ache.

Heard it's a work-related injury, and Chen insists on not retiring early, considering it a badge of hard work and merit.

From the entrance to the living room, Chen was chatting nonstop about the value of his property.

Mr. Lin wasn't particularly knowledgeable about it, casually replying, "This place was bought by my daughter."

With that, Chen discovered a new topic.

"Women going out every day, exhausting themselves, is not good—it's better for Huaxia women to stay at home, doing chores and taking care of kids." Chen wasn't shy about sharing his views, "Don't you think?"

They arrived at the living room as he spoke.

And Mr. Lin happened not to feel like answering that question.

Mrs. Lin was sitting on the sofa, smiling and calling out, "Ah, Chen's here, you're quite punctual."

"Yes, Mrs. Lin, we who are in civil service do value punctuality." Chen immediately smiled and said, sounding as if he were some big leader.

"Come over and sit." Mrs. Lin invited Chen.

At this moment, Lin Weiwei and Mrs. Lin also entered the living room.

Actually, earlier, the mother and daughter had already heard Chen's extremely chauvinistic words.

Chapter 2329 - World's Finest (Part 2)

Lin Weiwei immediately frowned, pouted, and showed a face full of disgust.

Although Mrs. Lin also found it unpleasant to hear, she still quickly shook her head slightly at her daughter to restrain her.

Just as Chen was about to sit down, he noticed Lin Weiwei and her mother, and his gaze instantly fixed on Lin Weiwei's face.

Not only is Lin Weiwei very beautiful, but she also exudes an aura that sets her apart from ordinary women, having spent years in the high-end workforce and upper society.

Chen stared so intently that his eyes almost popped out, his expression practically drooling.

Upon seeing such an expression, Lin Weiwei, who had never been stared at so lewdly, would have exploded on the spot if her mother hadn't discreetly nudged her in the back.

"Ah, Weiwei, you're out!" Mrs. Lin's friend stood up with a smile and warmly said, "Come, let me introduce you two."

Lin Weiwei forced a smile for her mother's friend.

"This is Chen, a promising young deputy director in our city's government system." The friend introduced Chen first, and he quickly corrected her with a smile, "Oh no, actually, the higher-ups are currently discussing promoting me to director, and it's practically a done deal."

Chen spoke with full confidence, his expression full of pride, "The head of the department has even talked to me about it."

"Great, young and promising!" In front of Mr. and Mrs. Lin and Lin Weiwei, Mrs. Lin's friend gave Chen a thumbs up.

Chen feigned modesty with a wave of his hand, but his smile was unabashedly broad.

Lin Weiwei could hardly dare look at him, fearing she might walk out if she couldn't control herself.

"This is Lin Weiwei, a senior white-collar employee at a major company." Her mother's friend introduced her with a simple sentence.

Chen smiled and nodded at Lin Weiwei, with an air of inspecting a subordinate like a superior.

Encouraged by her mother's hint, Lin Weiwei reluctantly nodded back with a forced smile.

"Come, come, sit down, you young people chat." Mrs. Lin's friend laughed, inviting the two to sit.

Lin Weiwei, having no other choice, sat across from Chen with reluctance.

"Oh dear, let the young ones talk, let's not disturb them." Mrs. Lin's friend winked at Mr. and Mrs. Lin, signaling for them to leave.

Mr. and Mrs. Lin agreed that whether it worked out or not should be decided by the young ones, and they'd rather not be in the way, so they retreated behind the living room partition.

Once the others left, Chen quickly showed his enthusiasm and initiative, saying to Lin Weiwei, "Xiao Lin, where do you work? I heard it's in another city. Have you considered coming back to develop in our hometown? I know a lot of business friends here, they all respect me, getting you... this what... a manager position wouldn't be a problem at all!"

Hearing this, Lin Weiwei couldn't help but want to laugh.

In her usual work, the top executives managing companies with thousands of employees frequently lined up to report to her.

A manager position was nothing to her!

Lin Weiwei couldn't help but glance at the time, silently blaming Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying for not showing up yet to rescue her, whilst casually responding to the self-important Chen, "No need, I'm quite happy with my current job."

Chen looked regretful and watched Lin Weiwei as she poured a glass of water and sipped it gracefully, thinking even her drinking was attractive, suddenly saying uncontrollably, "But if we're together in the future, we can't be living in separate places all the time."

Lin Weiwei choked on her water, almost spitting it on his face.

What's this guy thinking!

They weren't even close to being a couple, and he was already daydreaming!

Sheng, Lei Ying, hurry up and come rescue me!

Lin Weiwei really felt tormented, feeling out of place in her own living room.

Yet Chen remained oblivious, not noticing Lin Weiwei's change in expression, and commented admiringly at the big house, "This house is really nice! Hey, do you mind living with the in-laws? If everything works out between us, I hope my mom could move in with us, you wouldn't mind, right?"

Lin Weiwei was so taken aback she nearly stopped breathing.

She almost wanted to bow down to this guy, wondering what on earth was going through his mind!

He was already dreaming about marriage and moving in together!

From behind the wall, Mr. and Mrs. Lin exchanged disapproving glances at Mrs. Lin's friend.

Mrs. Lin's friend's face also tensed slightly.

"This... Bringing up such a topic at first meeting is quite inappropriate. But look at it this way... He's honest! This guy talks so straightforwardly without any slyness or deceitfulness!" Mrs. Lin's friend continued, trying to smooth over the situation.

Mr. Lin couldn't help but roll his eyes.

Some subtlety wouldn't hurt...

At that moment, the doorbell suddenly rang.

Chen instinctively turned to look.

Lin Weiwei, already unable to wait any longer, jumped up, saying, "Oh my, guests are here! Let me get the door!"

Lin Weiwei didn't want to spend another moment with Chen and rushed to answer the door before he could react.

With guests arriving, Mr. and Mrs. Lin couldn't stay hidden anymore and promptly came out.

Mrs. Lin's friend followed behind.

As Mr. and Mrs. Lin headed towards the hallway, Mrs. Lin's friend hurried to communicate with Chen, scolding him for his inappropriateness, "I say, what were you thinking of saying all that! Be more discreet, okay..."

...

When Lin Weiwei opened the door and saw the incredibly handsome Bai Xiaosheng and the tall, strong Lei Ying, she was so excited she almost cried.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying were surprised to see Lin Weiwei looking both aggrieved and delighted, all charmingly adorable.

What happened here?

How could Weiwei look like this at home—had they arrived late?

Bai Xiaosheng wondered internally.

But it wasn't even nine o'clock yet.

As Lin Weiwei stood there, speechless with emotion, Mr. and Mrs. Lin also arrived at the door.

"Weiwei, who's here?" Mrs. Lin asked, suddenly noticing the two men outside the door, one handsome, the other tall, and couldn't help but feel surprised.

Mr. Lin was also curious as he looked at Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying.

Lin Weiwei composed herself and turned to her parents with a smile, "They're my friends and colleagues."

Then, she leaned in and whispered to her mother, "One of them even has a crush on me and wants to pursue me."

Lin Weiwei, hoping Bai Xiaosheng would be her rescuer, but unsure which one would act as her boyfriend, kept her words vague.

"What?" Mrs. Lin exclaimed softly.

She quickly quieted down and gave Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying a sidelong glance, somewhat disapprovingly murmuring to Lin Weiwei, "Why didn't you mention something like this earlier?"

Mr. Lin's eyes also sparkled with interest.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying pretended not to hear, still wearing their smiles.

"Oh, come in quickly, come in." Mrs. Lin smiled warmly, inviting Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying inside.

Mr. Lin glanced between Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying, trying to deduce which one was his daughter's suitor.

However, no matter which one, he felt they were leagues better than the one sitting inside.

"Auntie, we're here to pick up Weiwei and head back to the company, and also visit you and uncle at the same time." Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, "Although I'm technically Weiwei's superior, I'm very... fond of her, and I've always wanted to visit her home."

Speaking so, Bai Xiaosheng glanced at Lin Weiwei with eyes full of affection, unmistakably expressing his feelings for her.

If it's a performance, Bai Xiaosheng played his part exceptionally well.

Lin Weiwei blushed immediately, her cheeks turning red with shyness.

Mr. and Mrs. Lin, experienced as they were, naturally understood their daughter's feelings. Seeing the young, promising, and charming Bai Xiaosheng, they were undoubtedly pleased.

"Yes, yes, let's talk inside." Mr. Lin warmly and enthusiastically invited the two of them.

Inside the living room, Mrs. Lin's friend and Chen peeked out, alerted by the commotion.

Mrs. Lin's friend couldn't help but remark to Chen in surprise, "How come... there's even a rival in the picture!"

Chen's expression immediately turned wary and indignant.

"Who's come that dares to compete with me? I'm a certified government official, why would I be afraid of him!"

Chapter 2330 - The Blind Date Candidate Ran Away...

Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying were passionately invited into the living room by Mr. and Mrs. Lin, followed by Lin Weiwei who also had a cheerful smile, looking quite different from her earlier absent-minded, unsmiling demeanor.

The Lin family displayed great enthusiasm toward Bai Xiaosheng.

It was obvious at first glance that he was the one pursuing Lin Weiwei.

Sitting in the living room, Mrs. Lin's eyes brightened involuntarily upon seeing Bai Xiaosheng, then looked at the Chen she brought along, and felt he was indeed overshadowed, unable to compare.

That Chen looked at Bai Xiaosheng with hostile eyes, yet he felt this guy's qualifications couldn't possibly measure up to his own.

"Oh, there's a guest at home?" Mrs. Lin smiled proactively.

"Ah, this is Weiwei's boss, he takes good care of her, and came to visit on purpose," Mrs. Lin replied to Mrs. Lin with a full smile.

In front of Chen, Mrs. Lin didn't mention Bai Xiaosheng's pursuit of her daughter.

But just now at the door, the chatter was quite loud, and Mrs. Lin believed both Mrs. Lin and Chen heard it; anyway, that's good, everyone understands the situation without saying it, saving any awkwardness.

Comparing Bai Xiaosheng with Chen, Mrs. Lin really couldn't appreciate Chen this time.

"Come, come, take a seat, I'll brew some tea," Mr. Lin laughed heartily, lifting his foot to brew tea.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying politely nodded at Mrs. Lin and Chen, counted as greeting.

Though surprised inside that the Lin family's daughter would have such a pursuer, feeling jealous, Mrs. Lin nodded with a smile, showing no trace of anything unusual.

But Chen kept a cold face, and when Bai Xiaosheng greeted him, he just snorted casually through his nose, appearing very condescending.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying did take a few extra glances at Chen.

With Bai Xiaosheng's perception and Lei Ying's sharpness, they naturally sensed Mrs. Lin's discomfort and Chen's awkwardness.

They suddenly understood these two's identities, fearing they are the "matchmaker" and "blind date" mentioned by Lin Weiwei over the phone.

This man seemed ugly and old, bald, yet somehow full of pride.

How could he match Weiwei!

Bai Xiaosheng felt a bit of heartache for Lin Weiwei, got angry at Mrs. Lin for introducing such a thing to Weiwei, and felt great displeasure towards Chen's arrogance and his 'frog wanting to eat swan meat' attitude.

Bai Xiaosheng proactively smiled and said to the two of them, "I heard someone was coming to woo Weiwei today, I actually like her too, so I came! Everyone pursues outstanding girls!"

At this point, Bai Xiaosheng apologized to Mrs. Lin, "Auntie, do you think I'm being a bit presumptuous?"

Mrs. Lin quickly smiled, "Not at all! You are always welcome to come!"

In the meantime, Mr. Lin came out with freshly brewed tea, laughing and said, "Exactly, it's rare for our home to be lively, we wish for you all to come more often!"

Bai Xiaosheng's public declaration not only didn't make Mr. and Mrs. Lin uncomfortable, but made them happy.

Beside him, Lin Weiwei shyly showed a timid smile.

Mrs. Lin could only smile along.

Chen felt somewhat aggravated, but before he could speak, Bai Xiaosheng sincerely smiled at him and Mrs. Lin, "So, Uncle and Auntie, is it your son who's coming to meet Weiwei? He hasn't arrived yet?"

With this sentence, Mrs. Lin and Chen instantly froze.

Mr. and Mrs. Lin quickly corrected, "No, no, you got it wrong." "This young man is the one Mrs. Lin introduced."

Chen twitched his eye at Bai Xiaosheng, feeling rampant beasts inside his mind: Damn, am I really so old, looking like a pair with that old woman?

Bai Xiaosheng "oh-ed" and apologetically smiled at Chen and said, "I'm really sorry, brother, I misspoke, don't take offense. But... you do look a bit mature!"

Bai Xiaosheng was also reminding him, he wasn't a match for Weiwei!

Lin Weiwei knew Bai Xiaosheng did it on purpose, and she held back her laughter.

"I'm an 80s kid!" Chen angrily emphasized to Bai Xiaosheng through gritted teeth.

He wished he could throw his ID card in that guy's face to let him see clearly.

According to the lunar calendar, he was just at the tail end of '79, but by the solar calendar, he was genuinely born in January of 1980!

Seeing Chen's tragic look, Mr. and Mrs. Lin felt it was very inappropriate, yet couldn't help but want to laugh.

Lin Weiwei also pursed her lips, turning her head sideways.

Chen wasn't stupid, upon seeing Bai Xiaosheng's amused eyes, he immediately understood.

This guy was being mischievous!

No wonder Chen was in the bureaucratic world, he took a deep breath despite his hatred towards Bai Xiaosheng, and calmed down quickly, thinking of taking charge and being proactive.

If he really argued in front of Mr. and Mrs. Lin with this young man, wouldn't he lose his dignity?

"Hey, brother, you also came to see Uncle and Auntie, why did you come empty-handed?" Chen coldly laughed at Bai Xiaosheng.

His bag of tangerines was still on the restaurant table, so he felt he was more considerate than Bai Xiaosheng!

"Oh dear, yes, youngster, it's your first time coming to our daughter's home, at least you should have brought some fruit or something," Mrs. Lin quickly chimed in with a smile.

Although Bai Xiaosheng was talking about Chen, she was Chen's introducer, the two sharing prosperity and loss.