

Two Trillion 2431

Chapter 2431 - A Hasty Ending

The Huaxia Business Group arrived in the third country in the evening—Lekram, with its arrival city being the strongest economic capital, Mulango.

Upon arrival, the Huaxia Business Group received a very grand welcome.

The next morning, the group was greeted with another grand welcoming ceremony, which lasted until noon, followed by a luncheon, and in the afternoon, a series of meetings.

On the third day of their arrival, it was still a day of welcoming, meetings, and visits, repeating the schedule of the second day.

In these two days, the group didn't have any arrangements for outside investigation trips.

During these days, Bai Xiaosheng received messages like snowflakes from Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

The investigation was said to be advancing rapidly, like a thousand miles a day. It was originally thought there would be many obstacles and twists in the investigation, but unexpectedly, it went incredibly smoothly, as if aided by divine forces.

Some investigations clearly had no leads, yet unexpected clues kept emerging, leading to unexpected turns.

According to Lin Weiwei, Cilio's overreach was so severe even the heavens couldn't bear watching.

However, Lei Ying believed it was Wen Yan's people and resources that provided strong support.

In any case, new discoveries and new achievements were continuously sent to Bai Xiaosheng.

According to the assessments by Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, at this rate, the investigation could be completed in less than a week.

The executive vice president for the African region, Cilio, was done for this time, regardless of who his father was.

Yet, on the fourth day of the investigation, the situation changed.

First, the latest progress and newest clues suddenly halted, and many pieces of evidence that were about to be acquired were "accidentally" lost or destroyed.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying suspected Brown was secretly meddling, taking decisive measures to nip a bigger crisis in the bud.

Furthermore, their investigation started facing non-cooperation from the target enterprises. Although no one openly resisted, cases of insincere compliance clearly increased, and even the elite in the oversight department were left helpless.

Soon after, that afternoon, the group's headquarters held a meeting of the highest level — the fifteen-member meeting.

Naturally, the highest meeting was missing some attendees, but it was more than enough to handle the situation of one large region.

Bai Xiaosheng heard from Jiang Kuo afterward that during the meeting, Brown claimed that Bai Xiaosheng and their investigation into the African region's group enterprises had gone too far, affecting the normal operations of many key enterprises and causing significant losses.

Brown also said that at this stage, the investigation had reached a conclusion, with no new situations arising, and it could be temporarily stopped.

It turned out these days Brown had been busy all around the group's headquarters, surprisingly gathering a considerable number of supporters.

What was most surprising was that the head of the oversight department, Wen Yan, for reasons unknown, also seemed to silently agree with Brown's viewpoint.

Ultimately, Zhenbei Group's headquarters high-level meeting decided that the current investigation in the African region's enterprises, except for following up on specific issues, would be temporarily stopped. The investigation team was to submit their findings, and immediate processing was to be done for the responsible parties concerning the issues.

The meeting was called quickly, ended quickly, and notifications were issued even quicker.

Upon receiving the notification, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying immediately contacted Bai Xiaosheng, feeling very discontented and even angry about the content of the notification.

Judging by the investigation's current achievements, the executive vice president for the African region, Cilio, was found to have serious violations, and a major dereliction of duty, but nothing more serious. The severest consequences were merely a suspension from duty, without dismissal or prosecution.

What use is mere suspension? If given the opportunity, Cilio might even make a comeback in the future!

It's unknown whether the group's high-level management is turning a blind eye to the local issues or deliberately muddying the waters. Many key issues had already shown signs, yet they were still not allowing further investigations!

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were dissatisfied.

Moreover, the "punishment" received by Brown was merely a "severe reprimand" from the group headquarters due to negligence.

Totally toothless!

The saying goes, leaving a snake alive leads to future harm. The high-level management above the group headquarters may not see any issue with these results, but the initiators of this investigation, Bai

Xiaosheng and his team, might very well become targets of the Brown father and son duo, potentially facing unknown retaliations.

A thousand days as a thief, but no way to guard against theft for a thousand days.

This is where Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying's biggest dissatisfaction and concern lie.

"I heard that Mr. Wen Yan even tacitly agreed with Brown's proposal, which is essentially undermining us. It's really hard to understand Mr. Wen Yan's reasoning! Xiaosheng, you need to give him a call and talk to him!"

Lin Weiwei also had some discontent with Mr. Wen Yan.

"I'll go and communicate with Mr. Wen Yan. Now you both hand over your work to the oversight department personnel and come back. I'm also starting to investigate new enterprises and need to discuss collaboration, I need you both," Bai Xiaosheng's words to Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were like an order.

Despite feeling reluctant, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying complied with Bai Xiaosheng's words.

That night, the two took a flight to Mulango, returning to Bai Xiaosheng's side.

In the evening, the announcement regarding the handling of issues in the African region was officially released by the whole group, unsurprisingly matching Bai Xiaosheng and his team's previous speculation:

Brown was named and criticized; Cilio was temporarily suspended from duty.

The responsible persons of the problematic enterprises received varying degrees of punishment according to the severity of their offenses...

At night, Bai Xiaosheng specifically arranged a small "celebration banquet" to console Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

The two ate gloomily and were unhappy.

Bai Xiaosheng, however, joked and laughed, encouraging them to see things more openly.

Chapter 2432 - A Hasty Ending (Part 2)

After all, with someone as experienced and well-connected as Mr. Brown, how could he be taken down by an investigation initiated by such an unexpected incident?

As for personal vendettas, there's no need to worry; at this point, they wouldn't dare to cause trouble and will keep a low profile.

Moreover, Wen Yan mentioned that Mr. Brown has garnered support from more than half the people, the outcome is already fixed, so it's not appropriate to push too hard; it's just a matter of going along with the flow and acknowledging fate.

"Besides, we're here in Africa to seek cooperation with major companies, not to stir up trouble or bad luck. Getting these current results isn't bad, so there's no need to be overly concerned." Bai Xiaosheng concluded.

Bai Xiaosheng's open-mindedness caught Lin Weiwei's attention, and she muttered, "Are you still the Xiaosheng I remember—intolerant of evil with not a grain of sand allowed in your eyes? You're becoming quite smooth."

"A bit smooth indeed," Lei Ying shrugged, raising his glass. "Alright, it's already come to this; there's no need to dwell on it. Cilio's suspension is quite a catch. Come on, let's have a drink! Once you've had a glass, any unpleasantness vanishes!"

"That's the spirit!" Bai Xiaosheng smiled, raising his glass, while looking at Lin Weiwei.

Feeling both annoyed and amused, Lin Weiwei had no choice but to raise her glass as well.

"Cheers!" "Cheers!"

With different tones, their glasses clinked.

While drinking, Bai Xiaosheng remained composed outwardly, but the voice of Red Lotus kept sounding in his mind.

The investigation started well, although the ending was abrupt, there were significant gains.

At the very least, several problematic companies were investigated, Mr. Brown was held accountable, and Cilio was suspended. These are accomplishments and scores.

"The newly processed companies are..., the penalties for problematic individuals are..., the scores obtained are..."

Red Lotus continually calculating scores, to Bai Xiaosheng's ears, was the most pleasant sound.

"Due to serious issues in the African Division, Executive Vice President Cilio has been suspended. Based on this result, the score obtained is—ten points!"

This sudden notification made Bai Xiaosheng's heart skip a beat, and the glass he was holding trembled.

Investigating an Executive Vice President yields such a high score; one individual is worth ten!

To Bai Xiaosheng, this was truly an unexpected surprise, a delight within a surprise.

Red Lotus continued, "In the African Division, Mr. Brown was criticized by the Group headquarters for dereliction of duty. Based on this result, the score obtained is—five points!"

This score isn't low either!

After all, Mr. Brown was merely named, yet it amounts to half of the suspended Cilio's score!

"In summary, the score obtained this time is—twenty-two points!"

"Currently, the score at the business president level is fifty points, only fifty points away from the Vice Chairman level, please continue the efforts!"

The final score given by Red Lotus almost made Bai Xiaosheng laugh aloud.

Gaining twenty-two points in one go, just comparing this, the investigation wasn't in vain!

If he went to two more major regions and conducted similar investigations...

This thought barely emerged before Bai Xiaosheng dismissed it.

Firstly, how could he wish for problems in every major region of the Group? That's not what he should hope for. Secondly, North America, South America, and Africa have all been thoroughly dealt with by him; the European Division is managed by Soruns, while the Asian Division is the home turf, with no issues; the remaining is just the Australian Division, making it complete with six business units; if Bai Xiaosheng wanted to go to Australia, they'd probably be wary of him there...

Bai Xiaosheng kept these thoughts to himself, not even sharing them with close friends Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying didn't notice Bai Xiaosheng's brief moment of peculiarity.

While some were celebrating, others were furious.

Fuming at this moment was Cilio, in his study, everything that could be smashed or broken did not escape disaster.

Cilio could not understand why his father didn't take decisive action immediately to make up for lost time, to cover things up and clean up his mess. His father had that capability!

Cilio resented those corporate leaders who had deceived him, and for misreporting. Originally, he had exploited a 'one,' yet the investigation revealed a 'five,' the discrepancy was so vast that he felt "wronged".

Yet, undoubtedly, Cilio despised Bai Xiaosheng the most.

If it weren't for this meddlesome Huaxia person suddenly showing up at my house to cause trouble, I wouldn't be in this situation!

"You destroyed my future, ruined my career, Bai Xiaosheng, I'm not done with you!" Cilio shouted as he raised a chair and smashed it against the wall, his eyes bloodshot and panting heavily.

Thinking about his future at Zhenbei Group being buried, all his years of effort going to waste, while Tike effortlessly ascended, made Cilio even angrier.

Right at that moment, a phone call came in.

As the cellphone rang, Cilio realized he "had something else he could smash," and immediately picked up his phone to throw it against the wall.

But as he swung his arm, he ultimately held back.

The phone screen showed that the caller was none other than his father—Mr. Brown.

Cilio was very angry but eventually calmed himself and answered the call.

"How are you doing?" On the other end of the line, Brown asked with a drawl.

"I'm fine." Cilio replied in a muffled voice.

Brown sneered over the phone, "Fine? How many times has your place been renovated? Do you really think I don't know? You're such a temperamental guy; whenever you get angry, you plan a redecoration. Did you wreck your place again this time?"

No one understands the child like the father; there's no hiding it.

Cilio remained silent.

"I'll be flying back in a couple of days; I've managed to smooth things over here. Heh, those old-timers, each one demanding like a lion. I'll have to satisfy their appetites when I return." Brown continued indifferently, "With this incident, I hope you grow up quickly, son."

"Do I still have a chance?" Cilio coldly asked.

He was referring to his suspension.

"It's just a suspension, of course, you still have chances, plenty of them!" Brown snorted, "If you can't handle this little setback, how will you accomplish anything big?"

"You must be wondering why I didn't take action at the beginning of the investigation, son. I had to let those who wanted to see results get some. Otherwise, they wouldn't have backed down."

"I kept a close eye on the investigation progress, intervening at the right moment. There's a lot to savor here. Keeping all sides satisfied while preventing us from suffering irreparable loss is a skill..."

Brown's words made Cilio frown.

Though he disliked it, he felt there was some truth in it.

"Just stay put until I return, and don't cause any more trouble during this time!"

Brown's stern warning ended the call.

After finishing the call, Cilio, without hesitation, "naturally" threw the phone against the wall, smashing it into pieces.

"This old man, still treats me like a child!"

...

Meanwhile.

Caroline was also talking to Vice Chairman Morgan about the day's high-level meeting at headquarters.

"I didn't expect Brown indeed has a few tricks up his sleeve, managing to rally so many supporters, even Wen Yan tacitly approved," Caroline couldn't help but want to praise Brown.

"Given today's situation at the meeting, even if Wen Yan disagreed, what could he do? He's not one to tear into Brown relentlessly; it's not his nature. Besides, old dogs have a bite left, pushed to the brink, and Brown isn't a good sort either," Morgan coldly chuckled over the phone, "Didn't we also take the chance to play the good guys?"

In the meeting, they were also among Brown's supporters.

"This time, Brown wasn't severely hit, but his son was suspended, that's quite a gain," Caroline laughed.

Knowing what kind of person Caroline is, Vice Chairman Morgan sneered, "Do you really think so?"

"It's a decent gain, but it hasn't met my expectations," Caroline, as expected, replied, "Moreover, suspension doesn't mean dismissal. If Brown can hold out for another two or three years, there'll be plenty of chances for his son to make a comeback. I think it's better to take advantage of Bai Xiaosheng being there to completely cripple Cilio, and make Bai Xiaosheng and Mr. Brown bitter enemies. This way, we can kill two birds with one stone, and gain a 'friend', an enemy's enemy is a friend."

"So, what do you plan to do?" Vice Chairman Morgan asked.

Caroline chuckled lightly, her voice extremely captivating, "Naturally, find an opportunity to give Bai Xiaosheng a hand!"

Chapter 2433 - Inspection Plan

Bai Xiaosheng invited Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying for a "celebration dinner" exclusively for the three of them. As the dinner was about to end, Bai Xiaosheng took out some papers and handed them to the two.

"What is this?" Lin Weiwei took it, blinking her slightly tipsy eyes to take a closer look. She had drunk quite a bit, and the words were slightly blurry.

Lei Ying was also curious and flipped through them. He could handle his liquor, so it didn't bother him much.

"These are the profiles of two companies. You can take a look tonight or tomorrow morning. Tomorrow morning, we'll visit the first one as part of the group, and in the afternoon, the second one," Bai Xiaosheng explained to them.

Lin Weiwei nodded unconsciously.

Tipsy enough that she nodded at whatever Bai Xiaosheng said.

"Hey, the company we're visiting in the afternoon is part of our group?!" Lei Ying, who had reached the back of the papers, couldn't help but look up at Bai Xiaosheng in surprise.

This statement brought Lin Weiwei to her senses a bit, and she glanced at Lei Ying before hastily flipping to the corresponding page in her own set of papers to check.

"Yorko Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Zhenbei Group in Africa..."

Lin Weiwei even read out the opening line from the profile, her voice rising, as she looked incredulously at Bai Xiaosheng.

After all, they had just been investigating several major companies of the group here!

Mr. Brown, head of the African division, had been named and criticized, and Deputy Executive President Cilio had been suspended!

At this point going to inspect a company from the group here might not be appropriate...

Just now, they even discussed whether the fact that Elder Brown and his son had been treated so harshly would lead to retaliation. Bai Xiaosheng said they wouldn't, that Elder Brown would lay low and avoid any controversy...

But going directly to their doorstep like this, could it be seen as provocative, potentially inciting an extreme reaction from the other side...

Seeing Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying staring at him, Bai Xiaosheng quickly explained, "Before coming here, Elder Xia specifically asked me to pay attention to a few companies, saying that their products and technology are superior to Europe and America, with lower prices than ours. If we could collaborate or learn from them, it would benefit many similar companies back home. I agreed. Who knew that by coming here, so much trouble would be stirred up, and we ended up at odds with Elder Brown and his people."

The world is unpredictable, and no one had anticipated this.

In response, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were quite understanding.

"Collaboration might be out of the question, and even if it were possible, we still have to be wary they might have set traps for us. So I want to check it out first, perhaps to observe and learn," Bai Xiaosheng said. "Moreover, we're not going alone; we're with the group. There are about twenty other entrepreneurs going alongside us. We won't stand out."

Saying that, it's unlikely they won't be noticed; Bai Xiaosheng likely stands out wherever he goes...

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying couldn't help exchanging a look.

"Well... since you've decided, Xiaosheng, naturally we're with you," Lin Weiwei took a deep breath and said.

No matter what, if Bai Xiaosheng wanted to go, they would accompany him.

Lei Ying also nodded, saying, "Going with the business group as members of the Huaxia Business Group; even if Elder Brown has some plans, they wouldn't dare act too brazenly. Besides, if we're merely planning to look around, the risks involved are much smaller."

Lei Ying had no objections anymore.

Once everything was clear, the three of them grabbed their things and left the restaurant, heading back to their place of stay.

Following Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying's approach, no matter how much they drank, they would be able to get through the majority of the materials by tonight, basically getting a good sense of them, ensuring nothing would impede the next morning's agenda. That's professionalism.

As for Bai Xiaosheng, there's no need to mention it, as all the information was already in his head.

Though Bai Xiaosheng claimed he would casually check things out, he was modest; wherever he went, what he saw and heard would be imprinted in his mind. With a bit of analyzing and cross-referencing, and with the aid of artificial intelligence, learning from others would be a piece of cake...

That night, nothing further happened.

Early the next morning, Bai Xiaosheng and the two others had an early lunch and promptly gathered in a meeting room at the residence.

Soon, many entrepreneurs from the business group entered.

Jia Chengshan, Lu Tiandao, Zhang Qinglin, Dong Tianlu, Wang Xuantian, Hong Chengtian, Lin Tianyi...

From the mainland to Xianggang, each one was a prominent figure.

The business group split into two for today, each taking a different route for inspections; this crowd made up one of the groups.

No matter if they came in alone or in groups, whenever they saw Bai Xiaosheng sitting there, they would smile, go over, greet him, and exchange a few words.

For no other reason but that, currently, Bai Xiaosheng is like an invisible alliance leader among them. Each major entrepreneur had received significant business deals thanks to him, and would continue to rely on him in the future, naturally showing great enthusiasm towards him.

Because of this, other entrepreneurs looked at Bai Xiaosheng with surprise.

This young man, being so young yet serving as an operational president for a major division of the Zhenbei Group, was already impressive, and to top it off, to have connections throughout a significant portion of the Huaxia business circles—this required incredible influence, simply unimaginable.

Over the past few days, they've heard no shortage of tales about him.

Gradually, many entrepreneurs even approached Bai Xiaosheng themselves to strike up a conversation.

In the business world, it's all about becoming familiar and building networks.

This can be even more vital than money as a resource.

Bai Xiaosheng, amiably and skillfully, chatted with everyone, leaving no room for oversights, prompting many to secretly give a thumbs up.

Chapter 2434 - Inspection Plan (Part 2)

Soon, Hou Yuncheng also entered the meeting room with some people. Seeing everyone engaged in lively conversation, he smiled and said, "Good morning, all entrepreneurs! Thank you for your patience."

Upon seeing Hou Yuncheng, everyone greeted him with smiles.

Hou Yuncheng noticed Bai Xiaosheng right away and gave him a special smile before addressing everyone, "The time is almost right. Is everyone ready? If so, let's set off. I will travel with you and join the inspection. Should you need anything during our trip, feel free to inform me."

His courteous manner elicited a chorus of kind remarks.

This time around, the two major companies they intended to visit were quite exceptional, consistently ranking among the top five in Lekram.

The group subsidiaries, like the ones Bai Xiaosheng and others discussed, were directly under the executive president Tike and held a notable standing globally in the same industry.

After exchanging a few words with the group, Hou Yuncheng invited everyone to depart.

This journey was relatively short, taking less than two hours. The business delegation traveled in a business coach arranged by Mulango City, with an escort at the front and rear, nearly two platoons of security personnel ensuring safety.

Everyone boarded systematically, with business delegation members in one vehicle and accompanying personnel in another.

The convoy drove off.

Speaking of Lekram, although it borders Xisuli, the customs and landscape are distinct. The architecture and scenery along the way differ as well.

The group chatted and laughed, occasionally glancing at the scenery outside and appreciating the exotic flavor, finding it quite enjoyable.

The two-hour journey on smooth roads flew by as they talked and rested briefly.

Before they knew it, the convoy arrived at the first company they were visiting.

This was a large energy company, a private enterprise occupying a quarter of Lekram's mining development and processing market, boasting world-leading new energy technology and craftsmanship with a global reputation for its products.

The convoy entered the new district where all the buildings and factories in sight belonged to this company.

Ultimately, the delegation's vehicle parked in a square.

Upon disembarking, a sea of people dressed in uniform greeted them, numbering in the thousands. The front row held bouquets, and banners of welcome waved behind them, creating an impressive spectacle.

This was a welcome ceremony specifically for the Huaxia Business Group.

Later, the group learned that this crowd was just a small portion of the company's employees. The number had to be kept limited as the square couldn't accommodate more.

After an extremely warm welcome ceremony, the company's founder personally guided them on a tour.

The tour required transportation; the business group rode in custom-made sightseeing vehicles, each priced comparably to several sports cars, demonstrating the company's wealth and strength.

On the way here, Bai Xiaosheng privately informed Hou Yuncheng, Jia Chengshan, and others that he planned to just observe today, keeping a low profile and not seeking attention.

Everyone agreed.

Therefore, Bai Xiaosheng wasn't pushed to the forefront, naturally opting for a spot in the back of a tour vehicle, pulling Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying along for easier communication during the inspection.

For this first company, Bai Xiaosheng planned merely to observe without pursuing any "direct" cooperation.

"Direct cooperation" refers to two companies signing contracts and establishing various collaborations.

Bai Xiaosheng wasn't interested in that.

After all, the visiting entrepreneurs would want a share of any good cooperations. If Bai Xiaosheng competed for that, others would have to concede somewhat, potentially causing discomfort or resentment.

Bai Xiaosheng had already informed everyone, relinquishing those collaborations to them.

Nonetheless, major collaborations usually spawn numerous sub-collaborations in various areas, collectively accumulating even more mass than the initial agreement.

Bai Xiaosheng intended to collaborate in those areas or act as a connector to find partners.

It must be said, this was a clever strategy.

It honored others, built networks, helped others profit, and established himself as the bridge, firmly linking everyone around him, all while still securing his own profits.

Killing many birds with one stone.

And everyone agreed readily with this approach.

Bai Xiaosheng planned to employ the same strategy while visiting Zhenbei Group's company in the afternoon, potentially "learning the ropes."

...

The morning passed with the group riding in sightseeing vehicles, shuttling through various factory areas until lunch, only to hear they had seen less than half of the facilities, underscoring the staggering scale of the company.

However, it's worth mentioning that the untouched sections housed many redundant equipment and technology, making further inspection unnecessary.

After a brief lunch, the business delegation set off for their next destination.

The next company was a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bai Xiaosheng's Zhenbei Group—Yorko Company, requiring more than a two-hour journey.

This company excelled in high-tech equipment design, research, development, and manufacturing. While possibly not as expansive as the energy company, its products were unparalleled.

From Africa to America, then across Eurasia, from the deep sea to outer space, their equipment left its mark.

The Americans, typically confident in their technology, also revered this company's technology, machinery, and craftsmanship.

The company's production line is stratified into high, medium, and low tiers, with numerous product categories ranging from civilian to military models.

Among the mid-range and low-end lines, many classic products can be found.

Before arriving, Xiahou Qi specifically mentioned this company to Bai Xiaosheng, repeating that their high technological level, competitive pricing, and superior quality control make any collaboration or learning opportunity immensely valuable.

Along the way, Bai Xiaosheng closed his eyes, resting in the vehicle while replaying the company's information in his mind.

...

At the entrance of a large park, a welcoming group of several hundred people awaited, eagerly looking in one direction—the road leading to the park, anticipating the arrival of the Huaxia Business Group.

At the very front stood a slender, tall, mixed-race man with a clear appearance, like a steadfast pine, unmoving.

He too gazed in that direction, behind him stood all of Yorko Company's top executives.

Yet, those people maintained a two-meter distance from the man, reverently watching without daring to stand alongside him.

This mixed-race man was Yorko's general manager—Mr. Fiewood.

Beside Mr. Fiewood, a round black man muttered in his ear, "Mr. Fiewood, the Huaxia Business Group is approximately fifteen minutes away."

Their softly spoken conversation was inaudible to those further away.

Mr. Fiewood nodded slightly, casting his gaze into the distance, his eyes revealing ambiguous intent.

"It's been confirmed that Bai Xiaosheng..." The black man paused, swallowing nervously, "is also in the delegation, coming together!"

Mr. Fiewood nodded slightly.

Currently, Bai Xiaosheng's name resonated throughout Zhenbei Group's African subsidiary companies, notorious and piercing.

The mere mention of him triggered noticeable reactions among many enterprise leaders, nearly demonizing him.

After all, how could so many companies face severe issues simultaneously? Why wasn't anything noticed earlier? Yet, his arrival uncovered such significant problems, with thorough investigations leading even the regional top executives to be penalized.

Bai Xiaosheng seemed to incite problems out of thin air, finding skeletons where none existed.

Of course, those believing this were mainly mid-sized and small business heads outside the core operations.

Mr. Fiewood held a different view.

Because he knew more, even more so because he managed such a large company, inherently positioning him within the "core."

"Since they're arriving soon..." Mr. Fiewood gave his chunky companion a meaningful glance, "Have you prepared everything?"

Chapter 2435 - An Unexpected Scene

The black, chubby man next to Yorko Company's General Manager Fiewood was one of the company's executive vice presidents, named Harvey. He was Fiewood's absolute right-hand man, highly capable and always in line with the boss's wishes.

At this moment, facing Fiewood's inquiry, Harvey answered respectfully, "Don't worry, everything's ready."

Then Harvey proactively added another line, "Everything is ready!"

The word "everything" was given particular emphasis.

On the surface, that last sentence sounded redundant. For a workplace veteran like Harvey, repeating himself like this in front of his boss really shouldn't happen, because it makes him sound like he lacks decisiveness and confidence.

However, Fiewood only nodded, as if he hadn't noticed anything amiss at all.

Just as the two of them were talking, someone walked up from behind and stopped a few steps away, calling softly, "Mr. Fiewood?"

The voice was light and pleasant, very nice to the ear.

Fiewood and Harvey turned their heads back, looking at the person behind them.

It was a tall, curvaceous mixed-race beauty, with delicate, very attractive features. There was a timid look in her eyes; when she looked at people, she seemed extremely fragile and pitiable. It wasn't that she was a newcomer to the workplace, or nervous in front of Fiewood—she was simply born that way, with a kind of little-woman frailty that made people feel protective.

"Matilda, what is it?" Fiewood asked.

This Matilda was one of the secretaries at Fiewood's side.

"The venue is ready, and so is the luncheon, but the restaurant said there was a minor accident during the transport of the Romanee-Conti you requested, resulting in six fewer bottles. They're asking if it can be replaced with something else..." Matilda probed carefully.

"No!" Fiewood denied flatly, his tone icy.

Then, dissatisfaction flashed in the look he gave Matilda. "What are you doing? Do you really need to consult me on something like this? If they couldn't get it, tell them to figure something out. In any case, not a single bottle less!"

When dealing with matters, Fiewood was overbearingly domineering, with no trace of courtesy or pity for a pretty face. His tone was clearly a public scolding.

Matilda's expression seemed flustered. No matter how many years she had worked as a secretary, she always looked like this. She nodded repeatedly on the spot, then turned and left in a timid hurry.

"Honestly, something this trivial and she still has to bother you!" Harvey muttered, glancing at Matilda's back.

Fiewood couldn't be bothered to waste energy on such things and turned his eyes back to the end of the main road.

Seeing that his boss didn't want to hear more, Harvey sensibly shut his mouth.

Just then, at the end of the road, a motorcade turned in.

In the lead were police cars and police armored vehicles, three or four in total, followed by coaches.

At this display, Fiewood's eyes lit up, and the cold expression on his face was replaced by a smile.

The switch in his expression and mood was unbelievably natural.

"They're here!" Harvey couldn't help saying as well.

There was no need to ask; this motorcade belonged to the Huaxia Business Group. The people coming today were all renowned magnates from the East.

When it came to cooperation, both Fiewood, as the company head, and Harvey, the executive vice president, were full of anticipation.

Without waiting for instructions from Fiewood, Harvey turned and had the welcome formation start their performance.

Music, flowers, and later there would be dancing—these were pretty much standard fare for welcome ceremonies all over the world. The point was to showcase "enthusiasm" as much as possible.

Soon, the business group's motorcade stopped not far away, and the guests disembarked one after another.

This time, in addition to the Huaxia Business Group, there were also national-level high-ranking officials from Lekram, as well as leaders from Mulango City, and, of course, leaders from the host city itself were also present.

With a smile on his face, Fiewood led Harvey and all of Yorko Company's top management forward to greet them.

When the two sides met, a lively scene naturally unfolded.

The welcome performers in the back went all out with their show.

Bai Xiaosheng, with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying in tow, was wrapped in the crowd, feeling the overwhelming enthusiasm and the deafening music.

When the introductions reached him, Bai Xiaosheng found himself face-to-face with General Manager Fiewood for a brief moment.

The latter's expression and mannerisms seemed no different from how he treated everyone else.

At least, to others watching, there was no visible difference.

But in that brief eye contact with Fiewood, Bai Xiaosheng could tell that the way this man looked at him was not the same.

This Fiewood knew he was coming, but had concealed it with great subtlety!

Of course, Bai Xiaosheng didn't expose it. Besides, the two only brushed past each other after a handshake.

After the welcome ceremony, Fiewood personally led the way, taking everyone into the Yorko Building, heading straight for the large auditorium that had been set up in advance.

The hall could accommodate several hundred people, more than enough to hold everyone.

The arrangement here was different from that of the company they had visited in the morning. Here, there would first be a comprehensive presentation in the auditorium for everyone.

The main speaker was Fiewood himself.

Once everyone was seated, several leaders went up in turn to give speeches, and finally Fiewood stepped forward with a smile and said to everyone, "On behalf of all Yorko Company employees, I would like to once again thank you all for coming."

After a round of applause, Fiewood continued, "We have carefully prepared a tour program for you, but before that, please allow me to give a brief presentation myself. It won't be long, only a few dozen minutes."

As he spoke, Fiewood signaled to the staff on the side to start the projector.

The person operating the equipment was none other than his female secretary, Matilda.

It was worth mentioning that before the meeting started, the equipment, which had been tested well in advance, had "suddenly" developed some issues. Anyone who often handled conferences knew this wasn't rare. Devices that had worked perfectly before could very well "go on strike" at the critical moment. Leaving aside mystical explanations, the scientific one was that the operator might make mistakes they themselves didn't notice when facing high-pressure situations—Murphy's Law: "If you are worried about a certain scenario happening, then it becomes more likely to happen."

Over there, Matilda was in a fluster, barking anxious orders as she tried to organize an emergency fix, sweating profusely.

They had finally just resolved the issue when she saw that Fiewood was about to use the equipment. Matilda quickly handed over the USB drive with the materials she had prepared to the technicians for playback.

She carried several such USB drives as secretary, and because they contained important information, she only handed them to the technicians shortly before use.

The wall facing the audience in the auditorium had a full-size screen; the projection onto it was crystal clear, easily visible even from the last row.

The equipment was functioning properly, the projection was normal, and once she confirmed that everything was working, Matilda and the technicians beside her all let out a long sigh of relief.

They all knew that if anything went wrong in a setting like this, they'd be in serious trouble.

Sitting in the audience, Bai Xiaosheng tilted his head back to look at the big screen, ready to listen attentively and see what wonderful content Fiewood had prepared for everyone.

At that moment, Fiewood was on stage, smiling as he glanced back at the screen, intending to deliver his carefully prepared content to each guest present.

Ideally, he would win more people's willingness to cooperate.

"Everyone, please look at this report. This is our..." But as he turned and saw clearly what was on the screen, Fiewood's smile stiffened slightly, and his words abruptly cut off.

What appeared on the screen was not the content he had painstakingly prepared for this meeting!

On the contrary, it was a classified document, something that absolutely should not appear in such an occasion!

It involved dealings with several companies—and those companies had just recently been investigated by Bai Xiaosheng!

As soon as he thought of the fact that Bai Xiaosheng was right here, at the scene, Fiewood's expression changed instantly.

It would be nothing if others saw it, but if it fell into Bai Xiaosheng's eyes, that was a completely different story!

Fiewood immediately turned his head toward the audience, looking in Bai Xiaosheng's direction.

He saw Bai Xiaosheng staring intently at the screen!

"It's wrong, this isn't it!" Fiewood snapped back to his senses, shouting anxiously.

Then he pointed toward Matilda's area and barked angrily, "What are you people doing! The content is wrong, hurry up and change it!"

As he spoke, Fiewood hurried off like a meteor, striding toward that side.

The guests in the audience all watched this scene with curiosity.

Some subordinate accidentally played the wrong content—indeed, in an occasion like this, it shouldn't happen, but Mr. Fiewood seemed a bit too worked up.

People below naturally began whispering to each other, the discussion growing.

"Xiaosheng..." Behind Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Weiwei, slightly shocked, leaned forward and called to him in a rush.

Beside Lin Weiwei, Lei Ying kept silent, directly pulling out his phone and pointing it at the screen to record.

The content could be studied later; capturing it now was what mattered.

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes stayed fixed on the screen. In a lowered voice, he replied to Lin Weiwei, "I see it!"

Chapter 2436 - Crybaby Woman

The erroneous content projected on the screen was quickly corrected, and Yorko Company's General Manager, Fiewood, didn't linger with the technical staff, nor did he scold anyone, given the inappropriate setting. He hurried back to the center of the stage.

"Dear friends in the business circle, I apologize for the minor incident that just occurred, wasting two minutes of your time. However, I have decided to shorten my speech by two minutes as compensation. Certainly, there's no need to worry, the deleted content is nothing crucial, just an introduction about myself. Alas, it's rather painful for someone like me who enjoys promoting himself."

Fiewood used a touch of humor to elicit a burst of laughter, perfectly covering up the awkward moment just now.

"Now, let's move straight to the topic. Everyone, take a look..." Subsequently, Fiewood used a laser pointer to highlight the screen and began formally introducing the content of his presentation.

The attendees focused on the screen, forgetting the previous incident.

Bai Xiaosheng, however, looked to the other side.

The female secretary who played the wrong content, her hands nervously intertwined, gazed at Fiewood on stage with timid, pitiful eyes.

Having messed up the opening in front of so many big shots and causing Fiewood a moment of embarrassment, she feared facing severe punishment afterward.

In the workplace, especially in special positions, one's words and actions are their responsibility.

After all, everyone is an adult, responsible for their own mistakes.

Though Bai Xiaosheng felt slightly sympathetic towards her pitiful demeanor, he wasn't overly compassionate; instead, he was more intrigued by the misplayed document.

Behind Bai Xiaosheng sat Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, who had gathered together, pulling up and enlarging the photos Lei Ying had taken to study them.

Lin Weiwei initially wanted Bai Xiaosheng to have a look, but it wasn't suitable now, as those actions would be too conspicuous.

Earlier, amidst the chaos, one could converse with Bai Xiaosheng, but in such silence, it's evidently inappropriate now.

Unbeknownst to Lin Weiwei, Bai Xiaosheng's few glances had imprinted an image in his mind clearer than their photos. Furthermore, Red Lotus, the super artificial intelligence, could conduct meticulous analysis.

At this moment, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying huddled together, whispering.

"Such a thing can be mistakenly released; that woman over there must be someone close to General Manager Fiewood, otherwise she wouldn't have access to it."

"Exactly!"

"We've only seen one page; further pages should be more critical. I didn't expect Yorko Company to be implicated too. I remember the data mentioning it's directly under Mr. Tike, so how is it mixed with enterprises managed by Cilio? Could our findings be just the tip of the iceberg?!"

"No, I think it's more like an investigative document, with content that appears fine when viewed individually. Only those of us who have dealt with these problematic enterprises can see the related traces. Hence, I believe it's an internal investigation report by Yorko Company, uncovering more traces due to their special channels, making it valuable to us!"

"So, afterwards, shall we take the opportunity to request it, under the guise of the Group's Head Office Surveillance Department?!"

"You're thinking too simply. Although Tike and Cilio manage separate areas, they're both part of the Group's Africa Division. Whether they provide it or not is uncertain. Even if we forcefully request it under the Group's Head Office name, they could delete or alter the core content."

"Then what should we do?"

"Let's wait until it's over and hear Sheng's opinion..."

"Alternatively, we could target that woman over there. Lei Ying, you're so capable, surely you can handle one woman?"

"Don't say that; you're a woman too, and I can't handle you..."

"Look who's being cheeky now. I'll tell your wife later..."

The two whispered like mosquitoes; those sitting nearby couldn't hear clearly.

However, Bai Xiaosheng, seated in front, heard it all clearly. With Red Lotus's superb assistance, filtering other noises and amplifying part of the speech was too easy.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at the female secretary named Matilda, his gaze slightly sharpening.

That woman was indeed a possible breakthrough...

The presentation lasted for forty-five minutes, nearing its end. Fiewood's time management was impeccably precise.

"We've meticulously prepared ten visit projects. Except for the last two being quite centralized, the first eight projects are more diversified. Some business friends may not be interested in certain ones. Knowing everyone's time is precious, focusing on each project might be infeasible. Therefore, I'd like everyone to freely visit the first eight projects. We've arranged vice-presidents responsible for introductions at relevant locations. For the last two centralized visit projects, I'll personally explain."

Fiewood explained the upcoming visit arrangements to the attendees.

The guests below the stage nodded appreciatively.

As the host dictates, given Yorko Company's arrangements, nobody had any objection, especially since the plan was reasonable.

For the initial segmented visit projects, local leaders likely had little interest. Thus, it was just right to take a break and engage in deeper exchanges with the Huaxia Business Group leaders.

Chapter 2437 - The Woman Who Loves to Cry (Part 2)

Fiewood displayed the tour items on the large screen.

The first eight tour items correspond to eight different locations, each with a relevant vice president on standby. If guests are interested in any project, dedicated personnel will lead them and a Yorko Company vice president will provide an on-site introduction.

This way, the tours offer greater freedom, selectivity, and focus—guests can choose exactly what they'd like to see.

It also avoids wasting time and needless energy expenditure.

Bai Xiaosheng looked carefully and was quite interested in several items, noting them mentally.

As several entrances on the side of the auditorium opened, rows of formally dressed staff members walked in, all there to guide the guests, with each guest assigned a staff member. Guests could directly ask staff to guide them to any item they wished to see, as the staff carried a detailed list of tour items for reference at any time.

Fiewood also stayed busy, needing to escort the leaders to the lounge and arrange hospitality.

To make a long story short, the guests all rose and proceeded to investigate the specific projects they were interested in.

Everyone was now within the Yorko Building; the factory and production lines were in the same complex, very near each other, making it quite convenient to visit various places.

Under the lead of a handsome young black man, Bai Xiaosheng and his two companions headed straight to one tour destination.

They were the only three going to that particular site, not because others weren't interested but rather because the others went to see different projects first; it was an amusing coincidence.

However, Bai Xiaosheng was pleased with the quiet.

The young guide was very professional, quiet, and not talkative. However, he could say simple Chinese phrases like "hello," but since it was unclear how much he understood, and with many people around, Bai Xiaosheng and his companions refrained from discussing confidential matters in Chinese.

Bai Xiaosheng even hinted to Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying that they should refrain from discussing anything inappropriate to avoid unnecessary complications.

When they arrived at the inspection site, they met a vice president who was waiting there specifically. He warmly received Bai Xiaosheng and his companions, showed them the relevant technology and equipment, and answered all questions, appearing quite approachable.

Bai Xiaosheng also asked about some management aspects, and the vice president was quite forthcoming.

As he spoke, Bai Xiaosheng could clearly sense the vice president's confidence, and even a sense of pride and arrogance, as if he was convinced that Yorko Company was the best and feared others wouldn't know it.

Bai Xiaosheng diligently noted the information he wanted, feeling quite satisfied.

In fact, when coming there, Bai Xiaosheng had been wondering whether that general manager, Fiewood, had told the vice presidents about him, prompting them to be wary and vague about business matters during their introductions.

Now it seemed he was overthinking it.

The vice president, although aware of his reputation and showing some respect, gave detailed and thorough explanations without obvious concealment.

"That's good; now I can walk around more and see more!" Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

After visiting that site, Bai Xiaosheng hurried to the next one.

On the way, they ran into others from the business delegation, greeted each other, and then went their separate ways to explore the places they were interested in.

From the building to the factory, Bai Xiaosheng and his companions spent two hours, viewing five out of the eight tour items.

Finally, as Bai Xiaosheng felt he had seen enough, he asked the young black guide to take them back to the building.

Upon returning, naturally not to the auditorium but to the arranged lounge.

When Bai Xiaosheng arrived, several familiar faces were already conversing there and greeted him as soon as he entered.

Bai Xiaosheng politely acknowledged them and led Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying to a quiet corner, contemplating whether they could have a conversation.

However, just as they sat down, before Bai Xiaosheng could speak, Lin Weiwei quietly got up and headed out.

"Where are you going?" Bai Xiaosheng asked curiously.

"I'm just going to the restroom," Lin Weiwei whispered.

Bai Xiaosheng felt a bit embarrassed, and so did Lin Weiwei, as she hurried out.

Outside the lounge, Lin Weiwei looked around, intending to ask for directions.

"Miss, is there anything I can help you with?" a gentle voice called from behind.

Lin Weiwei turned around, surprised to find the speaker was a beautiful mixed-race woman, whom she had seen before—the one who made a mistake during the meeting.

"I want to go to the restroom," Lin Weiwei said with a smile. Being both girls, it was easier to talk.

"I'll take you there," the woman offered a smile, though it seemed a bit forced, with an expression that suggested she had something on her mind.

"Sure." Lin Weiwei immediately nodded, giving her a smile.

The two walked towards the end of the corridor, one after the other.

Along the way, Lin Weiwei looked at the woman's back, and couldn't help but feel moved. She quickened her pace, walked alongside her, and smiled.

"Excuse me, are you Mr. Fiewood's secretary?" Lin Weiwei asked, noticing the surprise in the woman's eyes, and then chuckled, "I saw you from the audience during the meeting."

The woman's eyes sparkled, and she hesitated before nodding, "I am one of Mr. Fiewood's secretaries. My name is Matilda."

"Matilda, that's a lovely name." Lin Weiwei smiled.

Matilda forced a smile but said no more.

Lin Weiwei, however, was relentless, engaging her in conversation as they walked. She asked her age and laughingly mentioned that they were about the same age. She inquired if Matilda had any siblings and revealed that, like her, she was an only child. She even mentioned that she too worked as a secretary and often made mistakes.

Over the years, Lin Weiwei had mastered many conversational techniques. She excelled at communicating with people, effortlessly bridging the gap between them.

Five or six minutes later, Matilda was already conversing with her actively.

Soon, they reached a restroom.

But there was a "Cleaning in Progress" sign hanging outside.

"No worries, I'll speak to the cleaner." Matilda offered, smiling at Lin Weiwei, and then went inside.

After a while, Matilda came out with the female cleaner, who respectfully gave a slight bow to Lin Weiwei, gathered her things, removed the sign, and left.

"Come on, I might as well touch up my makeup." Matilda smiled and said to Lin Weiwei.

The sense of estrangement between them was gradually disappearing.

Lin Weiwei noticed that Matilda looked somewhat fatigued and haggard and asked with concern, "Are you okay?"

"I'm fine." Matilda replied with a smile.

But that smile was clearly a bit forced.

Lin Weiwei didn't say much else and smiled back, walking inside.

After coming out, Lin Weiwei hadn't yet reached the sink when she heard a low sobbing sound. Curious, she stepped out to find Matilda covering her face and crying in front of the mirror, seemingly quite upset.

"Matilda, what's wrong?" Lin Weiwei saw this and quickly walked over to ask.

Matilda didn't respond to Lin Weiwei and simply continued crying. Although softly, her sobs sounded profoundly sorrowful.

Lin Weiwei hurriedly offered words of comfort repeatedly.

Finally, Matilda spoke amidst her crying, "Lin, I might... I might get fired..."

"Is it because of the mistake at the meeting?" Lin Weiwei realized.

"Yes!" Matilda was extremely distressed, "Mr. Fiewood's deputy, Mr. Harvey, has already told me to leave by the end of the month, saying they'll compensate my salary. But I don't want to leave. I've been with the company since the previous general manager, for five whole years. I don't want to go..."

The woman spoke sorrowfully and hugged Lin Weiwei while crying. Her sobs weren't loud, but the tears were plentiful, soaking Lin Weiwei's shoulder, appearing genuinely heartbroken.

Lin Weiwei, flustered, spent quite some time comforting her, yet couldn't stop her tears.

Lin Weiwei was also a woman but had never seen a woman who cried so much.

Thankfully, this was a newly opened restroom with few people around.

As Lin Weiwei continued to comfort her, she heard Matilda speaking in a determined, aggrieved tone, "I made a mistake for a reason. I worked a night shift last night and was exhausted; it wasn't intentional. But they won't listen to my explanation. They're all bad people; I hate them..."

Lin Weiwei couldn't console her any further, so she gently pushed Matilda away, looked at the tear-stained woman, and said, "If that's the case, perhaps you shouldn't work here anymore."

"But, but the conditions here are so good, I don't want to leave." Matilda said, surprised, sobbing.

Upon hearing this, Lin Weiwei suddenly had an idea, looked at her and said, "I can find you a better place, will you go?"

"Ah..." Matilda looked at Lin Weiwei in astonishment and murmured, "A better place..."

Lin Weiwei looked into her eyes and said seriously, "But, you need to do me a favor first!"

Chapter 2438 - Pretending for You

The fact that Matilda, the secretary to Mr. Fiewood, the general manager of Yorko Company, was going to be fired was not something Lin Weiwei found particularly sympathetic.

In the workplace, one should do their duty well; if you fail at it and encounter big problems, getting punished or even fired is quite reasonable. You can't avoid punishment just because you worked late the previous day and didn't get enough rest—there's no logic to that. Besides, even if you're fired, there's compensation.

Matilda's self-pity and grievance were merely because she cherished her good job.

Seeing her in such a state, Lin Weiwei felt inspired.

Then let's help Matilda find a new job.

In exchange, have her bring the document mistakenly presented at the conference!

In Lin Weiwei's view, while it can't be stated outright, they're practically all from the same group, and Bai Xiaosheng and his team hold supervisory responsibilities, so this doesn't count as obtaining business secrets.

Moreover, the content of that document pertains to an investigation and analysis of several completed business cooperations.

Confidential? Not really.

Even if it's leaked, it's not of much use.

It only serves as a critical clue for insiders like them who are looking into problems.

"Lin, are you really going to help me find a better position... for real?"

Matilda was somewhat incredulous, her large eyes flickering as she looked at Lin Weiwei.

If it were someone else, it might seem like a joke, but people from this business group are not ordinary!

Didn't you see all the prominent figures from the city accompanying them this time?

"Of course!" Lin Weiwei assured Matilda with utmost certainty.

Finding a job as good or better than this one isn't difficult. Although Bai Xiaosheng and his team don't have many resources here, the people like Lu Yun and Jia Chengshan will surely have business or partners in Lekram, and Bai Xiaosheng just needs to make a call to find a suitable position effortlessly.

With this confidence, Lin Weiwei dared to say such a thing.

Matilda's eyes suddenly lit up, replaced the grievance and outrage in them with renewed hope.

"Tell me what help you need, and I'll do it!" Having motivation, Matilda actively spoke to Lin Weiwei.

Despite how she might appear as a professional "sweet and naive girl," Matilda knew very well there's no such thing as a free lunch in this world.

Not to mention the two are only just meeting for the first time, so there's no basis for emotional attachment.

"I saw the document you misplaced while sitting in the audience earlier. How did you come to have such a thing?" Lin Weiwei asked, without rushing.

Matilda paused, mumbling, "You're asking about that? I copied it from Mr. Fiewood's computer. I must have copied it wrong... you know, many of his document numbers are very similar, and with poor rest yesterday and low spirits today, mistakes are unavoidable..."

Matilda was still using this excuse for herself.

Lin Weiwei nodded casually; she wasn't really concerned about how the document ended up with Matilda but rather if it was still there.

"Is it still with you?" Lin Weiwei immediately asked.

Matilda shook her head, "During the meeting, Mr. Fiewood was very anxious and furious, and he directly took the USB drive. The one you saw at the meeting was actually opened from his own email; it was his own backup."

Upon hearing, Lin Weiwei's heart sank as her face involuntarily showed disappointment.

Indeed, Mr. Fiewood's reactions were so intense at the time that it was predictable he would retrieve the document.

"However, I prepared a backup." Matilda mumbled.

These words brought Lin Weiwei instantly back to alertness.

Matilda rummaged through her bag and found a USB drive but did not rush to hand it over to Lin Weiwei; instead, she blinked her big eyes and said, "Lin, you promised to help me, right?"

"Of course, it counts!" Lin Weiwei said with slight excitement, "Come, let me take you to meet someone who can help!"

...

The room where Bai Xiaosheng and the others were resting was originally a conference room; it had been emptied of its original furnishings and rearranged with luxury leather sofas and a bar, so it was still very spacious inside.

Half of the people from the business group had already returned to the lounge.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying sat in the corner, engrossed in discussing their observations from the tour.

Bai Xiaosheng planned to compile a summary on technology, machinery, experience, etc., and send it to Xiahou Qi, ensuring that their trip was worthwhile.

At that moment, Lin Weiwei returned.

"You were gone for quite a while," Lei Ying scrutinized Lin Weiwei with curiosity, "Did you go to redo your makeup? Doesn't seem more refined!"

"You seem to know everything!" Bai Xiaosheng teased Lei Ying, "That's what it's like for men with wives."

Lin Weiwei glanced at Lei Ying, leaned over, and whispered to Bai Xiaosheng, "Xiaosheng, I found that document!"

Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback.

Beside him, Lei Ying blinked, unable to comprehend.

"The one misplaced during the conference earlier," Lin Weiwei reminded, quietly pointing outside, "It's still with that secretary who made the mistake; I just ran into her..."

With the most concise words, Lin Weiwei recounted the events to Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying were astonished.

They didn't expect Lin Weiwei to have such an encounter just by going to the restroom.

"Let's go check it out," Bai Xiaosheng decided resolutely.

Right now, not everyone had returned here yet; there was still time to leave through the back door without attracting attention.

Lin Weiwei immediately led the way, guiding Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying discreetly from the back of the lounge, then led them along a path, taking a turn and, noticing no one was paying attention, entered a room.

...

Chapter 2439 - Playing Along with You_2

It was an unused reception room. Unlike the refurbished lounge from before, this little room wasn't big; a single round table plus a dozen or so chairs already stuffed it full.

As Bai Xiaosheng and the others walked in, the person sitting inside immediately stood up, looking over with a trace of nervousness.

It was that female secretary, Matilda.

Lin Weiwei walked over at once, gave Matilda a smile, "We're here."

Matilda nodded repeatedly, her big, pitifully appealing eyes, however, were fixed on Bai Xiaosheng.

After all, among the three, Bai Xiaosheng was the one in charge.

"Hello, Miss Matilda." Bai Xiaosheng smiled and greeted her.

Lin Weiwei had of course already told him the woman's name.

Seeing that Bai Xiaosheng's smile was broad and his voice gentle, Matilda also eased her somewhat tense nerves a little.

"You're the one who can help me?" Matilda glanced at Lin Weiwei, and only after getting confirmation did she say, "I—I can give you that file, it's just... what do you need it for..."

Matilda still seemed hesitant.

That was human nature, a perfectly normal reaction.

At first glance, that document was just an investigation into several past business cooperations. The target companies, like Yorko Company, all belonged to Zhenbei Group. Since it was a past investigation, there didn't seem to be much risk of leaking secrets.

But the Fiewood general manager clearly attached great importance to it. At the meeting, when she put up the wrong content, her fury didn't look like it was just about a minor blunder in front of so many guests.

So Matilda hesitated, suspicious.

She only looked a bit delicate, but she wasn't stupid.

"Miss Matilda, the reason I want to take a look is that I once took part in some of the cooperations mentioned in that file." Bai Xiaosheng's expression didn't change as he "explained" to Matilda, "But recently, those companies, they're all wholly-owned subsidiaries under Zhenbei Group and are currently under investigation. They're saying there were problems with past cooperations. Zhenbei Group has also contacted us former partners and is allowing us to file appeals. I just want to re-understand some of the situation back then from another angle, so when I saw your document, I wanted to take a look. If there's an issue, I can communicate with Zhenbei Group in time."

After he spoke, Bai Xiaosheng added, "You may be wondering why I don't go directly to the Fiewood general manager for it. You saw it yourself—he cares a lot about that file. He probably wants to avoid suspicion and not get dragged into it. After all, this Yorko Company and those problematic enterprises all belong to the same group. If he can get involved with those problem companies less, he'll avoid it as much as possible. You can understand that, right?"

Bai Xiaosheng's words seemed reasonable enough.

Even so, Matilda was still hesitating, feeling that if she handed over the stuff, she might get herself into trouble.

Her hands twisted together, her expression conflicted, even showing a hint of regret.

Seeing this, Lin Weiwei immediately wanted to go over and persuade her.

Bai Xiaosheng stopped Lin Weiwei, smiled at Matilda and said, "How about this: that file is in your phone. I'll just flip through it, have a look, and I won't copy anything. And I'll still help you with your issue. How does that sound?"

This proposal made Matilda raise her head at once, a clear stir of interest in her eyes.

As long as she didn't leave anything in someone else's hands, it didn't seem impossible...

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying knew Bai Xiaosheng's memory was freakishly good; one look and he could remember all the key content. The two of them had nothing to say about this proposal.

Eventually, Matilda nodded, pulled up the content on her phone, and then handed the phone to Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng took it with a smile and began flipping through the document page by page, occasionally enlarging some of the images.

He wasn't fast or slow, his pace even and very focused. In five minutes he had finished reading.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and handed the phone back to Matilda.

She took it, pressed the phone to her chest, still seemingly nervous.

"Miss Matilda, this Miss Lin Weiwei will give you a phone number. If you formally leave here and want to find a job on this level, you can call her." Bai Xiaosheng smiled. "This little favor, I will definitely do for you."

Bai Xiaosheng said it was a "little favor" for him, implying that he wouldn't go back on his word.

Lin Weiwei immediately did as told, took out a sticky note, wrote down a number, and handed it to Matilda.

Matilda hurriedly took it.

Strictly speaking, Matilda hadn't actually provided anything to Bai Xiaosheng and his group, yet she'd received the "reward" she wanted. She'd come out ahead.

"The event over on our side should be starting soon, so we won't stay here any longer." Bai Xiaosheng gave Matilda a smile.

Matilda nodded quickly.

Bai Xiaosheng turned and left, with Lei Ying following behind.

Lin Weiwei gave Matilda a reassuring smile and followed as well.

Matilda watched the three of them leave the room, then took out the number Lin Weiwei had given her, looked at the digits one by one, and then broke into a bright smile.

...

Bai Xiaosheng walked back with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

"Xiaosheng, why did you only look and not ask for a copy? How much did you remember?" Lin Weiwei couldn't help asking.

"You still don't know how good his memory is? He must have it seven or eight tenths down." Lei Ying chimed in from the side.

Inside Bai Xiaosheng's mind, everything was complete, as if it had been scanned in.

"In a bit I'll sort out several key leads and send them to you on your phones. You get the people from before to start checking." Bai Xiaosheng said, combining it with the analysis Red Lotus had done in his head, "A lot of the lines we'd lost before now have clues. We can pick them up again this time!"

Chapter 2440 - Acting Along with You_3

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were instantly invigorated upon hearing this.

"That Mr. Cilio is probably still feeling lucky for dodging a bullet, yet the Sword of Damocles hangs once more over his head," Bai Xiaosheng said ambiguously. "It seems there are many who don't wish him peace!"

The last sentence made Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying look at each other in bewilderment.

Ultimately, Bai Xiaosheng and the others returned to the lounge.

By this time, most of the group's members had returned.

Various leaders, including Mr. Fiewood, appeared in the lounge.

It seems the next phase is ready to begin—a review of the final two projects.

But before that, Bai Xiaosheng spent just five minutes compiling new clues and sent them to Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, leaving the arrangements to them.

In less than a quarter of an hour, everyone gathered in the lounge. Under Mr. Fiewood's organization, the group set off once again to continue the itinerary.

The review of the next two projects was indeed the main event, with important content to be examined, and Mr. Fiewood provided abundant "substance" in his explanations.

As Bai Xiaosheng walked through the crowd, noting things as he went along, whatever he had in mind to ask, others would have asked. After all, these companions were all major players in the business world, with a transcendent perspective and comprehensive consideration of issues.

Bai Xiaosheng only needed to "sit back and enjoy" with his ears, simply listening.

The final two reviews took nearly two hours to complete.

Once the reviews were finished, the time was just about right; the group had to return to their lodging and didn't linger further.

As they were about to depart, Mr. Fiewood unexpectedly organized a farewell ceremony.

A lively event, providing a sense of completion.

Watching the group's convoy fade into the distance, Mr. Fiewood finally turned around and entrusted the aftermath to Harvey before returning to his office.

Back in the office, leaning against his chair for a rest, Mr. Fiewood exhaled deeply.

The day had worn him out considerably.

At that moment, a knock on the door sounded.

"Come in!" Mr. Fiewood revitalized, responding promptly.

Someone pushed the door open and walked in with a smile as radiant as a flower.

"Mr. Fiewood, I've handled everything. How do you think my performance was?"

The person smiled, maintaining an appealingly precocious look.

It was none other than the previously pitiful little secretary, Matilda.

"Outstanding, truly outstanding!" Mr. Fiewood leaned forward and smiled, "Although our arrangement this time had flaws, your acting was impeccable. That camera in the meeting room showed me that you shouldn't be a secretary; you should be in show business!"

Matilda covered her mouth and giggled, "You're too kind!"

Then, Matilda expressed her doubts, "But not giving Bai Xiaosheng the item, just letting him see it—can that really work?"

"It's fine; that person is quite capable!" Mr. Fiewood shrugged and chuckled, "By not giving it, it seems more genuine. Coupled with your acting, that Bai Xiaosheng is sure to think he accidentally stumbled upon clues. That's great!"

Matilda smiled sympathetically, "You say he's a capable person, yet isn't he played with in our hands!"

Now, on the return bus.

Bai Xiaosheng and his companions sat in the last row to facilitate conversation, with the rows ahead all empty.

In fact, upon returning from the review, it's not uncommon for businesspeople to huddle with their accompanying team members to discuss work arrangements. The team leader, Hou Yuncheng, supported this. After all, with two business buses, there's ample space for these businesspeople to separate and discuss matters.

If they can formulate a cooperative plan on the road, it's considered a productive use of time, with significant gains.

Bai Xiaosheng whispered to Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

The two of them looked at him with slight astonishment.

"A person who's been a secretary for five years, making such a low-level mistake again? Filas mixing up documents—did he buy his position as general manager? Although that Matilda acted well, her eyes still lacked something..." Bai Xiaosheng candidly spoke to the two of them, "It's all a show! To make us see that piece of information. Those clues were deliberately given to us. And I played the game with her!"

"It's all fake? It can't be... So what do we do?" Lin Weiwei still found it hard to believe.

Lei Ying, however, was convinced.

"Then investigate the problem!" Bai Xiaosheng said, "Someone doesn't want things resolved, doesn't want Cilio to remain unscathed, and actively provides clues. Are we not going to investigate? But once the results come out, how we use them is not something they can control."

Bai Xiaosheng's lips curled into a cold smile, "Someone wants to drive the tiger to swallow the wolf, we'll reap the benefits as a fisherman! Let the game begin, let's see who can outplay whom!"