

Two Trillion 2441

Chapter 2441 - Bai Xiaosheng's Scheme

Taking advantage of the business delegation's visit for inspection, Fiewood, the general manager of Yorko Company, provided Bai Xiaosheng and his team with new clues for investigation. However, the process was full of pretense, even to the extent of staging a farce to make it seem like an accidental leak. Truly, it was a painstaking effort.

There's a new problem here.

Yorko Company is directly under the control of the African Region Executive President, Mr. Tike, and Fiewood should logically be his person as well. So, the person behind instructing Fiewood to provide clues "should naturally" be Tike.

"During our investigation, we found out that Tike is the godson of Mr. Brown and is seemingly obedient to Mr. Brown, at least in public. Now, if Mr. Tike did this, is it somehow kicking Mr. Brown's son Cilio when he's down?" Lin Weiwei couldn't help but say when she mentioned this.

Upon learning that she had been tricked into a show, Lin Weiwei was indeed displeased at heart.

"If it were Tike, would he use his own person to do this? If clues were to leak from his own people and others find out, how would he then face Mr. Brown? He couldn't explain that! With our investigation, although Mr. Brown has lost face, he still holds power, and his foundation in the Group is solid, unlikely to falter easily," said Lei Ying. "Wouldn't Tike just be asking for trouble?"

In their past experiences, it wasn't rare to have someone's potential confidant turn out to be an opponent's person, intentionally causing trouble to undermine them. Perhaps Mr. Tike is such a person, who might even be unaware of it himself.

"So, who else might be manipulating things from behind the scenes?" Lin Weiwei pondered, stroking her chin.

"Plenty," Bai Xiaosheng casually laughed, "Have you forgotten? The origin of this entire investigation incident is significantly related to Miss Caroline across the ocean."

Upon mentioning her, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were instantly reminded with surprise.

How could they have forgotten about that woman!

After all, the Jenny they encountered back then was sent over by Caroline.

"Could it be that Fiewood from Yorko has also been bought off by Caroline?" Lin Weiwei asked in surprise, "So what is she doing, helping us?"

"I think it's more like setting us against Mr. Brown of the African Region, so she can sit back and watch the tigers fight, reaping the benefits from their strife," Lei Ying replied.

Things suddenly seemed to become clear.

"I didn't say Fiewood is Caroline's person. Imagine freely, break the framework, and think outside the box," Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "Have you ever thought about who else Fiewood might belong to?"

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying looked at Bai Xiaosheng with wonder.

Someone else?

"Mr. Brown," Bai Xiaosheng smiled as he gave the answer.

This answer truly left Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying somewhat speechless.

Mr. Brown arranged for Fiewood to provide new clues that might hold his son accountable again?

That's just too far-fetched, too out-of-the-box, too outrageous.

"Is he insane?" Lin Weiwei couldn't help but swallow and murmur.

"Among the problematic enterprises we're investigating, there are traces of influence from Caroline's side. Could Mr. Brown believe that those enterprises under him have been secretly corrupted, and he's using our hands to clean out the problems?" Lei Ying deduced along that line of thought.

"Then what about his son, just... give up on him?" Lin Weiwei still didn't believe it.

Lei Ying suddenly laughed, "With Mr. Brown's ability and tactics, he has plenty of ways to prove his son was pushed aside and clear his son Cilio's name. Besides, the enterprises linked by the new clues don't all directly belong to Cilio."

Lin Weiwei pondered for a moment and seemed to find some sense in it, murmuring, "But this scheme is truly... bizarre."

Lei Ying nodded in agreement.

"Did you really take it seriously?"

Bai Xiaosheng cheerfully interrupted their amazement, "I was just chatting freely with divergent thinking. As for what the truth really is, I don't know either."

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were taken aback, unable to resist casting a sidelong glance at Bai Xiaosheng.

He spoke so vividly, yet he didn't know nor have any basis...

"Then, what do we do now?" Lin Weiwei murmured.

Not knowing who's behind it all feels awkward, weird...

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "Didn't we just say? If there are clues, we'll investigate. If there are problems, we'll find the problems! No matter who's behind it, no matter what the purpose is! We'll follow along their expected path a little bit, it's not like we'll be led by the nose the whole way. Why overthink it?"

Upon hearing Bai Xiaosheng say so, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying suddenly felt simplified.

Indeed, they were always the doers, leaving the mind-boggling tasks of strategizing against the opponent to Bai Xiaosheng.

In an instant, they both "figured it out."

"Now that we have these new clues, for this week, you should all refrain from taking action. Investigate in secret instead, have the staff in the Monitoring and Inspection Department keep it as covert as possible," Bai Xiaosheng instructed with ease.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying exchanged a glance at his words.

"Xiaosheng, are you afraid of alerting the enemy?" Lin Weiwei couldn't help but ask.

Lei Ying also said, "Is it because the previous phase of the investigation has ended, and you don't want to push too hard, making Mr. Brown think we're determined to target his father and son, causing overwhelming resistance and constant trouble?"

Their speculation seemed reasonable.

Bai Xiaosheng laughed, "Actually, I think we shouldn't be used as pawns for nothing. At least the one who wants us to carry out tasks should provide a few more rounds of ammunition, huh? Having loud results upfront would only make them too pleased."

Chapter 2442 - Bai Xiaosheng's Scheme (Part 2)

This metaphor left Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying at a loss for words.

However, whatever Bai Xiaosheng said, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying would comply.

After all, the major decisions were still made by him.

"Alright, we'll do as you say."

"Understood."

The two of them said to Bai Xiaosheng.

After discussing these matters, during the latter part of the journey, Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei talked about "collaboration" with Yorko Company.

This collaboration was not a direct one.

The former mentioned that Bai Xiaosheng planned to take an indirect approach, collaborating with companies partnered with Yorko Company, thereby indirectly taking a share of the benefits.

When Jia Chengshan and several other businessmen were at Yorko Company, they exchanged letters of intent with the other party.

In fact, before going, Bai Xiaosheng had already discussed with them. They would take the lead in the collaboration. For the subsequent required raw materials, finished products, and logistics and storage processes, Bai Xiaosheng would join in, helping Jia Chengshan and the others solve these at better rates, though the "better" rates provided by Bai Xiaosheng were only lower compared to their original costs.

In fact, there was still considerable profit potential in this arrangement.

Overall, this matter was a win-win, tightening the cooperation and relationship between both parties and leading the commercial alliance from a short-term to a long-term relationship, achieving multiple objectives at once.

People like Jia Chengshan were naturally happy with this.

Bai Xiaosheng discussed the arrangements regarding these aspects with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying along the way.

If executed well, this kind of indirect cooperation could also solve the "overproduction" issue faced by the companies under Bai Xiaosheng's management as well as his own enterprises.

Moreover, through companies like Jia Chengshan's, they could promptly access and learn the latest technology and craft in the area and obtain high-quality products at low prices.

This approach could be widely used among allies in the future.

All allies would become main cooperation entities and support providers, thus forming a cohesive unit.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying also took out their notebooks to carefully jot down everything Bai Xiaosheng instructed, showing great interest in Bai Xiaosheng's method, eager for a positive outcome.

As they talked along the way, time passed quickly.

By the time they arrived at the business group's lodging in Mulango, it was already late at night.

The day's tours plus the travel had left them all exhausted, even Bai Xiaosheng was yawning repeatedly.

"Anyway, don't think or do anything tonight. If you have the energy, take a hot shower and get a good night's sleep. Tomorrow, we won't join the inspection; just rest for a day and handle the tasks I've given you."

Bai Xiaosheng yawned as he gave the final order to the two.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, of course, agreed.

The three of them got off the vehicle with the others, greeted people, and went straight back to their rooms.

That night, while other major businessmen were busy around the clock, Bai Xiaosheng enjoyed a deep and sweet sleep.

No words were spoken the entire night.

The next day, other major businessmen re-energized, set off again on an inspection tour, running around for potential big deals and significant business opportunities.

Bai Xiaosheng, on the other hand, had a good sleep and leisurely enjoyed a hearty breakfast with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying before they each returned to their rooms.

Whether they slept or worked, it was unknown.

Not until the third day did Bai Xiaosheng take Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying back on the inspection tour.

However, on the evening of the third day, Bai Xiaosheng was invited by Hou Yuncheng.

After sitting down and holding up a cup of tea, Hou Yuncheng smiled and said to Bai Xiaosheng, "Sheng, tomorrow the officials from our business group need to go to Bichi City nearby to check their urban renewal planning project. They need a few businessmen to accompany them. I asked Lu Yun and Jia Chengshan, they're all preoccupied. I heard your schedule isn't tight these two days. So, do you have time to go with us?"

The enterprises managed by Bai Xiaosheng, in terms of construction projects, may not be the strongest, but they have extensive connections and resources in this area.

This time, the invitation to the business group to visit Bichi City had an underlying intention to seek help from Huaxia's construction companies.

Bichi City's redevelopment funds were limited, coupled with relatively poor economic status and various constraints, making some construction demolition projects unprofitable.

It can be said that the profitable project works had already been divided up, leaving little that anyone was willing to take on.

Hou Yuncheng extended the invitation and explained things clearly to Bai Xiaosheng, "It's just to take a look, and you don't have to take any projects if they aren't suitable."

Facing Hou Yuncheng's invitation, Bai Xiaosheng readily agreed, "Alright, I don't have any pressing plans tomorrow, I'll go with you."

Bai Xiaosheng's attitude indeed satisfied Hou Yuncheng, and after having a cup of tea, they parted with smiles.

On the fourth day, Bai Xiaosheng went to Bichi City with several businessmen from the construction industry along with Hou Yuncheng and others.

The trip to Bichi was uneventful, during the tour, two accompanying businessmen took some small profitable orders, and none were interested in the remaining projects that had been left unpicked.

The person in charge of receiving in Bichi City seemed somewhat disappointed.

Just when everyone thought "that's it for today," Bai Xiaosheng stepped forward.

His words took everyone by surprise.

Bai Xiaosheng chose to take all the remaining projects.

As a result, the officials in Bichi City were absolutely thrilled.

The businessmen accompanying him, however, gave Bai Xiaosheng peculiar looks.

Hou Yuncheng was also startled, thinking that their conversation the previous day may have prompted Bai Xiaosheng to make a show today, and he quickly went over to communicate with Bai Xiaosheng.

In the end, Bai Xiaosheng voluntarily expressed a desire to donate two schools and additionally construct a road.

Chapter 2443 - Bai Xiaosheng's Strategy (Part 3)

In this way, it absolutely amazed everyone, even Hou Yuncheng was taken aback.

The person in charge of the Bichi Municipal Government was all smiles, showering Bai Xiaosheng with praise.

Bai Xiaosheng politely expressed that he too had requests, hoping the local area would grant long-term preferential policies for certain industries.

Then Bai Xiaosheng listed those industries, all industries in which several nearby cities were strong, making the desired preferential policies seem rather pointless.

As a result, the merchants who initially perked up their ears to hear his ideas all shook their heads quietly.

The Bichi Municipal Government conducted an on-site study and immediately agreed to Bai Xiaosheng's request, further increasing the discount by ten percent and extending the duration to fifty years.

After all, those industries were still considered backward locally, and others had no objection to such terms.

Moreover, Huaxia friends were quite generous, and they were willing to do this.

The collaboration was successfully achieved, and Bai Xiaosheng was not only honored as a distinguished guest by Bichi City but also hailed as "the best friend" by the high-level members of Lekram who accompanied him.

When Hou Yuncheng heard Bai Xiaosheng's requests, he was deep in thought and no longer hurried to question him.

On the car ride back, Hou Yuncheng specifically pulled Bai Xiaosheng into his vehicle to ask.

"Sheng, the industry access and preferential policies you requested from Bichi City look tempting, but surrounding cities hold absolute advantage in those industries, and there's practically no scope for development in Bichi, right?"

This was what puzzled Hou Yuncheng the most.

Bai Xiaosheng immediately smiled, "Director Hou, I won't hide it from you, I investigated before I came. Bichi City actually has potential in the industries I mentioned, but each one is not as developed as in the surrounding cities, only covering the 'whole' aspect. The industries started late here, resulting in prospering surroundings while this area remains dim, as if surrounded by starlight but dark. But if we change our perspective and invest heavily, pouring in enough resources and funds, can't we turn this place into the core and attract other shining cities firmly to create a larger, more solid bloc in this region?"

What Bai Xiaosheng said made Hou Yuncheng's eyes widen in wonder, "Can this work?"

Bai Xiaosheng laughed, "It might not work for others, but we, the Huaxia businessmen, can achieve it!"

Bai Xiaosheng was contemplating establishing a new comprehensive group company here, and slowly grow it stronger and larger.

Of course, this was just a concept, with further refinement needed.

Upon hearing this, Hou Yuncheng studied Bai Xiaosheng for a while, finally expressing admiration, "I really underestimated you. Your vision is extraordinary!"

Hou Yuncheng's praise resulted in Bai Xiaosheng modestly claiming it was undeserved.

After that day, on the fifth day, Bai Xiaosheng closed the door again to delve into his concept for Bichi City.

Over here, Bai Xiaosheng and his team lived busily but in orderly fashion.

On the other side, someone was getting restless.

The Yorko Company, general manager's office.

Fiewood, Harvey, and Matilda closed the door to discuss privately.

"Why hasn't there been any investigation movement yet? Maybe Bai Xiaosheng is scared and won't risk offending Mr. Brown?" chubby Harvey speculated.

"No way, the information we obtained shows Bai Xiaosheng is definitely not someone who would shrink back." Fiewood frowned and shook his head.

Matilda tentatively said, "Or maybe we provided too few clues, so Bai Xiaosheng might just have glanced but not memorized much?"

"I said, you should have directly handed it to him at the time!" Harvey clapped and commented.

"That wouldn't look too genuine." Matilda grumbled.

"What's the use of being genuine if the job isn't done!" Harvey complained.

In their exchange, even Fiewood grew impatient—

"How about... communicating with the top, and provide some new clues to them?"

Chapter 2444 - Lobbying the Two Titans

Bai Xiaosheng accompanied Hou Yuncheng and these business leaders on a visit to Bichi City. During the trip, he conceived a bold idea and immediately took the first step — taking on the neglected construction projects in Bichi City in exchange for astonishingly favorable policies from the city.

This move was enough to prove Bai Xiaosheng's commercial acumen, foresight, and courage.

Bai Xiaosheng intended to elevate a city that had advantages in all aspects, yet wasn't prominent in any, to become the "commercial core" of the entire region, connecting commercial areas into one.

The idea wasn't just wild; it reeked of "fantasy."

This was no longer about running a business or dominating an industry; it was about reshaping the commercial "landscape."

Of course, if successful, Bai Xiaosheng, as the operator, would inevitably gain incredible wealth and opportunities.

In this endeavor, Bai Xiaosheng knew, even for himself, in a foreign land with no support, it would be extremely difficult to accomplish.

Therefore, Bai Xiaosheng never intended to do it alone.

If everything had to be done alone, what would be the point of an alliance?

Bai Xiaosheng believed that since he painstakingly established the Global Business Alliance, he should make full use of it, relying on collective strength to forge ahead.

To put it boldly, if the collective is strong enough, even moving mountains and reclaiming the sea might be possible!

For two days, Bai Xiaosheng shut himself in, first thoroughly researching some things on his own. Then, he picked a day when Lu Yun and Jia Chengshan were not out and invited them over.

With snacks set on the coffee table, Bai Xiaosheng sat down with Lu Yun and Jia Chengshan for discussion.

Although it was said to be a casual chat, in reality, Bai Xiaosheng was discussing his ideas.

"Sheng, I heard yesterday in Bichi City, you took on all the remaining reconstruction projects? Is that true? Those projects aren't good deals; when necessary, let them go quickly, so you don't get stuck!"

Lu Yun was somewhat familiar with the situation in Bichi City. He also had several infrastructure companies under his hand but had no interest in joining the bustle in Bichi City.

"With international accolades coming along, it's most likely true. Not only the reconstruction, but our Mr. Bai also donated schools and roads!" Jia Chengshan said.

Faced with such comments, Bai Xiaosheng just smiled.

Since there was no fourth person in the room, Bai Xiaosheng didn't want to beat around the bush.

When dealing with such smart people, being indirect seemed insincere, which would affect future faithful collaborations.

"I invited you two over because I want to talk about my trip to Bichi and share some small views about Bichi City's commercial future and prospects!" Bai Xiaosheng initiated the conversation.

Lu Yun and Jia Chengshan leaned back simultaneously, preparing to listen slowly.

Based on age, both could be considered veterans in the business world compared to Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng wanted to discuss and communicate with them, knowing they would certainly provide some valuable advice later.

As Bai Xiaosheng continued to talk, Lu Yun and Jia Chengshan shifted from being relaxed to focused, eventually becoming deeply astonished.

Honestly, Bai Xiaosheng's idea was quite intense, enough to shock even these two business tycoons.

From what he was saying, it seemed like he wanted to reshape the regional commercial structure within which several cities were included?!

"We are going from one company to another for business, Mr. Bai, are you trying to reshuffle the entire region, multiple cities, and several industries?" Jia Chengshan looked at Bai Xiaosheng in disbelief.

How did this young man muster such courage to think so boldly!

Previously, Jia Chengshan only regarded Bai Xiaosheng as a "business demon" — a prodigy in the business world, but now it seems this evaluation is inappropriate; Bai Xiaosheng is no longer just a dragon stirring up tides in the seas but seeks to become the dragon controlling clouds and rain.

Jia Chengshan couldn't help but glance at Lu Yun.

Lu Yun was also surprised, looking at Bai Xiaosheng, "Sheng, do you really intend to do what you mentioned? Isn't this...a bit exaggerated?"

Jia Chengshan nodded in agreement.

"I'm here just to hear what you two think," Bai Xiaosheng smiled at them.

"Let Mr. Lu speak first, I need a moment to process," Jia Chengshan said.

He wasn't without opinions but due to his special relationship with Bai Xiaosheng and previous grievances, he needed to ponder carefully whenever saying something important.

In comparison, Lu Yun had fewer concerns. He could be considered Bai Xiaosheng's benefactor, elder, friend, and mentor, whom Bai Xiaosheng always respected.

Many things Lu Yun could say without much reservation.

Lu Yun said, "Sheng, I know you want to integrate the commerce of the entire region, including multiple cities, to form a stronger commercial community and reap profits from it. The idea itself is great, very daring! But have you considered that it's a wishful plan? The commercial cities you want to integrate might not agree to your proposal for unified commercial development. If it doesn't work out, it would be a lost cause. If it works, they would become secondary, with Bichi City as the core. Originally, Bichi City's commercial status was overlooked by them, now they have to follow Bichi City's lead. Can they really accept that? Even ordinary people know it's better to be a chicken's head than a phoenix's tail, let alone those commercial city's managers. I think those cities won't cooperate with your idea but will resist and might even add barriers unconsciously, and in extreme cases, might intervene secretly. Have you really thought this through?!"

Jia Chengshan wanted to say the same, but since Lu Yun covered it, he just nodded in agreement.

The idea is a good one!

They were both somewhat moved inside.

But achieving it is too difficult!

"Lu, there's a premise in your words that is incorrect. I never intended to negotiate any commercial integration with the surrounding cities of Bichi." Bai Xiaosheng laughed, "I only aim to make various industries in Bichi City thrive, to firmly attract businessmen from other cities. In this way, from a business perspective, Bichi City will eventually become the commercial core. If anyone opposes or

obstructs, I think it's useless; businessmen will vote with their feet to decide which side to support. Once the big trend forms, no one can stop it!"

Bai Xiaosheng never planned to push this matter from the top down but to operate from the bottom up!

Lu Yun and Jia Chengshan were shaken to the core.

The more significant the business figures, the more they feel such a major thing needs someone from the top down to support it, but actually, it's not needed at all...

This whole thing is starting to get interesting!

From the very start, both of them had a tingling itch of an eager heart!

If the three of us operate it and fail, the loss wouldn't be much.

But if successful, the gains would be enormous...

Their hearts were moved without Bai Xiaosheng needing to persuade them...

"Mr. Bai, you want to spread your wings in Bichi City and even help them stand out to become the regional commercial leader. But what if Bichi City is uninterested at that time and doesn't support it?" Jia Chengshan thoughtfully added, "Surely you don't plan to play the emotional card based on the reconstruction help."

Honestly, the emotional card doesn't always work.

Lu Yun shared this concern and looked at Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and produced a few prepared documents, placing them in front of the two.

"Lu, Mr. Jia, these are the supporting policies Bichi City provided to me for my generous help. They are unique, valid for fifty years, and explicitly labeled as exclusive benefits!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, "Isn't this golden certificate weighty enough?"

Lu Yun picked up the documents in surprise, read them for a long time, and exclaimed, "Are there so many preferential clauses in here?"

Jia Chengshan also looked with astonished eyes, browsing through.

The more he read, the more promising it seemed, heating up one's heart.

"Originally, these benefits were drafted by my side, but during the review submission, the other party modified them greatly—" Bai Xiaosheng laughed, "The offered support doubled what I listed. Some of the support strengths are small but better than nothing, while others genuinely surprised and delighted me."

Lu Yun and Jia Chengshan perused the documents, gradually showing a burning determination in their eyes.

"I believe that if the three of us lead the way in operating this matter, it would strongly tend towards success!" Bai Xiaosheng said.

If Lu Yun and Jia Chengshan joined, many allies in the alliance would move following the news, and their partners in Africa would also be influenced.

The snowball effect and linkage would be enough to turn the idea into reality!

Bai Xiaosheng thought of this, and naturally, so did the two.

Rather than Bai Xiaosheng persuading, it was more about letting them persuade themselves all along.

This time, Lu Yun did not object.

Jia Chengshan didn't have any objections either, burying himself in reviewing those document clauses, his eyes alternated between bright and usual, indicating his emotions were stirred up.

Bai Xiaosheng poured a cup of tea, sipping lightly, and after two cups, smiled and said to the two, "There's no rush to decide on this matter, Uncle Lu, Mr. Jia, you can take a copy of the documents to slowly review and ponder."

As Bai Xiaosheng said so, Lu Yun and Jia Chengshan immediately raised their heads to look at him.

"Alright, I'll go back and review it slowly!" Lu Yun said.

"I'll leave now; tea can be savored slowly later, but this matter needs to be promptly addressed!" Jia Chengshan also said, standing up directly.

Seeing their intention to leave, Bai Xiaosheng did not stop them. He smiled and stood, saying to the two, "Alright, let's catch up again later!"

Chapter 2445 - Delivery to the Door

Bai Xiaosheng chatted with Lu Yun and Jia Chengshan about his business idea centered around Bichi City, and handed them a copy of the business preference policy given to him by Bichi City for their consideration. After seeing them off, Bai Xiaosheng returned to his room where Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying had already arrived.

Just now, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were not present, so they were unaware of Bai Xiaosheng's conversation with the others. Naturally, they needed to ask about it.

Bai Xiaosheng candidly shared with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying that Lu Yun and Jia Chengshan were interested in his business idea and were likely to participate, advising them to prepare in advance.

"Xiaosheng, you're amazing! You talked for just about half an hour and managed to persuade Mr. Lu Yun and Mr. Jia Chengshan; that's incredible!" Lin Weiwei gave Bai Xiaosheng two enthusiastic thumbs up, looking like a little fan girl full of admiration.

If Lu Yun and Jia Chengshan, these two business giants, endorsed Bai Xiaosheng's idea and put great effort into executing it, Bai Xiaosheng would indeed be empowered to create a miracle in the business world.

Bai Xiaosheng's business idea could change the commercial landscape of a region and potentially leave a significant mark in global business, bringing unimaginable opportunities and changes to many companies.

Just thinking about witnessing such a grand event made Lin Weiwei feel excited and proud of Bai Xiaosheng.

Lei Ying also smiled, "Mr. Lu Yun and Jia Chengshan are part of the business alliance Xiaosheng has built. In the past, Xiaosheng has brought them so much business success, they are likely reciprocating and giving some face!"

"It's still Xiaosheng's plan that's impressive! They recognize its value!" Lin Weiwei insisted.

Bai Xiaosheng immediately laughed and said to Lin Weiwei, "Alright, alright, you don't need to flatter me like this; I'm blushing."

Lin Weiwei made a playful face.

Later, Bai Xiaosheng continued, "For people like Mr. Lu Yun and Jia Chengshan, persuading them is both simple and complicated. For things they don't acknowledge, talking for days and nights won't convince them; if they're interested in something, a brief conversation with a couple of cups of tea showing them a bit of substance would suffice. And this issue happens to align with their interests and appetites."

This was the real "reason" Bai Xiaosheng could persuade two business giants in such a short time.

Hearing this, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying nodded in agreement.

Next, this matter should proceed smoothly. It's significant, so it can't be rushed.

"By the way," Lin Weiwei seemed to remember something and said to Bai Xiaosheng, "just now, while you were discussing, I got a phone call. Guess who called."

Obviously, Lin Weiwei didn't really want Bai Xiaosheng to guess aimlessly, as she immediately gave the answer, "It was Matilda from Yorko Company."

"Her, huh." Bai Xiaosheng furrowed his brows slightly, then relaxed.

He remembered.

Back then, Yorko Company's General Manager Fiewood and Matilda staged a commotion, "sending" them some new leads for investigation. Bai Xiaosheng had said they would keep things still for a week, and indeed, there was no big move this side for a week.

Even the checking was done quietly by the investigation department staff.

It seems the other side couldn't wait any longer.

"Interesting, I've been thinking the past couple of days that news should be coming." Lei Ying also touched his chin and laughed.

"That Matilda wants to have coffee with me this afternoon, saying she has something to discuss, at a cafe right in Mulango City's downtown. She said she's here on business." Lin Weiwei asked, "Should I meet her?"

Bai Xiaosheng heard and smiled, "Since she's come from afar, of course, you should meet her."

Lin Weiwei nodded, looked at Bai Xiaosheng, and continued to ask, "How should I talk with her?"

Bai Xiaosheng sees through their intentions without revealing them; maintaining discretion calls for careful communication, so Lin Weiwei wanted Bai Xiaosheng to give some guidance.

"Here's what you should say to her when the time comes..." Bai Xiaosheng immediately advised Lin Weiwei.

Lin Weiwei nodded frequently and agreed, "Alright, okay, I understand."

After listening to their conversation, Lei Ying said, "Since that's settled, I'll follow the original arrangements to communicate the next investigation direction, progress, and methods with the investigation department staff."

"Thanks for the hard work." Bai Xiaosheng said to them, "We've all started getting busy, and I need to quickly plan how the group's Greater China Region enterprises and our own enterprises can participate in this business concept."

Bai Xiaosheng sighed heavily, "Phew, how many brain cells do I have to lose again? I've heard that excessive mental exertion leads to hair loss; when I reach middle age, won't I be bald..."

It's hard to say. Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying each chuckled lightly.

...

At two in the afternoon, after lunch, Lin Weiwei appeared in a rather famous café in Mulango City's downtown commercial street.

The café faces the street, with floor-to-ceiling glass walls, providing a perfect view of the street scenery from inside.

Both local residents and visitors from afar enjoy the tranquil moments here.

Upon entering, Lin Weiwei saw someone standing up, waving at her excitedly; it was Matilda, the female secretary from Yoriko Company's Fiewood.

Lin Weiwei talked to the approaching waiter about the coffee she wanted and walked over with a smile.

"Lin, long time no see!" Matilda had an image of a cheerful neighbor girl, warmly greeting Lin Weiwei.

Chapter 2446 - Home Delivery (Part 2)

Actually, she is a bit older than Lin Weiwei.

"Long time no see, Matilda. How have you been recently?" Lin Weiwei responded with a smile and sat down facing Matilda.

Matilda's expression suddenly became somewhat haggard, but she gathered her hair and smiled, "Lin, thank you for your concern. I'm, I'm okay."

Lin Weiwei nodded.

At this moment, the waiter brought coffee, and Lin Weiwei thanked him, took a slight sip, and then put it down.

"Matilda, why are you contacting me only now, have you already left Yorko Company?" Lin Weiwei took the initiative, "Do you need a job now?"

Back then, Bai Xiaosheng wanted to see the document in Matilda's hand and promised her.

Matilda's departure, Bai Xiaosheng would find a job for her as good as in Yorko Company.

Of course, Bai Xiaosheng knew at the time that Matilda was quite skilled in acting, she wouldn't quit, and Bai Xiaosheng's promise was just a foreshadowing for today's meeting.

Matilda gave Lin Weiwei a grateful smile, "Lin, thank you for remembering this, but I haven't resigned yet."

"Ah, you haven't resigned yet!" Lin Weiwei looked surprised and puzzled, "I remember the day before yesterday was the end of the month, right? They said they would let you resign at the end of the month and compensate you. Why haven't you left?"

Matilda quickly explained, "Uh, it's like this, because I was once Mr. Fiewood's secretary, our company... Yorko Company is now fiercely competing with a rival, they worry that if I leave, it will lead to a leak, so... I need to go through some more procedures."

"I understand." Lin Weiwei seemed to be in a "got it" mood and nodded.

Then, Lin Weiwei curiously looked at Matilda, "So you're asking me out today, is there something you want to discuss?"

As Lin Weiwei said this, Matilda immediately appeared tense, looking around, looking out the window.

Lin Weiwei, affected by her tension, also looked around.

Seeing nothing unusual around them, Matilda quickly placed a USB drive on the table and pushed it toward Lin Weiwei, blinking her big, watery eyes and said seriously, "I don't know your email, can't send you the file, this is the stuff you wanted that day. At the time, I was scared, so I only let you guys have a look. Later, I felt I should give it to you!"

Lin Weiwei looked at the USB drive on the table without picking it up, then looked at Matilda seriously, "You're being suspected by the company now, how can I take this from you at such a time."

"It's okay, it's nothing important." Matilda said hastily, pushing the USB drive closer to Lin Weiwei again.

"But after all, it's your internal stuff, not good, we shouldn't be too selfish when doing things." Lin Weiwei pressed her hand on the USB drive and pushed it back.

"No one knows me here, no one saw anything!" Matilda persuaded, pushing it over again.

"Even so! If I take it, I'd feel guilty about you, and so would my two companions. You see, you're such a kind person, if something like this puts a burden on your mind, your work and life in the future will be uneasy." Lin Weiwei continued to decline and pushed it back again.

"It's okay, you guys are my friends. Helping you wouldn't make me uneasy." Matilda rushed her words, pushing it over again.

"It's not only you that would feel uneasy, it would also make us uneasy." Lin Weiwei pushed it back again.

These two started a game of pushing the USB drive on the table, neither giving way, and the sound of the USB drive rubbing against the table was quite rhythmic.

The waiter passed by and gave these two women a peculiar look.

Lin Weiwei and Matilda quickly sat properly, pretending nothing was happening.

After the waiter went by, Matilda pushed it again, saying, "Really, it's okay!"

"It really isn't okay!" Lin Weiwei was determined to argue with her.

After going back and forth, Matilda got angry, her eyebrows furrowed, pushed it over, pressed the USB drive down, her voice rising by a few pitches, "I'm telling you to take it, just take it! It's okay!"

Lin Weiwei didn't argue, watching Matilda calmly.

Matilda immediately realized, her demeanor turning shy and meek, lowering her voice, "Lin, I really, really, really want to help you guys, don't refuse me, okay?"

"Okay." Lin Weiwei replied crisply this time.

Matilda's eyes lit up with joy hearing this response, letting out a long breath.

"But this, I still can't take." Lin Weiwei said, "Because it's of no use to us."

Matilda froze, blurting out, "How can it be useless!"

Lin Weiwei looked at her without speaking.

Matilda quickly cleared her throat and exchanged her expression, speaking softly to Lin Weiwei, "That day, I saw you guys really wanted it, thought it was very important, how can it be useless?"

Lin Weiwei smiled brightly and said to Matilda, "That day we did think it was important, but after going back, we found quite a bit of information on those aspects, so we don't need it anymore. And you see, in this special time for you, this thing might affect you, since it doesn't really have much use for us, we shouldn't take it, don't you agree?"

Matilda was momentarily speechless.

"Oh, by the way, I also found a paper document, I see it involves a few companies just like what's in this stuff, can you see if it's useful?" Matilda quickly took out a few sheets from her bag, pushed them over, and repeated the cautious surveying of the surroundings.

This thing was carefully prepared by Mr. Fiewood and his team, hiding higher value clues, involving two more companies.

Chapter 2447 - Delivery to the Doorstep (Part 3)

Lin Weiwei saying it's still useless would be lying through her teeth.

Lin Weiwei picked up the paper documents, browsing each one slowly.

While reading, Lin Weiwei started sipping her coffee. By the time she finished the coffee, she was almost done reading.

Matilda closely monitored the changes in Lin Weiwei's expression.

Unfortunately, Lin Weiwei seemed unmoved.

"Could it be, they have already investigated these things? That can't be. If there are so many crucial items, would they have laid low rather than immediately confront those problematic companies, against Cilio again?" Matilda was puzzled.

Fiewood said Bai Xiaosheng is a ruthless person who doesn't show favoritism when handling matters. Would he really ignore these?

If she didn't know about them, then why is this woman neither surprised nor moved?

Matilda was utterly confused.

Lin Weiwei finished reading and handed the documents back to Matilda, smiling calmly, "There are some valuable points here."

When these words were spoken, Matilda felt somewhat relieved.

"But there's more that is useless to us," Lin Weiwei continued, "So I've noted the useful parts, and that's enough. You should take these back."

Upon hearing this, Matilda was momentarily stunned.

Was it all just dismissed so lightly?

No photographs as a keepsake...

"It's really not of much use to you, is it?" Matilda couldn't help but ask.

If it's not explained this way, then there's no explanation.

In her heart, Matilda started to feel somewhat resentful towards Fiewood.

He painstakingly prepared these documents, yet they seem too cautiously put together, obscuring their content from being understood by this woman?

Should I remind her? How to remind her? If I do, would it not mean I know too much?

What a waste of effort!

Matilda was genuinely frustrated.

If she couldn't complete the task given from above, Fiewood would be upset and blame her!

What kind of situation is this? Exhausted emotionally and physically, yet still scapegoated...

Matilda felt stifled.

"You could say that, not of much use," Lin Weiwei said lightly, seemingly reluctant to be too harsh, afraid to hurt Matilda.

Matilda was speechless.

"Alright, we've met, and discussed pretty much everything we needed to, it's time I head back," Lin Weiwei laughed, "Miss Matilda, our promise still stands. While we're in Lekram, if you resign, remember to contact us. If we've left, finding someone to help fulfill it might be difficult. By the way, we're leaving in just a few days, you should hurry up."

With these words, Lin Weiwei was more reminding Matilda about resigning than emphasizing that without high-value information, it would be hard to rekindle the investigation that had subsided.

Feeling anxious, Matilda quickly smiled, "Alright, Lin, I'll hurry up the process, and bother you when the time comes."

Lin Weiwei smiled at her, stood up, shouldered her bag, and politely bid farewell, "Then I'm off, see you."

From beginning to end, Lin Weiwei never looked at the document on the table again.

Matilda quickly stood up, smiled, and nodded, watching Lin Weiwei leave.

After Lin Weiwei left, Matilda sat down again, frowning at the documents before her, muttering, "Could it be, the things I've newly acquired this time are really that worthless? Damn it, or is that woman already remembering what's inside and will restart the investigation later..."

It's probably best to wait and see.

If it doesn't work, I still need to continue providing more clues to Bai Xiaosheng.

"This is truly troubling for me; next time we meet, how will I explain where the new insights came from? Consistently providing such things to outsiders, even with my excellent acting skills, will my character slightly collapse?" Matilda pondered internally.

At this moment, Lin Weiwei walked briskly down the street, her hair swaying, faintly revealing her earlobe and invisible Bluetooth earphone.

On her chest, the brooch was actually a camera.

These were special devices borrowed from the headquarters' surveillance department staff.

Everything from the documents Lin Weiwei picked up was meticulously recorded.

"A fruitful harvest?" Lin Weiwei muttered to herself, albeit actually conversing with someone.

Lei Ying's voice came through, "Sheng said, continuing the investigation would suffice to reissue accountability to Cilio, making him directly step down and leave!"

Lin Weiwei immediately laughed.

"However, Sheng mentioned that he's more interested in finding out who the mastermind is, eager to see what more Fiewood's group could offer! So, we're staying put!"

Chapter 2448 - Let Him Be Ruined by Bai Xiaosheng

Yorko Company, General Manager's Office, Matilda sat across from Fiewood, crossing her legs and complaining to Fiewood.

"Tell me, what are we doing here! Since they've decided to pursue new leads, let's give them something substantive, direct instead of roundabout, ambiguous things that seem accidentally leaked but serve no purpose. Previously, we revealed things thinking they didn't know, but they knew, and even this time's clues were unsurprising to them. Perhaps they've accepted the Zhenbei Group's headquarters decision not to investigate Cilio under full knowledge of everything. I think we've wasted our efforts this time!"

The tone in Matilda's words carries a hint of frustration, seemingly blaming Fiewood for being overly cautious, resulting in no progress.

Why the woman named Lin Weiwei didn't accept what she offered and wasn't surprised, there could be many reasons beyond this, but Matilda still voiced her thoughts.

She is not a typical employee, and what she's doing now is not a typical task, so she dares to speak.

Her complaints are partly false, partly true, letting the leadership know the difficulty, her challenges, demonstrating that whether it succeeds or fails, the problem doesn't lie with her, and if something goes wrong, blame shouldn't rest on her shoulders.

Fiewood looked puzzled, frowning, "They didn't take the items, nor showed any surprise?"

"Indeed, when I saw these things, I was probably more surprised than she was," Matilda said.

Fiewood frowned and rubbed his temples, murmuring, "Could it be they already know what we provided? But judging from the penalties announced by the group, they shouldn't know..."

"Perhaps they're holding onto clues without making them public. Those matters directly point to Cilio," Matilda hypothesized, "Imagine, when the issue arose, Mr. Brown immediately intervened, and the group's higher-ups respect Mr. Brown enough to decisively settle the matter. Would they still dare to act rashly? I suspect either the evidence in their hands hasn't been forwarded yet, or they're waiting to gather sufficient weight to present them all at once for decisive impact, such that even Mr. Brown can't negotiate!"

Fiewood couldn't help but nod slightly.

He couldn't deduce the real situation either. At this moment, hearing such reasonable speculation from a close associate naturally made him agree.

"Then I will prepare some... essential materials, more crucial clues, and you figure out a way to deliver them," Fiewood said.

"Better hurry!" Matilda urged, "That Huaxia woman said they won't stay in Lekram for many days, once they're gone, it'll be difficult to manage."

Fiewood furrowed his brow.

Indeed, time is tight! He doesn't have much time left either!

Initially, he thought the matter wasn't so complicated, but he didn't expect it to be so hard to handle, a week passed without any achievement!

Even Fiewood himself was getting anxious.

After all, the person who assigned him the task is still waiting for news.

"Alright, I'll reschedule this afternoon's meeting, focus on this matter... at the latest, I'll get you the materials before the end of the day!" Fiewood said.

He is practically putting everything aside to deal with this issue.

"Again to deliver clues to them, what excuse should I use this time." Matilda pouted, "Even if their acting is good, no need to assign such tricky tasks..."

These words had a touch of playful complaint.

Fiewood immediately smiled, leaned forward, placed one hand on Matilda's fragrant shoulder, and squeezed it firmly, "I know you've been working hard, don't worry, there will be compensation later, okay?"

Only then did Matilda reveal a coy smile.

While these two were discussing providing Sheng and his team further new materials, Bai Xiaosheng and the other two were studying the clues obtained from Matilda today.

"If we proceed with the clues we got from Matilda today, those previously investigated companies will face renewed troubles, with direct responsibility pointing to Cilio," Bai Xiaosheng said, "However, more clues mean more connections involved, and though some have deliberately obscured information, even severing ties to stop us at those companies, if we comb through all the problematic companies' accounts, reports, and past associations, then dissect old news online, we can find new problematic companies! Moreover, we can assess how big a crisis is still lurking here!"

Bai Xiaosheng's words make a lot of sense.

However, this task is tremendously colossal!

Using current manpower alone would require halting a significant portion of the undercover investigation.

But since Bai Xiaosheng made this decision, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying had no objections.

"We'll proceed as you suggested now!" Lin Weiwei assertively said.

"Pausing some investigations isn't an issue, we can request the monitoring department to send additional personnel!" Lei Ying added.

Facing these two who were full of vigor, Bai Xiaosheng directly shook his head, "No need, I'll find a way for this task."

Even with more people, handling this would still be strenuous, plus manual work might encompass oversights. One oversight could miss extremely crucial connections, leading to losing important content.

However, if this task is handled by Red Lotus superintelligent AI, it would be much simpler, efficiency would be unparalleled, and issues are nearly nonexistent.

Therefore, Bai Xiaosheng chose to take on this task himself.

Chapter 2449 - Make Him Fall by Bai Xiaosheng (Part 2)

"What do you want to do?" Lin Weiwei asked Bai Xiaosheng in astonishment.

Lei Ying also looked at Bai Xiaosheng in confusion.

They had no idea that Bai Xiaosheng always had a secret weapon.

"I'll find someone to handle it and give you the result later." Bai Xiaosheng couldn't explain, so he said, "Just don't worry too much."

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng say so, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying remained silent.

"For now, don't put too much thought into it, because I have something more important for you to do." Bai Xiaosheng said, opening a document on his laptop that was about the commercial blueprint for Bichi City.

"Mr. Lu Yun and Jia Chengshan just replied to me, saying they're willing to heavily invest in the commercial blueprint of Bichi City. At home, I have Elder Xia in charge, arranging companies to come over. As for the companies we privately own, you two will handle and arrange them. I'll discuss this with you now..."

Bai Xiaosheng began assigning tasks to Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

The two of them immediately listened attentively, even taking out their phones to jot down important points and set a schedule to prevent forgetting anything.

Thus, the three of them talked the entire afternoon.

Once everything was explained, Bai Xiaosheng and the others were parched from talking and immediately made some tea to refresh their throats, casually chatting about other things to clear their minds.

Just then, Lin Weiwei's phone suddenly rang. She took it out and saw the name on the screen, smiling instantly.

"Who's calling that makes you so happy?" Lei Ying asked curiously from the side.

Lin Weiwei didn't hide it, showing it to Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying, "Today's delivery..."

The name displayed was: Matilda.

"Delivery? Lei Ying found it amusing.

Bai Xiaosheng laughed, "Looks like she wasn't satisfied with not being able to deliver something today. Let's hear what she wants to say now?"

Lin Weiwei nodded, made a shushing gesture, answered the call, and put it on speaker.

"Hello, Miss Lin?" Matilda's voice came through, sounding deliberately low.

"It's me, Matilda. What's up?" Lin Weiwei said.

"It's like this, Lin, I have something important to tell you. Please ensure no one else is around you!"

Matilda's voice became somewhat tense.

Lin Weiwei glanced at Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying, leaned closer to the phone, and said, "Go ahead, I'm in a convenient place to talk."

On the other end, Matilda was silent for two seconds, seeming to muster up a great deal of courage before saying, "It's like this, when I was copying files, I discovered a file on the company network's server. The first part of that file is the misplaced document you saw at Yorko, and it turns out it's not complete. I've seen the complete version, and I think... you might need it?"

Bai Xiaosheng and the others couldn't help but exchange glances.

It seems that keeping the pressure on has indeed made them restless.

It looks like they're sending a hefty gift!

Bai Xiaosheng gestured for Lin Weiwei to "fish".

"Really?" Lin Weiwei's voice suddenly seemed intrigued, "I'd like to see it."

"Okay, no problem!" Matilda said, "I'll send it to you... Email?"

At this time of day, delivering it in person was impossible.

"Sure," Lin Weiwei replied readily.

Email is good.

Firstly, the files are transferred quickly and can be viewed immediately. Secondly, it saves time on meeting again.

After all, Lin Weiwei had just been assigned a large amount of work and didn't have the time.

Lin Weiwei had several registered email accounts, and she immediately gave Matilda one.

"I'll send it as soon as I have time. Gotta go, someone's coming!"

Matilda's voice was urgent, as if someone was indeed approaching.

"Okay," Lin Weiwei said.

The call was abruptly ended.

On the other end, the speaker was also on.

Fiewood himself was listening nearby.

"How's my acting?" Matilda shook her phone gleefully, boasting to Fiewood, "You heard her tone; she was completely fooled by me."

Fiewood smiled at Matilda, "Do you know why I appreciate you? Bold and a great actress!"

Matilda gave a charming smile at the compliment.

The people they thought they had deceived were also communicating at this moment.

"That woman acts really convincingly, and the excuse for the new file source is quite reasonable." Lin Weiwei mumbled.

Bai Xiaosheng laughed and said, "But her voice has a certain level of affectation, whereas yours is much more natural."

Hearing Bai Xiaosheng's compliment, Lin Weiwei was overjoyed, "Really?"

"I feel like he's saying you're naturally suited to be a con artist," Lei Ying whispered from the side, "But then again, aren't all women born with a knack for acting?"

Lin Weiwei glared at Lei Ying immediately.

"I'll go pour some water." Bai Xiaosheng quickly stood up to leave, not wanting to get caught in the crossfire.

"I'll use the restroom." Lei Ying also quickly flashed a smile at Lin Weiwei, trying to escape.

Lin Weiwei immediately pointed at Lei Ying and said threateningly, "I remember every word you said, and I'm friends with your wife on social media. I'll tell her word for word that you said 'women are all big liars', and see how you kneel on the washboard when you get home!"

Lei Ying had initially "escaped" but stood at a distance, helplessly turning back to Lin Weiwei, "Those weren't even my exact words; you're setting me up!"

Lin Weiwei just turned her head with a cold snort.

That meant: I'm setting you up, what about it!

...

Soon Matilda sent the file, and after receiving it, Lin Weiwei, Bai Xiaosheng, and Lei Ying examined it together.

The three of them exchanged views.

"I told you this company would definitely be involved; look at this!"

"Last quarter, these two companies collaborated five times instead of three, but according to our investigation, they secretly worked together at least twice more..."

"Look here, and here, it doesn't match our investigation; there should be other companies involved. Check the news from that time, and we can find them."

The file sent by Matilda this time was packed with important information. Bai Xiaosheng and the others had not expected such crucial things to be hidden within.

Just at that moment, Matilda sent another email, asking if the file was useful to Bai Xiaosheng and the others.

Feigning ignorance.

Lin Weiwei deliberately replied, "It's somewhat useful, but it doesn't feel complete. Maybe you should keep an eye out; there might be other parts."

This message made Fiewood and Matilda, who were staring at the computer screen, simultaneously frown.

"I feel like these people are playing dumb. Just somewhat useful? I'm practically giving them our core secrets!" Fiewood complained angrily.

Matilda also muttered, "Yeah, what are they trying to do!"

Fiewood was about to speak when his phone rang. He looked at the caller's name and immediately gestured for Matilda to be silent, answering the call and putting it to his ear.

"Hello?" Fiewood answered the call in a respectful voice, lowering his tone, "Mr. Tike!"

It was none other than Tike, the Zhenbei Group's executive president for the African region, calling.

This man, who was usually friendly and amiable, and even called "soft" by Cilio, spoke to Fiewood in a voice that carried authority. Though calm and measured, it made Fiewood subconsciously slow his breathing.

"How's it going, Fiewood? Is everything progressing smoothly?" Tike asked calmly.

"Everything is progressing in an orderly manner, rest assured!" As an absolute confidant, Fiewood replied.

"You're one of the few people I'm confident in," Tike said. "Hurry up, make Bai Xiaosheng reinvestigate Cilio! Opportunities for those daring to challenge Cilio here are rare, especially when he's from headquarters... In any case, let Cilio fall at the hands of this Huaxia person!"

Chapter 2450 - The Human Heart Is Unfathomable

A person might be adept at managing a business, skilled in corporate management, but that doesn't necessarily mean they can truly 'judge people.' The human heart is too complex, and the adult world is full of disguises.

Mr. Brown, the President of Zhenbei Group's Africa Division, could never have imagined that the godson he meticulously selected and supported single-handedly over so many years—a man who seemed honest, simple, calm, and steady—Tike, was exactly the one whose heart was turned against him and who above everyone else wanted to bring down him and his son.

After talking with Fiewood, the General Manager of Yorko, Tike lit a fine cigar in his study. As the smoke swirled around, his eyes looked obscure and sinister, with a hint of something terrifying.

Then he picked up the phone and called Caroline, who was far away in Ganande.

The call connected quickly.

On the other end was the gentle laughter of a woman, "Mr. Tike, why are you suddenly calling me? Is there any good news you want to share?"

Tike leisurely exhaled a mouthful of smoke before saying slowly, "Sorry to disappoint you, Miss Caroline. Good news? I'm waiting for some as well!"

"So what gives you the leisure to call me? I thought you'd be constantly attending to Mr. Brown. Speaking of which, how is Mr. Brown's health lately? As one gets older, the body naturally becomes less robust. Plus, with so many troubles lately and his son in such a situation, can he still hold on? Perhaps he needs to step down and rest." Caroline chuckled on the phone.

Tike snorted coldly, "If that old man really wanted to retire, he would have done so years ago. Now that something has happened to his son, he's even more determined to hold on. But it doesn't matter, when he can't hold on any longer, he will have to step down regardless."

When Tike spoke about the old Brown, there was not a trace of emotion in his voice, starkly different from the gratitude he always expressed in front of Mr. Brown.

"That sounds so heartless. If Mr. Brown hears this, he might be terribly hurt! If he finds out that the one he's been cooperating with all along is you, that you've secretly infiltrated the businesses Cilio managed, issuing orders to those companies, even pinning the blame on his own son Cilio, I wonder how he'd feel! Mr. Brown might just be too agitated to bear it, maybe even fall ill and step down."

Caroline spoke with such an amused tone, growing more excited as she continued.

Tike immediately frowned, snuffing out the cigar in the ashtray, his tone turned slightly stern and serious, "Caroline, don't mess around! If you want to provoke the old man by exposing me, you're going to harm me! Think it through! At the very least, you'll have one less ally! And one less friend!"

Tike's voice was icy, even carrying a chilling menace.

Evidently, he was both shocked and furious at Caroline for having such an idea, feeling a faint sense of unease.

"I was just joking, why take it so seriously." Caroline chuckled lightly on the other end, "Just to hasten an old Brown's step down a bit, why would I sell out an ally? As if I'd do something like that."

Say?

Tike spat in his heart.

Say you're a venomous woman, if doing so benefited you more, you'd certainly do it without hesitation!

Tike actually had a headache dealing with this woman Caroline.

Initially, he didn't even know whether he was muddle-headed or not when becoming allies with this woman.

He had always been wary, seeing how she discarded her people like worn-out shoes for her own plans.

But alas, embarking on a pirate ship is easy, leaving it is hard.

Nonetheless, thanks to Caroline's guidance, he exploited Cilio's cover to embezzle the group's assets extensively, and with that wealth, he secured more subordinates.

Poor Cilio, all his shameful acts were incited by someone else, arranged by Tike.

The saddest part is, Cilio only pocketed a fraction, whereas Tike behind the scenes gained ten times more!

When Bai Xiaosheng and his team appeared to investigate, Caroline seamlessly cooperated with Tike, dumping everything onto Cilio, attempting to pull old Brown down as well.

In this way, Tike, Caroline's ally, could truly monopolize the African Division.

Otherwise, Tike's promotion would at most be that of a puppet; real empowerment would require several more years of management!

Besides these covert schemes against old Brown and his son, Caroline had also planted her people in the enterprises managed by Tike, although once these people were identified, Tike removed them all.

For that, Tike did not hesitate to tear their relationship apart, warning Caroline, who then somewhat restrained herself.

After all these events, Tike always felt that Caroline was not a woman he could relax his guard against for even a moment.

She was terrifying as an enemy, just as frightening as an ally.

"Mr. Tike?" Caroline's voice came again in the call.

Tike quickly snapped back to his senses.

"Could it be you really have nothing to say and just called me for a casual chat?" Caroline giggled.

"Of course not!" Tike said gravely, "Caroline, you've planted quite a few spies in my area; I thought I had rooted them out, but I didn't expect you had turned your attention away from senior management to my mid-level staff. I just found out several companies have your influence in their middle management! Of course, we'll settle these accounts later! What I want to say is, have you arranged for your people to give those investigating on Bai's side any conveniences, allowing them to continue their investigation!"