

Two Trillion 2661

Chapter 2661 - Brady's Reluctance (Part 3)

Brady decided to strike while the iron was hot, "Mr. Hogson..."

Before Brady could continue, he heard a knock on his office door.

His words were abruptly interrupted.

The knocking paused momentarily, then resumed insistently.

Hogson glanced at the door and then at him.

Brady offered an apologetic smile, "I'll go check!"

He got up and hurried to the door; as he turned his back to Hogson, his brow furrowed into a knot, unable to suppress the anger burning in his eyes.

What a great atmosphere it was just now, what a golden opportunity, it seemed with just a little more effort, Hogson was about to agree!

Who was coming to cause trouble at this time?

How infuriating!

Brady decided that as soon as he opened the door, he would unleash a torrent of abuse, he had clearly instructed not to disturb, who was so blind!

Filled with anger, Brady yanked open the office door.

At the door, Brady's confidant, seeing his expression, quickly moved aside and let the people behind him be visible first.

Then, the person whispered urgently, "Mr. Brady, they insisted on seeing you!"

"Who..." Brady asked with enraged eyes, but then suddenly froze.

He saw a tall one and a short one, a man and a woman, one robust and tall, the other graceful and elegant...

Aren't these Bai Xiaosheng's followers, Lei Ying and Lin Weiwei?

Brady's fury was instantly smothered; he instinctively stepped out of the office and closed the door behind him.

This action, on the contrary, made Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying glance unconsciously behind him.

"What do you want?" Brady calmed his mood in a flash and asked loudly.

Before Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying could speak, Brady coldly laughed and retorted, "Could it be that Bai Xiaosheng wants you two to investigate our company again? You two, first-class investigators from the headquarters surveillance department!"

This sentence carried a tone of sarcasm, but Brady was honestly curious.

Why were these two people here?

Lin Weiwei smiled and stepped forward, politely saying, "You misunderstood, Mr. Brady, we're not here to investigate Keruoge headquarters; we came specifically to deliver something to you."

"Oh?" Brady raised an eyebrow, chuckled softly and coldly, "Bai Xiaosheng sent you, what are you delivering?"

Lin Weiwei took out an invitation card, smiling and handed it over with both hands, "Our Mr. Bai wants to invite you to dinner."

Invite me to dinner?

Brady furrowed his brow, reached out to take the invitation and flipped it open to read.

The date was for tomorrow night.

What's this Bai Xiaosheng doing!

Could it be, trying to mend the relationship with my side?

Brady chuckled repeatedly coldly.

If he had known this earlier, why did he act like that before?

"As the general manager of Keruoge company, I'm very busy, I may not have time to attend the appointment."

Brady waved the invitation lazily.

This attitude was full of disdain.

"Please do your best to attend, it's an important meeting." Lin Weiwei smiled, "Of course, if you really don't want to come, Mr. Bai says it's up to you, but you might regret that decision later."

Is this an invitation or a threat!

Brady's face darkened, he glanced at his confidant beside him, and said in a deep voice, "Show them out!"

After saying that, without looking back, he returned to his office.

As the office door closed, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying exchanged a glance and, without wasting words, turned and left.

Brady returned to Hogson, seeing Hogson looking at the invitation in his hand, lifted it slightly, and sneered, "It was sent by Bai Xiaosheng, saying he's inviting me over for dinner tomorrow. Haha, it's his attempt to mend relations with me, but it's not that easy!"

Brady said seriously, "I'm full of resentment towards Bai Xiaosheng, it's not something a single meal can dissolve!"

Seeing Hogson's expression, seemingly not quite believing.

To show his stance, Brady directly tore the invitation in half with a "rip" and casually threw it into the trash can next to him, as if holding it for another moment would dirty his hand.

"Hmph, I won't go!" Brady declared.

Hogson, with a slight smile, said, "I've accepted the invitation."

Just a few words.

Brady realized and was momentarily stunned.

Hogson also received an invitation?

And accepted it?

That meal wasn't specifically for him?

Who else did Bai Xiaosheng invite?!

Hogson stood up with a smile, "It seems Anlos also received an invitation."

"Mr. Brady, I have many things to do today, I need to finish quickly so I have time to attend the banquet tomorrow."

"About what you said earlier, we'll leave it at that for today, if there's another chance, we'll continue the discussion."

"Well then, I'll excuse myself first."

Chapter 2662 - The Guest Arrives

Brady, with his "persuasive" speech, thought that Hogson would stand by his side. To him, his rhetoric had been quite effective, and he even felt that Hogson was already moved and would agree momentarily.

And the little incident where Bai Xiaosheng's people delivered an invitation just so happened to be an unexpected assist for him.

There was nothing more indicative of his stance than tearing up Bai Xiaosheng's invitation right in front of Hogson.

Brady thought it through well and tore up the invitation. The result, however, was Hogson's response: "I will attend the banquet, and Anlos will go as well."

At that moment, it was as if he had been struck squarely on the head with a club, leaving Brady completely stunned.

After speaking, Hogson didn't linger longer, standing up to say goodbye.

There was a seemingly amused smile on his face, and in his eyes, there was clearly a hint of schadenfreude.

"Mr. Hogson, Hog..." Brady wanted to stop him, but seeing that Hogson had decided to leave, he had no choice but to give up and could only see him out.

"Mr. Brady, please stay, please stay!"

At the door of the office, Hogson turned around and politely said to Brady, even taking the opportunity to help him close the door.

Brady watched helplessly as the door of his office closed right in front of him, separating him and Hogson inside and out.

This was like a metaphor for the different stances between the two, making Brady's heart sink, filled with gloom.

When Brady opened the office door again and walked out, he saw Hogson's back hurrying away, leaving so decisively that he didn't even call the entourage he brought, presumably planning to call them once he was outside...

Brady watched silently with a dark face, as Hogson's figure disappeared.

That old fox, Hogson!

Just after his family had been "dealt with" by Bai Xiaosheng, he went to cozy up to him, with not a shred of the backbone a business giant should have!

Brady was filled with disdain.

Turning back into his office, Brady sat heavily on the sofa, the more he thought about it, the angrier he got. By chance, he caught sight of the distant trash can, and his eyes narrowed again.

Bai Xiaosheng sent him an invitation, inviting him to dinner, maybe just to leave past grievances behind and ease the relationship.

But since Hogson and Anlos were also invited, something uncommon was at play here.

"What does he want to do?" Brady muttered with a frown, "Could he be wanting to secretly establish ties with the three of us? To provide some convenience to that so-called friend of his?"

He wasn't an expert on Bai Xiaosheng's thoughts and naturally had no way of knowing what Bai Xiaosheng was thinking.

"Could it be related to business with Oshan?" At this thought, Brady suddenly felt a bit restless.

When it comes to Oshan, that involves business, and when business is involved, he mustn't fall behind.

His company, Keruoge, was already far behind the Hogson and Anlos families, and now he couldn't afford to be left out again.

With this thought, Brady stood up and rushed to the trash can.

Looking down, Brady secretly breathed a sigh of relief.

Luckily, he hadn't impulsively poured a cup of water on it; if it was just torn into two pieces, it should be repairable...

Despite great shame, Brady overcame his feeling of disgrace, bent down, and reached into the garbage can to retrieve the discarded invitation.

Just then, there were two knocks on his office door, and his trusted aide pushed the door open, reporting, "Mr. Brady, Mr. Hogson's entourage has already..."

Then, they both locked eyes.

Seeing his boss bent over rummaging through the trash, the aide instinctively felt something was wrong and wanted to retreat.

Brady's expression darkened.

In the past, even those close to him held an impression of him as noble and elegant; scavenging the trash was something that never seemed possible.

Now, not only had he lost face in front of Hogson, but he also embarrassed himself in front of his own people.

Brady, after all, was decisive. In a matter of moments, he calmed his mind, noting that his trusted aide was about to slip out, and immediately commanded, "Stop!"

The aide halted at once, putting on a smiling face, though inwardly feeling bitter.

Why hadn't he waited a little longer, just waiting to hear the word "come in" would have been good.

Now, here he was, his boss, known for loving his pride, likely to be furious, and when angered might take it out even on a trusted aide.

Amidst his unease, the aide saw Brady retrieve two torn pieces of printed card stock from the trash can and walk towards him.

"Go, find someone to fix this so there are no visible traces left." Brady handed over the two invitation pieces.

The aide took it, seeing it was an invitation, his heart sank. But then he couldn't help but stifle a smirk.

This thing wasn't a painting; you can't just restore it when broken. How was he supposed to repair it, with glue or tape, and make it invisible at that...

Could it be his boss was just venting his anger?

Knowing Brady's temperament, his aides couldn't say "no" to an order, but if they said they "could" and failed, the trouble would be even greater...

"Well, I could try finding a mounting craftsman..." the aide suggested thoughtfully, "though I'm not sure about the craftsmanship of local mounters..."

"Mounting craftsman?" Brady flared up immediately, pointing a finger at him, "Are you an idiot? Go buy an identical invitation and find someone good at mimicking handwriting to rewrite it!"

The aide was suddenly "awakened," quickly nodding and hurriedly leaving.

Brady watched the aide's retreating back, feeling full of anger, "What kind of people have I raised! All useless!"

This scolding was purely to vent his internal frustration.

This frustration stemmed from Bai Xiaosheng, from Hogson, and even from Anlos...

"Seems like tomorrow, I'll also have to see what that Bai Xiaosheng is trying to pull!"

Chapter 2663 - The Guests Arrive (Part 2)

Brady frowned, slamming the door of his office shut once again.

At that moment, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were on their way back to Eisenlag.

Lin Weiwei called Bai Xiaosheng to report the situation, "Yesterday, we already delivered the invitation to Anlos; he accepted the invitation. This morning, we met with Hogson, and there's no problem. Just now, we went to see Brady, and he said he might not have time. But we found out that Hogson seems to be visiting in his office."

At that time, Brady swiftly shut the door, but Lei Ying caught a glimpse, and in that instant, he was certain it was Hogson.

After all, having been a battlefield elite, once a target is established, even a fleeting glimpse can be confirmed without a doubt.

Upon hearing this, Bai Xiaosheng chuckled on the phone, "Really? Alright, Brady will come, you two come back."

"We're already on our way." Lin Weiwei replied, "I heard that Chief Ogade and Lady Daliya returned to Oklandt's palace yesterday, and Chen Feiqiu accompanied them, so we're the only ones left there. How should we arrange the banquet? Should we go outside the 'Walking Palace'?"

After all, the hosts are absent, so entertaining guests there might not be too appropriate.

Bai Xiaosheng laughed, "No need, before Chief Ogade left, he already set things up here. We are now the hosts, everyone will listen to me, and we will entertain Hogson, Anlos, and the others here."

Hearing this, Lin Weiwei felt reassured, "That's really great."

"Alright, I'll hang up now. Be careful on your way back." Bai Xiaosheng reminded.

After receiving Lin Weiwei's response, Bai Xiaosheng hung up.

At that moment, Bai Xiaosheng was resting in the room, his gaze leisurely, a subtle smile curling on his lips as he murmured to himself, "Soon, we will meet again, the three of you!"

That evening, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying returned to Bai Xiaosheng's side.

The night passed without incident.

The next day, Bai Xiaosheng and the others rode in the helicopter which Chief Ogade had given them, flying directly to Chief Bai Xiaosheng's territory.

This time, they brought a map, intending to slowly explore and refine their plans and ideas.

Seeing both in combination, the feeling was different from just looking at it on paper.

The flight lasted the whole day, part work, part special tour, and by the afternoon, Bai Xiaosheng and the others returned by plane.

In the evening, Bai Xiaosheng still had to discuss cooperation with three business magnates, so he needed to rest well in the afternoon.

Upon returning, Bai Xiaosheng quickly went to take a nap.

Meanwhile, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying went to the butler in the "Walking Palace" to arrange the evening banquet.

When Bai Xiaosheng woke up, it was already five o'clock in the afternoon. After freshening up, he went to see Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying to check the situation.

Here, including the butler, all the servants had been instructed by Chief Ogade, knowing Bai Xiaosheng's superior status as not just a guest but the host. Upon his arrival, they all bowed in respect.

The Walking Palace had many servants, their collective gestures of welcome seemed extravagant to Bai Xiaosheng, and even a bit amusing.

It felt like he was a local ruler...

When you think about it, Bai Xiaosheng was already a chieftain, in his own territory he is indeed an exalted presence.

Bai Xiaosheng greeted everyone with a gentle voice and was extremely satisfied with the evening banquet arrangements.

Just like that, time quietly slipped by.

After making a round, Bai Xiaosheng returned to the room with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying to discuss the day's "tour" insights. Just as they began talking, the butler knocked on the door.

"Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, your guest is here, Mr. Anlos," the butler reported with a bow upon seeing Bai Xiaosheng, "he also brought gifts, which we will deliver to your room shortly."

"Oh, he's already here?" Bai Xiaosheng smiled and stood up, turning to Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, saying, "Come with me to meet the guest."

With that, the butler led the way, and Bai Xiaosheng and the others headed straight to the living room.

Upon arriving, Bai Xiaosheng and the others not only met Anlos but also saw Milo.

"Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, we meet again!"

"Mr. Anlos, welcome, welcome!"

Bai Xiaosheng and Anlos shook hands warmly upon meeting.

Then, Bai Xiaosheng also cheerfully greeted Milo.

Milo, dressed in a suit, appeared both lively and handsome, greeted Bai Xiaosheng and nodded with a smile to Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

In such a setting, he restrained his personality, not daring to be cheeky towards Lin Weiwei.

This Milo, surprisingly, doesn't seem so unpleasant.

Everyone took their seats. Bai Xiaosheng and Anlos exchanged pleasantries and engaged in enthusiastic conversation.

Currently, the Anlos Family's business is rapidly expanding, making good progress in all aspects. Bai Xiaosheng subtly reminded them of some minor details, which Anlos understood and appreciated.

Just as the conversation was going well, the butler returned to report that Hogson had arrived.

Actually, he was right behind. Bai Xiaosheng and Anlos stood up to welcome Hogson.

"Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, long time no see." After shaking hands with Bai Xiaosheng, Hogson presented a generous gift and smiled, "A small token, not enough to show respect."

"Mr. Hogson, you're too kind." Bai Xiaosheng replied with a polite smile, while gesturing for Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying to accept the gift.

Bai Xiaosheng, Anlos, and Hogson sat down again as others instinctively stepped back, watching the trio enjoy a cheerful conversation from afar.

After putting the gift away, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying watched from a distance, ready in case they were needed.

The conversation went on for half an hour.

Lin Weiwei glanced at the time and whispered to Lei Ying, "It's already past the time on the invitation, why hasn't Brady shown up? Could it be he's really not coming?"

Brady is, after all, part of the Zhenbei Group. If he doesn't show up, it wouldn't look good for Bai Xiaosheng.

"Not necessarily." Lei Ying shook his head, having a different opinion, "I think Brady will come. Even if he does, he'll probably be late. He cares a lot about appearances. I suspect he's making a point through this."

Making a point through this?

Could someone of his stature really act so "childishly"?

Lin Weiwei listened, pouted her lips, and said, "Brady always puts on a gentlemanly front, but being late isn't exactly polite."

Lei Ying shrugged in response.

It was all just his own speculation. Maybe Brady really wouldn't come; no one could say for sure.

As it was almost time for the dinner, the conversation among those on Bai Xiaosheng's side paused, and they all stood up.

When it came to Brady, all three tacitly avoided mentioning him.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying also stood up, preparing to walk over and inquire if it was time to start the dinner.

At that moment, the butler hurried over to Bai Xiaosheng, bowed, and said, "Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, Mr. Brady has arrived."

Brady had finally appeared.

Hogson and Anlos exchanged a meaningful gaze.

Especially Hogson.

Brady had previously torn up the invitation in front of him and thrown it in the trash. Did he retrieve it, piece it together, and bring it back? How troublesome for him.

Of course, Hogson wouldn't mention this to anyone, as it was important to preserve some dignity for Brady. Otherwise, it would truly become "enmity."

Bai Xiaosheng maintained his composure with a smile, "Is that so? Now that all the guests are here, we can enjoy the fine wine and delicacies."

As he spoke, Brady, led by a servant, appeared in everyone's view, his demeanor slightly lofty with a half-smile.

"Mr. Brady, welcome." Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

Brady smiled, nodded to Hogson and Anlos, and then said to Bai Xiaosheng, "Mr. Bai, you've chosen a great place for dining with guests. Isn't this Chief Ogade's Walking Palace? I heard Chief Ogade and his wife aren't here, and even Mr. Awak Wak Lakla seems absent."

Brady implied that Bai Xiaosheng might be taking over a place that isn't his own for entertaining guests.

"Mr. Brady, you're well-informed." Bai Xiaosheng replied softly, ignoring the underlying mockery, as he glanced at Hogson and Anlos, "Since Mr. Brady is here, let's go to the dining room, enjoy the wine, and chat."

Hogson and Anlos nodded with smiles, while Brady retained a somewhat lazy posture.

Bai Xiaosheng personally led the way to the dining room.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying followed behind.

At a distance, Lin Weiwei couldn't help but remark to Lei Ying, "Brady actually came empty-handed, huh."

Lei Ying quickly gave her a glance.

This girl was outspoken; letting people hear her comments could be inappropriate.

"What's there to fear!" Lin Weiwei said, looking over there and muttering, "Later, he better not regret it!"

Chapter 2664 - I'm the Landlord, Who Am I Afraid Of

In the hall, there was a large round table, with Bai Xiaosheng and three others seated around it, each occupying a side.

The reason for not using a European-style long table was specific.

With a long table, Bai Xiaosheng, as the host, would have to sit at the head, making it seem as if he was above the other three.

If it was merely dining, it would be fine, but discussing interests over dinner would be highly inappropriate.

It would make Bai Xiaosheng appear as a moderator, invisibly placing himself opposite the other three.

If the other three were seated on the left and right, it would look asymmetrical and feel confrontational.

This round table, however, was different. Everyone sat on equal footing, without hierarchy, looking and feeling more comfortable.

For Bai Xiaosheng's attention to such details, Hogson and Anlos nodded silently in approval, and even Brady had nothing to say.

After everyone sat down, Bai Xiaosheng raised his cup with a smile, "First of all, thank you for accepting my invitation to be guests here. Let me toast to you all first."

Hogson and Anlos also smiled broadly, raising their glasses.

Brady raised his glass as well but showed almost no smile on his face.

After everyone took a sip of their drink, Brady put down his cup and directly said to Bai Xiaosheng, "Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, you didn't invite us here just for dinner, did you? Or is there something you want to say to us directly?"

Brady was straightforward and to the point.

Hogson and Anlos glanced at Brady but said nothing.

Though they were also curious, they were patient enough to wait for Bai Xiaosheng to speak. But since Brady brought it up, they were happy to let it be.

Faced with such a direct question, Bai Xiaosheng smiled and said, "Why rush, Mr. Brady? Let's chat as we eat."

As he spoke, Bai Xiaosheng raised his hand slightly.

Immediately, a servant stepped forward with a tray, serving dishes to each guest.

"The chef at Chief Ogade's Walking Palace is unparalleled. Please, the three of you, give it a try."

Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, while he also started eating.

The first dish was a cold appetizer, simple and elegant, yet richly layered with excellent taste, drawing praise.

"Regarding your investments across Oshan and the progress of your constructions, I've done some research. All three of you should be able to complete the first phase by the end of the year, though Mr. Brady's side is a bit slower," Bai Xiaosheng said while eating, without haste.

Hogson and Anlos nodded slightly, agreeing with Bai Xiaosheng's words.

The others were fine, but Brady, who had just put food in his mouth with a fork, suddenly found it tasteless.

My side is slow? Isn't it because of you!

Brady felt resentment at heart, his knife making slight friction sounds with his plate, indicating his displeasure.

Everyone pretended not to hear it.

Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, "Chief Ogade mentioned to me that he is very satisfied with the progress on all fronts and wants to open up some markets and fields further to you."

This sentence immediately made all three, including Brady, put down their cutlery and look at Bai Xiaosheng in unison.

They came precisely to hear news related to cooperation, especially good news like this.

And now, the place where Bai Xiaosheng invited them, here in Eisenlag, actually tells a lot.

The three of them were not ordinary people and had noticed this early on.

Could it be that Eisenlag is going to open its doors to them?

Whether it was Hogson, Anlos, or Brady, they all felt a rush of excitement in their hearts.

The city beneath their feet was so significant; it could be said to be the economic center of the center in Oshan.

Their original plans were all different, even focusing differently across the east, west, south, and north of Oshan, but they all fixated on this place.

In each person's plan, at least one-third was explicitly or implicitly centered around Eisenlag.

But initially, when negotiating, Bai Xiaosheng, on behalf of Chief Ogade, said Eisenlag wasn't open yet, and even the entire region's talks were paused.

This had always been a concern for the three, and they didn't expect Bai Xiaosheng to tell them now that they could talk.

Presumably, because of their comprehensive investment spread in Oshan, Oshan feels the "opportunity is ripe."

It's just that the occasion for this discussion seems a bit inappropriate; it's a dinner gathering, with all three present...

This is largely illogical...

Thus, Hogson and the others all felt that it might not be as presumed, that Eisenlag would be open.

"I wonder which regions Chief Ogade intends to open?" Hogson couldn't help but ask.

This was also what Anlos and Brady were most eager to know.

Just then, a servant presented a new dish, a thick soup.

Bai Xiaosheng picked up a spoon and with a smile invited, "No rush, let's discuss slowly. Come, everyone, this soup is made with various precious ingredients, cooked to perfection, with rare seasonings added for superb taste. Please have a taste."

As he said this, everyone could only continue with the soup.

As they sipped the soup, Bai Xiaosheng timely broke the news, "It's here, what's being opened is Eisenlag!"

Bai Xiaosheng's words almost caused the three to lose their composure.

Hogson swallowed a mouthful hastily, causing his face to flush red.

Anlos's hand shook, and the soup spilled slightly.

Brady almost spat out his soup, quickly covering his mouth with a napkin.

Just as they hoped, Oshan was going to open Eisenlag to them!

That would definitely count as explosive news!

Chapter 2665 - I'm the Landlord, Who Am I Afraid Of? (Part 2)

In the midst of their surprise, the three people still had some questions in their hearts—

Is Bai Xiaosheng the one responsible for dialogue and communication again? How come he actually chose to make an announcement at a dinner?

And was it a dinner he personally convened?

In this respect, the three were puzzled, but soon tossed these thoughts aside.

Right now, what concerned them most was which areas of Eisenlag Oshan was going to open.

Was it the main city or the surrounding satellite cities?

Or was it the rumored newly planned district?

The differences in these areas would affect everyone's overall layout in Eisenlag, and even in the central area of Oshan and the entire nation.

Just at this moment when their hearts were racing, a servant unexpectedly brought new dishes, and Bai Xiaosheng invited everyone to continue eating.

How could they continue to eat!

The three men, including Hogson, couldn't help but speak up.

"Gentlemen, with the opening of Eisenlag, those coming here in the future will not only include you but also a fourth party!" Bai Xiaosheng spoke before they could.

These words caused the three to pause, looking at each other in dismay.

The "fourth party" Bai Xiaosheng mentioned was something the three had heard about.

It was said to be Bai Xiaosheng's "friend," but the truth of that was unknown...

Suddenly, Brady felt a surge of opportunity.

He believed this was a chance.

Eisenlag was undoubtedly the core interest that each of the three present were eager to secure. At the crucial moment when Oshan was prepared to open up to them, Bai Xiaosheng actually mentioned a "fourth party" closely linked to himself.

This was asking for trouble!

Thinking of this, Brady decisively frowned and spoke up, "Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, the fourth party you mentioned, are they the friends you want to introduce into the Oshan business world?"

"If that's the case, do you expect them to directly enter Eisenlag? Have you considered whether the three of us would agree?"

"If the interests we are bound to are entangled, how will it be resolved?"

"Is this meal a sincere disclosure to us, or a way to force our hand face-to-face?"

"Shouldn't you clarify!"

Brady's series of questions were sharp and probing!

In his view, Bai Xiaosheng's mistake was in bringing everyone together all at once, exposing this point of interest, and then mentioning his "friend's" fourth party at this pivotal moment.

This undoubtedly sowed distrust and even a sense of opposition!

By instigating in this manner, even if Hogson and Anlos didn't say anything upfront, a seed of discontent would surely be planted in their hearts!

Afterwards, when he sought to unite with them again, they probably wouldn't refuse!

Bai Xiaosheng, oh Bai Xiaosheng, you're still too young, committing such a basic error!

Brady secretly smirked.

In reality, he had no personal vendetta against Bai Xiaosheng, but Bai Xiaosheng had inconvenienced his work and was also rivaling against Bai Xuanyu, so he wouldn't let Bai Xiaosheng have an easy time, at least making sure to edge him out in Oshan.

Hogson and Anlos exchanged glances without speaking up.

It seemed Brady's words had an effect.

Brady was inwardly delighted, coldly staring at Bai Xiaosheng outwardly.

Unexpectedly, Bai Xiaosheng still had the composure to elegantly finish his last spoonful of soup, then raised a finger, waving it gently.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying immediately stepped up, placing a stack of lists in front of the three.

"Why don't you take a look first, these are the enterprises that are entering as the fourth party into Oshan. As for which ones are coming to Eisenlag, I am not yet clear." Bai Xiaosheng smiled slightly.

The so-called uncertainty was just a pretext; business secrets couldn't be divulged.

Sharing the overall list with the three was harmless since those enterprises had already officially launched operations, possibly even reported in the news.

The only thing the three didn't know was that those companies were also related to Bai Xiaosheng's mention of the "fourth party".

This initial batch of listings involved Chinese family businesses, Western financial conglomerates, renowned enterprises from Huaxia and Asia.

For the three present, this should be quite "refreshing"!

Sure enough, after a cursory glance, Hogson, Anlos, and Brady's gazes sharpened slightly.

The initial batch of twenty to thirty companies, none of them alone might catch their attention, and even if all arrived, they wouldn't think much of it.

The problem lay in that if they collectively served as the "fourth party," wouldn't the powers behind them be a united force!

That's too frightening!

Even if each of the three controls businesses that rival nations in wealth, they can't withstand entities of the same level from other continents teaming up to send companies here!

"Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, is this what you mean by a fourth party?"

"Who exactly is your friend that they can bring together the Luo Family of Europe, the Wei Family of North America, the Bai Family, the Qin Family of South America..."

"And so many Huaxia and Asian companies, this..."

Facing the trio's continuous shock, Bai Xiaosheng smiled in response.

"While Oshan approved your cooperation, they were actually starting their investments. Both Oshan and I hope for a collaborative relationship between you four in Oshan and West Africa, a win-win cooperation, not antagonism or exclusivity."

"We have a saying in Huaxia — cooperation leads to a win-win situation, while conflict leads to mutual destruction!"

"I give this to everyone!"

Hogson and Anlos exchanged a glance, saying nothing.

With things involving family interests, how can they just nod and agree, forgoing competition for cooperation?

Seeing this, Brady smirked and slammed the list down, angrily saying, "Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, ultimately, regardless of who your friend is, they are organizing everyone to compete with us. Telling us this here is nothing but forcing us to agree! You haven't answered what I asked earlier! Now I want to know if in Eisenlag, you'll also use your authority to first grant conveniences to your friend."

These words were truly cutting.

The atmosphere suddenly became delicate.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying frowned and exchanged a glance from a distance.

This Mr. Brady, clearly in the same group as Bai Xiaosheng, yet his words are sharp, and he presses incessantly.

Faced with Brady's relentless questioning, Bai Xiaosheng remained calm and did not argue.

"Mr. Brady, you're too agitated." Anlos advised from the side, then smiled at Bai Xiaosheng, "Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, I'm curious, which areas is Oshan opening in Eisenlag this time?"

Hogson also looked at Bai Xiaosheng.

Don't act impulsively, to get a share of the pie, one must first know how big the pie is.

Brady squinted at Bai Xiaosheng as well.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and said, "Chief Ogade assigned me to be responsible for the western suburbs of Eisenlag extending to the distant mountains, the future business district, industrial zone of this city, which can be said to be the most promising economic belt in the future middle region of Oshan."

These words made the trio's eyes blaze with eagerness.

This is the most core interest!

Brady, without a word, sternly declared, "Mr. Hogson, Mr. Anlos, I suggest that we three simultaneously apply to Oshan to negotiate with someone unrelated to Bai Xiaosheng here! This place is too important to you and me!"

In Brady's view, if the three parties united strongly and requested, Oshan would surely have to agree.

Bai Xiaosheng would be pushed out!

Hogson and Anlos were suddenly silent.

It seems they too began to feel that Brady's words were not without merit.

"If it's about the development from the western suburbs of Eisenlag to the distant mountains, I'm afraid the three of you can only talk to me. Even protesting to Chief Ogade would be useless," Bai Xiaosheng smiled and said.

"What a joke!"

Brady suddenly stood up, sneering and shouting, "Bai Xiaosheng, who do you think you are, really thinking you have the final say in Oshan. Do you know what those areas mean to Oshan? You're just a business consultant, do you really think you're that important? Figure out your role before talking to us!"

Brady was clearly intending to turn hostile publicly.

Bai Xiaosheng watched him calmly and waved his hand.

Lin Weiwei immediately came forward and handed him a document.

Bai Xiaosheng took the document and placed it on the table.

What is it?

Brady squinted his eyes, and Hogson and Anlos also looked over.

Bai Xiaosheng said unhurriedly, "This is an appointment letter personally issued by Chief Ogade; I am the chieftain of that land. Under the grand plan of Oshan, I have the final say, including—"

"Who to cooperate with and who not to cooperate with!"

"In other words, I'm the landlord. If I want to grant my friend conveniences, I don't need to notify anyone or get anyone's consent!"

Bai Xiaosheng's words left the three speechless.

Brady was dumbfounded.

Bai Xiaosheng, is the chieftain of that land!

"Now, do you understand, Mr. Brady?" Bai Xiaosheng's smile faded, his eyes sharp as he pointed to the chair opposite, "Either sit down to eat and negotiate with me or please leave."

"However, there will be no talks in the future!"

Chapter 2666 - Winning Everyone Over

Bai Xiaosheng, with stern words and a severe demeanor, lays down two paths for Brady in the presence of Hogson and Anlos — either negotiate or get out.

Even though Brady is a person of high status within the Zhenbei Group, Bai Xiaosheng decides not to give him any face, nor allow him to disrupt the favorable situation Bai has built.

If Brady dares to walk away, Bai Xiaosheng would boldly kick Brady out of the game.

There's no room for negotiation!

From the start, Brady was sarcastic, and Bai Xiaosheng kept yielding, giving him plenty of face.

But now, the words have been spoken, no need to endure any longer!

Facing Bai Xiaosheng, who is prepared for battle, Brady, Hogson, and Anlos simultaneously feel a chill.

This young man truly has patience, and he must also be capable of action!

He is not an easy person to deal with!

Just judging from Bai Xiaosheng's ability to hold enough cards to control the ambiance, yet still patiently engage in step-by-step negotiations, his composure far exceeds his age, even compares favorably to them.

He is on their level.

And Bai Xiaosheng possesses unrivaled resources and advantages in Oshan!

Being the Chieftain of Oshan, unless Bai Xiaosheng commits a grievous mistake, he remains an unshakeable force in Oshan, even Chief Ogade would struggle to revoke his title.

It can be said that Bai Xiaosheng is a rock within Eisenlag, even Oshan.

As Eisenlag prospers, Oshan prospers, Bai Xiaosheng prospers; he is a man intertwined with the fate of the nation, with almost no likelihood of downfall.

Whether dealing with giant corporations or century-old families, neither can exhaust his fortune.

To oppose Bai Xiaosheng risks losing everything in Oshan, and business matters are never isolated, touching one thing can affect the whole, potentially impacting their business in West Africa, even across the entire African continent...

For Hogson, Anlos, the thought of damaging a century-old family in their hands is impossible; they are unlikely to firmly oppose Bai Xiaosheng.

Brady, realizing this, feels a plunge in his heart, shocked by this revelation and chilled within.

Bai Xiaosheng has become someone he cannot contend with in Oshan.

Understanding this, Hogson, and Anlos are no longer concerned with Brady's situation, but rather expressing their stance to Bai Xiaosheng.

"Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, your friends are coming, and our Hogson Family extends the warmest welcome. Collaborating with many famous enterprises has always been our family's aspiration."

Hogson smiles broadly, showing full sincerity.

"Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, you know our Anlos Family has always been your friend. As a family, we shouldn't talk like strangers, and we would consider sharing business channels with your friends, not only in Oshan but including the whole of West Africa and even the entire African continent."

Anlos appears more magnanimous.

"This is also what I was going to say; our family can even cooperate with your friends outside of Oshan, in other countries and regions, believing it would be mutually beneficial and win-win."

Hogson is unwilling to fall behind.

These two, speaking back and forth, completely swing towards Bai Xiaosheng.

As they do so, Brady feels more bitter at heart.

To be honest, hearing Bai Xiaosheng's words and knowing his cards, he thoroughly regrets his impulsiveness and lack of calmness.

Originally thought he could gather allies, but now the allies are gone.

Originally thought he could pressure from the group, but Bai Xiaosheng's chieftain status is independent of the group, no one can interfere.

Most crucially, after weighing, the high levels of the group might greatly support Bai Xiaosheng, ousting Brady entirely to appease Bai Xiaosheng.

The worst part isn't over yet; the years of Keruoge's layout in Oshan, his years of effort could be ruined.

Even his close friend Bai Xuanyu might be invisibly impacted...

Thinking about this, the terrifying consequences unfold like crashing waves, snowballing in Brady's mind, truly terrifying him.

Brady wants to repent, but the words are a thousand pounds heavy and hard to utter.

After all, he is the helmsman of the giant company Keruoge, previously making harsh remarks; would he lose face by suddenly retreating at Bai Xiaosheng's few rebukes!

Brady feels dazed, truly unsure if he should leave or stay.

At this moment, he even starts resenting Hogson and Anlos.

These two bootlickers, without a care for past affinities, couldn't even offer two words to provide him a break.

They clearly want to oust me to divide Keruoge's interests in Oshan!

Thinking of this, Brady secretly gnashes his teeth, deciding he'd rather surrender to Bai Xiaosheng than let those two scoundrels benefit.

Just then, Bai Xiaosheng's stern expression softens slightly, speaking slowly to Brady, "Mr. Brady, I hope you were merely emotional earlier, speaking carelessly. If you now sit down, we can still talk."

Bai Xiaosheng is actually offering him a way out!

Brady looks at Bai Xiaosheng in disbelief, feeling an inexplicable emotion.

It's not quite gratitude, but certainly a touch of impact.

At this point, Hogson, Anlos also turn to Brady, seemingly recalling his presence, and consecutively offer "a break".

"Mr. Brady, stay calm, what's there that can't be resolved."

Chapter 2667 - Winning Over Everyone (Part 2)

"You really were too impulsive, too reckless. Let's sit down calmly and talk this through; that'll be good for everyone."

Those two belated steps down off the stage made Brady feel no sincerity at all.

Brady only forced out a strained smile at Bai Xiaosheng. "It was me, I was impulsive."

As soon as he said it, Brady secretly let out a breath of relief.

Sometimes, before you say certain things they feel impossibly hard; once you say them, it's just that.

This counted as Brady bowing his head to Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled. Being able to make Brady lower his head was indeed more beneficial to him than driving him away.

"When it comes to vital interests, I can understand. Please sit." Bai Xiaosheng raised his voice.

Only then did Brady sit down again.

Hogson and Anlos naturally wouldn't mock Brady over something like this; on the contrary, they even reined in any look or expression that might give him a bad association.

After all, they'd be seeing each other all the time in the future; making a peer feel even slightly embarrassed now could turn into some unknown troublepayback down the line.

Besides, Brady was ultimately from the same group as Bai Xiaosheng. Even if things seemed unhappy right now, who could guarantee they wouldn't be of one mind later on.

What the two of them cared most about right now was not Brady's face, but how this local Chieftain, Bai Xiaosheng, planned to allocate the business.

That was of critical importance!

Let alone Brady's face—if it were for the sake of the Anlos Family, they wouldn't hesitate to throw in their own faces.

"Mr. Bai, regarding the western suburbs of Eisenlag, which is your territory, I have over a dozen development plans on my side... You know, we do a lot of things in advance, including guessing at the local planning schemes. If you need them, I'll send them all to you as reference. Our family has poured tremendous effort into those, had the best think tanks grind them out bit by bit. They even include projections and response strategies for the next ten, fifteen, thirty years. I believe they'll be of help to you in managing your territory!"

Hogson said eagerly to Bai Xiaosheng, "And anytime you need to tap into my Hogson family's resources, just say the word. On that front, I won't have a single objection."

Hogson felt that he wasn't as close to Bai Xiaosheng as Anlos was, so he could only "bleed" to let Bai Xiaosheng see his sincerity.

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes lit up slightly.

All kinds of planning schemes produced by a family rich enough to rival a nation, the data and effort behind them essentially turned into real silver—probably enough to make anyone click their tongue.

If he could get them for free, that was undoubtedly a major gift!

"Many thanks, Mr. Hogson!"

Bai Xiaosheng's words of praise made Hogson at once down a big glass of hard liquor; even his smile seemed a little tipsy.

Seeing this, Anlos cursed Hogson in his heart: Despicable.

Anlos also smiled at Bai Xiaosheng and said, "Mr. Bai, we're all friends here, so I won't comment on how you should develop the place. But if you need funds, my Anlos Family can provide an interest-free loan of a hundred billion US Dollars. Any channels or resources you need, I can provide for free in the initial stage."

Anlos was going all in too; as long as he could get a piece of the action, he was willing to do a losing deal.

Besides, once you're in the game, would you still be afraid of not making your money back?

He'd analyzed Bai Xiaosheng's temperament as a Huaxia person—there was no way he'd let people work for nothing...

Hearing this, Bai Xiaosheng beamed at Anlos. "My thanks to you, Mr. Anlos."

Anlos let out a hearty laugh. "Mr. Bai, what's the point of being polite between us."

Listening to Anlos, Hogson couldn't help glancing at him, secretly cursing: Shameless.

Brady watched as Hogson and Anlos both threw their dignity aside and started laying it on thick with Bai Xiaosheng. Since he'd already sat back down, if he still kept acting lofty, wouldn't he just be wasting a golden opportunity?

For all he knew, after this round, Keruoge would still lag far behind the two families, and that would feel worse than getting slapped in the face!

Brady cleared his throat on the spot and said to Bai Xiaosheng, "Bai Xiaosheng... Mr. Bai, the factories and parks that Keruoge is building in Oshan are, location-wise, closer to Eisenlag. We can't compare to Hogson and Anlos in terms of project progress, but precisely because of that our infrastructure materials, equipment, and manpower are all on standby and can be transferred over in the shortest time. For the planning and construction of the western suburbs of Eisenlag, we're willing to provide all building materials, equipment, and personnel for free. Our group... Zhenbei Group will fully support your development here!"

Brady was blatantly reminding Bai Xiaosheng that they belonged to the same group.

Was this playing the emotional card?

Hogson and Anlos finally couldn't help giving Brady a sidelong glance, cursing from the bottom of their hearts: Truly shameless...

Hearing this, Bai Xiaosheng gave Brady a smile. "If I can get the group's support here, I really will have to rely on you, Mr. Brady."

That one sentence made Brady's heart warm; he nodded again and again.

In a way, Bai Xiaosheng was also giving him face in public, and even letting bygones be bygones!

"Mr. Bai, I'll have those proposals sent over right away, we can start going over them now..."

"As for the funds, just say the word— I can guarantee the first batch lands in the account tonight."

Hogson and Anlos immediately refused to be outdone.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled slightly, speaking very politely and with a very humble posture, "I happen to have a lot of questions I'd like to ask the three of you. I hope you won't hesitate to give me your guidance."

He clearly held enough resources to make others bow their heads, yet Bai Xiaosheng was still willing to lower himself, neither arrogant nor impatient.

And with the eyes of those three, honed by years in the game, they could see Bai Xiaosheng was genuinely sincere, which moved them quite a bit.

Even Brady couldn't help feeling a bit of admiration for Bai Xiaosheng's style.

In the distance, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying watched the three tycoons being so enthusiastic, exchanged a look, and both felt a surge of excitement and pride.

Bai Xiaosheng was going to build a strong and extensive business alliance in Oshan and West Africa. With the support of these three giants, the framework was basically up. Once this kind of business alliance was established, its value would be no less than Bai Xiaosheng getting another Chieftain title...

At another spot in the hall, Milo had also been standing there all along, ears pricked, listening to the four of them talk.

Compared to getting a bit hungry from eating late, being able to listen in on a conversation like this was incredibly beneficial to him.

Watching a peer his own age, Bai Xiaosheng, handle everything so effortlessly, drawing active enthusiasm from the three tycoons, filled him with admiration.

It even gave him that feeling of, "This is what a man should be."

And that wasn't all—Bai Xiaosheng had even secured a status like Chieftain of Oshan, with a one-of-a-kind, every-inch-of-land-is-gold territory in Oshan under his name.

Milo practically felt an urge to worship Bai Xiaosheng.

At the banquet that followed, the four of them clinked glasses back and forth, laughter filled the air, and the atmosphere was harmonious and relaxed.

Bai Xiaosheng certainly didn't let such a great opportunity slip; he brought out some of the ideas he'd had over the past few days and discussed them with the three giants.

Certain ways of thinking, certain angles for looking at problems, and certain methods are things you only develop after years at the top—there couldn't be more suitable discussion partners than these three.

The key was, at this critical moment, Hogson, Anlos, and Brady were all generous enough to share their most genuine and practical views, partly to win Bai Xiaosheng's favor.

Even if the three of them knew perfectly well that Bai Xiaosheng was leveraging their goodwill at this moment, they were still happy to go along.

It had to be said, this dinner Bai Xiaosheng hosted was really worth every penny.

This French-style dinner lasted for almost three hours, and both host and guests were thoroughly satisfied.

Not only did Bai Xiaosheng receive the most honest and pertinent advice on some of his questions, he also accepted "gifts" from all three parties toward the development of his territory.

At the same time, Brady, Hogson, and Anlos also each received some promises from Bai Xiaosheng, and promises made publicly were, of course, more reassuring.

All in all, everyone left happy.

After the banquet broke up, Brady, Hogson, and Anlos took their leave from Bai Xiaosheng.

Seeing it was getting late, Bai Xiaosheng made a token effort to persuade them to stay the night.

All three politely declined.

Come on, the meal was over, but the work wasn't done yet. They had to rush back overnight to start delivering on the promises they'd made to Bai Xiaosheng.

On that front, the sooner the better—it was best to get ahead of the other two.

Bai Xiaosheng more or less guessed what they were thinking and was, of course, happy to see it happen.

He escorted the three of them to the entrance of the Walking Palace, where they insisted he go no further.

Brady, Anlos, and Hogson walked together toward the parking area, and along the way everyone was very courteous, smiling broadly as they talked about future cooperative development in Eisenlag.

But once they each got in their own cars, the three of them simultaneously urged their drivers: Step on it!

Best to beat the others back to their residences in Eisenlag!

Bai Xiaosheng stood at the entrance to the Walking Palace, watching their motorcades speed off, the corners of his mouth curling into a smile.

As he turned to head back, Bai Xiaosheng muttered a line to himself.

"I'll have to trouble you all tonight, my allies!"

Chapter 2668 - Encounter on the Street

On the second day after Bai Xiaosheng's banquet, he received successive phone calls from Hogson, Anlos, and Brady early in the morning.

The three calls were similar, all saying they had followed Bai Xiaosheng's instructions, working day and night to make preparations.

They were just waiting for Bai Xiaosheng's word before moving into the west suburbs of Eisenlag to showcase their skills.

Bai Xiaosheng also explained to them individually that he had already spoken with the Oshan side, and their construction teams could first enter the relevant areas to commence groundbreaking work and build the factory zones, industrial parks, and business buildings needed for their businesses.

Upon hearing this, each party was naturally delighted and promised Bai Xiaosheng over the phone that they would personally oversee the progress and handle the construction, ensuring quality and quantity.

Bai Xiaosheng also mentioned that he would visit occasionally, but wouldn't notify them in advance.

In reality, this was a form of pressure and encouragement, naturally welcomed by the three parties, though they would likely be more "alert" and diligent in supervising the work.

After all, if Bai Xiaosheng found any fault, it would be a big problem...

After talking to the three parties over the phone, Bai Xiaosheng went for breakfast.

Then, he received a call from Chen Feiqiu.

"I heard that in the span of one meal, you clearly arranged those three giants, making them work hard and construct the western suburbs of Eisenlag, your new territory? Your efficiency is impressive," Chen

Feiqiu laughed on the phone, "By the way, Chief Bai Xiaosheng, when would you like to have your inauguration ceremony?"

Bai Xiaosheng thought for a moment and replied with a smile, "There's not much left of this week, I want to catch up on work from various sides, how about next week? How about Monday?"

Chen Feiqiu clicked his tongue, "You as a chieftain choose the day to be crowned yourself, remember, other chieftains always follow arrangements."

"Well, they don't have a future Supreme Chieftain as a friend," Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

Chen Feiqiu also laughed heartily, "Alright then, I'll arrange the ceremony for you, let's set it for next Monday."

After this phone call ended, Bai Xiaosheng called over Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, intending to visit Eisenlag.

Officially, it was to understand the place and gather impressions.

In reality, Bai Xiaosheng wanted to relax and unwind.

After all, it's been quite tiring these days, even flying over the territory in a helicopter leaves his mind occupied, constantly thinking about various issues.

Ultimately, Bai Xiaosheng isn't made of iron, he needs to give himself a break, to ease the mood, to clear the mind.

This is beneficial to health.

Initially, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying thought Bai Xiaosheng intended to survey and understand the situation, packing laptops and gear into briefcases to bring along.

Bai Xiaosheng quickly stopped them, clearly stating it was a day for leisure, not work.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying finally understood, happily putting their gear back.

They also naturally wanted to explore and relax.

Oshan Chieftaincy, within the West African Chieftain Union, is economically and militarily one of the top, relying on oil and mineral resources with good relations with many developed countries, its major cities can be considered international metropolises, with Eisenlag being one but preserving its distinct characteristics.

Strolling, shopping, tasting food, experiencing exotic customs here is surely a joy.

Bai Xiaosheng and his companions informed the Walking Palace's housekeeper, declined the offer of bodyguards, just requested a car, and headed straight to the main city.

In that car, upon reaching the bustling area, Bai Xiaosheng and his companions disembarked and let it return.

They walked the streets of Eisenlag together, in high spirits, casually snapping photos of architecture and scenery, trying some delicacies from quaint little stores, thoroughly enjoying themselves.

While the trio was having fun, a figure suddenly appeared from the side, blocking their path.

Surprised, the trio looked over.

A "lighter-skinned" black girl, clearly mixed-race, younger than Lin Weiwei by a few years, carrying a bulging shoulder bag, one hand still inside the bag.

"Hello, Asian friends," the girl warmly greeted, "I'm Lorna, very nice to meet you. Do you need some meaningful items?"

The trio was briefly stunned.

Having understood what she meant, they each couldn't help but smile.

This girl was selling things...

Lin Weiwei laughed, "Thanks, we don't need anything."

To the average Asian person, Eisenlag is a tourist city, a scenic spot.

Encountering salespeople in such places, whether domestic or international, they instinctively refuse.

This was Lei Ying's idea too; he had been fooled quite a few times, now smarter under Lin Weiwei's guidance.

"I'm not selling you souvenirs. I'm giving you gifts from Anhaduol, our great deity here, would you refuse? That's not a good sign, trust me!"

That girl called Lorna said seriously.

Bai Xiaosheng was slightly taken aback but then smiled.

It seemed the girl understood Asians' reverence for deities, using that psychological point.

"Accept Anhaduol's blessing, it will protect you..."

That Lorna withdrew her hand from the bag, solemnly showing something to Bai Xiaosheng and his companions.

But the next moment, she herself was dumbfounded.

What she took out turned out to be a necklace with a cross.

The atmosphere abruptly froze.

That so-called deity Anhaduol was apparently not part of the God system...

If the gift was a cross, it was clearly somewhat overstepping...

The trio looked meaningfully at the girl named Lorna.

The girl, unfazed, quickly regained composure, "Do you believe in God?"

Seeing that none of them responded, Lorna quickly returned the cross to her bag.

"Such a sin, I made a mistake. Almighty Anhaduol, please forgive my reckless mistake,"

The young girl spoke while frantically searching inside her bag.

But seemingly disorganized inside, she couldn't find what she wanted.

"We're still waiting for Anhaduol's blessing," Lin Weiwei couldn't help but tease with a smile.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying also felt embarrassed for the young girl.

That Lorna, composed, gave up her search, "Anhaduol is a loving deity, he's already blessed you, without any material form."

Having said this, she suddenly extended her hand, revealing an item, "You come from the East, you must know of Eastern Taoism! This item, they say, crossed oceans to be offered in Eisenlag for many years, a Taoist antique, of significant meaning to you!"

Bai Xiaosheng and the others stared at the item in her hand, genuinely stunned.

Lei Ying murmured word for word, "A string... of prayer beads?"

"Buddhist, not Taoist?"

Lorna finally realized, bewilderedly looking at the item in her hand.

Bai Xiaosheng and his companions didn't know whether to laugh or not, looking at this suddenly emerging girl selling things completely mismatched.

"Sister, maybe let it go, we're not buying, nor are we religious," Lin Weiwei laughed, "Use your energy on another batch of tourists."

Embarrassed by Lin Weiwei's teasing, Lorna's face turned red with resentment, angrily returned the item to her bag, muttering, "Huh, a bunch of misers..."

With that, she no longer paid attention to Bai Xiaosheng and his companions, walking past Lin Weiwei in long strides.

As she passed, she deliberately bumped Lin Weiwei toward Bai Xiaosheng.

Lin Weiwei, caught off guard, exclaimed, "Ah," nearly falling.

"That girl was utterly impolite," Lin Weiwei said angrily.

Lorna had already left, walking some distance before turning into an alley.

"Forget it," Bai Xiaosheng laughed in consolation.

Lei Ying frowned, looking towards Lorna's departure, murmuring, "Something seems off."

"My phone and wallet!" Lin Weiwei suddenly shouted, finding her purse open with items missing.

Bai Xiaosheng frowned.

Wow, what good skills that little thief has!

Lei Ying instantly decided, "She hasn't gone far, let's chase her!"

Chapter 2669 - Lei Ying's "Defeat"?

Eisenlag, this highly developed city, still retains some old architecture, at least a hundred years old.

Between those ancient buildings, there are some cobblestone alleys, winding and twisting, yet leading in every direction.

At this moment, a nimble figure is gracefully darting through them, like an agile squirrel.

Reaching a deserted spot, the figure stops, glances back to ensure no one followed, then skillfully drags out an old wooden table from the corner, and proudly lays the items in hand onto it.

A smartphone that looks very new and expensive, and a wallet with a big brand label.

"These Asians sure are wealthy! You can tell these are good stuff just by getting your hands on them!" the girl named Lorna clicked her tongue in amazement. She took off her large backpack and placed it beside, muttering, "I wonder if there's a surprise inside this bag, it looks packed, must be quite a sum!"

Full of anticipation, Lorna opened Lin Weiwei's wallet, layer upon layer, all cards, with not much cash.

Lin Weiwei, following Bai Xiaosheng, doesn't spend money on food, lodging, or travel, since money is useless, naturally she doesn't carry much.

"Just... this little cash?" Lorna was clearly having trouble accepting this reality.

After the shock, she frowned, becoming somewhat angry and frustrated, she dumped all the cards from the wallet onto the table.

However, looking at the wallet itself, feeling its brand, Lorna muttered, "This branded item is quite valuable."

Glancing at those cards on the table, she self-talked, "Later, I'll drop these at the police station entrance, they'll mail them to you if they can find your address."

Next, Lorna picked up the phone, flipping through satisfied, "This looks pretty decent."

Confirming the phone's value, Lorna sighed, "I have to sell these two items, wasted half a day today, got only two new goods."

Among the variety of small items and accessories in her large bag, they all came this way.

She personally called it "stocking goods."

However, the "sales channel" for goods was always not so good.

Of course, items like today should be easier to sell.

Lorna prepared to stuff these two items into her bag to take away.

"Taking others' things and tossing them randomly isn't something good kids should do!"

Suddenly, a voice came, almost making Lorna scream.

Lorna reflexively squatted like a cat, turned toward the voice, and grabbed a palm-sized rock from the ground, holding it as a weapon.

"Good reaction, little girl, agile too. But using it to steal, what a pity."

A huge figure squatted on the wall, smiling down at Lorna.

It was Lei Ying.

Seeing the other's gorilla-like squat posture, Lorna suddenly panicked.

Size disparity, power disparity, the crucial part is not knowing when this big guy came, not even hearing a sound!

Luckily, he made a noise to alert her, or if he didn't...

I guess I would be finished...

Lorna felt a chill down her back, her heart swelled with fear.

Lei Ying leapt down from the wall.

This alley is intricate, but with good visibility above, allowing him to lock onto this target at once.

"You're here to reclaim your partner's things, right?" Lorna calmed down, waved the phone and wallet, even smiled at Lei Ying, "I happened to find them, shouldn't you thank me?"

Calling a "steal" a "find," indeed, a true case of turning black into white.

"Thank you?" Lei Ying smiled, "Sure, how about I invite you to the police station for tea?"

"Sorry, I don't have time for that." Lorna shuffled her feet, smiling, "If you want these things, I'll give them to you! No need for tea!"

In the middle of speaking, Lorna shook her hand with the items, while her other hand flicked the stone swiftly, aiming directly at Lei Ying's forehead.

Ordinary people would definitely be startled by such a sudden action, instinctively dodging.

This would create an opportunity.

However, clearly, Lei Ying is not within this "ordinary people" category...

After throwing the stone, Lorna's body instantly shot out, heading straight to her backpack, intending to grab it and run.

Here, she is more familiar than that Asian person, thinking it wouldn't be difficult to shake off the opponent.

Just as Lorna was confident, already touching her bag strap, the bag seemed to "leap" away.

This scene made Lorna pause, until she saw the stone tumbling on the ground.

That man, he caught the stone I threw, and used it to knock away my bag?

Lorna suddenly felt a wave of disbelief.

Also, fear.

If that stone hadn't knocked the bag but had hit her, what would happen...

Such close distance, and accuracy, she couldn't escape...

At the very least, she'd have a bloody head...

In an instant, Lorna felt as if she was electrified, a wave of fear surged from the heart.

The bag, she didn't want it anymore, feet kept moving, dashed away over a dozen steps, wanting to escape directly.

"You're running faster than a rabbit, really nimble." a voice sounded beside.

Lorna's hair stood on end, skin pricked up, instinctively looked toward the source of the sound, suddenly felt emptiness in her hands.

The wallet and phone she held were already gone.

Chapter 2670 - Lei Ying "Defeated"? (Part 2)

Is this still a human! A ghost!

"Ah!"

After a sharp scream unique to women, Lorna suddenly pasted herself against the wall beside her, like a mural, too scared to move.

Two meters in front of her stood a man who filled her eyes with terror.

Lei Ying raised the wallet and phone in his hand, politely telling Lorna, "Don't scream, I'm just taking back our things. Stay here and don't move, if you run again, I can't guarantee your safety."

Lorna couldn't speak, she just nodded tightly.

Lei Ying took Lin Weiwei's wallet and phone to that shabby wooden table and put back the various cards that Lorna had dumped out.

"What do you want to do to me?"

Lorna couldn't help but ask in terror.

This Asian man gave her a deep sense of helplessness. If possible, she wanted to leave now, abandoning her own things, as they weren't worth much anyway.

After putting Lin Weiwei's things in order, Lei Ying picked up Lorna's backpack from the ground, tossed it back to her, and said, "I'll take you to the police station."

Lorna held her bag, pitifully pleading, "Can I not go?"

"No." Lei Ying replied expressionlessly, without any sympathy.

"I have seventeen or eighteen brothers and sisters to look after, I can't go to jail, anyway you've got your things back, please let me go." Lorna said, her voice almost in tears.

Seeing her eyes well up with tears in an instant, Lei Ying found himself both angry and amused.

This girl really has the talent to be an actress, her acting skills are superb.

Especially the last line, having over a dozen siblings to care for?

It really competes with that common plea from crooks back home — "I have an eighty-year-old mother and a baby that needs feeding."

"Let's go, whatever grievances you have, you can tell the officer." Lei Ying motioned in the direction he came from.

Judging by Lorna's skillful actions, her familiarity with the terrain, and her instant change in demeanor, she must have engaged in stealing quite a bit.

To such a petty thief, even though she has the face of a delicate little girl, Lei Ying was unmoved.

On the battlefield, the most useless thing is pity, seeing someone weak and pitiful might just pick up a weapon the next second, leaving the one who felt compassion bleeding out.

Lei Ying had seen it many times over the years, so his heart had naturally hardened.

Seeing Lei Ying not only unaffected but also heading towards her to take her to the police station, Lorna became discouraged and gathered her emotions, ready to try to escape again desperately.

At this moment, from the top of a wall nearby, four or five little heads suddenly popped out, all boys aged around seven, eight, or nine.

"Sister Lorna, don't be afraid, we're here!"

"You bad guy, don't come over!"

"Sister Lorna, run, we'll help you!"

"Throw dung at that guy!"

A cacophony of shouting arose.

Lei Ying looked at those little ones in surprise, while Lorna couldn't help but flash a smile.

Those little guys "said and did," actually raising their hands repeatedly, throwing lumps of something at Lei Ying.

Lei Ying dodged aside as he heard several "pops," and blackish-yellow paste stuck to the wall.

Recalling the word "dung" he heard earlier, even Lei Ying's face changed.

Another rain of "ammo" came assaulting, and Lei Ying could only dodge and retreat frequently, not daring to touch any of it.

Seeing this, Lorna didn't hesitate any longer, hugging her bag, she slipped away like an eel through a broken wall hole, making her escape.

Lei Ying just watched, helpless.

Another barrage of "ammo" came fiercely, and Lei Ying dodged again.

A call came from that side, "Retreat!"

The heads that popped out on the wall instantly shrank back, and only the sound of chaotic footsteps could be heard fading away.

Lei Ying held Lin Weiwei's belongings in his hand, looked at the black and yellow stuff on the ground, furrowed his brow, lifted his foot, and then put it back down.

Then, he examined the wall, muttering, "Is it mud?"

Clearly, it wasn't real poop.

"Thank goodness it's mud, otherwise, it would be gross." Lei Ying finally sighed in relief but then frowned again, "Where did they find water and mud..."

The mud faintly had a bit of a foul smell...

At the age of seven or eight, it's just the right time for playing with pee and mud...

Lei Ying shivered instantly, turned around, and walked back without looking back.

As for the little girl thief, he decided to let it go.

Half an hour later, in an abandoned courtyard at the alley, Lorna was using a hose to wash the hands of a group of kids while scolding, "Whose idea was this? Are you guys disgusted? Let me wash you up first, and then go neatly back to the orphanage, wash your paws properly, at least twice, no, thrice!"

The little boys giggled and didn't take it seriously.

They wore old clothes, but they were still relatively clean, though now they were stained with some black and yellow "mud spots."

Lorna not only washed their hands but also carefully wiped off the stains on their clothes with a damp cloth.

"By the way, how did you guys find me?" Lorna asked the oldest kid after washing them up.

The boy laughed and said, "Didn't you say you spent all your money and couldn't afford ice cream for us, so you had to make some money? I guessed you went to sell things, so I led them to our old hideout, saw the hidden bag was gone, and took them to our usual spot to find you. Sure enough, you were

there, being bullied by a gorilla, so of course we had to rescue you. We're no match for that big guy, so we had to use our wits, not force."

Lorna laughed angrily, "I guessed it was your idea!"

The boy wasn't ashamed, instead, he smiled proudly and added, "Actually, we can sell stuff ourselves, even 'restock'..."

"Shut up!" Lorna frowned and shouted, cutting him off, then pointed at his nose, "'Restocking' is off-limits for you, and don't you dare lead them astray."

The boy was scolded and pouted, a bit discontented.

Lorna saw this, sighed, patted his shoulder, and spoke to him like an adult, "From the beginning, it was me who led you astray, and that was wrong. I haven't done this for a long time, but since you all finally got a chance to come out from the orphanage to see me, I wanted you to have fun, so I took the risk this once. But you see, we ran into a tough nut. If you insist on not listening to me, you'll face situations like today, encountering frightening people, and no one will be able to help you."

"I've already found a legitimate job, and I won't be 'restocking' anymore." Lorna walked aside, picked up her backpack, glanced at it, then went to the nearby well and tossed it in, turning back to say, "None of you should take after me!"

The boys watched, somewhat understanding, but they all nodded seriously.

The oldest boy grinned and said, "Is it because of your new boyfriend that you've decided to stop?"

Lorna blushed at the words, spat, and said, "What boyfriend? Just a friend, someone I know. He's from a high background, how could he... What do you think about every day in that little head of yours? You're only ten!"

"I'm almost eleven, practically an adult." The boy grinned, "Otherwise, why don't you wait for me, Lorna? I grow fast."

"Get lost. Look at you, skinny as a rail; eat more when you get back and grow sturdier." Lorna teased with a laugh.

Then she put her hands on her hips and sighed, "Looks like I can't treat you to ice cream today, but luckily I've already treated you to enough. Let's go, have some fun, and then I'll take you back to the orphanage."

The kids immediately howled and were reluctant to go back.

Lorna herded them out like ducks.

Meanwhile, Lin Weiwei listened to Lei Ying's story and laughed so hard she bent over.

Even Bai Xiaosheng turned his head, laughing.

"Those sneaky kids, their tactics are...unsavory," Lei Ying lamented.

"So, you were outsmarted by some kids with pee and mud, master." Lin Weiwei teased.

Lei Ying nervously looked around, "Keep it down."

"I can't help it." Lin Weiwei laughed uncontrollably.

Bai Xiaosheng was also amused.

"You guys..." Lei Ying, feeling helpless and frustrated, simply walked off.

"Hey, don't be mad, just tell us more... About the details at the time." Lin Weiwei laughed and went after him.

Bai Xiaosheng also hurried towards them.

In front, Lei Ying's face turned red, muttering angrily, "Let me not see that little girl thief again!"