

Two Trillion 271

Chapter 271 I'm Not That Generous_1

Chen Changqing left Bai Xiaosheng's place having been snubbed and, filled with rage, called the leadership team of the Online Game Operations Department to a meeting.

Initially, those managers were quite pleased with themselves, bringing their recent performance reports, ready to impress the new deputy general with their achievements.

However, they were then bitterly scolded by Chen Changqing one by one.

Suddenly, all the managers were left dumbstruck by the scolding.

Chen Changqing let off some steam, dumped the mess on the table, got up, and returned to his office, leaving it to the legitimate director of the Online Game Operations Department—Wang Hui—to clean up the mess.

Back in his office, Chen Changqing's face was still gloomy, his eyes full of anger, and he cursed under his breath in a volume only he could hear.

"This Bai Xiaosheng, such an ungrateful wretch! Thinks he can be my equal just because he's the deputy general? I'll make sure he knows he's not even fit to carry my shoes!"

Seeing Chen Changqing like this, Yu Qing and Murong Yan glanced at each other, stayed quiet, and tiptoed around, not daring to make a sound for fear of catching his ire.

The meeting room.

Wang Hui, the director of the Online Game Operations Department, helped calm the managers down before finally announcing the end of the meeting.

The managers left with their heads down, without uttering a word.

Ever since this new deputy general, Mr. Chen, came along, they felt like stepchildren who never received a smile, just scoldings over and over.

The most fatal part was that it had nothing to do with performance; it all depended on the deputy general's mood, which was unbearable.

They were nonetheless managers at Zhongjing Media, seen as white-collar elites by outsiders, and they supervised their own teams. Being yelled at for no reason naturally built up resentment inside them.

In fact, Director Wang Hui was more depressed than anyone. He had to console his subordinates whenever they got upset, but who would console him when he was upset?

Wang Hui frowned and rubbed at the center of his eyebrows in confusion.

Why had Mr. Chen exploded this time?

There had to be a reason.

Without knowing what was going on, living in constant fear of being scolded was no way to go on.

"I need to find a way for my managers to vent. Otherwise, if they all work in a bad mood, I'll be the one cleaning up the mess," Wang Hui sighed.

Right now, his office space was all mixed up, almost like he was in Lin Beichen's shoes.

"Wang, got a headache?"

Hearing someone addressing him, Wang Hui dropped his hands and looked up to see Lin Beichen's face, looking somewhat schadenfreude.

Wang Hui knitted his brows.

If it had been any other day, he would have snapped back at Lin Beichen for making that face.

But today, he just wasn't in the mood.

"Look, Lin, we're both working for Mr. Chen now, in the same boat. Let's not give each other grief," Wang Hui said listlessly.

Lin Beichen nodded, his schadenfreude changing to sympathy as he pulled up a chair and sat down next to Wang Hui.

"Hey? Lin, you've been with Mr. Chen all day today, you must know what's got him so fired up," Wang Hui perked up and asked.

Lin Beichen smiled, knowing that even if Wang Hui hadn't asked, he would have made it a point to tell him and give Wang a "clear path" to follow.

"Let me tell you, Mr. Chen got pissed because of the folks over at the New Media Department."

Lin Beichen didn't mention Bai Xiaosheng because that would've made Wang back down; instead, he pointed the finger at the New Media Department.

"How could they have upset Mr. Chen?" Wang Hui asked incredulously.

"Those people, going around bad-mouthing our department, saying our performance is no good, that we're sure to fail and that Mr. Chen is inferior to Mr. Bai. How could Mr. Chen be happy hearing that? He got angry after hearing too much of it today, and it's only natural that he lashed out at you guys," Lin Beichen said, making it sound quite serious.

"Those bastards!"

Wang Hui slammed the table angrily.

"These people have no shame, twisting facts! No wonder Mr. Chen came in and started berating us like we were nothing. It was them stirring up trouble!" Wang Hui scoffed, "Fine, I don't have to hold back my people any longer."

"What do you mean?" Lin Beichen asked curiously.

"Heh, we've been laughing at the New Media Department behind their backs recently. I've been keeping my people in check, not letting them speak out loud to avoid breaking unity. Honestly, I look down on that department too. Their tiny achievements don't even come close to matching one of our hairs," Wang Hui said contemptuously, "But now, since they've started it, we need not be polite anymore."

Wang Hui stood up and walked out.

"What are you doing?" Lin Beichen asked on purpose.

Wang Hui didn't say a word, just waved his hand without turning his head.

Wang Hui was up to something, and a silent cold smile curled up on the corners of Lin Beichen's mouth—he guessed it.

Making sarcastic comments quietly among themselves in their department wasn't fun; they had to let the people on the other side hear it!

Lin Beichen didn't mind stirring things up a bit, disgusting the folks over at the new media department, and giving Bai Xiaosheng some trouble.

In addition, Lin Beichen had other plans in mind.

This was also his way of venting a little bit of Mr. Chen's frustration. Depending on Mr. Chen's reaction afterward, if he disliked this approach, then it was all Wang Hui acting on his own; if Mr. Chen was satisfied with the incident, then it would be thanks to Lin Beichen's timely reminder.

"Anyway, I will be seen as meritorious, not at fault!" Lin Beichen couldn't help but smile smugly.

...

In the following two days.

People from the Online Game Operations Department openly criticized the New Media Department in front of other departments.

"Letting a bunch of idiots who don't understand publicity do the most cutting-edge media work makes a mockery of the company's reputation. We Zhongjing Media might as well change our name."

"Performance is low, shameless, they are just a bunch of maggots."

"I really don't know how these people have the audacity to compare themselves to us, it's simply ridiculous."

The talk became nastier and nastier.

After all, those aggrieved managers in the Online Game Operations Department were also fanning the flames secretly.

In the end, they even insulted and provoked the new media department people in their face, without any reservation.

Within a single day, several conflicts broke out.

When it came to performance, the Online Game Operations Department was indeed riding high, and the new media department staff, in their fury, didn't have any strong rebuttals and had to retreat in frustration.

Lin Weiwei angrily informed Bai Xiaosheng about this matter.

After listening, Bai Xiaosheng was silent for a moment, then smiled at Lin Weiwei, "Our event starts tomorrow. How are the preparations and progress going?"

Suppressing her anger towards the Online Game Operations Department, Lin Weiwei began to report to Bai Xiaosheng.

The progress was more optimistic than expected.

Many prospective clients had already expressed interest and intention, saying they were willing to sign and give it a try since the initial investment wasn't high.

"You specifically instructed the editorial team, and that has also been arranged," Lin Weiwei said.

"Very good."

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, stood up, "I'll go to the game department, Weiwei, you don't need to come along."

To the game department?

Lin Weiwei's eyes suddenly lit up.

She knew Bai Xiaosheng wouldn't let their people be at a disadvantage; he was going to have a serious talk with Chen Changqing!

"Can you handle them on your own if it gets loud?"

Lin Weiwei was somewhat worried, rolling up her sleeves and ready to follow.

"Who said I'm going to quarrel with them?" Bai Xiaosheng said with a laugh, "I'm going to invite Mr. Chen to attend our event tomorrow."

Huh?

Lin Weiwei was a bit dumbfounded.

Bai Xiaosheng wasn't usually a pushover!

"So we just let it go, after getting attacked on our side?" Lin Weiwei muttered.

"Let it go? Ha, as if!" Bai Xiaosheng snorted coldly, and smiled fiercely, "What's the use of negotiation? After getting slapped in the face, just accept a lukewarm apology and it's over? I, Bai Xiaosheng, am not that magnanimous!"

Bai Xiaosheng walked out of the office, leaving Lin Weiwei with his back and a parting shot.

"After we win, I want everyone to go out and mock them mercilessly for a month!"

Chapter 272: The Power of Mr. Bai_1

"Win and laugh at them heartily!" Lin Weiwei waved her little fist, savoring Bai Xiaosheng's words, feeling a rush of vindictive pleasure.

That's right!

What's the point of just protesting and asking them to stop the insults!

It's better to bide one's time and let the facts slap the other party in the face, in full view of everyone in the company.

You, the Online Game Operations Department, boast about your performance and claim to have far surpassed us.

Well, let's see who gets the last laugh!

As Lin Weiwei thought about these things, she couldn't help but get a little excited.

She had been fully involved in the creation of her own department's event plan and was very confident of its success.

Not just to win, Bai Xiaosheng had said, after this event, he would lead the New Media Internet Department to rise and, in the future, even surpass those profitable departments!

In comparison, Lin Weiwei looked forward with great anticipation and belief.

This was also the dream of those newly promoted managers, to truly achieve some performance and earn the respect of the entire company for their department!

"I need to tell everyone what Mr. Bai said," Lin Weiwei hurried away.

At that moment.

Bai Xiaosheng appeared in the game department. Those who had been so arrogantly vocal fell silent, watching the vice president from a distance.

On his first day at the company, Bai Xiaosheng, Mr. Bai, had made Director Lin Beichen "take a break," focused on the New Media Department, and within a day had dismissed seven people, penalized twelve, and fired a manager without as much as blinking an eye.

He was indeed a ruthless character!

Managers and employees who knew about Bai Xiaosheng's exploits fell silent, one by one.

If it was possible to avoid any contact with the vice president, they would stay clear!

Bai Xiaosheng passed through the eerily quiet office area with a gentle smile on his face, heading straight for Chen Changqing's office.

"What is Mr. Bai doing here? He can't be here because of the conflict with the New Media Department, can he?"

"Surely not. We've scorned the department but haven't offended Mr. Bai himself."

"That's what I'm saying, I heard that Mr. Bai is especially protective of his own, and he's the one overseeing the New Media Department's work, could it be..."

Uneasy discussions quietly unfolded in the corners.

Even though they knew Bai Xiaosheng couldn't hear them, they still whispered cautiously.

This Mr. Bai was as terrifying as the Devil, with bizarre and ferocious actions, and Mr. Song had never intervened to stop him.

Maybe he had some powerful backing...

Watching Bai Xiaosheng enter Chen Changqing's office, the people in the outer office strained their ears to listen to any sound from within.

Unfortunately, the soundproofing in the director's office was too good, and nothing could be heard.

Ten minutes later.

Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changqing emerged from the office, chatting and laughing.

"Thank you, Mr. Bai, for the personal invitation; I'll be there on time," Chen Changqing said with a smile.

"Thank you!" Bai Xiaosheng smiled and turned to leave.

The people in the game department were somewhat taken aback.

The two bosses seemed to have had a pleasant conversation. It looked like Mr. Bai invited Mr. Chen to attend the New Media Department's event tomorrow.

The event promotion had only started a couple of days ago, with news frequently released on websites, public accounts, apps, and pop-up ads. It seemed to be some sort of new media exhibition.

The game department's staff guessed that it was the New Media Department's attempt to pad their performance.

However, even if they made a big sale on the spot, the payment wouldn't come through in just two days, that would be too fast!

The New Media Department's efforts appeared to be futile struggles, trying to make some noise for the company to see, lest they lose too disgracefully.

The people in the game department almost all thought so.

The event wasn't significant enough to require departmental or director-level attendance, and Mr. Chen certainly didn't have to participate, but of course, if Mr. Bai personally came to ask, that would be another matter.

Perhaps, Mr. Chen just wanted to go there to watch their blunder...

The game department found themselves with even more to talk about.

...

The arrival of Bai Xiaosheng tacitly sounded an alarm for the few people in the Online Game Operations Department who were making the most fuss outside.

Everyone had witnessed how scary Mr. Chen could be, but Mr. Bai's level of scariness was something they had only heard about.

And that was even more chilling.

If they angered Mr. Bai and he came down on them, would Mr. Chen shield them from this strike?

He would definitely use them to demonstrate unity among the leaders!

Mr. Chen was capable of doing it...

Nearly everyone who had been arrogant outside was drenched in a cold sweat and secretly decided not to mess around anymore.

Shortly after.

Chen Changqing also called over Wang Hui, the director of the Online Game Operations Department.

"Was it you who had people mocking the New Media Internet Department?" Chen Changqing's face showed neither pleasure nor anger as he asked calmly.

"It was my lack of strict control these last few days, I will definitely criticize them when I return!" Wang Hui said cautiously.

"Hmm, do keep them in check. We are all part of the same company; internal conflicts aren't good to look at."

Chen Changqing spoke casually, a stark contrast to his usual short fuse.

It seemed that Mr. Chen had known about this all along and had tacitly permitted it...

Wang Hui realized.

Now that Mr. Chen had spoken, it was time for those below to restrain themselves a bit more; causing too much of a stir and alerting Mr. Song wouldn't be good.

It would also show that Mr. Chen had lax control over his subordinates.

"I understand, Mr. Chen," Wang Hui replied respectfully.

...

Wang Hui might not have anticipated that he didn't need to find anyone to reign them in. The mere presence of Bai Xiaosheng had already made those people docile!

...

After seeing Chen Changqing, Bai Xiaosheng went to see Song Changkong.

After all, hosting a large event, it was fitting to have the leaders support the occasion.

Song Changkong also readily agreed.

After making the rounds, Bai Xiaosheng returned to the office.

Following this, the staff of the New Media Internet Department were surprised to find that the provocations and disrespectful comments coming from the Online Game Operations Department had miraculously vanished into thin air; they even went out of their way to avoid any conflicts with them.

Many people knew that Bai Xiaosheng had visited, which immediately boosted their spirits.

Mr. Bai, on behalf of everyone, had marched straight into the Online Game Operations Department with a resolve of "seven entries and seven exits", squashing their arrogance and leaving them without a shred of dignity. Various versions of the tale began to circulate...

It was a story relished and long remembered...

Bai Xiaosheng himself probably never imagined that a bitter rivalry between two departments didn't need any adjustment or restraint; all it took was his visit...

After inviting Chen Changqing and Song Changkong, Bai Xiaosheng went to the event site to have a look around.

With the funds in place, everything quickly unfolded; everyone worked with great enthusiasm and tirelessness.

After all, they were shareholders; everyone was working for their own benefit, so why wouldn't they be proactive?

Even Bai Xiaosheng was somewhat impressed.

"It seems that in the future, to achieve unity, we'll need to bind everyone's interests together. That's the most effective motivation," Bai Xiaosheng reflected inwardly.

During the onsite testing, Deputy General Manager Bai Xiaosheng, under everyone's gaze, ran about, engrossed in playing with the virtual equipment.

The decisive and forceful executive had this side to him, which brought a smile to everyone's face.

The atmosphere at the site, which had been somewhat tense, relaxed considerably.

"This New Media Department is truly a hidden dragon and crouching tiger. With such a capable team and yet the performance is at the bottom, Lin Beichen, you really are a pig!" After experiencing the whole process, Bai Xiaosheng had nothing but high praise for the managers who designed the event.

"After this event, I must ensure that the New Media Internet Department rises to dominate Zhongjing Media!"

Chapter 273: The Dazzling Feast_1

Zhongjing Wanhe Building, located right next to Zhongjing Media Tower, is also a renowned five-star hotel in the city and part of the Zhongjing Media's property portfolio. It boasts several professional-level conference halls for the group's use.

The New Media Internet Department selected a large suite as the venue for this event.

At seven in the evening, it was time for meeting registration.

The guests first enjoyed a tea break and light refreshments in the outer hall, waiting for the official start of the event.

Those who attended were mainly prospective and potential clients of the New Media Department—nearly a hundred companies and enterprises of various sizes—as well as industry reporters, commentators, and people from cooperative media outlets.

To enhance the experience of the event, Bai Xiaosheng specially limited the number of participants.

Even so, in just fifteen minutes, over three hundred people had arrived.

Fortunately, the outer hall was very spacious, with more than a dozen refreshment points set up.

The guests mingled around, so it didn't feel overcrowded or chaotic.

Holding a cup of tea or coffee in hand, they chatted in small groups as if at a social gathering.

"I heard that this event organized by the New Media Department of Zhongjing Media is quite interesting."

"Yes, I heard too, something about a light and shadow feast. What's with keeping the venue closed, what are they up to?"

The guests talked among themselves, many curious.

Among the curious were Song Changkong and Chen Changqing.

Both executives came without any entourage, keeping each other company.

One held a very high position and generally disliked making public appearances, while the other was a newcomer, still building his reputation. Both intended to keep a low profile, and moreover, many of the companies present were small to medium-sized and not on the level to interact with someone like Song Changkong.

So, surprisingly, nobody recognized them.

But their own employees knew who they were.

Yet at this moment, even they were being held back from entering by the staff.

"What is Bai Xiaosheng playing at? I've never heard of organizing a promotional event and keeping the guests outside the venue, not letting them in! Is he going to wait for the exact time to let people in?" Song Changkong could not help but complain.

He was, after all, a leader, a VIP, and now he found himself turned away at the door.

"Perhaps, Mr. Bai wants to give us a surprise," Chen Changqing said indifferently.

However, there was a hint of scorn in his eyes.

He didn't believe that Bai Xiaosheng and his team could have prepared anything breathtakingly stunning in just a few days.

If they had, he would certainly like to see it.

Although there were many guests, he wondered how many deals Bai Xiaosheng would manage to seal.

A sneer crept onto Chen Changqing's lips.

...

As time drew near, more and more people became impatient and started to mutter.

"Why hasn't it started yet?"

"Yes, if it's not starting, at least let us in."

"Exactly, what's the point of standing outside?"

As they were talking, the doors leading to the three entrances of the inner hall suite all swung open, and staff members emerged, each pushing a trolley.

"Please collect your equipment and proceed in an orderly manner to the venue," called one of the staff members.

Equipment? The guests looked at each other, curious, and approached.

What they received were sets of noise-cancelling headphones.

With these on, how could they attend the meeting? The guests were intrigued.

"These brand headphones are also a complimentary gift for everyone. After the event, you are welcome to take them home," shouted the employee.

Giving out complimentary gifts like this was indeed a novelty!

"What in the world?" Song Changkong muttered to himself as he put on the headphones.

Chen Changqing did the same.

Following the crowd, they entered the venue and were immediately taken aback.

The entire venue had been cleared, with five almost semicircular arc screens facing the entrance, each separated by display boards, forming semi-enclosed areas.

Song Changkong and Chen Changqing each chose a spot and walked over. High-definition videos began to play on the screens.

The clarity was astonishing due to the proximity.

The videos played in brief segments, somewhat resembling internet short dramas.

Lighthearted and humorous, novel and interesting!

They instantly captured the interest of many guests.

The characters in the footage changed continuously.

From pop stars and movie stars to ordinary working-class citizens, although acted, nothing seemed out of place.

Song Changkong realized that these were New Media Department reporters and editors themselves in the roles!

These people had good eloquence and rich experiences, able to grasp a certain trait of the characters, and their performances were memorable.

Through colloquial dialogue peppered with laughter and curses, the videos cleverly presented market data and the impact of new media on life, making people laugh heartily and nod frequently. After watching, upon contemplation, it all made sense!

These lines, all crafted by powerful pens of editors and journalists, were intricately carved, from the highly complex to the utmost simplicity.

Song Changkong was once again astonished.

Not only that, the narrative style of the lines, from singing, rap, TikTok, stand-up, to banter, had it all, perfectly embodying the essence of new media's inclusiveness.

Some wrote the lines, others performed, and still others cooperated with filming, post-production, and so on.

At first, Song Changkong watched with great interest and savored the details, only to be amazed to discover.

Almost the entire hundred or so people from the New Media Department were involved, this opening video fully maximized each person's role to the limit!

When all the short videos had finished playing, a line of large text would appear on the screen.

"Progress with the times, new media shall become mainstream!"

Then, the screen turned completely white.

Icons of various web media, APP platforms, digital newspapers, and video platforms swiftly converged from the corners of the screen to the center, forming four large characters—Zhongjing Media.

Afterward, the text shattered and reformed, creating seven smaller characters—New Media Internet Department!

As everyone marveled, the lights in the hall suddenly went out!

The words on the screen crumbled.

Countless square icons, like pixels, broke free from the screen.

Flying straight towards the audience!

The small icons, representing different media channels, flew before the eyes and around the spectators, twinkling and hovering in mid-air, as reachable as the stars.

Cries of astonishment rose in waves!

The guests were lit up!

They might not understand new media, but such an impactful scene fit perfectly with their notion that "new media is all high-tech"!

This was naked-eye 3D and stereoscopic projection technology!

Shocked, Song Changkong and Chen Changqing immediately looked up, only then noticing the suspended projection equipment.

The final scene was just too stunning!

It might have been just a moment, but unguarded mentally, it would surely make a lasting impression!

Chen Changqing almost ended up in the arms of a plump lady next to him, who was trying to capture the flying icons.

Chen Changqing's clumsy dodging left him profoundly shocked.

He had not at all expected Bai Xiaosheng to open with such novel and profound presentation, unforgettable at a glance, remembered firmly!

Hereafter, whenever these people talked about new media, they would definitely remember this day!

They would think of Zhongjing Media's New Media Department!

From this perspective, it was definitely worth a year's worth of advertising expenses!

Even with noise-cancelling headphones, Chen Changqing could still hear the continuous exclamations and shouts.

His expression turned somewhat ugly.

The more successful Bai Xiaosheng was, the less he liked it!

The guests wished they could watch it again.

However, all the icons had vanished.

From the earphones, gentle music and a pleasant female voice emerged.

"Welcome to the new media gala night!"

The hall lights came on.

The curtain and equipment were moved to the sides, to reveal they were all mounted on mobile skateboards.

Behind the curtain.

Three hundred cubic stools were made into various icon designs, representing the external media resources of the New Media Internet Department.

"To cooperate with us is to engage with three hundred channels across the web. Today, Zhongjing Media's New Media Department will open a new era!"

In the earphones, the female voice was melodious.

Chen Changqing recognized it—it was none other than Lin Weiwei's voice.

Without needing to listen any further, Lin Weiwei, dressed in a gorgeous evening gown, made her way onto the stage.

Incredibly dazzling, incredibly moving.

Chen Changqing watched, utterly transfixed.

This woman, rather than joining him, preferred to be a junior assistant under Bai Xiaosheng!

Chen Changqing's jealousy was ablaze.

"I can't believe they managed to achieve such a feat!"

Song Changkong's eyes sparkled as he watched the exuberant, cheering guests. Their emotions had been completely stirred up.

This event, even for someone as conservative as him, felt perfect!

"From now on, budget requests from the New Media Department will be given priority treatment," he affirmed, equally ignited.

Chapter 274 Limited Edition Contract_1

The New Media Department's incomparable, dazzling visual feast ignited the passion of the attendees.

Sometimes, that's how events work, if you can stir up everyone's emotions, you've already succeeded by more than half.

Subsequently, the entire event of the New Media Department unfolded like a gala, with various forms interpreting one vivid and lively case after another, showing everyone how to master new media.

This seemingly selfless sharing actually resembled a showcase of strength.

Because only by having powerful resources could one achieve the desired effects.

What a display of humblebrag!

Showing strength subtly makes a deeper impression in people's subconscious minds.

You really have a knack for this, Bai Xiaosheng!

Chen Changqing's gaze was sharp; he found himself beginning to take Bai Xiaosheng seriously.

In just five short days, putting together such a feast of new media was not something an ordinary person could do—and Bai Xiaosheng was even younger than him.

Now, I'm actually looking forward to treating you as a competitor. Crushing you will be incredibly satisfying!

A slight smile played on Chen Changqing's lips.

For him, there were two great pleasures in life: women and rivals. One for physical delight, the other for mental gratification.

He had thought his days at Zhongjing Media would be dull and boring.

Now, it seems not so tedious after all!

Song Changkong was standing beside Chen Changqing, his gaze flickering as he pondered.

On one hand, he felt Bai Xiaosheng was indeed a prodigy, who, if utilized properly, could take the company's performance to a new level, which would be good for him.

On the other hand, such a maverick like Bai Xiaosheng was extremely hard to control—even a slight misstep could lead to situations like with the previous deputy general manager, constantly antagonizing him!

I can't let that happen again!

Song Changkong felt wary, and couldn't help but glance at Chen Changqing with the corner of his eye.

He needed to keep an eye on this young man beside him!

Song Changkong felt that Chen Changqing definitely had a background that overshadowed Bai Xiaosheng's. If he ever gained power, Song, as the general manager, might not be able to hold him down!

These two people needed to be utilized, but not allowed to become too powerful—it's best to keep them competing without breaking each other.

As long as they don't upend Zhongjing Media, I'll have to turn a blind eye to their fights in the future!

Song Changkong made up his mind.

...

This event was not scheduled to be very long, just an hour and a half, with no leader giving an opening speech or any lectures.

The whole process was relaxed and enjoyable.

The New Media Internet Department fully showcased its various strengths.

Soon, the event reached its conclusion.

Lin Weiwei gracefully took the stage, holding a microphone, smiling at the guests below, and began to speak softly.

"Today, we have prepared twenty cooperation agreements for everyone, all trial versions for one phase, lasting three months, with full-channel promotion! Each agreement is worth six hundred thousand, first come, first served. I remind everyone that this is full-channel promotion, averaging only two hundred thousand in advertising costs per month. This time, it's truly a year-end gratitude edition. We won't have similar promotions again in the coming year!"

Lin Weiwei's words caused a stir in the audience.

"Full-channel promotion for two hundred thousand a month? That's not much!"

"Only twenty copies? And they're limited?"

"That sounds good, I think it's worth a try!"

The business owners and entrepreneurs in attendance discussed among themselves, feeling it was a worthwhile chance.

After watching the presentation, their enthusiasm was piqued—they were already prospective clients and naturally wanted to place advertisements.

Voices of agreement rose one after another, the enthusiasm among the crowd was high.

Song Changkong sat among the crowd, looking around, unable to hide his pleasure, as this was indeed the company's performance.

As for whether such a generous offer would result in a loss?

Song Changkong was not worried at all. The New Media Department's external collaborations were mostly achieved through barter, simply put, using each other's platforms without financial transactions, exchanging resources instead.

This was also a common mode of cooperation in the media industry.

Of course, some channels did cost money, but those were part of annual agreements and had very low costs.

This seemingly astonishing offer was actually no-lose, all-gain.

"This is essentially hunger marketing; well played, Bai Xiaosheng. You directly applied new media promotional techniques to real combat. These people probably don't realize yet that they are the first batch of consumers to be conquered." Chen Changqing was secretly amazed.

Selling twenty contracts worth six hundred thousand at once, that's twelve million!

If we're talking about weekly performance, it would indeed overshadow the Gaming Department!

However, collecting payments is a concern!

"I don't believe you can collect all the payments within two days,"

Chen Changqing scoffed.

On the stage, Lin Weiwei smiled as she watched the excited crowd below, with dozens of people raising their hands amidst the noisy clamor.

"Ladies and gentlemen, this contract comes with additional conditions," Lin Weiwei continued. "It must be signed on the spot, with payment made immediately!"

Below the stage, those who had been clamoring loudly suddenly fell silent.

In everyone's eyes, a look of disbelief appeared.

No wonder the offer was so enticing!

Signing on the spot was understandable, but immediate payment? That was unheard of!

This wasn't like buying vegetables at the market where you have to pay on the spot; companies need to go through financial procedures.

Chen Changqing and Song Changkong were stunned, especially Chen Changqing, whose eyes were full of astonishment. He had just wanted to see Bai Xiaosheng make a fool of himself, but instead, he witnessed this scene unfold.

Immediate payment?

Unheard of. Could the advertising industry even operate like this?

"I've never heard of paying on the spot! What kind of act are you guys playing at?" someone shouted.

"Our company has financial procedures too, for goodness' sake. You know we can't just pay on the spot; it's impossible!"

"Exactly, how can we cooperate like this?"

The crowd started to make noise again.

Chen Changqing's gaze swept across the room, a cold smile at the corner of his mouth.

Bai Xiaosheng, you too have your foolish moments. And to think I considered you a worthy opponent. With this move, you've dug your own grave, angering these potential clients. I'd like to see how you'll resolve this.

Song Changkong's expression also changed slightly.

One misstep could spell trouble.

This time, Bai Xiaosheng had been reckless.

"I'll sign!" Suddenly, a voice rang out.

The voice wasn't loud, yet it immediately silenced the room. Everyone looked over in disbelief.

A portly man walked straight over and said to Lin Weiwei on the stage, "I'll sign, and I'll pay right here!"

No idle talk, no hesitation.

Lin Weiwei smiled and gestured for a staff member to attend to the gentleman aside, then with a beaming smile said to the crowd, "There are nineteen more!"

"What's going on, there's actually someone signing up."

"It must be a private enterprise owner!"

"Tsk tsk, probably just this one person."

The crowd murmured, their voices much quieter.

"I'll sign too, give me one!" An elegant lady suddenly raised her voice and stepped forward.

Lin Weiwei gave the audience a sweet smile.

"Eighteen more!"

"I want to sign up too!"

This time, before her words fell, someone hurried over, as if afraid of missing out.

"Seventeen more!"

This time, no one spoke. The crowd's eyes widened in astonishment.

Backstage, Bai Xiaosheng sat leisurely in his chair, muttering, "The three who signed up early should be enough to lead the way. Hmph, with hunger marketing and the bandwagon effect, let's see if you can keep sitting still!"

Bai Xiaosheng had just finished muttering when the scene erupted.

"I'll sign!"

"I want one too!"

"I'll take one!"

For a moment, cries filled the venue as people clamored to sign the contract.

On the stage, Lin Weiwei's smile was joyful.

"Damn it!"

Below the stage, Chen Changqing's pupils suddenly contracted, shock rendering him speechless.

He had not anticipated this turn of events!

Now, he might lose!

Chapter 275: Chen Never Admits Defeat_1

The attendees of the event had been carefully selected by Bai Xiaosheng; he had spent two days perfecting this plan, refining it to an exasperating degree.

He considered every aspect, every possible scenario, and even prepared various contingency plans.

Bai Xiaosheng had calculated the number of wealthy private enterprises, the number of bosses attending in person, and the number of deals that could be closed on the spot among these prospective clients.

Selling a dozen or twenty contracts wasn't a problem at all; he wasn't worried in the slightest.

At the moment, three people were leading the charge, with dozens more practically fighting to snatch up the remaining contracts.

This was hunger marketing in action.

Even Lin Weiwei announcing the number of contracts remaining served as a psychological suggestion.

If those in new media marketing couldn't sell their own products, then what the hell were they good for!

Bai Xiaosheng stood up, stretched his back, and turned to leave.

Seeing the situation here, he no longer needed to oversee it; the follow-up could be handled by Lin Weiwei and the others.

"I've been tired for so many days; if I go back to sleep early, everyone should understand," Bai Xiaosheng said as he nonchalantly made his exit first.

After all, he was the vice president, and no one would dare to criticize him...

As Bai Xiaosheng left, the backstage staff looked at him with eyes filled with excitement and admiration; the event that Mr. Bai meticulously revised and adjusted had ended in perfect success.

Their New Media Department was going to win, and they would reap a hefty reward in both performance and bonuses.

All of this was Mr. Bai's doing!

Everyone respectfully and admiringly greeted Bai Xiaosheng, who appeared to be sneaking off, nearly making him feel guilty enough to turn back.

"No, I must be tough, not guilty," he told himself.

Bai Xiaosheng continued to greet people with a modest smile while hurrying on his way.

The employees couldn't help but marvel internally—

Mr. Bai was both a strategic genius and modestly approachable. Where else could they find such a leader? Look at him, busy here and then off to tackle other tasks; he never has a moment of rest...

...

Silently, Bai Xiaosheng slipped away.

Song Changkong and Chen Changqing also left quietly, one after the other.

The difference was that Song Changkong had a look of joy on his face.

It wasn't so much about the contracts themselves—over ten million wasn't that much—but he had seen a different side of the New Media Department, which would surely bring him bigger surprises in the future.

After this event, Chen Changqing didn't stand much of a chance. Song Changkong was more than happy to see him take a hit, especially since it was delivered by Bai Xiaosheng, solidifying their conflict.

Let them fight.

Song Changkong's mood improved further.

Chen Changqing hurried back to his office; he needed to calculate the score between him and Bai Xiaosheng.

"The total performance of these days... our sides should still be evenly matched!"

In a place where no one else was around, Chen Changqing still sneered, far from discouraged. He wasn't a man to concede defeat easily.

"Bai Xiaosheng, I admit you guys did a great job, played it brilliantly!" Chen Changqing gritted his teeth, "But the final outcome is not yet clear! We still have two days, and it's not certain you'll win!"

...

Back at the Online Game Operations Department of Zhongjing Media, Chen Changqing's two assistants were waiting for him, as was Lin Beichen, chatting casually with each other.

"Who knows how it's going over there; we really should have sent someone. We're completely in the dark now, just waiting blindly?" Lin Beichen muttered under his breath.

He had already repeated this sentiment more than once.

Yu Qing and Murong Yan had been patient with him, but even they were getting annoyed and responded indifferently.

"Otherwise, why don't you go back first? There's nothing for you to do here anyway. Why wait around pointlessly?" Yu Qing said politely.

After all, Mr. Chen still needed Lin Beichen; it was necessary to tolerate him for the time being.

"What are you talking about, how can there be nothing for me to do here? What if Mr. Chen comes back looking for me?" Lin Beichen was somewhat dissatisfied.

Soon after, Lin Beichen revealed a hint of a smile, "Besides, when Mr. Chen returns, I too am eager to hear the 'good news'! That Bai thinks by pulling off one event, he can rival our five-day revenue from all online gaming activities, wishing upon the stars! I bet Mr. Chen must be in a good mood..."

Lin Beichen was speaking when the office door opened, and Chen Changqing walked in.

"I'm feeling absolutely fantastic!" Chen Changqing snorted coldly, his voice low.

He had heard them from outside the door.

At this moment, his complexion didn't look too good, not at all like someone "in a good mood."

Since Chen Changqing had entered, Lin Beichen had been all smiles, wanting to ask questions.

But seeing Chen Changqing's expression, Lin Beichen immediately paused, mouth agape, daring not to inquire further.

"Yu Qing, what are our exact performance figures right now?" Chen Changqing ignored Lin Beichen, directly addressing his assistant.

His tone was slightly grave, his eyes carrying a trace of chill.

"Roughly thirteen million!" Yu Qing hurriedly replied.

Having worked with Chen Changqing for quite a while, he knew something was amiss at a glance.

"I don't want gross revenue; exclude the costs and give me the precise figures. Also, calculate the profit growth rate!" Chen Changqing frowned, his voice stern, "I want it today! I'll wait here!"

Today, huh?

It's already past nine in the evening, and even at the earliest, the calculations will likely not be finished until after midnight, right?

Lin Beichen was startled, swallowing hard, while feeling slightly alarmed within.

Mr. Chen went to check out the event that Bai Xiaosheng organized and returned as if facing a great enemy.

What kind of event did Bai Xiaosheng pull off, to be reaping major deals on-site?

But that can't be right, even with major deals, how did he manage the repayments?!

Lin Beichen felt bewildered.

Of course, no one was going to explain it to him.

"Yu Qing, now, the New Media Department has collected payments amounting to twelve million on the day of their event, and their input cost should be around one million five hundred thousand. Calculate their net profit and the growth rate for me," Chen Changqing instructed.

The event made twelve million? Lin Beichen's eyes widened in disbelief, feeling somewhat suffocated.

What kind of event had Bai Xiaosheng put together?

The key point being the payments were made on the same day!

How was that accomplished?

Not just Lin Beichen, Yu Qing and Murong Yan too felt it was incredulous, their faces showing shock.

"Murong Yan, calculate the average daily performance growth and the decline rate for these days, and estimate the growth potential for the remaining two days!"

Chen Changqing gave his instructions and then, considering Murong Yan might struggle on her own, told Lin Beichen, "Go call someone who understands business and statistics to come help."

"I, I know it!" Lin Beichen blurted out.

Chen Changqing looked at him, slightly surprised, then nodded in approval.

It turned out Lin Beichen could be of some use after all.

Lin Beichen, in a fluster, moved a laptop to the table and brought over a chair to join the two assistants.

Next, Chen Changqing lay back in his office chair, resting with his eyes closed, but the eyeballs beneath his eyelids kept twitching.

He wasn't really in the mood to rest.

After Bai Xiaosheng got home, he took a hot shower, had some late-night snacks, and went blissfully to sleep.

In the middle of the night, Bai Xiaosheng's alarm on his phone went off; he got up to use the bathroom, yawning considerably, and sent out a scheduled email.

"Old Chen and his team probably aren't in the mood to sleep; they must be busy crunching numbers. I'll give them another surprise early tomorrow morning," Bai Xiaosheng said as he yawned extensively, smiling mischievously before tossing his phone aside and diving back into bed, snuggling up against his pillow.

Soon after, he was fast asleep.

Chapter 276: Mr. Song, there's been an accident!_1

Online Game Operations Department, Director's Office.

It's already three in the morning, yet the lights inside are still blazing.

Yu Qing, Murong Yan, and Lin Beichen stared wide-eyed at their computer screens, incessantly typing and clicking.

In front of them lay stacks of printed documents.

Data collection, data aggregation, data analysis, trend evaluation, decay rate calculation.

This was a massive project. To obtain accurate assessment results, they had employed more than three statistical analysis methods, dissecting the data down to the change every hour—a truly obsessive endeavor.

On their desks, sat empty cans of functional beverages designed to stimulate the brain and keep one awake.

In the cups, were the remnants of cold coffee.

Yu Qing and Murong Yan were doing fine, still able to hold on, their spirits high.

Lin Beichen, with dark circles heavy under his eyes, was barely keeping his energy up.

Ever since he became a director, he hadn't worked this hard or stayed up this late in many years.

"Can't sleep, can't sleep! Now is my time to shine, absolutely can't sleep!" Lin Beichen repeatedly admonished himself in his mind.

However, his brain could only comprehend one word at the moment, sleep.

Mr. Lin hadn't pulled an all-nighter in ages, nor had he exercised; his body might look robust, but in reality, it was quite frail.

Unconsciously nodding off, Lin Beichen suddenly jerked awake, lifted his head, and cautiously looked around to see if anyone had noticed. After realizing no one had, he let out a sigh of relief.

But then, his pupils shrank in alarm.

"Damn, what the hell! Where was I looking just now? Was it here... this decimal point, it looks so unfamiliar..."

The miserable Lin Beichen, with a gloomy face, scrolled back a great deal to start crosschecking anew.

If a mistake happened because of him, then all this suffering today would be in vain.

Offending another deputy director and being demoted again?

Not being fired would be a blessing!

"How's it coming along on your end? I'm waiting for it!" Yu Qing urged, his expression faintly impatient, with a hint of disdain.

Lin Beichen claimed to be a finance major with top grades, but when it came to collaboration, he was a letdown. He proved worse than those who had chosen this path halfway through and were now adept at the work.

If there were anyone else available, Yu Qing wouldn't want to work with someone like this in a hundred, no, a thousand years.

"It will be ready soon, very soon!" Lin Beichen said hastily, blinking his blurry eyes and wishing he could press his face against the computer screen to scrutinize those confusing numbers closely.

Chen Changqing, covered with a blanket in his director's chair, seemed to be asleep. Yet at the slightest noise, he immediately woke up.

Chen Changqing's face looked terrible.

His gamble with Bai Xiaosheng this time had escalated to a level he had not anticipated. At first, he took it as a game, hoping to crush this peer for fun. Then, due to Lin Weiwei's incident, he felt humiliated, and his competitive spirit soared. Even then, he never contemplated the possibility of defeat.

Until last night, when he attended that event and saw the other side's great success, the word "defeat" flashed in his mind for the first time, sending a chill through him.

"How could I lose!"

Chen Changqing's eyes narrowed as if murmuring to himself in a dream, "Bai Xiaosheng, you're just someone who clawed up from a small company. How dare you beat me?!"

With that, Chen Changqing abruptly stood up, his gaze sharp as he looked towards Yu Qing, Murong Yan, and Lin Beichen.

"Aren't you done yet?! So slow! Hurry up and get a move on!"

...

Early in the morning, Wang Hui, Director of the Online Game Operations Department, sauntered leisurely towards his office.

Usually, he was the first to arrive, opening the door for the deputy director. Thinking about his status as a director and now reduced to door-opening duties, he felt extremely frustrated.

"When will this competition end? Just finish it already. No matter who wins or loses, I wish Mr. Chen would just leave soon and vacate my turf," Wang Hui grumbled, looking rather resentful.

Now, he was as miserable as Lin Beichen, having become a director with neither power nor a place to call his own.

Speaking of Lin Beichen, Wang Hui felt nothing but hatred.

He had heard that it was this bastard who had initially picked out the games for Mr. Chen.

"Damn you, Lin Beichen, I'll never share the sky with you, you son of a bitch, why don't you just die!" Wang Hui muttered curses under his breath and then took out his keys to open the door.

And then, the door opened.

A face appeared right in front of him, nearly scaring Wang Hui to death.

It was Lin Beichen, the very person he'd just cursed!

Normally, being caught cursing someone would be embarrassing and shocking enough.

But Lin Beichen's face now was as pale as a corpse's, his skin waxen-yellow, his eyes lifeless, staring as though he'd come back from the dead.

Wang Hui caught a glance of this and nearly let out a howl, stepping back involuntarily until his spine was pressed against the partition of his desk.

"You, you, you..."

Wang Hui exclaimed in terror, unable to finish his sentence.

Lin Beichen didn't even glance at him but took off running towards the bathroom.

Wang Hui watched in a state of shock as Lin Beichen disappeared in a flash.

He slept in the director's office? He didn't go home last night?

Wang Hui was filled with doubt and confusion, his gaze turning to the office, where he was slightly taken aback.

Mr. Chen stepped out, gave him a look, and silently walked away. After him came two assistants, stretching their backs, yawning, their faces showing fatigue, with dark circles under their eyes, as if they hadn't slept all night.

However, Wang Hui clearly noticed a hint of relief in their expressions.

"Did they work overtime last night? What was there worth staying up for?" Wang Hui wondered, puzzled.

Changqing took the assistants back to the hotel where they were staying to freshen up.

After overtime work, they finally calculated their performance, including today and tomorrow, and found that they were still leading over the New Media Department!

"I knew it, I wouldn't lose!"

Walking on the street, Changqing curled his lips into a cold smile, "Bai Xiaosheng, you only know about the massive performance you've gained, but you have no clue about our situation! Relax, get all happy. In the end, I will make you cry!"

At this moment.

Bai Xiaosheng sat in his own office, full of energy, enjoying the breakfast that Lin Weiwei had brought for him.

"It's great to have a cafeteria in the company, so convenient and economical." Bai Xiaosheng savored his meal contentedly and picked up his phone to check, "It's about time, the email should have been sent, I should give Old Song a reminder."

Bai Xiaosheng cleared his throat, his face turning serious, and he started recording a voice message.

"Mr. Song, are you there, Mr. Song! Something's happened! We've found some articles online, I've sent a copy to your email, please check it as soon as possible!"

Having spoken urgently, Bai Xiaosheng then relaxed again, leisurely enjoying his breakfast, "Now, it's Old Song's move."

...

The general manager's office.

Song Changkong was holding a cup of milk, just settling down, preparing to take a break before starting his work. He never eats breakfast, only drinks a cup of milk to calm his mind.

As soon as he sat down, his phone started vibrating.

"Bai Xiaosheng?" Song Changkong glanced at the caller, his expression shifting as he played the voice message, listening to Bai Xiaosheng's urgent voice.

Articles? What articles?

Song Changkong opened his email skeptically, downloaded the mail, and casually clicked on an article to read.

Halfway through, Song Changkong's expression darkened.

Chapter 277: The Article is Sharp_1

Song Changkong furrowed his brow as he read an article that was less than a thousand words long.

The title of the article was "A Veteran Gamer's Confession."

The author began by talking about playing games with friends during college days, then went on to write about joining the workforce, as friends departed one after another, leaving only the author to hold the

fort. In the article, the author was convinced that those who had left would return one day, that the grayed-out contact lists would light up again someday.

The article was like a prose poem, with eloquent writing that brought peace to the mind.

Although Song Changkong wasn't a gamer, he found himself captivated.

The author's skill was of a seasoned master, evoking empathy and making readers recall things they had given up and things they had held onto during their growth.

In short, it was an exceptionally moving piece that made one eagerly want to read it all after just one sentence.

However, the touching part lasted for only a few hundred words.

Moving on, Song Changkong suddenly felt that something was amiss.

The author then expressed his sadness that the game had changed its flavor; what was once a pure land of joy had become a money-grabbing cave, a bottomless pit.

Reading the words, Song Changkong could feel the heartache of a veteran gamer who truly loved games, his heart wrenching, his anger lashing out at the game operators.

"They run events, I spend money, they run more events, I continue to spend money, I thought I was playing the game, but now the game is playing me. It's not that I have betrayed the game, but the game is betraying me!"

Through the screen, Song Changkong could feel every cry of distress and anger.

Especially that phrase, "It's not that I have betrayed the game, but the game is betraying me!"

With the emotional build-up in the previous text, it struck at the heart, loud and clear!

"Because of this game, I came to like every one of their games; now, all their games are just money-making schemes!"

Beneath the article, a list of game names was provided.

Song Changkong couldn't help but his eyes narrow.

He was familiar with these game names because they were all products of Zhongjing Media's Online Game Operations Department!

This was clearly a declaration of protest, a denouncement!

Song Changkong was somewhat alarmed.

The article did not attack the game or the company; it was entirely emotional, yet it was more terrifying and enthralling than a dozen, a hundred negative news articles!

Song Changkong hastily scrolled through the remaining articles, each with its own style.

Some, just like the one he had read, had delicate strokes that engaged the reader's emotions, with criticism that cut to the bone.

Others seemed to be written by those less educated, starting with raw vulgarity, but their curses were so vicious and comical that they were incredibly eye-catching.

All the articles pointed directly at the recent events of Zhongjing Media's game department.

Song Changkong stopped reading, frowning deeply.

He knew that under the leadership of Chen Changqing, the Game Operations Department was competing with Bai Xiaosheng's New Media Department for performance metrics, and Mr. Chen would inevitably adopt some special measures.

But now, it seemed they were killing the goose that laid the golden eggs!

Song Changkong couldn't help but feel a wave of restlessness. He hated turmoil. If it led to good results, like yesterday's success with Bai Xiaosheng and his team, he could accept it. But when problems arose, it made him uncomfortable, itchy.

Song Changkong picked up the office phone and dialed out.

"Hello, Mr. Chen? This is Song Changkong, where are you now? Come to my office immediately, I need to talk to you!" Song Changkong's voice was low and unquestionable.

After calling Chen Changqing, Song Changkong called Bai Xiaosheng and asked him to come over as well.

After hanging up the phone, Song Changkong frowned and glanced over the articles again, feeling more and more irritated.

Finally, Song Changkong slammed his mouse down and stopped looking.

...

Chen Changqing had just taken a hot shower and hadn't yet had the chance to take a breather when he received this call from Song Changkong, who spoke in an extremely unfriendly tone.

"Got it, I'll be right over," he said.

Chen Changqing hung up the phone feeling baffled.

Had something happened at the company?

Even if something had happened, Song Changkong's tone was off, his attitude clearly seemed to have an issue with him, as if he wanted to summon him for a scolding.

"I haven't had any conflicts with this general manager recently. We were chatting just fine yesterday, so what's going on?" Chen Changqing was utterly confused.

He changed into his clothes as quickly as possible, greeted Yu Qing and Murong Yan, and then rushed back to the company without a moment's delay.

Luckily, he was currently living in the Zhongjing Wanhe Building, right next to the office, very close by.

In ten minutes, he could be in Song Changkong's office.

Shortly after Chen Changqing received the call, Bai Xiaosheng also got a call.

"Okay, I understand. I have some urgent matters in my hands right now, I'll deal with them right away and I'll be right there!" Bai Xiaosheng said hurriedly into the phone, seeming truly overwhelmed with busyness.

He hung up the phone.

Bai Xiaosheng leisurely sipped his coffee, not in a hurry at all, showing no sign of "I'll be right there."

"Aren't you going over now, Xiaosheng?" Lin Weiwei couldn't help but ask.

Ever since she had called him "Xiaosheng" in the office last time, Lin Weiwei used that name when no one else was around.

Bai Xiaosheng thought it was good, after all, calling him "Mr. Bai" seemed too impersonal.

Lin Weiwei also rather liked this way of addressing him.

"I have to deal with what's on my hands first. Things need to be done one by one," Bai Xiaosheng said lazily.

The matter at hand, for the moment—was drinking coffee.

This was Mr. Song's call, and treating it so casually? Lin Weiwei felt a mix of irritation and amusement, then turned to attend to other matters.

When Bai Xiaosheng was left alone, he immediately started muttering around the room.

"Red Lotus, after yesterday's successful big event, you only gave such a two or three points, is that appropriate?"

"Currently at fifteen points for the level of deputy general manager, eighty-five points away from general manager, please continue to work hard!" In the face of Bai Xiaosheng's complaints, Red Lotus only had this one line, not even changing the pattern.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled wryly.

Leveling up is hard, it's difficult to level up, but not this hard.

It was almost as hard as giving birth...

"Alright, you're in charge of scoring, you're the boss," Bai Xiaosheng muttered, his gaze falling on the phone as a trace of amusement appeared in his eyes.

"Old Song, ah, such a sly fox, cunning as they come. Those articles I sent him were revised multiple times, ranging from elementary students to college students, with different writing styles and even a few grammatical errors and typos on purpose, but the essence remained. Heh, even he couldn't tell they were written by our department."

Having said that, Bai Xiaosheng leaned back in his seat and thought seriously, "To think from another's perspective, if I were the general manager who cherished power, facing the struggle between two deputies, that arrogant Chen Changqing seems less like someone who could afford to lose! Making someone who can't afford to lose actually lose is the way to prevent deputies from uniting, to prevent being sidelined."

"I have a feeling, even if I had sent something written by an elementary student, Old Song is likely to side with me this time."

Bai Xiaosheng chuckled to himself, drained his coffee in one gulp, wiped his mouth and stood up.

"It's also about time to go over. After all, one shouldn't keep people waiting too long. The show wouldn't be complete without me!"

Chapter 278 I, the gaming department, admit defeat!_1

Zhongjing Media, Manager's Office.

Song Changkong sat there with a frown, quietly waiting.

The office door was knocked on five times.

"Come in!" Song Changkong, thinking it was Chen Changqing or Bai Xiaosheng, responded in a deep voice.

However, it was his own assistant who entered.

"Mr. Song, the film department's evening reception is almost ready at the venue. You mentioned you'd like to take a look, when would that be?" the assistant inquired.

Song Changkong furrowed his brow and, after a moment's thought, replied, "Wait a bit, I'll check the time. In a while, I still need to talk with two vice managers. You go ahead first, see what the specific situation is over there."

"Understood."

The assistant nodded and turned to leave.

As the door opened, he saw Chen Changqing standing outside, hand raised, about to knock.

"Mr. Song, Mr. Chen is here," the assistant called out to Song Changkong and then greeted Chen Changqing.

Chen Changqing nodded casually, without saying a word.

This new vice manager sure is arrogant.

The assistant thought to himself.

He couldn't possibly argue with a vice manager, so he tiptoed out, closing the door gently behind him.

Just as he turned around, he saw someone rushing over in the distance.

Running back and forth in the company, what kind of behavior is that!

Unable to hold back, Song Changkong's assistant was about to reprimand when he recognized the person coming and was immediately taken aback.

Isn't that Bai Xiaosheng, Mr. Bai!

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng's anxious and breathless appearance, the assistant knew there must be an emergency.

With haste, he knocked on the door for him.

"Thank you!" Despite his urgency, Bai Xiaosheng did not forget to flash a smile at him, before pushing the door and entering.

Mr. Bai is really modest and polite! In this respect, he is much better than Mr. Chen!

Comparing the two, Song Changkong's assistant couldn't help but silently praise, his impression of Bai Xiaosheng improving further.

He then turned to leave.

"Mr. Bai, you're here too, perfect!"

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng enter, Song Changkong nodded, stood up from his seat, and pointing at his computer screen, said to Chen Changqing, "Mr. Chen, come take a look at this."

Look at what?

Chen Changqing hesitated for a moment before walking over.

On Song Changkong's computer, an article was open with enlarged type, clear enough to read without sitting down.

Chen Changqing quickly skimmed over several hundred words, his complexion changed, and he voluntarily grabbed the mouse to scroll down and finish reading.

After finishing, his face looked even worse.

"Mr. Song, this..." Chen Changqing couldn't help but ask.

"Don't panic, there's more. Close this one and continue reading!" Song Changkong gestured with his mouth.

Several articles were open.

Without a word, Chen Changqing scrolled through each article, his expression growing uglier after each one.

By the end, Chen Changqing looked considerably more somber.

"Mr. Chen, I can understand your desire for performance and competition between departments. I even support both of your departments competing fairly and justly."

Song Changkong patted Chen Changqing on the shoulder, heaved a sigh, and spoke earnestly, "However, we must give priority to the bigger picture and not just focus on short-lived achievements. Actions that harm the department and tarnish the company's image are absolutely unacceptable! You ought to know the effects of online criticism, how one thing leads to another. The way you're boosting performance is no different from killing the goose that lays the golden eggs!"

Song Changkong appeared deeply distressed.

Bai Xiaosheng watched from the side, finding the scene rather amusing deep down, yet he managed to keep a straight face.

Chen Changqing looked at Song Changkong, opening his mouth as if to say something, but Song Changkong halted him with a gesture.

"My dear Mr. Chen, I'm not saying this to blame or lecture you. I'm merely offering a heads-up as someone who's been in the business world for a long time. Let's not dwell on the ins and outs of the

situation for now. What needs to be done is to mitigate the damage as much as possible," Song Changkong implored.

He had already spoken in this manner; he clearly intended to prevent the continuation of the game department's activities.

Chen Changqing frowned as he glanced at Bai Xiaosheng, then turned his gaze to the screen.

As a general manager, Song Changkong usually didn't have time to browse the internet, let alone reviewing documents like these.

Now that there was a problem, it would have been sufficient to call him for a talk, but Bai Xiaosheng was also summoned.

It was obvious, this was Bai Xiaosheng's doing!

Chen Changqing immediately scoffed, "These materials, they were discovered by Mr. Bai, right? Truly befitting a news professional, very efficient indeed!"

Chen Changqing didn't suspect that Bai Xiaosheng had someone create the issue, but rather assumed they had a specialized team monitoring negative news online.

"It's only right, only right!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a face full of modesty, utterly sincere, "It's all for the good of the company. These things damage the company's interests and tarnish the game department's reputation. Mr. Chen, if such issues arise while you're in charge, should I hide them? If this blows up later, it won't look good for Mr. Chen either."

While speaking, Bai Xiaosheng yawned.

"There you go, just yesterday we worked overtime, stayed up until late at night, only then did we manage to clear some of the significant negative news. Now, I guarantee that you won't find a single one of these provocative articles online!"

Bai Xiaosheng was lying through his teeth and had the gall to take credit for it.

Last night, he clearly went to bed early and had a good night's sleep. The slight puffiness under his eyes was due to drinking too much water before bed.

The true night owl with dark circles under his eyes was Chen Changqing himself.

Moreover, these articles had never been posted online, so of course, they couldn't be found.

"Then I should thank you for that," Chen Changqing retorted coldly.

"No thanks needed, let's get straight to the real work at hand," Bai Xiaosheng modestly replied.

"Indeed, now is not the time for idle chat, we must, as soon as possible, eliminate any potential risks at the nascent stage!" Song Changkong said decisively.

"What do you imply by that?" Chen Changqing asked, slightly frowning.

Based on their overnight calculations, those activities absolutely couldn't stop—if they did, it would mean defeat!

But if they didn't stop, the problem was already there!

As for the severity, there was no need for Song Changkong to stress it; Chen Changqing could well imagine.

"You need to have the game department cease all activities immediately, and switch to player-appreciation type events, giving away some virtual items that would normally require money to purchase, for free," Song Changkong instructed.

Halt the activities and give things away!

Chen Changqing's eyelid twitched.

In online games, virtual items are not simply some data. From the moment they are put on the market and exchanged for real silver, their properties are no different from those of actual goods.

The things given away in appreciation also require money to be spent!

And who would the money come from? Naturally, the game department would pay, and from where within the game department? Naturally, from the existing performance figures!

Not only would the performance halt its growth, but there would also be a deduction!

Chen Changqing felt stifled in the chest.

"Is there a problem?!" Song Changkong stared at him, demanding an answer.

There was! By doing this, he, Chen Changqing, would lose, losing to Bai Xiaosheng!

But could he refuse?

To reject the general manager's reasonable request on the spot? To play the tough guy?!

Chen Changqing couldn't do that!

And besides, if Song Changkong were to report this, even with Chen Changqing's significant backing, he might not escape unscathed.

Damaging the company's interest was equivalent to harming the group's interest, a charge too heavy for him to bear.

"I have no objections!" Chen Changqing took a deep breath, his composure intact, "I'll get right on it!"

I, Chen Changqing, may lose to a person but never in presence!

Song Changkong nodded in satisfaction.

In the end, Chen Changqing left the general manager's office together with Bai Xiaosheng.

Neither of them uttered a word.

"Mr. Bai, congratulations, you've won this round!" Chen Changqing said calmly to Bai Xiaosheng, "My game department concedes defeat!"

After that, Chen Changqing didn't look back and strode away.

Behind him, Bai Xiaosheng's voice was sincere, "It's all for the company... Mr. Chen, if there's anything I can help with, just say the word, don't be shy!"

Chapter 279: Carnival, Dividends!_1

When Chen Changqing returned to the gaming department, Yu Qing, Murong Yan, Lin Beichen, and Wang Hui were all there.

These people were all in a pretty good mood.

Wang Hui was overjoyed to know they had secured a victory over the New Media Internet Department, barely able to contain his excitement. After all, to take away one and a half million yuan in departmental funds from the opposition's hands was thrilling, even if the money wasn't going into his own pocket!

Yu Qing, Murong Yan, and Lin Beichen had stayed up all night to complete the calculations, and also wore looks of relief on their faces.

Lin Beichen, now just thinking about how Bai Xiaosheng must be hanging his head in defeat and looking utterly dejected, couldn't help but feel extremely pleased.

Tired, but worth it!

It was true that the New Media Internet Department used to be his, but if that bunch hadn't been so disloyal and dedicated, he might have felt differently. Now that he was back, hardly anyone there gave him a sincere greeting.

A pack of ingrates!

Without a sound lesson, how would they ever appreciate him? Under Lin Beichen's leadership, the department had been steady and reliable. It was high time the people in the New Media Internet Department learned a lesson!

Lin Beichen was, in fact, even happier and more expectant than Wang Hui.

While these contented people were chatting, the door opened and Chen Changqing came back.

Several people, smiling, were about to greet Mr. Chen, but were shocked to see that Chen Changqing's face was ashen, looking very upset.

Chen Changqing completely ignored everyone and walked straight to his seat, slamming down into it so hard that the chair trembled.

Then, seemingly exhausted, he closed his eyes, but his mouth did not stop as he gave orders.

"Yu Qing, Murong Yan, go tell the planners to immediately halt all ongoing activities and come up with a player reward event proposal as soon as possible, to be updated and online by no later than one o'clock this afternoon."

Halt the current activities and switch to a reward event?

Everyone's eyes widened in disbelief, unable to believe what they were hearing from Chen Changqing.

"Mr. Chen, this... Why is this happening?! If we terminate the activities and switch to a reward event, then we will, we will..." Lin Beichen stammered.

Then we will have lost.

The words 'have lost' were something he dared not say aloud. First, for fear of making Mr. Chen angry, and second, because these words were also a severe blow to himself.

Have lost...

Wang Hui's face was filled with panic. If they lost, their department would have to dish out one and a half million yuan to the New Media Internet Department.

One and a half million, such a large shortfall in funds—how would their department survive next month? He could not bear the resulting domino effect.

Yu Qing and Murong Yan were equally astonished, for the first time hesitating in their execution of duties. They opened their mouths to ask but dared not speak.

The closer the person, the better they know Chen Changqing's temper.

Mr. Chen's decisions were not to be questioned.

"Right now, there's negative news circulating online, and it has reached an extremely critical stage, even Mr. Song is aware of it. This corrective plan is Mr. Song's directive!" Chen Changqing still had his eyes closed as he spoke to everyone.

Upon the mention of Song Changkong, Lin Beichen and Wang Hui instantly lost their temper.

Even if they were a thousand times reluctant and ten thousand times unwilling, would they dare to confront Song Changkong?

Moreover, listening to Chen Changqing, the situation sounded very serious.

"We'll take care of it right away!" said Yu Qing and Murong Yan in unison, and they quickly went off to get things done.

"I, I'll help out," said Lin Beichen urgently, rushing to follow them.

Joking aside, Mr. Chen was surely the most brooding person in the room at that moment.

Losing to Bai Xiaosheng, Mr. Chen's pent-up anger was bound to erupt sooner or later. And who would be the unlucky one when that happened?

The one who stayed in the room, that's who!

Lin Beichen was no fool—he wasn't looking for trouble!

Wang Hui also wanted to slip away.

"Director Wang, go to finance now and transfer the one and a half million yuan bet to the New Media Internet Department," ordered Chen Changqing sternly.

If they had lost, then let it be quick and clean—it was also a way to lose with dignity!

"Okay, okay."

Wang Hui's heart was filled with reluctance, but he had no choice.

The money that was supposed to be given next month, although it's only two days until next month, giving it earlier or later is all the same. As for the early withdrawal, whether there would be any trouble...

Since it's Mr. Chen's intention, naturally, Mr. Chen will explain things to Mr. Song, and it's not his business to worry about.

Wang Hui left in haste, his face showing pain as if he had lost flesh, and his heart was full of sorrow.

The bet money was transferred to the New Media Internet Department's account before noon.

When the money was credited, Bai Xiaosheng asked everyone to stop their ongoing tasks.

Every door was closed without exception, and everybody went upstairs to the third meeting room to hold a grand celebration feast.

Bai Xiaosheng had a special fondness for this meeting room.

This big order amounted to twelve million, after deducting the costs and setting aside the company's half, the remainder was all promised in black and white to the New Media Internet Department by Song Changkong, and Bai Xiaosheng did not hold back.

In the large meeting room, with more than a hundred people, those who could sit, sat; those who couldn't, stood.

Excitement sparkled in everyone's eyes.

Money distribution time! How thrilling!

In the novels, the heroes of Liangshan would drink from large bowls and eat big chunks of meat.

And now, their Mr. Bai was about to distribute heaps of money to them!

Since the company was founded, since the New Media Internet Department had been established, they had never experienced such an exhilarating event!

If word got out, the other departments would surely die of envy!

Many could hardly contain themselves and wanted to go out and show off, especially to those bastards in the game department!

What were those people saying the other day, calling the New Media Department fools and idiots, saying they couldn't possibly win against them. Now, who's the fool, who's the idiot, and who will have to tighten their belts next month, who will have to eat dirt!

The people of the New Media Department, just thinking about it, were so excited their hands trembled, wishing they each had a loudspeaker to run to the others' doors and shout, "Thanks to the game department for generously donating one million five hundred thousand!"

That would probably make a bunch of them spit blood on the spot.

"All right, let's begin!" Bai Xiaosheng looked around at everyone and smiled.

"Editorial Group One, Manager Shi Yu, invested eighty thousand, with returns and bonuses, one hundred and eighty thousand!" Lin Weiwei glanced at Shi Yu and announced loudly.

Shi Yu's smile almost reached his ears – in just a few days, he had earned an extra hundred thousand!

In his euphoria, Shi Yu didn't forget to shout to Bai Xiaosheng, with utmost sincerity and gratitude, "Thank you, Mr. Bai!"

Shi Yu genuinely respected Bai Xiaosheng.

It was Bai Xiaosheng who had elevated him from a mere employee to a manager and led him to this fortune.

Shi Yu's gratitude towards Bai Xiaosheng was beyond words.

"Don't mention it; just treat me to a meal later!" Bai Xiaosheng joked.

Laughter erupted around the room; Bai Xiaosheng's easygoing manner made everyone feel incredibly close to him.

"Editorial Group One, Wang Xiao, involved in video recording, involved in customer negotiations, bonus for the month increased by thirty thousand!" Lin Weiwei continued.

Wang Xiao was also overjoyed. Although she had put in quite a bit of effort, she hadn't expected such a sizeable bonus, which was far beyond her expectations. Amidst envious glances from others, she felt as though she was floating on air.

"Editorial Group One, Chen Dong..." Lin Weiwei continued announcing.

After Editorial Group One was Group Two, then Group Three. Following the editorial groups came the others...

No one was left out; everyone made a tidy sum!

Finally, it was Bai Xiaosheng's turn. The managers had invested a total of six hundred thousand, but Bai Xiaosheng himself had put in nine hundred thousand. His return was the highest, reaping over two million.

The crowd was astonished and then broke into cheers.

"Mr. Bai, treat us!"

"Mr. Bai, treat us!"

Bai Xiaosheng looked at everyone and laughed as well, "Okay, tonight, I'll pay. You guys find the best place, and splurge to your heart's content!"

Instantly, the entire department erupted in screams!

Chapter 280 Film and TV Department Cocktail Party_1

Zhongjing Media Tower, reception desk at the conference department.

A few young female receptionists huddled together, whispering and from time to time looking over in the direction of the third conference room.

The soundproofing in the meeting room was so good, yet from their spot, they could still faintly hear bursts of cheering coming from inside. It was not hard to guess what was happening there.

"Who's using the third meeting room? Their laughter is so loud, it could almost lift the roof off." A newly joined girl asked curiously.

"Ah, you don't know? It's the New Media Department! Everyone from their department is in there! I heard that they had a hugely successful event yesterday, bagged a big order worth over ten million! Haven't you heard the buzz these past two days? New Media Department has been arguing with the Gaming Department, talking about some sort of departmental wager. I heard the results are in! New Media Department won by a landslide over Gaming Department! They took 1.5 million from their funds and are now inside distributing the bonuses!"

The woman spoke with excitement.

Only she had the most up-to-date news, and seeing the several sisters in front of her wide-eyed and hanging on every word, she felt smug.

"Wow, really?! Bonuses? That's some treat outside of holiday seasons!"

"Ever since Mr. Bai took charge of their department, New Media has become something else!"

A few women gasped in admiration, and someone curiously asked the woman with all the insider info, "Hey, how do you know so much?"

The woman beamed even more proudly upon hearing this question.

"You know Lin Weiwei from our conference department, right? She's my sister! She went over to New Media, and now she's really rocking it, an assistant to the vice president! She told me all this!"

The woman bragged.

Indeed, it was from Lin Weiwei that she had heard this.

However, Lin Weiwei was not actually her sister; it was just that this woman had a big mouth, making her a more effective spreader of news.

The Gaming Department had been strutting around for several days, bullying the folks from New Media to no end.

Now, with New Media Department's sudden victory, it was only natural that they'd want everyone to know that they were the ultimate winners!

No conversation could excite the women more than talking about money, and the topic of bonuses had their eyes sparkling.

"Guess how much each employee is going to get from the bonus?"

"If I could get one or two thousand, I would be totally content!"

"Stop kidding yourself. You think you'll get any? You can only drool over it."

"Like you're not drooling!"

They laughed and bickered playfully.

"They just posted about the bonuses on WeChat Moments!"

The woman with the latest gossip screamed excitedly as she held up her phone.

The other women curiously took a look and then burst into excited shrieks.

"Oh my god, the minimum bonus is ten thousand yuan!"

"Everyone gets a share, even the cleaners, this is—"

"I so want to join the New Media Department, even as a cleaner would be fine!"

The women screamed in envy.

...

Once, the New Media Department was among the last in the company in terms of profit, and others would shake their heads when mentioning it.

Just a few days ago, the New Media Department was scolded by the Gaming Department without any ability to retort, and bystanders couldn't help but gloat over their misfortune.

Now, all that the onlookers had left was envy and jealousy.

New Media Department had pulled off a perfect comeback, much to everyone else's envy.

This news, spread by the receptionists, got forwarded again and again in WeChat circles.

It didn't take long before the whole company was abuzz with the news!

Shock among the staff!

Many even whispered among themselves that Mr. Bai had only been there for a few days, and the New Media department had turned upside down, making a big fortune in the process.

The benefits couldn't be swallowed by them alone, could they borrow Mr. Bai for a few days as well...

Of course, those who said such things were the employees.

Supervisors and managers, though envious and jealous, would never want to provoke the Vice President. They were doing fine and had no desire to be laid off and forced to look for a new job...

The Game Department has now become a laughing stock.

The humiliator is humiliated in return.

Back then, you mocked others so fiercely, and now what? You've generously donated one and a half million from the department's budget to them...

That's how people are, never wanting to miss out on the fun and laughter when what they desire is just out of reach.

The people from the Game Department are now in a very sorry state.

Wherever they go, people are whispering and pointing behind their backs, muttering and laughing at their "generosity".

The humiliated employees of the Game Department walked around with ash on their faces and their heads hung low. Although they dared not show any dissatisfaction with Mr. Chen outwardly, inwardly they had cursed this Vice President to his ancestors.

After the dividend celebration meeting had concluded, Mr. Bai was escorted back to the department amidst a crowd.

Everyone looked at him with respect and admiration, which made Bai Xiaosheng feel immensely satisfied.

The real pleasures of life are not just money, power, and women, but also this kind of respect. Bai Xiaosheng, having tasted this flavor, felt it was truly delightful.

Lin Weiwei stood by Bai Xiaosheng's side, her eyes practically worshipping him as if he were a god.

And those writers in the department were all in awe of him, almost ready to write articles to sing his praises.

Fortunately, Bai Xiaosheng heard about it and immediately put a stop to it.

Fulfilling as it was, he knew he couldn't get carried away with pride, otherwise, bad luck wouldn't be far off.

Bai Xiaosheng was well aware of this truth.

Having bested Chen Changqing and secured a win for the department, Bai Xiaosheng felt a bit tired and wanted to rest properly.

However, just as he was about to sneak off for a break that afternoon, before he could carry out his plan, Song Changkong's assistant arrived.

With a message.

"Mr. Bai, Mr. Song asked me to inform you that you need to attend a networking event at the Film and Television Department tonight, and Mr. Chen will be there too," said Song Changkong's assistant.

"Networking event, what event?" Bai Xiaosheng asked curiously.

Song Changkong's assistant laughed.

The incident that happened outside Mr. Song's office that morning had given him a very good impression of Mr. Bai, so he was willing to chat a bit more.

If it had been Mr. Chen, he wouldn't say more than was necessary.

"It's like this, they've invited the rising star Shang Wanwan to star in a big IP TV drama. It's a perfect opportunity for our newcomers to gain some exposure. It's also for our own benefit to cultivate new talents. The reception is to welcome Shang Wanwan, as well as a meet-and-greet for the actors," Song Changkong's assistant explained with a smile, then whispered to Bai Xiaosheng with a lowered voice.

"This Shang Wanwan is a rising first-tier celebrity, very popular right now. It's not easy to get her here, even Mr. Song has to show some face. You need to be careful, people who rise to fame quickly can become arrogant and love to throw their weight around."

Bai Xiaosheng nodded his head.

After finishing their conversation, Song Changkong's assistant smiled, "Right, I'll let you get back to it, I still need to run over to Mr. Chen's. Both of you are esteemed guests."

To welcome a celebrity, it would take three executives from Zhongjing Media to make an appearance. This celebrity must have both a significant reputation and influence.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and saw Song Changkong's assistant out.

Turning back, Bai Xiaosheng sat at his desk, stroking his chin with his hand.

"A celebrity, huh? I wonder if Mo Ran knows her. Never mind, it's all taken care of by the company. There's no need for me to worry about it," he thought.