

Two Trillion 291

Chapter 291 Shang Wanwan_1

Surrounded by a bevy of assistants and security guards, Song Changkong, with a smile on his face, accompanied a woman with a graceful figure into the grand hall of the reception.

The woman had an exquisite, flawless face, her hair done up, clothed in a white strap long dress that revealed black high heels underneath with each step she took.

Her slender, fair hands gently clutched a black clutch.

This attire, extremely pure and refined to match her fair skin and elegant gait, made her look like a princess, instantly drawing the attention of everyone present.

Honestly speaking, the reception hall was not lacking in beautiful women.

In addition to the hundreds of new stars from the film and television department, standouts from various other departments had also been called in.

Among the two or three hundred people in the hall, those who could be called beauties were a dime a dozen, with every type present, and no shortage of styles, ranging from passionate and unrestrained to demure and dainty.

In such a setting, women dressed themselves to the nines and strove to be unique.

It could be said that it was a contest where hundreds of flowers vied for splendor, with no one decidedly outshining the others.

But now, as this woman entered, every man's gaze in the room eagerly converged on her, like spotlights on a stage, causing all the other women to pale in comparison.

She was Shang Wanwan.

A rising domestic movie star and even crowned by foreign media as the most charismatic Asian beauty of the year.

Adorned with countless honors and surrounded by numerous auras, every trace of a smile on her face radiated immense confidence and brilliance that was intoxicating.

At that moment, Song Changkong and Shang Wanwan walked in, chatting and laughing.

In the presence of this famous and beautiful young woman, Song Changkong appeared to grow ten years younger, lively and humorous in conversation.

"Oh, my two vice presidents have already arrived!" Song Changkong looked up and saw Chen Changqing and Bai Xiaosheng coming over one after another, smiling at Shang Wanwan.

In front of Song Changkong, Shang Wanwan responded with a sweet smile, "I just heard you mention these two accomplished young vice presidents, Wanwan certainly wants to witness their charisma in person."

Saying this, Shang Wanwan followed Song Changkong's lead and looked over.

Leading was Chen Changqing, handsome and bright, with steady and forceful steps and a self-assured, relaxed smile, which made Shang Wanwan's eyes light up, silently nodding in approval.

Although this man was young, the aura he exuded was not ordinary; it was clear he came from a distinguished family, nurtured and groomed for success.

A vice president at only thirty, truly a young achiever with boundless prospects!

Shang Wanwan, with her years of experience in the entertainment industry, prided herself on her "fiery eyes and golden discernment," claiming to be exceptionally accurate in judging people.

Following Chen Changqing was a younger man.

What surprised Shang Wanwan was that this man seemed even younger than Chen Changqing, likely the Bai Xiaosheng Mr. Bai that Song Changkong had mentioned.

Observing Bai Xiaosheng, Shang Wanwan's gaze took on a hint of surprise.

Scions like Chen Changqing were easy to identify; they all had undergone systematic professional training in etiquette, and even the number of teeth shown when they smiled adhered to strict standards.

Not to mention their every move.

Ordinary people might only see their charming and stylish side.

However, to Shang Wanwan, who had also been schooled in such etiquette, it was easy to spot the differences.

And that Mr. Bai, he, too, exuded confidence and grace in his gestures – not the product of training, but seemingly a natural, inherent aura, born from within.

His smile was far more natural and sincere than any system-trained one.

But ultimately, there were slight flaws in the minor details, suggesting he likely didn't have a powerful family background.

One vice president from a wealthy family, another from a poor family.

Shang Wanwan smiled faintly.

She had long heard of Zhongjing Media, a subsidiary of the colossal entity—the world-class conglomerate Zhenbei Group. Zhenbei Group selected talent without regard to background; they only looked at ability.

Seeing is believing. It turned out that two young people of different social strata could indeed aspire to equally important positions.

Inside, Shang Wanwan marveled, feeling a newfound respect for Zhenbei Group.

Only by continuously maintaining vitality and selecting the most outstanding talent could the group stand at the pinnacle of the world, unyielding for a century or even several centuries!

After her reflections, Shang Wanwan secretly made a resolution.

She definitely needed to take this Chen Changqing seriously. His family could very likely become a valuable part of her networking resources and would substantially benefit her future development!

As for Bai Xiaosheng, Shang Wanwan's admiration was pure—admiration for his abilities and his demeanor. However, she did not regard him as highly as she did Chen Changqing.

After all, even if a mere deputy general manager from a poor family was outstanding, his background limited his future development opportunities.

It was a pity, but that was reality.

While Shang Wanwan was lost in thought, Chen Changqing had already approached her, displaying a warm and polite smile.

"This is Miss Shang Wanwan, Miss Shang, and this is Mr. Changqing," Song Changkong introduced them with a smile.

"Hello, Miss Shang, I've long admired your name!"

"I'm honored, Mr. Chen flatters me."

Both smiled as they shook hands.

Song Changkong, observing the exchange, felt somewhat emotional.

True to form as a socialite and scion of a wealthy family, even a simple handshake revealed their etiquette and grace.

"This is Mr. Bai, Deputy General Manager Bai Xiaosheng. Mr. Bai, this is Miss Shang Wanwan," Song Changkong quickly introduced Bai Xiaosheng as he approached.

"Mr. Bai," Shang Wanwan said with a light smile, extending her hand politely yet without the warmth she had shown Chen Changqing.

"Miss Shang," Bai Xiaosheng replied with a smile, shaking her hand.

Even without activating the third auxiliary system—the Micro Expression Analysis System—Bai Xiaosheng could see that Miss Shang Wanwan was clearly cooler towards him than towards Chen Changqing.

Women like her have a keen eye; she probably discerned the difference between me and Chen.

In the eyes of people like her, someone from an ordinary family like mine probably doesn't count for much.

Bai Xiaosheng laughed it off.

Shang Wanwan thought he was but a blade of grass, yet the true depth of his background was something even Chen Changqing couldn't hope to match.

However, none of that mattered to Bai Xiaosheng.

He didn't even have much interest in Shang Wanwan. His interaction with her was merely perfunctory, a routine part of his duties as a deputy general manager.

"Come, Miss Shang, let me introduce you to our company's newcomers. We will need your guidance and support," Song Changkong said with a smile, gesturing towards the newcomers.

The newcomers became immediately excited, looking on eagerly.

After all, that was the superstar Shang Wanwan. If she took a liking to any of them and offered even the slightest praise, their lives could change dramatically.

In the distance, Lu Fanyu stared intently at Shang Wanwan, his gaze filled with fervent eagerness. He saw the woman that even Song Changkong greeted with a smile.

If I can catch the eye of Shang Wanwan, what can a deputy general manager do to me!

Lu Fanyu's heart pounded as his eyes shone brightly.

Chapter 292 Unwilling to Fade Away Lu Fanyu_1

The arrival of Song Changkong and Shang Wanwan sent a wave of excitement through the lobby.

People scattered in every corner of the hall crowded around, their gazes eager.

About three hundred people were present, mostly young artists, as well as handsome men and beautiful women from various departments, all of them yearning to showcase themselves in front of the company's top leadership and the big star.

Perhaps being noticed by some important figure might mean a rapid rise to success.

Beautiful fantasies, everyone has them.

Among these important figures, the general manager, Song Changkong, and the big star, Shang Wanwan, were well known to everyone.

Although Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changqing had caused quite a stir just now, there were still quite a few people among the crowd who didn't recognize them.

Now, as people came together and exchanged information, they learned that these two were the recently prominent deputy managers. The crowd was astonished and incredulous.

It was unexpected that they were so young and holding such high positions; their prospects were, needless to say, boundless!

And who knew if they were already settled down or if they were still lacking a Mrs. Deputy Manager... Some young women's eyes wandered over them non-stop, secretly stirring up thoughts.

Compared to each other, Chen Changqing exuded a strict adherence to etiquette and emanated a rich gentlemanly demeanor, a result of his rigorous etiquette training. This made him the focus of more attention; after all, a man with a deep family background was more attractive.

Of course, Bai Xiaosheng also received a lot of attention, but not just from the women; he also had male admirers. Mr. Bai was deemed an inspirational role model.

"Who do you think is more handsome?" Gao Ya couldn't help pinching Zhao Xiaoying's arm.

"Bai Xiaosheng," Zhao Xiaoying replied.

"Drop the 'maybe,' be certain, who is the handsomest!" Gao Ya asked again.

"Bai Xiaosheng!" Zhao Xiaoying said with determination this time.

"...", Gao Ya.

Honestly speaking, at first glance, Gao Ya would have chosen Chen Changqing, because she found him more stylish, but after what happened just now and seeing Bai Xiaosheng's eloquence and poise, she also leaned towards Bai Xiaosheng in her heart.

Gao Dazhi was all smiles, pulling along several lead actors from the drama to introduce them to Shang Wanwan.

Lu Fanyu also came over; his role as the male lead was still pending, but he maintained the position of the leading man. Even Director Gao could not make the final decision on this.

Seeing Lu Fanyu, both Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changqing had a cold look in their eyes.

Gao Dazhi pressed on with the introductions, and when it came to the third female lead, he only mentioned Zhao Xiaoying.

For one thing, Zhao Xiaoying was indeed the most suitable candidate, and secondly, Qiuya had offended the two deputy managers and had already been taken down by him.

The actors were all very excited and thrilled in front of Shang Wanwan.

This was a big shot in the entertainment circle, a true superstar!

In response to their enthusiasm, Shang Wanwan's smile was calm. She swept a brief glance over them, her gaze lingering a second longer on the calm and poised Zhao Xiaoying, showing an additional hint of admiration and nodding slightly.

For the others, she simply smiled politely and nodded as she passed by.

Lu Fanyu was initially very excited and hopeful, thinking that with his handsome looks and his gentle and refined demeanor, Shang Wanwan would show him special favor.

But Shang Wanwan treated him no differently than the others.

This plunged Lu Fanyu's fervent heart into an icy cold abyss.

"How could this be?! I, Lu Fanyu, also have some fame, and I'm popular online, not to mention handsome. How can I be treated the same as everyone else! Shang Wanwan should know who I am; she should treat me differently..." Lu Fanyu managed a smile on the surface, but inside he was in turmoil.

He was not reconciled to the fact that the extra glance from Shang Wanwan wasn't meant for him but for Zhao Xiaoying.

Why, what for?

What was Zhao Xiaoying but a third female lead in the script!

Lu Fanyu had hoped to boost his status and overcome difficulties by gaining favor from Shang Wanwan, but facing this situation, he found it hard to accept.

"No, I can't give up yet. There's still a chance before this banquet ends!" Lu Fanyu told himself secretly, "I can do it; I must win Shang Wanwan's favor and support!"

Gao Dazhi observed Shang Wanwan's demeanor closely.

He was also surprised to see Shang Wanwan take an extra look at Zhao Xiaoying, which made him admire Bai Xiaosheng even more.

Earlier, when Bai Xiaosheng showed support for Zhao Xiaoying, he thought it was just out of personal obligation, but now it seemed that Mr. Bai truly had insight!

Look, even the big star Shang Wanwan is giving Zhao Xiaoying a second glance!

Gao Dazhi immediately decided in his heart that he would allocate more resources to Zhao Xiaoying in the future. This girl had a promising future!

Actually, Gao Dazhi had misunderstood the situation.

So many newcomers were too eager to show themselves, all overzealous, which Shang Wanwan had seen many times before; it was quite normal for her to take a second look at Zhao Xiaoying, who was unexpectedly calm and gentle. It meant nothing else...

This shows that sometimes, being too dazzling can serve as a foil...

Bai Xiaosheng, watching from the side, gave Zhao Xiaoying a sincere smile filled with blessings.

A girl who stayed true to herself was finally about to welcome her own spring.

After meeting with these newcomers, Bai Xiaosheng, Song Changkong, and Chen Changqing chatted idly with Shang Wanwan for a few moments.

Outside the banquet hall, more guests arrived, and several waves of them came one after the other.

"These people, it seems like they've agreed to come together!" Song Changkong said to Shang Wanwan with a smile, "Miss Wanwan, please wait here for a moment. Mr. Bai, Mr. Chen, and I need to go greet our major investors."

The major investors had arrived.

Shang Wanwan nodded with a smile.

A big IP TV series would require an investment of several billion. The production costs and labor costs were staggeringly high.

From the set design, costumes, filming period, post-production, to the expenditures for scriptwriters, directors, actors, camera crews, and other staff, to logistical expenses and operational costs, all required an immense amount of funds. Money was truly spent like running water.

To spread the risk and to leverage resources from all parties, even large companies needed to bring in investors.

The people arriving now were the real major investors.

The investors whom Lu Fanyu believed favored him were, in fact, only medium and small-sized investors; the true giants were beyond his reach.

These heavyweights needed to be personally invited by Song Changkong and Shang Wanwan.

And now, they were here.

"Old Zhang, you've finally arrived. Just a moment ago, I was talking about you with Old Zhao. You've acquired another great piece of land recently. You're making a fortune! The land in Zhongjing, you're about to buy it all up!"

"Li, long time no see, you're looking younger and younger."

"Juncong, you should've come earlier. You're not a guest at my place; you should be here welcoming old friends with me."

Song Changkong chatted with the guests in a lively manner, treating them like brothers.

At their level, everyone knew each other well. When greeting each other, they were surprisingly down-to-earth, even more relatable than one might expect.

Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changqing were introduced by Song Changkong to these heavyweights, who all expressed discreet surprise at the two vice presidents' young ages, greeting them with great courtesy and politeness.

Zhongjing Media wasn't like other companies; vice presidents held real power and could even sit on an equal footing with the general manager.

The former vice president of Zhongjing Media even stood eye to eye with Song Changkong, balancing the power.

Therefore, no one dared to underestimate the vice presidents here, although everyone was a bit curious about why, this time, Zhongjing Media had two vice presidents!

Upon entering the hall, the investors who noticed Shang Wanwan proactively went over to strike up conversations.

Shang Wanwan responded with ease, her face alight with a smile.

"Mr. Song and the two vice presidents are not around; my opportunity is here!"

From a distance, Lu Fanyu's eyes glittered as he walked over.

Chapter 293 What do you propose to do_1

Shang Wanwan was poised and graceful, with a smile that graced her eyes. The way she looked at people when she talked to them made one feel incredibly at ease.

The majority of these big-name capitalists who came to see her were meeting her for the first time, but after just a few words, she would have them chatting like friends.

In short, Shang Wanwan was a very charming woman.

Gao Ya and Zhao Xiaoying looked on from a distance, filled with admiration.

These two women had taken a liking to Shang Wanwan very early on and viewed her as an idol. Seeing the person they admired possessing such elegance, they both secretly mulled over her qualities. Learning Shang Wanwan's conversational skills and demeanour would be greatly beneficial to their futures.

"I wonder when we can become big stars like her," Gao Ya said enviously.

"We will," Zhao Xiaoying said with a smile, "Gao Ya, this time you're the second female lead, and your acting is so good, I believe you will definitely become famous!"

"Really? Xiaoying, you're so sweet," Gao Ya said happily, then looked around, and quietly pulled Zhao Xiaoying over to whisper in secret.

"Did you see, before Mr. Bai went to the door, he said a few words to my father?"

Zhao Xiaoying nodded, she had of course seen it.

However, she didn't know what he had said, only that Bai Xiaosheng had glanced at her and given her a small smile while speaking.

Thinking back on that smile, Zhao Xiaoying felt her face burning up a bit.

But then, her eyes betrayed a faint sense of loss, like a little girl with an unrequited crush, fearful of losing what she couldn't have.

Bai Xiaosheng had mentioned that he had someone he liked, but there were some family obstacles between them.

Bai Xiaosheng had promised, "to make sure that all obstacles between them would not be a problem."

Zhao Xiaoying didn't know if that counted as the most touching love words she'd ever heard, but she felt somewhat dejected, with a hint of sourness that was hard to pin down.

It hadn't been even half a day since I met Mr. Bai, and here I am acting like a silly fan girl!

Zhao Xiaoying even ridiculed herself inwardly.

"What did Mr. Bai instruct?" Zhao Xiaoying asked softly.

"To increase your screen time!" Gao Ya said excitedly.

Increase my screen time? Zhao Xiaoying was somewhat surprised.

"My dad said he thinks highly of you too. After the banquet is over today, he's going to talk it through with the screenwriter. Your so-called third female lead role will basically have almost as much screen time as mine, the second female lead," Gao Ya revealed, unable to contain herself.

This was something her father had told her specially, hoping that she would break the news to Zhao Xiaoying so she would be prepared in advance.

After all, more screen time would mean higher demands and challenges for an actor.

As Gao Ya spoke, there was no jealousy in her voice, only joy. Zhao Xiaoying was her good friend, and after the misunderstanding occurred, she felt guilty. Knowing that Zhao Xiaoying's misfortune had turned into a blessing, she was happy for Xiaoying.

"Tell me honestly, what is your relationship with Mr. Bai, how come he's helping you so much!" Gao Ya couldn't help but ask.

She was jealous of that.

"I have no relationship with him..."

Zhao Xiaoying thought to herself, I wish I did, it's just a pity that we met too late. From the look in his eyes, I could tell he really likes that woman.

But just who is this extraordinary woman...

"That can't be right," Gao Ya said disbelievingly.

Zhao Xiaoying smiled and was about to tease back when she suddenly looked up, stopped short, and quickly tugged at Gao Ya, motioning with her mouth to look over there, "Look!"

Gao Ya turned to look, her eyebrows shooting up in shock.

Seizing the moment between the big shots' engagements, Lu Fanyu had made his way over and was talking to Shang Wanwan with a beaming smile.

"That shameless guy, he's sully my idol. Why didn't Mr. Bai and the others get rid of him as the male lead," Gao Ya said with gritted teeth.

Zhao Xiaoying gave a bitter smile and shook her head, her gaze deep.

Landing the male lead role isn't that simple, especially in such a public setting. Even if it meant offending two vice presidents, it would be too outrageous to casually ask the predetermined lead actor to step aside!

At this moment.

Lu Fanyu was doing his utmost to display his gentlemanly and elegant side, desperately trying to leave a lasting impression on Shang Wanwan.

"Miss Shang, you are even more beautiful and elegant in person than on screen. Being able to act alongside you is not only Fanyu's fortune but also my greatest wish," Lu Fanyu almost said 'lifelong wish', but felt it sounded too extravagant.

"Mr. Lu is too kind. I've followed your performances in a few shows; they were very good, and I quite like them," Shang Wanwan said with a polite smile.

Lu Fanyu felt somewhat excited.

"May I climb the high branch and call you 'Shang' even though you look younger than an eighteen or nineteen-year-old girl? After all, you've been in the industry for many years and are a senior to Fanyu. It feels a bit old-fashioned calling you 'Miss' all the time, and I also feel it's a kind of blasphemy against you!"

Flattery gets you everywhere.

Even if one knows it's just excessive flattery, it's still pleasing to the ear.

Shang Wanwan laughed merrily, her smile like a gentle breeze in March, melting Lu Fanyu's heart and leaving him giddy and infatuated.

"Alright then, Fanyu, if it makes you happy, just call me that," Shang Wanwan took the initiative to change how she addressed him first.

Lu Fanyu was ecstatic in his heart!

This was it! The deal was sealed!

In front of the leaders, only he could call Shang Wanwan 'Shang', and only he was called "Fanyu" by her. This was the ultimate honor!

Lu Fanyu felt a glow on his face, almost thanking his lucky stars that he had managed to win over this stunning movie star so quickly.

From now on, his status was completely secured!

Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changqing, the two vice presidents, what of them!

Lu Fanyu even thought that, in the future, once he got closer to Shang Wanwan, he might even ask to follow her into bigger circles.

If Shang Wanwan took a fancy to his handsome face and allowed him to share her bed... that would be even more wonderful!

Amassing wealth and beauty was not uncommon in the entertainment industry; in fact, it was quite the opposite!

Maybe this was the beginning of my meteoric rise!

Lu Fanyu's imagination had already soared beyond the skies in just a split second.

...

"No way, I have to expose him!"

From a distance, Gao Ya couldn't stand it any longer and was about to rush over.

Zhao Xiaoying got scared and quickly grabbed her.

Gao Ya was still so impulsive!

She was provoked before, and now again.

It's a wonder why Director Gao doesn't teach his daughter better, to let Gao Ya grow some sense...

But it seems it's not something that can be taught—it's a matter of personality, predestined by nature...

"My dear sister! Are you going to call Lu Fanyu, the male lead, a despicable bastard in front of all these people, in front of Miss Shang?"

Zhao Xiaoying whispered urgently in a low voice, almost pleadingly, "Can't we just not court death! And it won't help at all; in fact, it might even backfire!"

Gao Ya paused, asking unwillingly, "Then what do you suggest we do!"

Zhao Xiaoying glanced towards the entrance of the banquet hall and said confidently, "Tell Mr. Bai, he'll definitely have a way!"

Chapter 294 No Benefit, I'll Let You _1

Gao Ya calmed down and thought it over carefully. He had indeed been a bit impulsive.

As Zhao Xiaoying had said, if she really exposed Lu Fanyu in front of everyone, where would that leave Miss Shang's face? It would only backfire.

Gao Ya understood now.

"Fine, fine, leave it to your Mr. Bai to solve!" Gao Ya grumbled.

"Why is it 'your Mr. Bai'?" Zhao Xiaoying's face turned crimson, looking like a ruddy apple, so tempting and cute that even Gao Ya couldn't help but want to take a bite.

At the entrance of the banquet hall.

Song Changkong, Bai Xiaosheng, Chen Changqing, and the last few guests walked together towards Shang Wanwan.

Lu Fanyu, who had been by Shang Wanwan's side, was paying attention to the activity on their side. Seeing them coming over, she quickly smiled at Shang Wanwan, "Shang, Mr. Song and the others are coming over, so I will not disturb you any longer."

Lu Fanyu dared not meet the two vice presidents.

"Okay, Fanyu, we will talk again when we have time," Shang Wanwan said with a smile, her tone amiable and polite.

Lu Fanyu quickly nodded and, with a smile, retreated.

Shang Wanwan didn't watch him go but turned towards Song Changkong and the others, smiling as she approached them.

Their meeting was accompanied by laughter and chatter.

"It's about time, everyone, come over here," Song Changkong said with a smile.

He led the crowd to the stage and was the first to step onto it. Taking the microphone passed to him by a staff member, he tapped it gently.

All eyes in the hall turned towards him, and the crowd drew in once more.

"Friends and honored guests, thank you all for being here!" Song Changkong said, smiling at the audience below.

"We are fortunate this time to welcome a well-known domestic superstar, our beautiful Miss Wanwan, to join our latest blockbuster series. This is just an informal gathering, with no reporters present, including those from Zhongjing Media, so everyone can relax, let loose, and enjoy the good times. Now, please welcome Miss Wanwan to say a few words."

As Song Changkong finished, applause broke out like a wave.

Shang Wanwan, being a top domestic actress, had at least half of the audience as her fans, which made the applause especially enthusiastic.

Shang Wanwan walked up to the stage, gave Song Changkong a slight bow very politely, took the microphone with a smile, and surveyed everyone. Waiting for the applause to die down, she finally spoke.

"Thank you for your kindness, and thanks to Mr. Song and all the presidents for your support. I am honored to join this drama and looking forward to it very much."

After that, Shang Wanwan took the stage to praise Zhongjing Media and to thank the financiers. She spoke with ease and agility, delivering a speech more smoothly than if it had been rehearsed.

What was most surprising was her remarkably deep memory of every financier present, including their companies and positions.

Bai Xiaosheng inwardly sighed.

He had looked up Shang Wanwan's information, which described her as a talented woman with a photographic memory who seldom required retakes and rarely had any NG (no-good takes).

It seemed she had indeed remembered all the information about the financiers!

Truly worthy of a top-tier star, just this alone was enough to please the financiers and strengthen their good impression.

Impressive! Bai Xiaosheng was convinced.

Sure enough, the bigwigs present all smiled broadly, feeling honored.

After Shang Wanwan's speech, Song Changkong invited two other heavyweights to say a few words.

The first went fairly well. However, after the second guest finished speaking, he extended an invitation to Shang Wanwan.

"I have long heard that Miss Shang is a woman of many talents, skilled in pipa, chess, calligraphy, painting, music, and dance. Today is a rare opportunity, would Miss Shang care to demonstrate her skills to enlighten us?"

Instantly, the atmosphere bubbled with excitement.

What a great suggestion!

The proposing guest led the applause for Shang Wanwan, and the audience joined in, a thunderous round inviting her with their claps. Smiling, Shang Wanwan stepped forward.

"Mr. Lin, are you asking me to embarrass myself in public?" Shang Wanwan said into the microphone with a laugh, "Well then, I'll put you all on the spot as well. I see there's a band over there, with a piano—I'd like to sing a song. Could one of the leaders here please accompany me on the piano, is that alright?"

Since it's interactive, let's do it together.

This proposal is not bad.

It's just that playing the piano isn't for everyone.

The guests who had requested Miss Shang to showcase her talent immediately laughed, "We are good at listening to music but playing it, not so much. Besides, this challenge doesn't fall on us. Today is Mr. Song's show, so it's his turn to take on this challenge!"

"That's right, boss, leave the piano accompaniment to you guys!"

"Yes, Mr. Song, you can't let Miss Shang's face be discredited."

The group of tycoons then started egging them on.

Song Changkong didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

As for piano accompaniment, these bosses were not up to it, and he, Song Changkong, was the same.

Song Changkong immediately looked at Shang Wanwan, hoping for mercy.

"Mr. Song, don't rush to refuse. Don't you still have two deputy CEOs?" Shang Wanwan joked, "Mr. Changqing and Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, so young to be deputy CEOs, must come from distinguished families and have received higher education. I believe in them; perhaps they can accompany me."

Shang Wanwan's words were not unfounded—at least, she believed that Changqing was capable.

Considering the way great families nurture their children, they will be involved in all aspects, with piano as the most common and refined amongst vocal music.

As for Bai Xiaosheng, Shang Wanwan did not hold out much hope. After all, what he had shown indicated an average background.

After hearing Shang Wanwan's words, Song Changkong couldn't help but look towards Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changqing.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled lazily with an air of disinterest.

It seems he's not capable! Song Changkong shook his head secretly.

In fact, with the help from Red Lotus, Bai Xiaosheng could perfectly perform a piece in a short time.

But he really wasn't interested.

Showing off in public would only earn some applause and no substantial benefits.

Bai Xiaosheng wouldn't do it.

But to others, it meant something else—

Bai Xiaosheng was putting on airs to avoid embarrassment.

"Let me do it," Chen Changqing said with a smile.

He was at grade six in piano!

In fact, he simply lost interest in pursuing it further; otherwise, even grade seven in piano would not be a problem.

Shang Wanwan smiled, "Then we'll be troubling you, Mr. Chen."

Chen Changqing smiled and nodded, unhesitatingly heading towards the piano.

Gao Ya watched this scene, feeling a particular regret, "It's a pity Mr. Bai doesn't know how to play, otherwise what a great opportunity for exposure it would have been!"

"So what if he doesn't know? Can't expect him to be good at everything," Zhao Xiaoying couldn't help but retort.

I can do it too! Lu Fanyu fidgeted among the crowd; he was also grade six in piano, but such an occasion didn't involve him.

Curse Mr. Chen for also knowing how to play! Otherwise, in the end, it would have been my turn to save the day...

Lu Fanyu sighed.

Chen Changqing sat in front of the piano and couldn't help but steal a glance at Bai Xiaosheng, a smile appearing at the corner of his mouth.

See, something I, Chen Changqing, know, you Bai Xiaosheng may not understand! This is the gap! The cultivation of a wealthy family is beyond the imagination of someone like you!

Chen Changqing felt immensely proud.

Chapter 295 I Can Play Chopin_1

Chen Changqing sat upright before the piano, his spine straight and his posture impeccable. Coupled with his handsome appearance, he instantly attracted the attention of many beautiful women and elicited endless admiration from the guests.

The new vice president of Zhongjing Media might look young, but he certainly had a strong and stylish aura.

"Miss Shang, I haven't touched a piano for quite a while. May I first familiarize myself with it?" Chen Changqing asked with a smile.

Shang Wanwan smiled and nodded her head.

Chen Changqing exhaled gently, steadied his emotions, and placed his fingers lightly on the keys.

Then a sprightly Bourrée by Bach began to play.

The cheerful music was incredibly pleasant to the ear.

Chen Changqing claimed he hadn't played in a long time, but the fluency of his performance drew involuntary praise from the listeners.

Even Shang Wanwan couldn't help but nod slightly in agreement.

After two or three minutes, Chen Changqing stopped and smiled at Shang Wanwan, bowing his head in a gesture of modesty, "Excuse my poor performance!"

The applause that followed was enthusiastic.

A young, talented, and handsome man—he was truly a top-quality male!

The young women were visibly excited.

This guy really had some skills, no wonder he was so arrogant all the time!

Bai Xiaosheng also laughed.

"Mr. Chen's piano skills are not low, at least at a professional level six," Shang Wanwan said while gracefully applauding softly. "In that case, would you please play 'Song of Spring'? That shouldn't be a problem for you, right?"

"Song of Spring," selected from Mendelssohn's piano solo collection "Songs Without Words," is one of the most famous pieces in the collection and a grade six piano piece.

"Sure."

Chen Changqing nodded, his fingers dancing over the keys, and a gentle, romantic melody, reminiscent of flowing water, immediately filled the banquet hall.

Although this tune came from "Songs Without Words," by now it had several versions with lyrics.

Shang Wanwan waited quietly, and as countless eyes focused on her, she lightly parted her lips. Her singing voice was melodious and clear, akin to the sound of Heaven's Melody.

All at once, the whole room fell silent.

The young artists were immersed and amazed.

A popular star's performance has to stand out. But certainly not as outstanding as Shang Wanwan's!

Her singing level was on par with professional singers!

"Impressive," Bai Xiaosheng exclaimed, "the title of being the most popular isn't for nothing. Regardless of one's background or resources, personal talent is what truly matters! This voice, not even Mo Ran can outdo it!"

You should know, Wei Moran is a real singing queen.

The song ended to thunderous applause that lasted a long time, with many people's palms turning red as they clapped excitedly.

For Shang Wanwan, and for Chen Changqing as well.

Shang Wanwan and Chen Changqing, who had stood up, both bowed in thanks to the audience.

The woman was exquisitely beautiful, like a fairy.

The man was nobly handsome, comparable to a prince.

Countless eyes brimmed with envy, but they all showed acceptance.

"Miss Wanwan truly has unparalleled talent and beauty, truly deserving of her fame!" Song Changkong applauded and laughed; the tycoons beside him also continued to express their admiration.

"Look here, Mr. Song, since Miss Wanwan is cooperating with your company's film division, given her stature, you should take it seriously. You can't just leave it to some junior executive to liaise with our big star. That won't do for us investors!" Lin, a boss among them, said half-jokingly and half-seriously.

"That's right, Mr. Song, you have such strong resources now, with two deputy heads already in place, surely one of your three top leaders should be assigned to liaise with our star, right?"

"Exactly, though Mr. Song himself is out of the question as he has to manage the entire company and, besides, he's not as handsome as our two deputy presidents, which Miss Wanwan wouldn't like," they clamored teasingly.

The tycoons had become excited and were making a ruckus.

Mr. Song nodded with a smile, but inwardly he was extremely reluctant.

These people really didn't know the implications of their words. They were blissfully unaware that the two vice presidents had already taken one department each from him. Now they wanted to take away the film division as well?

Mr. Song was filled with reluctance.

"I also think the suggestions from the bosses are good, Mr. Song," Shang Wanwan chuckled. "Since we are collaborating, it'd be appropriate to arrange a liaison for me."

Even she said so, Song Changkong, no matter how reluctant he was in his heart, could only force a smile and nod in agreement in front of everyone, his face showing extreme willingness.

"Since everyone and Miss Wanwan suggest so, then alright, one of my two deputy directors will temporarily be responsible for the film and television department," Song Changkong said with a smile.

He deliberately emphasized the word "temporarily" while looking at Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changqing.

Below the stage, the men and women of the film and television department cheered.

However, Gao Dazhi's face turned slightly bitter. After the new media and game departments, was it finally time for his film and television department?

Old Gao smacked his lips, looked around, then suddenly noticed his daughter Gao Ya and Zhao Xiaoying's high support and enthusiasm for Bai Xiaosheng.

That's right! Xiao Ya had just told me that Zhao Xiaoying is friends with Mr. Bai, and Mr. Bai had also persuaded Xiao Ya and had helped them confront Lu Fanyu.

My daughter and Zhao Xiaoying, they are really meant to be with Mr. Bai!

With this thought, Gao Dazhi immediately got excited and his gaze followed Bai Xiaosheng.

If we really have to choose someone, then let it be Mr. Bai!

Gao Dazhi silently chose his side in his heart.

On the stage, Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changqing both smiled at each other.

They hadn't expected that this time, the guests would help them snatch the power from Song Changkong's hands.

Song Changkong was not bad in terms of calculations, just excessively fond of power. Bai Xiaosheng wanted results, and Chen Changqing equally wanted to prove himself with results—they would certainly not be content in just one department.

This was also a perfect opportunity!

At that moment, Song Changkong looked at Bai Xiaosheng, then Chen Changqing, feeling unwilling to choose either but also having to make a decision.

"Between the two deputy directors, it's still Miss Wanwan who can make the decision," Song Changkong kicked the ball directly to Shang Wanwan.

Shang Wanwan also smiled as she looked at Bai and Chen.

In fact, in her heart, she had already decided—it was Chen Changqing.

The reason she agreed to select a deputy director as a liaison was to establish a good relationship with Chen Changqing, who had a notable background, as this could be beneficial to her career given his family and connections.

Shang Wanwan smiled at everyone, "Since it is about managing the film and television department, and managing these young and outstanding talents—the future stars with multiple skills, among the two equally outstanding deputy directors, I hope to choose a leader with more of an artistic temperament."

Upon hearing this, Chen Changqing looked at Bai Xiaosheng with a smug expression, clearly feeling supported by Shang Wanwan.

What does artistic temperament mean? His piano performance earlier had proven it perfectly—he was the right choice.

Song Changkong nodded and raised his hand to invite Chen Changqing, who was already lifting his foot to step forward.

"Wait a minute, artistic temperament? Mr. Bai's oil painting appreciation skills are unparalleled!" Zhao Xiaoying suddenly shouted out.

Everyone was stunned.

"Yes!"

"That's right, Mr. Bai's appreciation skills are very strong!"

Several beautiful women who supported Bai Xiaosheng immediately shouted.

Chen Changqing frowned slightly.

"We are studying acting, voice, stage presence, not art appreciation; that doesn't count, nor can it convince us artists!" suddenly someone called out—it was Lu Fanyu.

Lu Fanyu, who had just acknowledged Shang as his patron, immediately voiced his support, and in doing so, he also sought to please Chen Changqing.

As soon as he said this, many people nodded in agreement.

"That's right, we are learning acting; what's the use of appreciation."

"Yeah, at the very least, you have to understand vocal music."

The crowd began to discuss.

Suddenly, a grand and cheerful piano sound rang out.

Instantly, the whole room went silent.

Everyone looked over in astonishment.

Bai Xiaosheng was sitting at the piano without anyone noticing when he started to play the piece.

"This is!" Shang Wanwan's face slightly changed, "Chopin's Waltz in D-flat major!"

"Grade eight piano!"

Chen Changqing, caught his breath.

Chapter 296 I Strongly Support Mr. Bai_1

Everyone had not expected that Bai Xiaosheng, Mr. Bai, who had previously maintained an indifferent smile and kept a low profile, would suddenly start playing the piano.

Those who didn't understand merely felt it was lively and pleasant to the ear, Bai Xiaosheng's hands weren't just playing the piano, they were clearly dancing joyously on the keys.

Unlike Chen Changqing's serious and earnest approach, Bai Xiaosheng didn't even look at the keys, yet his playing was smooth and flowing, as if it had been tempered a thousand times over.

For those in the know, however, their faces were stricken with shock, Bai Xiaosheng was playing Chopin's Waltz in D-flat Major—a piece for Grade 8 piano!

Comparable to professional-level standards!

Even Shang Wanwan's face couldn't help but show some infatuation.

Just now, when Chen Changqing was playing, she had merely nodded slightly.

Chen Changqing was shocked into silence, the absolute advantage he thought he had, the musical cultivation he believed could crush Bai Xiaosheng's, seemed so easily overthrown.

He was at Grade 6 piano, while Bai Xiaosheng was at Grade 8!

Then, what about his earlier rationale for taking over the film department with a piano piece? What could he say now?

Chen Changqing's face turned somewhat unsightly, thankfully no one was paying him any attention; the audience's gaze was all drawn to Bai Xiaosheng.

Chen Changqing took a deep breath, then another, forcing himself to calm down.

One may lose, but must not lose the battle!

Chen Changqing clenched his teeth bitterly, chewing on these words. Suddenly, he felt some resentment toward this phrase.

He didn't know who had taught it to him, having regarded it as a profound truth. He had never really had the opportunity to use it before, but now, time and again, he was forced by Bai Xiaosheng to bring it out, and he had to use it with irritating frequency...

Below the stage, everyone was agape with eyes wide, those beauties who supported Bai Xiaosheng were so excited they were almost screaming.

Gao Ya and Zhao Xiaoying's mouths formed an 'O', incredulously watching Bai Xiaosheng's performance on stage.

They were just feeling incredibly regretful that if only Bai Xiaosheng knew a bit of piano it would have been perfect.

Even though it certainly wouldn't compare to the spectacular Grade 6 piano of Mr. Chen, it would still add a lot to the spectacle.

Now, Bai Xiaosheng was playing a piece by Chopin...

"This, this must be quite a high level," Gao Ya couldn't help but ask.

Zhao Xiaoying knew how to play the piano and was currently at Grade 7, striving for Grade 8.

At this moment, she bit her lower lip slightly, with adoration in her eyes, and a hint of crimson on her cheeks, "This is Grade 8 piano! A piece by Chopin!"

Gao Ya found it unbelievable, almost screaming out loud, with a lovestruck expression, she muttered, "Mr. Bai, I want to have your babies..."

Gao Dazhi couldn't help feeling a bit excited; he had picked the right side supporting Bai Xiaosheng, awesome!

Among the crowd, Lu Fanyu's complexion turned pale, his eyes filled with disbelief.

Bai Xiaosheng, his greatest enemy, was now astounding everyone with his performance and might even take over the film department because of it...

Lu Fanyu felt his legs go weak, so weak that he wanted to collapse.

As the piece concluded, Bai Xiaosheng stood up and walked towards Song Changkong and his group with a smile.

"Please excuse me, I haven't played in a long time and am a little out of practice," Bai Xiaosheng modestly said, imitating Chen Changqing.

Originally, he didn't want to show off his ties to Red Lotus, but alas, the terms offered by Shang Wanwan and the others were too tempting!

Getting the film department, my score should increase even faster!

Bai Xiaosheng looked at Chen Changqing with a bit of an apology in his eyes.

Sorry, old Chen, I have a three-year agreement with your future sister-in-law, eager to level up and gain experience...

Chen Changqing saw Bai Xiaosheng's look and took it as a provocation...

Shang Wanwan, without saying a word, was the first to start applauding; she walked up to meet Bai Xiaosheng.

She led the way, and the entire room woke from their astonishment.

Applause erupted, fierce and intense, as many clapped their hands fiercely.

To appreciate a top-tier piano performance, you don't have to be a connoisseur; there's an innate human recognition of beauty.

"As Miss Shang has suggested, it seems I can only reluctantly take charge of this department for a while," Bai Xiaosheng smiled at Shang Wanwan and turned to Song Changkong. "The new media department has just got on the right track, and I can't neglect it. I'll have to run between the two. Although it's tough, as the deputy director, I'll shirk no duty for the good of the company."

Hearing Bai Xiaosheng's words, both Song Changkong and Chen Changqing's eyelids visibly twitched.

Bai Xiaosheng was seizing power and seeking credit, and doing so shamelessly in front of so many people!

Song Changkong wore a smile, and Chen Changqing's face remained calm. However, inside, both were fiercely cursing Bai Xiaosheng.

Shang Wanwan smiled without saying anything, while she hoped Chen Changqing would take over the department, she was indifferent to Bai Xiaosheng doing so.

Anyway, Shang Wanwan wouldn't neglect to network just because Chen Changqing wasn't managing the film and television department.

As for Bai Xiaosheng, his recent performance was stunning. This man of humble origins actually had a grade-eight piano talent and had kept it hidden all this time.

Such a man suddenly piqued Shang Wanwan's interest.

"Ahem, let's leave it at that for now," Song Changkong muttered ambiguously.

Leave it at that? Leave what at that?!

Bai Xiaosheng frowned slightly.

I've been forced to show off, and you're still playing it cool? No way, I have to make things solid in front of everyone!

Although Bai Xiaosheng hadn't known Song Changkong for long, he clearly understood his boss's temper and nature: Song regarded power more strictly than he did his own wife, and if given a chance to be slippery, things could become troublesome.

Bai Xiaosheng wouldn't allow him to change his mind.

How to make it official? Bai Xiaosheng's gaze swept across the crowd and landed on Lu Fanyu...

Lu Fanyu looked at him with panic, and as he saw Bai Xiaosheng's gaze turning toward him, his face went pale and he quickly averted his eyes in haste.

However, it was too late.

Fine, it'll be him! Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

This "overbearing deputy director" was well-known throughout the company, and despite being somewhat useful at work, Lu Fanyu had provoked him repeatedly overnight. Now, if Bai Xiaosheng still allowed him to stay here with such arrogance, how would he be able to establish his authority in the future? He wouldn't be making Chen suffer for nothing.

Furthermore, Lu Fanyu's character was downright low, which was repulsive to Bai Xiaosheng.

"Ladies and gentlemen, colleagues, and members of the film and television department," Bai Xiaosheng raised his voice. "As you have heard, Mr. Song has appointed me to manage the film and television department!" His gaze fell on Lu Fanyu, sharp and unyielding. "With this opportunity, I would like to make an announcement."

Bai Xiaosheng's words caused Song Changkong and Chen Changqing to be taken aback.

Make an announcement? What announcement? This wasn't on the agenda!

Lu Fanyu's face turned deathly pale, and he couldn't help trembling. He had a terrible feeling of foreboding.

"The originally cast leading man, Lu Fanyu, is accused of slander against the film and television department's director, suppressing newcomers, and repeatedly insulting me and Mr. Changqing," Bai Xiaosheng declared sternly. "Now, I hereby announce his removal from the leading role and direct the HR department to terminate his contract!"

With that statement, the room fell silent.

Song Changkong's face shifted, and the guests were equally astonished.

Shang Wanwan's welcome party and meet-and-greet with the lead actors, and it began with ousting the lead actor?

Unheard of!

Chen Changqing also didn't expect Bai Xiaosheng to be so ruthless. In his astonishment, he saw Bai Xiaosheng looking his way, seemingly about to mention the insults Lu Fanyu had hurled at him.

Chen Changqing's face suddenly altered; he absolutely couldn't let Bai Xiaosheng call him a homosexual in front of everyone!

"I fully support Mr. Bai's decision!" Chen Changqing immediately shouted out loud.

Chapter 297: Shang Wanwan's Conditions_1

Before everyone, Bai Xiaosheng announced the dismissal of the male lead, and Chen Changqing immediately agreed.

Such perfect harmony!

Song Changkong felt a shock in his heart.

How are these two so united in opinion! They can't have reached some agreement behind my back, they can't be trying to sideline me, can they!

With astonishment and confusion, Song Changkong's heart became anxious.

The guests were talking among themselves, merely out of curiosity.

As for dismissing Lu Fanyu, these people didn't actually care much. To these major shareholders, whether it's Lu Fanyu, Zhang Fanyu, or Ma Fanyu, as long as Shang Wanwan was present, anyone was replaceable.

As for the so-called "fresh young meat," if they really needed that bit of traffic, they could just ask Song Changkong to find another heavyweight, a true fresh young celebrity.

After all, the big investor that Lu Fanyu thought he had impressed was nothing but a medium-small sized investor. In such settings, some weren't even qualified to attend, let alone have a say.

During Song Changkong's moment of hesitation, he saw Bai Xiaosheng give him a look, and he was startled, remembering that this was no time for hesitation. Could a dignified general manager really be publicly struggling over an artist under his purview?

Hesitating now could lead to misunderstandings.

"As everyone has heard, this is the company's decision!" Song Changkong immediately asserted his authority with a raise of his hand, "Security, escort Lu Fanyu out and notify the administrative department to issue a processing notice before tomorrow morning!"

As Song Changkong spoke, Lu Fanyu had already collapsed.

All thoughts of being the male lead, of a starry future, over, all over...

Lu Fanyu mustered all his strength to lift his head and look towards Shang Wanwan, his only possible turning point lay with this newly acknowledged Sister Shang.

But Shang Wanwan didn't even glance at him, seemingly not acknowledging his existence at all, instead, she continued to converse with Chen Changqing with a smile.

In Lu Fanyu's eyes, there was nothing but despair.

He had been mistaken from the very beginning; in the eyes of the important figures, he was just an embellishment, and once he lost his value, he was no better than dirt...

Everyone watched as the security took Lu Fanyu and Qiuya away.

Those two looked foolish and infatuated, probably never dreaming that their day would end like this.

The people from the film and television department were all shaken, looking up to Bai Xiaosheng on stage with awe.

Mr. Bai was truly impressive, not just anyone could handle situations like him, beyond the realm of ordinary reasoning!

Having taken over the New Media department, in a single day, he dismissed seven people, heavily fined twelve. Attending a simple film department social event, he directly took control of the department, and even publicly fired the male lead of a drama...

Mr. Bai, true to the legends about him, was incredibly fierce...

The men and women working as actors, with their exceedingly vivid imaginations, never would Bai Xiaosheng have imagined that he had unwittingly solidified his image as a demon lord...

Watching Lu Fanyu and Qiuya get punished on the spot and Bai Xiaosheng taking over the film department, Zhao Xiaoying and Gao Ya were overjoyed.

Amidst his happiness, Gao Dazhi became cautious, silently deciding that he would put his utmost effort into any task ordered by Bai Xiaosheng and would do whatever was asked of him. Should he need to fire any artist, he would fire them—just as long as they didn't touch his position as director, anything would be fine...

"Now, let the party officially begin, enjoy yourselves!" Song Changkong announced.

The crowd erupted in cheers.

...

This party, enriched by Bai Xiaosheng's actions, provided plenty of gossip, especially for the people of the film department, who were visibly excited, conversing eagerly among themselves.

But while some revel in joy, others wallow in sorrow; those who stood with Lu Fanyu and even openly criticized Bai Xiaosheng, felt increasingly anxious and fearful.

Of course, this was a good thing as it made them more restrained.

Shang Wanwan was quite interested in discussing matters related to music with Mr. Bai and Mr. Chen.

Song Changkong, holding a glass of wine, conversed happily with an old business associate, but whenever no one paid attention, he would glance in the direction of Bai Xiaosheng.

"Well played, Bai Xiaosheng, seizing the opportunity so deftly. How can I just sit by and watch you smoothly take away a department?"

The more Song Changkong thought about it, the more he felt aggrieved, especially the scene where Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changqing "cooperated" to take down male lead Lu Fanyu, which choked him up. Now, the wine in his hand tasted bland and joyless.

"No, I can't just let this go so easily. At the very least, I have to incite a fight between Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changqing," Song Changkong thought secretly.

As he was mulling over this, Song Changkong saw Shang Wanwan holding a glass of wine, walking towards him with a smile on her face.

Song Changkong greeted her with a smile.

"Miss Shang, are you satisfied with the reception so far?" Song Changkong said with a smile.

"To kick out the male lead right at the start has given Wanwan quite a scare. If the male lead's position is so precarious, isn't my position as the female lead also in imminent danger?" Shang Wanwan giggled.

Song Changkong knew she was joking and laughed along, "This TV series completely depends on Miss Wanwan. We can do without anyone, but not you."

"Since Mr. Song has put it this way, Wanwan won't stand on ceremony with you. May I borrow you for a moment to talk? Let's discuss the contract," Shang Wanwan said with an inviting gesture and a smile.

Song Changkong, being the astute man he was, immediately sensed that Shang Wanwan was angling for a better deal!

Their contract was still up in the air, merely a verbal agreement.

Just when one problem seemed to settle, another arose; as if dealing with the two vice-presidents wasn't troublesome enough, now there was Shang Wanwan too!

Song Changkong truly felt a headache coming on, but on the surface, he maintained a polite smile and followed Shang Wanwan to a corner of the hall.

The assistants of Shang Wanwan and Song Changkong stood quietly ten steps away, intercepting anyone who might come to disturb them.

Seeing the two deep in conversation, the guests naturally had the tact not to intrude.

Watching Song Changkong and Shang Wanwan talk and laugh merrily, it appeared that their discussion was going well.

After about fifteen minutes.

Song Changkong and Shang Wanwan parted ways, both wearing smiles, seeming like both host and guest had enjoyed the interaction.

However, once out of sight, Song Changkong's expression turned grim and ugly.

"This Shang Wanwan really acts like a diva, the additional conditions are incredibly harsh; she's really difficult to handle!" Song Changkong's brow knotted up in frustration.

What he feared most was happening; the situation was changing.

Actually, he had foreseen this to some extent; the negotiations with Shang Wanwan had gone too smoothly, and when it came down to putting pen to paper, her assistant had made numerous excuses to delay.

Now, with Shang Wanwan adding so many harsh conditions, each one presented a significant problem.

Song Changkong only felt that today was filled with irritations, but, when he inadvertently saw Bai Xiaosheng and noticed Chen Changqing in the distance, his eyes brightened, and he smiled again.

"This annoying burden shouldn't just fall on me. Bai Xiaosheng took the film and television department too effortlessly! Chen Changqing also seems to be getting closer to him; I need to set them against each other. The opportunity is right here, isn't it!"

"Perfect!"

With a smile, Song Changkong felt relieved.

Chapter 298: Another Match_1

The banquet ended successfully, with both hosts and guests thoroughly enjoying themselves -- at least on the surface.

Song Changkong, along with Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changqing, stayed until the very end, seeing off Shang Wanwan and each of the influential guests.

However, just as Bai and Chen were about to leave, they were stopped by Song Changkong.

"Deputy directors, come with me for a moment, I have something to discuss with you," said Song Changkong with a serious face, and there was a hint of solemnity in his expression.

Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changqing glanced at each other in surprise.

The party was a success, so why was Song Changkong still looking so serious...

Could it be that old Song had been displeased the whole time because I publicly fired the male lead Lu Fanyu?

Bai Xiaosheng scratched his face.

At that time, Bai Xiaosheng had indeed gone a bit too far, and Song Changkong must be planning to severely criticize Mr. Bai -- this was a spectacle Changqing wouldn't want to miss!

Chen Changqing sneered inwardly.

The two followed Song Changkong to a café within the Zhongjing Wanhe Building.

The manager of the café, hearing that the boss and the two deputy directors had arrived, hurriedly came out to welcome them, ushered them into a VIP room, served the coffee they ordered personally, and then retreated, closing the door behind him.

Seeing the place chosen for the conversation, Bai Xiaosheng felt relieved; this wasn't the kind of place for reprimanding people.

Chen Changqing, feeling somewhat regretful, looked at Song Changkong with confusion, wondering what he meant.

So late at night, and still inviting them for coffee...

"About the incident at the banquet, you two shouldn't overthink it. Since that Lu Fanyu dared to publicly insult both deputy directors, it's only right to get rid of him. No matter how important an artist is in our company, they can't override the deputy directors or the general manager, and that is unequivocally undisputable and absolutely intolerable!" Song Changkong said to them with a smile, setting the tone for the situation.

While speaking, Song Changkong added some milk to his coffee and stirred it gently with a spoon.

"I'm different from others; I can drink coffee at night and still sleep soundly, but you guys better not. We are here mainly to sit for a while and discuss some matters," Song Changkong said with a smile.

What on earth is it about?

Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changqing were both somewhat curious.

"Mr. Song, just speak your mind. Mr. Chen and I are both impatient people who can't wait," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, taking the lead in speaking.

Chen Changqing also nodded.

"Okay," Mr. Song said, taking a sip of his coffee leisurely before putting it down slowly. Then he began, "At the banquet, Miss Shang Wanwan mentioned that she hoped one of the deputy directors would take charge of the affairs of the film and television section and coordinate with her. We had tentatively agreed on Mr. Bai, right?"

So that's the matter!

Bai Xiaosheng looked at Song Changkong with a somewhat sarcastic smile.

He knew this leader wasn't that willing to relinquish power so easily.

Was he planning to go back on his word?

Is there still a chance for a turnaround? Chen Changqing also keenly sensed this and his eyes shone briefly with anticipation.

"Originally, if there were no surprises, this matter would have been entrusted to Mr. Bai; I had no objections," Song Changkong sighed, "But as you might have also noticed, at the party, Miss Shang Wanwan had a private conversation with me."

Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changqing nodded; they had indeed noticed.

"The content of that conversation was not a pleasant matter!" Song Changkong said with a mocking smile, "That celebrity Miss Shang, despite her gentle and charming appearance, when it comes to 'benefits', she is no less demanding than the most calculative businessmen! She suddenly added many conditions for us!"

Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changqing couldn't help but exchange a glance.

This was somewhat unexpected. The fact that Shang Wanwan had spoken privately with old Song was to add conditions, and by the look on old Song's face, those added conditions were not minor...

"What kind of conditions?" Bai Xiaosheng asked curiously.

Chen Changqing also looked inquiringly.

Song Changkong immediately counted off on his fingers, listing Shang Wanwan's demands one by one. Although he could not recount them exactly as they were, he managed to convey most of it.

As Bai Xiaosheng listened, he marveled.

"Firstly, in terms of the plot, they need to make revisions and add scenes, making the entire play center around the female lead Shang Wanwan as much as possible, with everything aimed at shaping her character image..."

"Regarding the actors, the second male lead and the third male lead need to be newcomers from her studio, and they also need to relinquish some other roles..."

"For the in-drama advertisements, they need to reserve spots for her own partners, with the advertisement fees to have nothing to do with Zhongjing Media..."

"For transportation, there has to be a dedicated RV, staffed with at least two personal assistants..."

...

Song Changkong kept listing them one after another.

Even Chen Changqing was a bit wide-eyed and at a loss for words, incredulous.

Was this really the set of demands proposed by that pure, elegant, intellectual woman at the banquet?

Some were simply too extravagant!

"Asking for the moon! It seems Miss Shang Wanwan is waiting for us to pay through the nose," Bai Xiaosheng chuckled.

"Yes, that's exactly what she means!" Song Changkong sipped his coffee.

"Then what does Mr. Song suggest?" Chen Changqing asked, looking at Song Changkong.

Song Changkong set down his coffee cup, pinched a napkin to wipe his lips, and smiled, "I'm getting old, my memory isn't too good. What I've said isn't comprehensive, and she hasn't laid out everything either. We still need to discuss the specifics."

"However, Miss Wanwan has made it clear that if we can't reach an agreement, we'll have to wait for another opportunity to collaborate."

Song Changkong couldn't help but rub his temples, chuckling self-deprecatingly, "Here I was, having finished setting up the investors' meet-and-greet, thinking about showing her our strength and sincerity to get the contract signed quickly, and she pulls this move on me!"

Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changqing nodded their heads.

It seemed that Song Changkong had called them here to discuss a strategy.

"Starting tomorrow, Shang Wanwan will be staying in Zhongjing for a week, residing in our Zhongjing Wanhe Building. Regarding this matter, I'd like to hand it over to you two vice presidents to resolve," Song Changkong suddenly beamed, dispelling his former look of worry, "Both of you are capable and efficient, so handling Miss Wanwan shouldn't be a problem. I have only one condition, the final signing cost must not exceed our budget by more than thirty percent."

Having said that, Song Changkong looked at both of them with a smile.

"The two of you might as well compete again, whoever can secure Miss Wanwan for the lowest cost, will take charge of this project and accordingly, take over the Film and Television Department."

After finishing, Song Changkong leaned back leisurely, watching them.

This sly old fox, he was waiting for me here! I knew he wouldn't just hand over the department to me that easily! Bai Xiaosheng reflected.

Mr. Song wanted to watch another battle from the sidelines, he's gotten addicted to it!

Chen Changqing's eyes flickered with excitement.

Sure enough, there was a twist!

Secure Shang Wanwan? With the connections behind him, that was going to be easy!

For these kinds of negotiations, it often boiled down to one thing: benefits!

He, Chen Changqing, could offer Shang Wanwan other advantages, reducing her demands on Zhongjing Media!

If he pulled this off, Chen Changqing would gain fame and power within Zhongjing Media!

Chen Changqing couldn't help but glance at Bai Xiaosheng, sneering inwardly.

I have a wealth of connections and resources at my disposal, what do you have?!

Bai Xiaosheng, oh Bai Xiaosheng.

This time, you're definitely going to lose!

Chapter 299: Chen Changqing's Confidence_1

Song Changkong had just set up a new arena and made no bones about informing Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changqing directly.

Under his specified conditions, whoever acquired Shang Wanwan at the lowest cost would be responsible for all related work of the television series and take charge of the film and television department!

This was actually a big challenge; both individuals were representing the company, each making their own offers to negotiate with the same person—this was unprecedented!

It would inevitably lead Shang Wanwan to compare both parties, making it not so easy for her to agree. If either Bai or Chen, in a hurry to close the deal quickly, offered Shang Wanwan her bottom line price from the start, she would instead think there was still room to negotiate, which would complicate matters even more!

Of course, many of the conditions proposed by Shang Wanwan could not be measured in money, such as script requirements and character demands. Invisibly, there was a lot of manipulable content and room for maneuvering within these.

It just depended on how it was done.

It goes without saying, Song Changkong had given them quite a difficult problem to solve.

In response to this proposal, while Bai Xiaosheng was still silent, Chen Changqing had already nodded in agreement.

"Mr. Song's proposal is good. As deputy heads, we should indeed resolve difficulties for the company! This matter concerns the development of the film and television department, so it really is better for whoever solves it to take charge of this department. Mr. Bai, what do you think?" Chen Changqing looked at Bai Xiaosheng with a smile and asked.

This time, Chen Changqing had decided to employ the resources behind him to secure Shang Wanwan.

Initially, he had told his assistant that favors were something to be used as sparingly as possible. Back then, because first, he was confident in his capabilities, and second, he did not want to owe favors for trivial matters to those in his clan.

But this was different.

Facilitating a collaboration between family clansmen and Shang Wanwan was beneficial and win-win for multiple parties!

If he handled this matter well, not only would Chen Changqing not owe any favors, but he could also potentially gain favors by bridging connections.

At the very least, even if he did not want any favors, he could achieve remarkable success at Zhongjing Media, take control of the film and television department, and gain a reputation—all benefits!

Anyway, it was all advantages and no disadvantages; Chen Changqing was set to profit!

Besides, he would get to suppress Bai Xiaosheng!

Chen Changqing felt an indescribable excitement about this matter, as well as a deep longing.

Regarding Song Changkong's decision, he could hardly wait to agree to it right away.

Of course, he still had to see Bai Xiaosheng's opinion now.

Bai Xiaosheng appeared calm, looking at the somewhat excited Chen Changqing, and smiled.

"Since Mr. Chen is so eager to agree, and Mr. Song is highly advocating for it, I guess I have no other choice. Let's go with that," Bai Xiaosheng shrugged and said.

"Good, then it's settled!" Song Changkong slapped his thigh and laughed heartily.

The troublesome matter was finally resolved; next, he just had to wait and enjoy a fierce battle between dragons and tigers. He hoped that this time it would be even more splendid and intense than before, hoping that their fight would be to the death.

Song Changkong's face bore a smile, but inside he was even more delighted.

Bai Xiaosheng, this time you are definitely going to lose. You have no chance. No matter how cunning you are, strength is strength. In the face of absolute power, all tricks are useless!

Chen Changqing's face wore a light smile, but inside he couldn't help feeling triumphant.

This time he finally had the opportunity to thoroughly crush Bai Xiaosheng—a satisfaction beyond compare in life.

Bai Xiaosheng kept a polite smile, then couldn't help but yawn widely.

He really had been busy enough for today. He was so tired, he really wanted to go back and collapse on the soft bed and have a good long sleep...

...

After finalizing their arrangement, the three of them chatted casually for a while before each went their own way.

Compared to Bai Xiaosheng, Chen Changqing lived in the Zhongjing Wanhe Building, which gave him an advantage for being close to the water tower. Of course, he couldn't negotiate with Shang Wanwan this late at night.

Back in his room, Chen Changqing washed up quickly and then sat down to rest with closed eyes, quickly recalling the contacts and resources he could call upon in his mind.

"Uncle!"

After pondering for a moment, Chen Changqing opened his eyes, which were bright.

He didn't need to resort to anything more formidable, currently, he had a suitable relative who could help.

Chen Changqing's uncle was in Zhongjing, and he had visited him upon his arrival.

With his uncle's help, that would be enough.

Because his uncle was the overall person in charge of the Zhenbei Group's industries in the Greater China Region, East China District, and Anjiang Province.

Except for a very few industries like Zhongjing Media, all other industries in Anjiang Province were under his jurisdiction.

It seemed he would need to pay a visit tomorrow!

A smile played on Chen Changqing's lips.

Feeling confident, Chen Changqing relaxed, went back to his room to sleep, and waited to take down Shang Wanwan the next day.

"After the deal is done, I can also have Shang Wanwan cooperate with me in putting on a good show, and this time I'll give Bai Xiaosheng a thorough retaliation!" Chen Changqing thought of this, his mood growing even more cheerful.

Bai Xiaosheng had sent negative news about the gaming department to Song Changkong, causing him to suffer a complete defeat. He knew the gaming department's staff was cursing him behind his back. This time, Chen Changqing was going to play dirty too!

Meanwhile.

Bai Xiaosheng returned to his rented place, a hotel-style long-term rental apartment with a high standard.

It was Yang Qian'er, that girl, who had chosen it, saying it was convenient and glamorous here, with a view over the CBD, very cool.

As it was the company paying, and the place wasn't too far from the office, Bai Xiaosheng had no objections.

Just thinking of Yang Qian'er gave Bai Xiaosheng a headache; the girl was about to come back too. These past few days, she had harassed him incessantly on WeChat.

Yang Qian'er was shocked to learn that Bai Xiaosheng had overhauled the entire New Media department, making it thrive remarkably.

And Bai Xiaosheng hadn't forgotten those staff members who were out and about; he distributed bonuses of 25,000 yuan to each, according to the average employee bonus.

Initially, Yang Qian'er was so happy she almost called him "Xiaosheng," but when she found out about the investment issue, she was upset that Bai Xiaosheng hadn't informed her.

Yang Qian'er immediately sent a message with four characters, "You're dead meat," claiming she would come back for revenge.

Fortunately, she didn't know yet that the reason her interview team had been assigned extra tasks at the last minute was entirely Bai Xiaosheng's doing...

After a simple wash, Bai Xiaosheng threw himself onto the bed, rubbing his face against the pillow, preparing to meet the Sandman.

But his phone started to beep, the alert tone for WeChat.

This Yang Qian'er, not sleeping so late and still sending messages, is she trying to annoy me to death?

Reluctantly, Bai Xiaosheng picked up his phone.

Not to look? Ignoring could lead to even more trouble!

If he ignored her, she might bombard him with messages or worse, call to harass him in the middle of the night.

What's more excessive was that Yang Qian'er once called his mother, Li Qiuyun, who then called him and seriously scolded him until Bai Xiaosheng's ears hurt.

This matchmaker whom his grandmother suggested, who didn't even have any real connection with him yet, had learned to snitch to his parents.

Bai Xiaosheng was angry but at a loss; he could only submit.

But this time, Bai Xiaosheng was surprised to find the person messaging him was not Yang Qian'er, but—Wei Moran!

It was eleven at night, how come Wei Moran had the energy to message him, wasn't she sleeping?

Out of curiosity, Bai Xiaosheng asked her, only to learn that Wei Moran was not in the country; she was abroad where it was afternoon, and she just happened to be free, forgetting about the time difference when messaging Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng forced a bitter smile, stifling his sleepiness to chat with Wei Moran.

As they chatted, an idea struck Bai Xiaosheng, and he sent Wei Moran a message.

"Do you know a domestic rising star named Shang Wanwan?"

"Oh, Shang Wanwan!" came the reply from the other end.

Chapter 300 Uncle Chen Jiuzheng of the Chen Family_1

The western part of Zhongjing City is surrounded by mountains and lakes, with fresh air and picturesque scenery.

All residences here are luxurious villas.

The best-located Moon Lake Villa District is even more a symbol of status and power, with only eighteen properties facing the lake.

Early in the morning, Chen Changqing drove alone to reach the best-located villa in the Moon Lake Villa District to visit his uncle—Chen Jiuzheng.

After getting out of the car and breathing in the fresh and pleasant air, Chen Changqing also felt a wave of emotion. Living here could probably add several years to one's life.

Guided by a servant, Chen Changqing passed through the villa's grand hall and the courtyard where flowers bloomed all year round, making his way to the lakeside.

From a distance, a middle-aged man could be seen comfortably seated in a wicker chair, holding a fishing rod worth tens of thousands of yuan, leisurely staring at the lake surface.

His face was angular and well-defined, with a tough contour, coupled with a sturdy body, he appeared like a brute. But in reality, his thoughts were meticulous and he was far from reckless.

Chen Changqing waved his hand, asking the servant to leave, and approached with a smile on his face.

Previously, he had arranged over the phone to meet with his uncle Chen Jiuzheng at this time, with a margin of error no greater than five minutes.

"Uncle, this is very refined," Chen Changqing said with a smile as he greeted him.

"You've arrived, Changqing. Come, have a seat!" Chen Jiuzheng motioned with his lips towards the wicker chair beside him.

Chen Changqing didn't sit down immediately; instead, he walked over to a bucket beside Chen Jiuzheng and looked inside.

In the bucket, several lively fresh fish were swimming contentedly; it seemed Uncle Chen had had a fruitful morning.

"Your fishing skills are exquisite; I should find a day to learn from you," said Chen Changqing with a laugh.

Such a serious fellow also knew how to flatter; if Bai Xiaosheng saw this, he would certainly be amazed.

"Haha, you came just for that. As your uncle, I have to treat you well. Later, I'll have Mrs. Wu make you fish soup. It's extremely delicious, a true specialty of our household," Chen Jiuzheng loved his hobby of fishing and enjoyed hearing others praise it.

In fact, the Moon Lake villa estate purchases a large variety of fish fry every year, which are released into Moon Lake to grow naturally, providing villa owners with the opportunity to fish for fresh and wild flavors.

Catching fish here is not a difficult task.

Chen Jiuzheng placed the fishing rod on the holder and leaned back in his wicker chair.

Chen Changqing took a seat in the wicker chair next to him.

"About that matter with Shang Wanwan you mentioned, I think it's good too; there are many aspects we can cooperate on, a win-win situation," Chen Jiuzheng said with a smile, getting to the point, "The industries that I'm in charge of in the group—catering, clothing, real estate, finance—number in the dozens, big and small. Of course, Zhongjing Media is a special case. Even though it's in Zhongjing, it's directly under the group's management. I don't have control over Song Changkong, the general manager, which you also know."

Chen Changqing nodded.

Under the group, there are some pilot enterprises with large scales and unique organizational structures that do not fall under the management of regional heads but are directly overseen by the group.

When Chen Changqing was assigned to Zhongjing Media, he was filled with curiosity and wanted to investigate.

The result was that he encountered Bai Xiaosheng, who gave him endless headaches.

"I came over today mainly to communicate with you first to see what conditions you can offer, so I can negotiate with Shang Wanwan," said Chen Changqing with a smile. "To be honest, uncle, facilitating cooperation between your side and Shang Wanwan is beneficial for me."

Chen Changqing told Chen Jiuzheng in detail about the competitive situation that Song Changkong had set up for him and Bai Xiaosheng.

Chen Jiuzheng laughed heartily, shaking his head, "This Song Changkong, he's clearly trying to make you guys fight against each other, to keep you from joining forces against him. That's right, the previous deputy general manager left him with painful memories. However, this isn't necessarily bad for you."

Chen Changqing also smiled.

Chen Jiuzheng stood up and, with his hands behind his back, looked out at the lake and mountains.

"Let's do this, Changqing, listen to the offer I'm about to make. Take it to Shang Wanwan for discussion, I guarantee she won't refuse! This time, let Uncle help boost you up."

Chen Changqing smiled and nodded in agreement.

In reality, there was no question of who was helping whom between the uncle and nephew, because Chen Jiuzheng's conditions would certainly bring Shang Wanwan's cooperation, resulting in a win-win situation.

Right then and there, Chen Jiuzheng detailed the conditions he could offer to Chen Changqing, who listened carefully, nodding frequently, and occasionally exchanging views with Chen Jiuzheng on certain issues.

This conversation lasted for an hour or so.

By the time the uncle and nephew finished talking, Chen Changqing was thoroughly confident, his face beaming with joy.

With what Chen Jiuzheng had proposed, he believed Shang Wanwan would not refuse. This bet, Chen Changqing was sure he had won.

Poor Bai Xiaosheng, you still don't realize that you have no chance of winning.

As Chen Changqing thought about this, his mood became even more cheerful.

This time, he intended not only to win but also to have Shang Wanwan cooperate and humiliate Bai Xiaosheng. With such a deep collaboration, he believed Shang Wanwan would agree to help this time.

"Come on, Changqing, stay for lunch and then afterwards my assistant will work with you to secure this cooperation," Chen Jiuzheng, in a good mood, motioned with his hand, and several servants ran over to pack up the fishing gear and fish.

Chen Jiuzheng and Chen Changqing chatted and joked their way to the villa.

At noon, after having lunch in Chen Jiuzheng's villa, Chen Changqing drove away.

In high spirits, Chen Changqing listened to a symphony on his way back home.

"Yu Qing, call Murong Yan and have the two of you wait for me at the hotel. Yes, bring the computer, I have matters to discuss with you," he called his assistant halfway, preparing them for what was to come.

Once he returned, he planned to sit down with Yu Qing and Murong Yan to meticulously plan how to negotiate with Shang Wanwan, aiming to succeed with the least cost possible.

To not just get it done, but to do it well, and to make Chen Jiuzheng reap even more benefits, would truly round off this favor.

Chen Changqing's eyes sparkled with determination and vigor.

In the Zhongjing Media Tower, the General Manager's office.

Song Changkong sat at his desk, holding a cup of tea, smiling without a word, just having been informed by his assistant that both deputy managers had taken the day off.

"These young people are full of energy. I wonder what kind of battle they will put on. I'm looking forward to your good news," Song Changkong smiled contentedly. "The fiercer you two fight, the happier I am!"

However, Song Changkong was quite mistaken.

The only one truly full of energy and relentless at the moment was Chen Changqing alone.

Bai Xiaosheng did take the day off, that's true, but he wasn't busy figuring out how to conquer Shang Wanwan. He slept till nine in the morning, had lunch, and then went back to sleep contently.

Bai Xiaosheng felt he had been lacking sleep recently and needed to catch up.

At three in the afternoon, Bai Xiaosheng, having had a good sleep, washed up and dressed neatly.

"It's also time to meet with Shang Wanwan. I wonder if Chen Changqing has gone for a talk yet. That guy, acting as if he's injected with chicken blood, must be relying on something..."

"Should I, ask someone for help..."