

Two Trillion 301

Chapter 301 It's My Turn, Chen Changqing_1

Miss Shang Wanwan stayed at the Zhongjing Wanhe Building for seven days.

Song Changkong took this group of people very seriously and specially arranged a lifestyle assistant for them. Everything from food and lodging to transportation was treated to the highest standard. He indeed spared no effort.

Miss Shang felt Song Changkong's sincerity and was very satisfied.

Here, all the staff belonged to Zhongjing Media, with strict management, so there was no need to worry about paparazzi sneaking in.

In addition to the top-floor business bar, the upper layers of the Wanhe Building housed a five-star hotel and business conference halls, while the middle layers offered various leisure and entertainment venues, including KTVs, bars, clubs, and beauty institutions—all high-end chain brands. The lower levels consisted of several floors of a large shopping mall.

You could eat, drink, and have fun all in one place without leaving the building, enjoying a one-stop noble lifestyle.

Miss Shang basked in the highest VIP treatment there, feeling utterly comfortable and content.

Just back from a hot spring bath, she sat on the sofa with her white jade-like legs crossed, flipping through a fashion magazine.

Her eyes were on the publication, but Miss Shang was thinking about other things.

"It's been over half a day now, and there's been no movement from Zhongjing Media's side. They must be discussing my conditions," she thought.

With a charming smile on her face, Miss Shang mused, "This collaboration's additional conditions are critical for me. Some cannot be put on paper; otherwise, it would be hard to explain to the company. If they agree to even thirty percent of those terms, I'll agree! But they shouldn't agree too quickly. It would be best if I could gain benefits while they feel that I've given them a lot of face."

"I, Shang Wanwan, am not acting like a diva. I am a very understanding person."

Putting the magazine down and sitting up, Miss Shang stretched her back and lounged lazily like a cat, with a perfect posture that exuded a captivating charm.

The sound of music from a ringtone interrupted the silence.

"Miss Shang, a call for you, from Mr. Chen, the vice president at Zhongjing Media." Her personal assistant, Xiao Mai, handed over the phone.

"Is it time?"

With a grin, Miss Shang took the phone and answered it, putting it to her ear, "Hello, Mr. Chen? Yes, it's Wanwan. You want to meet with me... Okay, let's meet at the coffee shop on the fifteenth floor. I'll be there in half an hour."

After the brief conversation, she hung up the phone, stood up with a smile.

"Xiao Mai, get my clothes ready," she said with a smile. "You decide the style for this cooperation talk."

"Okay," Xiao Mai nodded with a smile.

As Miss Shang's assistant, Xiao Mai's salary was high, on par with a middle manager, but the demands were stringent; there was much to understand.

Even the clothes Miss Shang wore each time she went out required carefully chosen combinations and colors.

...

On the fifteenth floor, there was only one business coffee shop.

Inside a private business compartment, Chen Changqing sat alone.

The assistants, Yu Qing and Murong Yan, waited in the lobby.

As soon as the appointed time arrived, Miss Shang appeared with her assistant Xiao Mai.

At that moment, her hair was up in a bun, she wore a black leather jacket over a black bodycon dress, black stockings, and a pair of deep blue, rhinestone-studded high heels.

She looked both stunningly gorgeous and incredibly sharp.

Chen Changqing's two assistants immediately stood up and greeted her with smiles.

"Miss Shang, Mr. Chen is waiting for you in business compartment number one."

They led the way to the compartment door, then stood outside after opening it.

"Xiao Mai, you wait outside too," ordered Miss Shang.

The attendant, once clear on Miss Shang's coffee preferences, immediately went to prepare it.

As Miss Shang Wanwan entered, she greeted Chen Changqing, and just as she settled in her seat, the waiter had already brought in a cup of Blue Mountain.

In the presence of this major star and the vice-president of their own company, the service efficiency could be called lightning-fast.

After the waiter left and closed the door, Chen Changqing only then smiled at Miss Shang Wanwan, with immense admiration, "Miss Shang, you truly are beyond compare in beauty!"

"You flatter me, Mr. Chen," Miss Shang Wanwan elegantly smiled, pinching the delicate white porcelain spoon between her thumb and forefinger, gently stirring the coffee, "May I know if Mr. Chen has invited me here to discuss a contract?"

"Yes, and no," Chen Changqing laughed.

"Oh?" This response surprised Miss Shang Wanwan, her long eyelashes lifted, her beautiful eyes filled with curiosity.

"It's about cooperation, but not just with Zhongjing Media," Chen Changqing said, staring into Miss Shang Wanwan's eyes with a smile, "Are you aware, Miss Shang, of a key person responsible for the Zhenbei Group's industry in Anjiang—Mr. Chen Jiuzheng?"

"Mr. Chen Jiuzheng!" Miss Shang Wanwan's eyes sparkled with excitement, betraying a hint of surprise, "Of course, I know him! But I was unaware, Mr. Chen, what your connection with Mr. Chen Jiuzheng is..."

"He is my uncle. He has commissioned me to discuss some... major cooperation with Miss Shang!"

Chen Changqing's mouth curved into a smile.

Miss Shang Wanwan was aware of his uncle Chen Jiuzheng, which was good; that saved Chen Changqing a lot of explanations.

"Mr. Chen Jiuzheng is your uncle?!"

Miss Shang Wanwan's eyes widened in surprise.

Even though she had suspected Chen Changqing had a family background, she hadn't anticipated it to be so powerful.

Nor had she expected that Chen Jiuzheng would be discussing cooperation with her.

This was a big deal!

Miss Shang Wanwan smiled coyly, "Really? I am curious as to what kind of cooperation it is."

Chen Changqing smiled and began to elaborate.

Following that, Miss Shang Wanwan and Chen Changqing talked in the business room for a full hour.

Xiao Mai, Miss Shang Wanwan's assistant, sat outside with Yu Qing and Murong Yan, drinking coffee and wondering what they were discussing inside for so long and what the outcome might be.

In the business room, the conversation between Miss Shang Wanwan and Chen Changqing came to a temporary close, both looking very satisfied.

Miss Shang Wanwan even lifted the now-cold coffee, smiling as she clinked her cup with Chen Changqing's, "Since we don't have wine and it wouldn't be appropriate, let me toast with coffee to wish us a pleasant cooperation!"

"Here's to a pleasant cooperation!" Chen Changqing chuckled, equally content.

They both took a sip of coffee.

Chen Changqing put down his cup and said to Miss Shang Wanwan, "Mr. Song has set a bottom line for us, which is to increase the original contract price by up to thirty percent. Miss Shang, let's go with this price for this time."

"No problem," Miss Shang Wanwan happily accepted, as the cooperation with Chen Jiuzheng had already been very profitable for her. On the Zhongjing Media side, Changqing's direct quotation of the bottom line was very satisfying to her.

They looked at each other and smiled; the meeting was concluded to the satisfaction of both hosts and guests.

"However, there's one thing I'd like to ask for Miss Wanwan's assistance with," Chen Changqing said, having put his cup down, smiling.

The slight change in his form of address alerted Miss Shang Wanwan to something amiss.

Chen Changqing's next words might not pertain to official business but rather a personal matter.

"Mr. Chen, if there's anything you require for our new venture, just ask. If I'm able to assist, I surely will!" Miss Shang Wanwan smiled.

"Good, spoken like a true professional!" Chen Changqing laughed heartily, his eyes twinkling with brilliance.

This time, it was my turn, Chen Changqing, to set a trap for you, Bai Xiaosheng!

Chapter 302 So Refreshing?!_1

Shang Wanwan was very skilled at speaking, she first highlighted the newly established cooperative relationship between both parties, and then said she would help as much as she could. She not only drew the relationship closer but also subtly shut down any unreasonable demands from Chen Changqing.

This woman, truly remarkable!

Chen Changqing sighed and laughed, "The favor I need won't damage Miss Shang's interests, just listen first."

Shang Wanwan nodded with a smile.

"As for me, I am now the deputy general manager of Zhongjing Media, just like Bai Xiaosheng, or Mr. Bai. He came from a small company within the group, with no background, and rose up through a stroke of luck," Chen Changqing first clarified Bai Xiaosheng's background, to alleviate any concerns Shang Wanwan might have.

Shang Wanwan nodded.

She had already judged that Bai Xiaosheng didn't have much of a background, and now, she had the confirmation from Chen Changqing.

"Originally, we each took a department, and were to engage in a fair wager. But who would have thought, this guy actually played dirty tricks on me, causing me a lot of trouble."

Chen Changqing spoke, his eyes turning cold.

Even now, Chen Changqing still believed that if it were a fair competition based on performance, he would never have lost.

Unexpectedly, Bai Xiaosheng stooped so low as to pick negative news from the internet, sent it to Song Changkong, compelling Song Changkong to force him to stop his activities, and that's how he lost.

Not to mention losing money, not to mention his entire department cursing him behind his back, but the very fact of "losing" itself was an immense humiliation for Chen Changqing!

"How did he play dirty?" asked Shang Wanwan, cautious and in a soft voice.

Chen Changqing snorted coldly and began to vent some of the pent-up resentment in his heart to Shang Wanwan.

So that's how it was!

Listening, Shang Wanwan nodded frequently, her face displaying a look full of shared enmity.

But inwardly, Shang Wanwan found it funny.

Regarding Bai Xiaosheng's actions, she actually quite approved of them.

Unexpectedly, that Mr. Bai was truly ingenious, using very effective strategies.

He could play a sophisticated eighth-grade piano piece, and also employ such tactics, dragging Song Changkong into the fray to defeat Mr. Chen.

As a result, Shang Wanwan's impression of Bai Xiaosheng improved quite a bit.

Of course, on the surface, she was indignant, "This Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, really went too far!"

Because of this conversation, Shang Wanwan gained a deeper understanding of Chen Changqing: the man before her indeed had an almost pathological level of pride.

Shang Wanwan's mind suddenly stirred.

Chen Changqing telling her all this, couldn't be because he wanted her help in exacting revenge, could it?

Sure enough—

"That's why, this time I would like to ask Miss Wanwan to cooperate and teach this surnamed Bai a lesson," Chen Changqing said with a cold laugh, asking, "I wonder, Miss Wanwan, can you help me with this favor?"

Now that they had established a deep cooperation, Shang Wanwan naturally did not want to offend Chen Changqing, and that Bai Xiaosheng had no background she needed to worry about...

Shang Wanwan pursed her lips and smiled, "I don't know how I could help you, Mr. Chen."

Shang Wanwan might have had a growing fondness for Bai Xiaosheng, but that didn't stop her from agreeing to help Chen Changqing deal with him.

As for this kind of infighting, having been in the entertainment industry for so many years, she was used to it, even doing it herself at times, for the sake of interests and eliminating threats, it was nothing unusual!

Shang Wanwan estimated that Chen Changqing wouldn't want to damage the interests of Zhongjing Media; he simply wanted to discipline Bai Xiaosheng and settle a personal score.

Fine, then I'll indulge you, taking it as a little gift of cooperation. Only, if any problems arise, I'll shift all the blame onto you, my dear Mr. Chen.

Shang Wanwan's smile was pleasant as she looked at Chen Changqing.

"Let's not announce our partnership to the public yet. You mentioned to Mr. Song that you would stay for seven days, we could..."

Chen Changqing leaned in slightly closer to Shang Wanwan and whispered his plan to her.

Shang Wanwan's eyes flickered uncertainly, her lips curling into a slight smile.

"Mr. Chen, you really have your ways, saying this won't make Wanwan offend anyone... Alright, I agree to your request!"

Shang Wanwan appeared cunning yet agreed to his request readily.

Chen Changqing's face lit up with joy.

Just as he was about to say something else, Shang Wanwan's phone suddenly rang.

Shang Wanwan picked up the phone and glanced at it, then suddenly laughed.

Caught off guard by her reaction, Shang Wanwan showed Chen Changqing the name of the caller, "Talk of Cao Cao and Cao Cao arrives—here comes a call from him!"

The caller was Bai Xiaosheng.

"Hehe, I didn't expect him to come knocking on his own. Well, I reckon he wants to discuss a partnership with you," Chen Changqing scoffed coldly.

Shang Wanwan answered the call and switched on the speakerphone.

"Hello, is this Miss Shang Wanwan? I am Bai Xiaosheng, the deputy general manager of Zhongjing Media. I wonder if you have some time right now? We could discuss a partnership,"

said Bai Xiaosheng over the phone.

"Sure, Mr. Bai, I'm waiting for you at the coffee shop on the tenth floor of Wanhe Building. Come over in ten minutes," replied Shang Wanwan with a smile.

"Sure, see you then," Bai Xiaosheng responded promptly.

"See you then," said Shang Wanwan, smiling at Chen Changqing and then hanging up the phone.

As Shang Wanwan put down the phone, Chen Changqing stood up, smiling, "Then I shall take my leave. I leave it all in your capable hands, Miss Wanwan."

Shang Wanwan also stood up, her smile as cunning as a sly little fox, downright adorable.

"Rest assured, Mr. Chen, I've got everything covered!" she said.

Chen Changqing had laid out all the plans; Shang Wanwan just needed to follow them.

Chen Changqing smiled, opened the door, and left with his assistant.

Shang Wanwan signaled to Xiao Mai, "Let's go to the coffee shop on the tenth floor."

A change of location? Xiao Mai was taken aback.

Shang Wanwan gave her a smile and whispered, "We're meeting another deputy manager."

Xiao Mai nodded in understanding.

Once they arrived at the coffee shop on the tenth floor, Shang Wanwan chose a relatively private corner in the lobby, sat down, and ordered a coffee to wait.

From this angle, she could easily see the outside and the entrance, yet those sitting in the lobby would find it hard to notice her.

As a top-tier celebrity, Shang Wanwan did worry about attracting the attention of the patrons, so she wore a pair of oversized sunglasses upon arrival, only taking them off after she had picked a spot and sat down.

After a short wait, when Bai Xiaosheng appeared, Shang Wanwan was taken aback.

This Mr. Bai was dressed in casual attire.

At first glance, he looked like a sunny boy-next-door, and he didn't even bring an assistant.

Was he here for a business discussion?

Shang Wanwan was somewhat surprised.

As Bai Xiaosheng entered, Shang Wanwan waved to signal him. He spotted them, walked over with a smile, and Xiao Mai immediately moved to another table to give them space.

Bai Xiaosheng ordered a cappuccino from the waiter.

"Mr. Bai dresses quite casually," remarked Shang Wanwan with a faint smile.

"Don't mind me, Miss Shang. I'm always like this, got used to it, unless it's a very formal banquet. I don't wear suits otherwise," Bai Xiaosheng apologized with a smile. "Besides, I thought we could have this conversation as friends, without the need for too much formality."

Shang Wanwan nodded and smiled, "Alright, then."

Following that, Bai Xiaosheng truly began the conversation about the partnership as an equal.

From start to finish, Shang Wanwan listened quietly to every word Bai Xiaosheng said. His voice was magnetic, and the content was engaging—if Chen Changqing hadn't spoken to her beforehand, she might have been persuaded by Bai Xiaosheng.

"This Bai Xiaosheng is no simple character. If it weren't for my earlier agreement with Chen Changqing, I might have actually been swayed by his pitch," Shang Wanwan observed, a hint of admiration in her gaze towards Bai Xiaosheng.

"Okay, that's all I have to say. What do you think, Miss Shang?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with a smile.

"I agree to the partnership," Shang Wanwan said with a smile.

Bai Xiaosheng was stunned by her response.

That was quick?!

Chapter 303: First Defeat_1

Bai Xiaosheng looked at Shang Wanwan in surprise.

Shang Wanwan had asked Song Changkong for sky-high prices, and here she was, seemingly ready to settle the debt on the spot.

Next, conventionally, both parties should engage in a battle of wits, back and forth, one raising the price, the other pushing it down...

How had they agreed with just a few sentences?

You must know, he had only increased the monetary part by ten percent and acquiesced to thirty percent of the other conditions, and Shang Wanwan had compromised?

Bai Xiaosheng looked at Shang Wanwan with some suspicion.

"Mr. Bai, don't look at me like that. Wanwan is not unreasonable. Just now, you also said that our cooperation is not a one-off deal, but a long-term partnership."

Shang Wanwan spoke earnestly, her expression and words sincere, "Actually, Wanwan is aware of how harsh the conditions I mentioned to Mr. Song at the cocktail party were. I was just testing your sincerity. Now that Mr. Bai can talk so frankly with Wanwan and offer such favorable terms, it's clear you're very sincere. Naturally, Wanwan would agree!"

Shang Wanwan's words were beautifully said.

However, Bai Xiaosheng still felt the reasons were insufficient.

It even felt rather frivolous...

"If that's the case, may I know when we can sign the contract?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

No matter what the real situation was, actually signing a contract made it solid.

"Tomorrow, I suppose. I still have some things to discuss with my company," Shang Wanwan said with a smile.

The two chatted casually a little more, not even taking the time it takes to drink a cup of tea.

Afterward, they went their separate ways.

Back in her room, Shang Wanwan's assistant, Xiao Mai, was very curious, "Shang, you agreed to him so quickly? He only added ten percent to the price and agreed to only part of the conditions, which is far from what we expected."

Xiao Mai was not aware of the cooperation that Chen Changqing and Shang Wanwan had achieved, and Shang Wanwan had not had the time to mention it.

It wasn't that she didn't trust Xiao Mai, but that there hadn't been time.

"Everything, let's talk in detail when we get back!" Shang Wanwan waved her hand and spoke in a hushed voice.

Then, she took out her mobile phone and sent a message to Chen Changqing:

Everything went smoothly!

Chen Changqing replied with an OK emoji.

Our cooperation has gone smoothly. Poor Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, he has no idea that he is about to be played for a fool!

Shang Wanwan smirked silently.

Although she had a good impression of Bai Xiaosheng, who would've thought Bai Xiaosheng, with no background, had offended someone like Chen Changqing.

That's Chen Jiuzheng's nephew!

Shang Wanwan reflected.

Vaguely, she felt that there might be even bigger figures behind Chen Changqing...

This time, even if I completely offend that Mr. Bai, I won't lose anything. Instead, I could earn significant favors!

I've hit the jackpot!

Shang Wanwan couldn't help but curl up the corners of her mouth in self-satisfaction.

Meanwhile.

Bai Xiaosheng left the Zhongjing Wanhe Building and rushed back to his company.

On the way, he scratched his face in puzzlement, mumbling to himself.

"This has gone too smoothly; there must be something fishy. But now, I can't go back and directly ask that Shang Wanwan what kind of game she is playing..."

"Had I known, I would have had the Micro Expression Analysis System on. I was careless! This is a wake-up call; I must be cautious with beautiful women and treat them with the utmost caution..."

"Let it be, first let Mr. Song and the others get ready. No matter what happens, we will know by tomorrow. If there are any issues, I'll deal with them as they come..."

After muttering to himself, Bai Xiaosheng didn't forget to mention Chen Changqing as well.

"I wonder if Chen has talked with Shang Wanwan, what kind of offer he made..."

Back at the company, Bai Xiaosheng went straight to Song Changkong to report the situation, and Song Changkong was thrilled.

Not only was the deal successful, but it only took a third of the planned time.

For that, Song Changkong gave Bai Xiaosheng high praise.

However, amidst his joy, Song Changkong felt a strong sense of regret.

If Bai Xiaosheng could handle Shang Wanwan so easily, then what was left of his rivalry with Chen Changqing?

After sending Bai Xiaosheng away, Song Changkong thought for a moment and then made a direct call to Chen Changqing.

"Mr. Chen, why are you acting so late? Mr. Bai has already settled everything here, and the formal signing is tomorrow. Look, he is managing two departments and also in charge of a major project. You're just in charge of one department... It's really a waste of someone of your caliber as a deputy general. Why don't you stop managing the department and focus solely on researching the future direction of the company's development, compiling the corporate culture? This is an important task."

On the phone, Song Changkong spoke earnestly, applying ointment to Chen Changqing's eyes while persuading him to give up real power.

Song Changkong was an old fox and knew Chen Changqing cared about his image; he wouldn't ask for real power after repeatedly losing face.

Whether it was to stir up trouble between Bai and Chen or to take back one department, Song Changkong was more than happy.

"Mr. Song, you mean Mr. Bai has settled it? That still needs an official contract to count. Until the end, nobody knows the result," said Chen Changqing on the phone, his voice steady. Facing Song Changkong's proposed job shift, he brushed it off casually, "Changqing needs to start with one department to better understand our company's culture, in order to offer suggestions for the future development!"

Song Changkong chatted idly for a bit longer, then hung up the phone and couldn't help but frown and curse, "One after another, they're all so slippery and tough to deal with!"

Elsewhere.

Bai Xiaosheng returned to the New Media Department.

A day passed without incident.

The next day, Song Changkong specially arranged for several people from Film and Television Department and Administrative Department to form a signing team to go to Zhongjing Wanhe Building with Bai Xiaosheng to sign the contract.

Somehow, the news had been leaked.

The whole company was paying close attention, after all, it was the formal signing of a contract with the big star Shang Wanwan.

After the signing team had been gone for a few hours, when they finally returned, none of their faces looked good, including Bai Xiaosheng's.

It didn't take long for the employee layer to explode—

The contract was not agreed upon!

The signing team had waited for more than two hours, only to receive an apology from Shang Wanwan at the end.

It was said that after communicating with her own company, the contract was not approved.

Mr. Bai had made such a big fuss, only to be left with a huge embarrassment.

Suddenly, he became the laughingstock!

"What's going on with Mr. Bai? Didn't he say everything was settled?"

When the news arrived, Chen Changqing was reporting the monthly plan to Song Changkong. Learning of the failure, Song Changkong was furious.

Such a matter, once failed, put them in a passive position!

"Mr. Bai was too eager to take control of the Film and Television Department, a mistake was inevitable," Chen Changqing said with a smile.

Song Changkong remained silent, his expression extremely displeased.

Chen Changqing smiled subtly.

Back in the New Media Department, Bai Xiaosheng received a call from Shang Wanwan.

"I'm so sorry, Mr. Bai, you see, there's been a bit of a situation on my end, let me handle it. Let's talk about the partnership again tomorrow!"

On the phone, Shang Wanwan's words were heartfelt.

"Alright," Bai Xiaosheng replied calmly.

But his brows were deeply furrowed.

On the other end of the phone, after hanging up, Shang Wanwan laughed cunningly like a fox.

Chapter 304: Second Confrontation!_1

The next day, in the morning.

In the Zhongjing Wanhe Building, the coffee shop on the tenth floor was still the old spot.

Bai Xiaosheng sat there calmly, sipping his coffee, waiting for Shang Wanwan to appear.

This time, he was dressed very formally, exuding a handsome and authoritative air.

"Mr. Bai, sorry to have kept you waiting," Shang Wanwan finally arrived.

She still wore her large toad sunglasses, her long hair black as a waterfall, dressed in a sexy and fashionable manner, sitting down across from Bai Xiaosheng.

Her assistant Xiao Mai took a seat at an outer table, adjusting her chair, using its broad back to shield Shang Wanwan and also to prevent people from approaching.

"Miss Shang's company seems to be dissatisfied with the cooperation we discussed last time," Bai Xiaosheng observed Shang Wanwan, smiling calmly, "No matter, we can talk it over again today, until Miss Shang is satisfied."

Shang Wanwan smiled.

"Actually, I personally agree, but as you know, I'm not really in control... I'm just a so-called star who actually can't decide anything on her own."

Shang Wanwan seemed somewhat apologetic as she shrugged, "My agent is on the way, I can only discuss with you first, she will arrive at the latest the day after tomorrow. We've talked over the phone, she's asking for too high a price, I'm embarrassed to say..."

Bai Xiaosheng watched her, smiling without a word.

"Initiating the third auxiliary system, the Micro Expression Analysis System starting..."

"Facial Action Coding System code initiating, analyzing..."

"Body Language System code initiating, analyzing..."

Beneath Bai Xiaosheng's smile, Red Lotus had already assessed the results.

"Pupils contracted by seven percent, the angle of the corners of the mouth raised by eight to twelve percent, shoulder trembling changed by fifteen percent... Judgment result: Deception!"

"Oh, is that so?" Bai Xiaosheng, fully aware she was lying, nevertheless appeared very convinced, nodding, "No worries, we can continue our discussion, I won't make it difficult for Miss Shang."

"Good," Shang Wanwan said with a smile.

Following that, Bai Xiaosheng directly increased the discount to twenty percent, agreeing to all the corresponding conditions except for a few extremely harsh ones!

To be honest, these terms were very generous.

Bai Xiaosheng had also asked Shang Wanwan about the so-called harsh terms her agent demanded.

Shang Wanwan smiled away the question, vaguely bypassing it, seemingly unwilling to mention a bottom line. She had Bai Xiaosheng make an offer, only saying her agent would arrive soon.

Red Lotus, system judgment: Deception!

After Bai Xiaosheng's new round of terms, Shang Wanwan once again happily agreed to sign the contract.

"I think this time, my agent will agree too, she'll sign it when she arrives the day after tomorrow. Mr. Bai, you can speak to Mr. Song first, have the contract amended. This time, I don't see any problems," Shang Wanwan said with a smile.

She was lying again.

Aside from her pleasant demeanor, this woman hadn't uttered a single truth when it came to crucial matters!

And yet, she possessed a beauty that made it difficult for a man to doubt her.

This time, Bai Xiaosheng wasn't in a hurry to leave. Suddenly, he said with a smile to Shang Wanwan, "I wonder if Mr. Chen has talked to Miss Shang these past two days."

Caught off guard by the sudden question, Shang Wanwan was momentarily stunned before quickly regaining her composure.

"We did talk, and I know about the agreement between you two. Don't worry, Wanwan is not one to be evasive. Since Mr. Bai approached me first, I should prioritize working with you," Shang Wanwan said with a smile.

Her every frown and smile could soothe a man's heart.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded and smiled.

Truly a professional actress, this acting... Without the Micro Expression Analysis System, I might have actually believed her.

"Our Mr. Chen is generous, he must have made a substantial offer, right?" Bai Xiaosheng spoke leisurely, asking, "And with Mr. Chen's impressive background, providing Miss Shang with conditions beyond the cooperation is also possible."

Bai Xiaosheng casually expressed his suspicions.

Either Mr. Chen offered too high, prompting Shang Wanwan to feel out both sides! However, given Mr. Chen's nature, once he had Shang Wanwan's agreement, would he not report to Mr. Song? That's not like him!

There might be another possibility!

It could be that Chen had already won over Shang Wanwan!

They were banding together to play him!

"I... I'm afraid I can't say," Shang Wanwan said with a smile.

Her beautiful eyes inadvertently glanced into Bai Xiaosheng's eyes.

This young vice president had a profound gaze that shone with an insight that seemed to pierce through everything.

"Not good, he's testing me!" Shang Wanwan thought with a start.

"Mr. Bai, I really shouldn't meddle in the affairs between you and Mr. Chen."

As she spoke, Shang Wanwan put on her oversized toad sunglasses, covering most of her face.

At that moment, Bai Xiaosheng's Micro Expression Analysis System issued a warning, "Unable to precisely determine facial expressions, accuracy of judgment results decreased by fifty percent!"

What a formidable woman!

Bai Xiaosheng mused.

She might not be aware of his system's assistance, but understood that her expressions could reveal information. On high alert, she reacted quickly.

This opponent was no simple character!

"Red Lotus, disable system assistance," Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

While the system assistance was indeed very useful, during this round of negotiations with Shang Wanwan, Bai Xiaosheng realized the wondrous nature of human intuition—sometimes, following one's gut was crucial!

Honing such instincts was far more important than relying on the system!

Bai Xiaosheng decided to negotiate with Shang Wanwan based on his intuition.

"Miss Wanwan, do you have anything to add to the conditions we discussed just now?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with a smile.

He was giving her a chance to raise her stakes.

Shang Wanwan noticed that the profound and oppressive look in his eyes had quietly vanished, and she couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief, smiling, "Naturally, I would hope for as many conditions as possible, but being too greedy won't allow the cooperation to proceed. Isn't that right, Mr. Bai?"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and nodded his head.

Suddenly he looked intently at Shang Wanwan and said, "If I were to raise the price by forty percent and agree to all the conditions, could Miss Shang Wanwan sign the contract with me immediately?"

Bai Xiaosheng's offer was made abruptly with an astonishing leap, even exceeding the bottom line given by Song Changkong.

Raising the price was meant to offset the conditions, but Bai Xiaosheng's increase and complete acceptance of the terms were simply crazy!

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't see Shang Wanwan's expression, but he distinctly felt her flinch.

"Forty percent!" Shang Wanwan exclaimed in disbelief, then cleared her throat and said in a calm, surprised voice, "Mr. Bai, you're not joking, are you? If that's the case, once my agent arrives the day after tomorrow, we can sign the contract!"

Bai Xiaosheng suddenly started laughing, his laughter cheerful.

Shang Wanwan was taken aback.

"Miss Shang, with a gentle and virtuous heart, swiftly sensed that I was joking. Impressive, very impressive!" Bai Xiaosheng stood up and spoke amiably, "Since your agent will make the decisions, we can discuss specifics in two days. My offer remains at the twenty percent level."

The jump to forty percent, even going beyond the bottom line that Chen Changqing could offer, Shang Wanwan's first reaction was shock, not pleasure.

She knew what the bottom line was!

Bai Xiaosheng concluded.

Moreover, even such an offer couldn't make her sign immediately; she still wanted to wait for her so-called agent.

She had no real intention of signing with me!

Underneath Bai Xiaosheng's smile, his expression turned slightly cold.

No need to discuss further!

Chapter 305 Are You Trying to Scheme Against Me?_1

"Mr. Bai, what is this supposed to mean? Are you playing games with me?" Shang Wanwan stood up too, her tone very cold, seemingly displeased.

Behind her sunglasses, her beautiful eyes looked at Bai Xiaosheng's somewhat cool gaze, a flicker of unease apparent.

This man, with his mix of truth and deception, caused her heart to flutter uncontrollably.

"Just a little joke, Miss Shang won't mind, will she?" Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "By the way, I need to head back to the company to announce this good news to Mr. Song, so please excuse me."

With a warm smile, Bai Xiaosheng stood up, walked a few steps, then suddenly stopped and slightly turned his head to ask, "Miss Shang, do you ever have regrets about the things you do? What are you like when you have regrets?"

"Huh?"

Shang Wanwan was taken aback, not understanding the meaning behind Bai Xiaosheng's sudden inquiry.

"It's nothing, I was just curious," Bai Xiaosheng let out a light laugh as he briskly walked away.

"What a weirdo!" Shang Wanwan's assistant Xiao Mai couldn't help but mutter under her breath.

Shang Wanwan watched Bai Xiaosheng leave, his silhouette disappearing from her sight.

Behind her sunglasses, her gaze held a trace of shock.

It was just a moment ago that Bai Xiaosheng's casual remark sent a shiver through her.

Since becoming famous, it had been a long time since she had felt this way.

"This Bai Xiaosheng..." Shang Wanwan felt a bit unnerved and called to her assistant, "Xiao Mai, let's go!"

She said they should go, but Shang Wanwan seemed to have thought of something and didn't move. Instead, she took out her phone, opened WeChat, and found Chen Changqing.

After thinking for a moment, she typed a few words, read them carefully, and then, hesitatingly, chose not to send them. She deleted them one by one.

"Shang, are you okay? Is something wrong?" Xiao Mai asked with concern.

She had never seen Shang Wanwan in such a conflicted state before.

"It's nothing, let's go," Shang Wanwan put away her phone and this time she actually moved to leave.

Xiao Mai hastily followed behind.

...

Bai Xiaosheng returned to Zhongjing Media and went straight to Song Changkong's office.

After seeing Song Changkong, Bai Xiaosheng recounted the agreement he had reached with Shang Wanwan.

Increase the price by twenty percent and, apart from the most demanding of her requests, agree to all her conditions.

Song Changkong silently nodded.

If the deal could be signed on these terms, he would accept it.

"Mr. Bai, there shouldn't be a problem this time, right?" Song Changkong couldn't help but say.

The mess up last time had really bad repercussions!

Bai Xiaosheng smiled but didn't respond. Instead, he asked, "Mr. Song, has Mr. Chen reported to you yet?"

This question caught Song Changkong off guard.

Chen Changqing had indeed visited him in the past couple of days to report, but it was about the game department's plan for the following month and a request for departmental funding.

Not one word about Shang Wanwan was mentioned by Chen Changqing!

Chen Changqing wasn't one to give up easily! How come there was no reaction from him this time?!"

Song Changkong frowned, realizing he had neglected this detail.

Chen Changqing was competitive. After losing to Bai Xiaosheng once, his mood turned gloomy for several days, even in front of him.

This time, Chen Changqing should have been very proactive. Why was there complete silence instead?!

Seeing Song Changkong's expression, Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

"Why not call Mr. Chen over and ask him? Miss Shang told me that Mr. Chen had spoken to her, so I think he should have gained something on his end," Bai Xiaosheng suggested.

Song Changkong nodded and immediately called Chen Changqing.

Bai Xiaosheng watched quietly; he had a precise grasp of the personalities of both Chen Changqing and Song Changkong.

Chen Changqing was not reporting the situation, and Song Changkong had no clue. Surely, it was bothering him inside."

"Mr. Chen, could you come over now? Yes, to my office. I have something to discuss with you and Mr. Bai."

Song Changkong hung up the phone.

Less than ten minutes passed, and his office door was knocked on.

After five rings, Chen Changqing pushed the door open.

"Mr. Song, Mr. Bai," Chen Changqing entered and greeted each of them.

However, when Chen Changqing spoke to Song Changkong, his voice was very calm, but his tone was a bit heavier when addressing Bai Xiaosheng.

"Come, take a seat," Song Changkong said with a smile, beckoning him over.

He and Bai Xiaosheng were now sitting in the sofa area, opposite each other.

Chen Changqing walked over and sat down in an independent armchair on the other side.

The seating arrangement of the three men resembled a standoff between three kingdoms.

"Just now, Mr. Bai met with Shang Wanwan, and the negotiation is almost finished. The contract will be signed the day after tomorrow," Song Changkong said with a smile, carefully observing Chen Changqing's expression.

"Oh, Mr. Bai is quite efficient. This is one aspect where you outshine me. I've only met Miss Wanwan once, and we haven't agreed on anything," Chen Changqing said calmly with a smile.

Lies!

Almost simultaneously, in their hearts, Bai Xiaosheng and Song Changkong dismissed his statement.

"We haven't agreed on anything, and this is your reaction? Since when did you become so nonchalant?"

Both Bai Xiaosheng and Song Changkong, one a young fox, the other an old fox, possessed exceptional skills in observing words and expressions as if seeing through fire.

Chen Changqing was no less intelligent, but he had hardly ever played such subtle games before. And given his background and status, there was no need.

Thus, it was inevitable that he was neglectful.

...

What is Chen Changqing up to? There was a hint of doubt in Song Changkong's eyes.

"Don't be so modest, Mr. Chen. You haven't agreed on anything..." Bai Xiaosheng said with a laugh, "but I've heard that you offered her, Miss Wanwan, a base price!"

A single sentence.

Song Changkong's face changed drastically.

Chen Changqing offered a base price?

His first thought was: No wonder Bai Xiaosheng failed at the last contract signing!

Due to his suspicion of Chen Changqing's abnormal behavior, Song Changkong almost instinctively believed this claim, and his complexion immediately turned ugly.

Usually, he would allow the usual conflicts and fights to play out as long as they didn't make a huge mess at Zhongjing Media that he couldn't ignore.

But a betrayal of this nature, allowing a lowball agreement to destroy a nearly completed deal, was intolerable!

When Chen Changqing saw Song Changkong's complexion, his expression changed slightly. He didn't expect Bai Xiaosheng to suddenly become aggressive, nor did he anticipate that Song Changkong would instantly believe it without hesitation!

"Did Shang Wanwan tell you this? This woman is cunning and manipulative, seeking to maximize her benefits between you and me, figuring out our bottom line is not surprising. But you believed her just like that?" Chen Changqing said, "Mr. Bai, you're being too hasty!"

Chen Changqing explained on the spot.

An explanation is just a cover-up!

In Song Changkong's eyes, the suspicion deepened.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled silently.

He had given Chen Changqing an eye-opener.

It was also an indirect warning. If Chen Changqing knew what was good for him, he would back off.

Otherwise...

Bai Xiaosheng looked at Chen Changqing and suddenly felt certain that he would not back down!

After all, this time, Chen Changqing and Shang Wanwan had repeatedly toyed with him, ready to undermine his reputation and win control over the film department.

It could also give Song Changkong an excuse to take over the new media department!

A single arrow hitting multiple targets, could Chen Changqing really pull back at the brink?

Bai Xiaosheng scratched his face.

He didn't believe it!

"Anyway, I've given you the chance! If I manage to sign the contract smoothly the day after tomorrow, then let it be. Otherwise..."

Bai Xiaosheng smiled as he looked at Chen Changqing.

I will make sure your downfall is embarrassing!

You think you can outsmart me?

Chapter 306

"Mr. Chen, I have to criticize you for this matter," he said. "How could you reveal your bottom line to the other party from the get-go?! We aim to secure the collaboration, but we also need to minimize our

investment! You shouldn't disregard the company's interests just because you're competing with Mr. Bai!"

While criticizing Chen Changqing, Song Changkong praised Bai Xiaosheng, "Look at Mr. Bai—he has gone for negotiations twice, and each time he has made progress. Although the final outcome is still undecided, he's striving to secure benefits for the company!"

"Yes, I should learn from Mr. Bai," Changqing responded with a good attitude, but his voice was cold and insincere.

Song Changkong appeared indifferent.

He had his own calculations; he wanted to knock Changqing down a peg while also stirring discord between the two.

Song Changkong continued to dron on, and Changqing listened as if taking notes, while Bai Xiaosheng casually tossed in a word of advice here and there.

All three of them spoke with insincerity.

"All right, you both can leave now. This matter is essentially settled, and we'll have the result the day after tomorrow. The sooner we sign the contract, the more at ease the company and I will be."

Song Changkong issued an order to leave.

Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changqing bid Song Changkong farewell, then left the general manager's office together.

Afterward, they walked toward the elevator in silence.

Halfway there, Bai Xiaosheng suddenly asked Chen Changqing, "Mr. Chen, which is more important, the outcome of our bet or the company's interests?"

Changqing looked at him with a smile that wasn't quite a smile.

"The company's interests are more important," Changqing told Bai Xiaosheng with certainty.

Just as Bai Xiaosheng was about to nod, Changqing added, "But the outcome between us is also very important!"

With that, Chen Changqing strode away.

Watching his departing figure, Bai Xiaosheng stroked his chin.

"Chen, I was asking you that question in all seriousness!"

As Chen Changqing's figure disappeared into the elevator, Bai Xiaosheng still stood there, scratching his face, mumbling to himself in an almost inaudible voice with a hint of conflict.

"The day after tomorrow everything will be clear, and I'll have plenty of ways to deal with you all, but there will be losses, and those losses will ultimately affect the company's interests. Whose company is it anyway? It's still the group's, and who does the group belong to? It's mine, after all! If I undermine my own interests, I'm the one who feels the pain the most."

Bai Xiaosheng sighed with feeling.

"Dealing with one man is simple, but ensuring the company doesn't suffer is difficult! If it really comes to it, should I also ask someone for help? Though it might hurt my pride as a man to do so..."

Muttering to himself, Bai Xiaosheng walked toward the elevator.

"Being a future president involves so many considerations and concerns, it's truly exhausting!"

...

Changqing hurried back to his department, entered his office, closed the door, and made a call to Shang Wanwan, relating everything Bai Xiaosheng had said that day.

He wasn't blaming Shang Wanwan; after all, it was hard to determine whether Bai Xiaosheng was bluffing or being truthful.

"This guy is really tricky; he notices at once if anything is slightly amiss. But even if he suspects something, it won't matter; he's doomed to take a fall this time!" Changqing said with a cold laugh on the phone.

On the other end of the line, Shang Wanwan furrowed her brow slightly, more reserved than Changqing's optimism, hesitating to speak.

But perhaps I'm overthinking it, she thought. After all, what could possibly happen for offending a mere common vice president!

Shang Wanwan shook her head.

Considering Bai Xiaosheng had no connections or background, she felt she might be making a mountain out of a molehill.

With that thought, Shang Wanwan felt somewhat relieved.

Meanwhile, as Changqing and Shang Wanwan communicated, Bai Xiaosheng had returned to his department. Leaning back in his comfortable office chair, he fiddled with his phone while chatting with someone on WeChat.

...

In the next two days, Bai Xiaosheng didn't seek out Shang Wanwan again. Instead, he concentrated on handling the affairs of the New Media Department.

What comforted him was that the department was now on the right track, developing rapidly and making effective progress in every aspect.

Even on the publicly announced national media influence rankings, their positions were climbing steadily.

Bai Xiaosheng was satisfied with this.

In a flash, the day of the appointment arrived.

Shang Wanwan's side really sent a few people over, and Zhongjing Media was responsible for receiving them.

This news was obtained by Lin Weiwei, who had worked in the reception office and was well-informed.

"It seems, perhaps this time there is hope," Bai Xiaosheng said with a slight smile upon learning the news.

To sign was definite.

After all, Shang Wanwan, a big star, was not someone idle. Spending several days at Zhongjing Media without cause wouldn't be just for wining and dining—she came with the intention to collaborate.

However, whether the signing would go smoothly this time was still unknown.

Lin Weiwei and Shang Wanwan's assistant Xiao Mai arranged the signing time and venue.

When the time came.

Bai Xiaosheng, along with Lin Weiwei and the staff, hurried over.

The contract had already been prepared; all that was needed was for the other side to check and sign it, which wouldn't take much time.

This time, Bai Xiaosheng and his group were met with Xiao Mai and that arrogantly poised female agent.

Shang Wanwan, on the other hand, did not appear!

The staff of Zhongjing Media glanced at each other, stealthily looking at Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng's expression remained calm as he looked at Xiao Mai.

He watched her and the agent leisurely review the contract, murmuring and discussing the terms in low voices.

"When will Miss Shang arrive?" asked Bai Xiaosheng.

Xiao Mai and the agent, as if they hadn't heard, continued their low-voiced discussion.

Bai Xiaosheng, a deputy general manager of Tang, was surprisingly being ignored so blatantly.

Lin Weiwei had been feeling dissatisfied for a while, and immediately her eyebrows shot up, a trace of frost appearing on her face.

She couldn't tolerate such disrespect toward Bai Xiaosheng!

Just as Lin Weiwei was about to lash out, Bai Xiaosheng put out his hand to stop her.

"Assistant Mai, may I ask when Miss Shang will arrive!" Bai Xiaosheng raised his voice, his words clear.

"Oh, Mr. Bai is speaking to me?" Xiao Mai seemed to have only just heard him, grinning at Bai Xiaosheng, "Shang initially intended to come, but the company has to hold a video conference and she had to attend to that first. I'm really sorry!"

Xiao Mai's languid, casual demeanor infuriated Lin Weiwei, and she felt an even greater aversion to Shang Wanwan.

In Lin Weiwei's heart, Bai Xiaosheng was far more important than any star. Seeing this, she could no longer hold back, "Then when can Miss Shang come over!"

"Hmph, when Miss Shang will come over, I have no idea!" Xiao Mai looked at Lin Weiwei coldly, her tone assertive, "Miss Shang isn't someone you, a minor employee, can question!"

Xiao Mai's contemptuous attitude left Lin Weiwei trembling with anger, unable to speak.

In terms of her status within Zhongjing Media, Lin Weiwei indeed had little influence; right now, subjected to public humiliation, she had no choice but to bear it.

Lin Weiwei bit her lower lip, her eyes brimming with humiliation.

The people from Zhongjing Media around them stayed silent, their looks filled with sympathy.

There was nothing they could do.

After all, this was Shang Wanwan's assistant!

"Assistant Mai." Bai Xiaosheng spoke emotionlessly, his voice unhurried, "I have always thought that someone who can stand by Miss Shang's side must at least be a woman who understands etiquette. It seems, I was wrong!"

Bai Xiaosheng stood up, his expression icy as he pointed at Lin Weiwei, "She is not fit to talk about Shang Wanwan, and you, are not fit to talk to me. We're not signing this deal. Let's go!"

Chapter 307 Waiting for Tomorrow_1

Bai Xiaosheng finished speaking and, without even glancing at Assistant Xiao Mai and the agent, swept out of the room.

Lin Weiwei, listening to Bai Xiaosheng's words, appeared somewhat excited. She coldly shot a glance at Xiao Mai, grabbed her things with a flick of her hand.

"Let's go!"

The staff of Zhongjing Media stood up in unison and filed out. Even the employees trailing behind didn't forget to snatch the contract from in front of Xiao Mai and her companion, stuffing it into a folder to take with them.

If they weren't signing it, there was no point in looking at it anymore.

Assistant Xiao Mai and the agent watched in a mixture of shock and anger as the others left triumphantly, their expressions flickering uncertainly.

After a long moment, Xiao Mai managed to squeeze a few words out through clenched teeth, "Has this vice president gone mad!"

To think he would tear up relations with them over a mere assistant, to the point of not even signing the contract now.

This was simply unbelievable!

Long had it been said that Mr. Bai of Zhongjing Media was a capricious and violent character; indeed, seeing is believing!

Although Xiao Mai was following Shang Wanwan's instructions to deliberately pick fights and create friction, there was an insinuating tone to her earlier provocations. But she hadn't expected Vice President Bai Xiaosheng, in a fit of rage, to openly break off relations on the spot!

How could such a person become a vice president!

"Forget it, in any case, Shang just wanted us to sabotage the signing, and we have accomplished that," the agent whispered to Xiao Mai.

"Failing to sign the contract twice, with everyone watching, Mr. Bai has become a laughingstock. Let's go back. As for the rest, Shang will deal with it. It's not our concern!"

The agent's words made Xiao Mai nod incessantly, a cold smile spreading across her face.

The fact that they hadn't succeeded in signing the contract twice must be well-known throughout Zhongjing Media by now.

Even though both parties were keen to sign, to cause such a commotion every time and still fail to finalize a contract.

Bai Xiaosheng's competence would inevitably be questioned; even if it didn't completely ruin his reputation, he was bound to become an object of ridicule.

And their Mr. Song, would surely be furious.

"And this isn't over yet. Tomorrow, we have another big show prepared for you!" thought Xiao Mai with unrestrained glee.

Just now, this Mr. Bai had humiliated her so shamefully, she was going to enjoy a good laugh tomorrow!

...

Bai Xiaosheng, leading Lin Weiwei and the others, made their way back.

Midway, Bai Xiaosheng instructed the staff to head back first.

"Mr. Bai, how should we respond to Mr. Song?" asked the head person tentatively.

Should we find an excuse...

Actually, before Shang Wanwan's arrival, when Assistant Mai was making sarcastic remarks, these people merely treated it as a spectacle. But, when Xiao Mai insulted Lin Weiwei—one of their own—the staff of Zhongjing Media couldn't help but share a sense of communal indignation and anger.

When Bai Xiaosheng stood up to reject the signing, they were shocked yet pleased.

They were also aware of the bet between the two vice presidents.

In such a scenario, for Bai Xiaosheng to reject the contract because an assistant had been insulted, and to not care about the outcome of the wager, was an act of dominance that inspired admiration and awe!

"Answer truthfully," said Bai Xiaosheng very calmly, uttering these four words.

"Understood!" The leader did not say more, nodding respectfully before signaling for his people to leave.

Bai Xiaosheng led Lin Weiwei back to the New Media Department.

"Mr. Bai, it's all because of me..."

When there were fewer people around on the way, Lin Weiwei felt uneasy and timidly tried to apologize.

"Silly girl, don't overthink it, it doesn't have much to do with you!" Bai Xiaosheng gave Lin Weiwei a radiant smile.

Then, Bai Xiaosheng's smile grew cold, "Haven't you realized yet? All this talk about an emergency meeting, Shang Wanwan had no intention of signing this time. It wasn't because of you; her assistant and agent would have found a hundred other excuses to refuse to sign."

Bai Xiaosheng sneered, this time he was prepared. He just wanted to see, to confirm, whether Shang Wanwan and Chen Changqing knew when to back off!

If that's the case, then let's tear off the masks!

...

Back in the office, Bai Xiaosheng was drinking the bitter tea brewed by Lin Weiwei herself.

At the moment, Lin Weiwei felt touched that Bai Xiaosheng had stood up for her, yet she worried that he might be infuriated by these events.

In the office, she was anxious and tentative, like a little maid, wishing she could massage his legs and shoulders to attend to him.

Seeing her so flustered, Bai Xiaosheng had no choice but to send her to the editing team to help out. When people get busy, they stop having idle thoughts.

After sending Lin Weiwei away, Bai Xiaosheng hadn't finished his cup of tea when his mobile phone rang.

Bai Xiaosheng picked it up to see, the caller was Shang Wanwan.

Bai Xiaosheng answered the call.

"Is that Mr. Bai? It's Wanwan."

On the other end of the line, Shang Wanwan's voice was full of apology, "Xiao Mai has already told me about the situation. I scolded her severely. I'm very sorry for today's issue. Tomorrow, I have to leave Zhongjing early. Before I go, I want to sign the contract. This time, I'll have Mr. Song witness the signing, and we'll go by the last terms you proposed."

Once again, Shang Wanwan was all courtesy, gently agreeing to sign the contract.

This was already the third time.

"Alright," Bai Xiaosheng's voice was flat, without joy or sorrow, devoid of any emotion.

As if the failure of the previous two attempts to sign the contract didn't concern him in the slightest.

In the phone call, Shang Wanwan chatted with him for a bit longer, then hung up.

Bai Xiaosheng placed his mobile phone on the desk, got up to refill his cup with lukewarm water, and frowned as he sipped slowly.

It took a full five minutes to finish the cup of water. Bai Xiaosheng put down his teacup, picked up his phone, and opened WeChat.

...

Meanwhile.

After hanging up the call, Shang Wanwan gave Chen Changqing in front of her a charming smile.

"Mr. Chen, I have done as you instructed. By tomorrow, I will have thoroughly offended Mr. Bai! After signing the contract, I need to 'lay low' until filming starts before coming back. By then, I believe you will have firmly taken control of the film and television department. When the time comes, you must protect me well," Shang Wanwan said to Chen Changqing.

Chen Changqing laughed heartily upon hearing this, "Miss Wanwan, you are being too serious. I'm not instructing you, and I wouldn't dare to. We are collaborating. Besides, to make you offend someone, I've made quite many concessions. If anyone gives you a hard time, I'll step in for you!"

Chen Changqing spoke with a boisterous air.

He spoke the truth; to get Shang Wanwan to cooperate, he indeed had made many concessions.

Tomorrow, not only would Shang Wanwan have to sign a contract with Zhongjing Media, but she would also need to sign another contract arranged by Chen Jiuzheng.

Only after both contracts were signed would these matters be truly concluded.

Afterward, Shang Wanwan also had to return to her media company to handle related matters.

With a smile on her face, Shang Wanwan stood up to pour two glasses of red wine, handing one to Chen Changqing, "It's been a pleasure to collaborate with Mr. Chen this time. I hope we can continue to work together in the future."

Chen Changqing took the glass with a smile, gently swirling it and admiring the ruby-red liquid before raising it for a toast with Shang Wanwan.

"Cheers, to a pleasant collaboration!" Chen Changqing said with a smile, his gaze distant.

Thinking of what Bai Xiaosheng's expression would be like tomorrow, he was filled with anticipation!

Chapter 308: Humiliation_1

Zhongjing Media was buzzing with news of Bai Xiaosheng's second failed attempt to organize a signing—all for naught.

Employees from various departments found it inconceivable.

Wasn't such a deal usually settled in advance? What could be so difficult that it would end in successive failures?

A vice president who couldn't handle such matters, always full of zeal but ending up embarrassingly fruitless every time!

Those most enthusiastic about discussing the matter were from the gaming department.

"Mr. Bai sure is something, letting a cooked duck fly away. Worthy of being a vice president, he's really got skills!"

"I heard their original conditions were already quite low, but Mr. Bai insisted on pushing the price down further, which led to them parting ways without a deal!"

"The last time, I heard it wasn't even five minutes before he called the whole thing off just because someone made a couple of comments about his female assistant. Don't you think it's outrageous? What's going on between him and his assistant—are they..."

All sorts of messy discussions arose, some even twisting the truth, purposely painting a dark picture.

People felt an inexplicable excitement over these baseless yet sensational comments.

The speed at which these rumors spread was astonishing.

The staff from the New Media department were exceptionally angry, including Zhongjing Media's Video Division's Zhao Xiaoying and Gao Ya, who were infuriated. Every time they encountered such censure, they would argue with the gossips.

However, against the entire company's employees, they were far too few and thus at a disadvantage.

Moreover, the fact of two failed signings was irrefutable.

"Xiaosheng, listen to what they're saying about you!"

The next morning, Lin Weiwei stormed into Bai Xiaosheng's office, fuming as she parroted those words.

She really wished she could tear the mouths of those rumor-mongers to shreds.

Bai Xiaosheng listened with a peaceful smile on his face, sipping tea now and then as if enjoying a good joke.

"Aren't you angry?" Lin Weiwei asked, her cheeks flushed red like ripe apples.

"Why should I be angry?" Bai Xiaosheng looked at her with amusement. "Should I be so upset about what others say that I make myself sick? Who would be pleased by that, them or me?"

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't care less.

Being the subject of gossip only proved he had more potential to rise than Chen.

Bai Xiaosheng mused humorously.

"But still, shouldn't you think of a way to deal with it?"

Lin Weiwei was deflated by Bai Xiaosheng's attitude, muttering under her breath, "It's not good for your reputation to keep being talked about like this!"

Bai Xiaosheng simply smiled it off and changed the subject. "We have an appointment with Shang Wanwan at three o'clock this afternoon. Come with me. If there's no problem, have a look at the contract for any oversights."

Bai Xiaosheng deftly diverted the topic and gave Lin Weiwei a task to keep her from dwelling on the issue and getting worked up.

"That sounds good." Lin Weiwei nodded after a moment's thought and turned to leave. Then she paused, looking hesitantly at Bai Xiaosheng. "There won't be any mishaps this time, right?"

Bai Xiaosheng didn't answer immediately, leisurely taking a sip of his tea.

"Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me, but not a third time. If Shang Wanwan tries to play dirty again, I, Bai Xiaosheng, won't hold back."

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at Lin Weiwei with a smile.

In that moment, the familiar Bai Xiaosheng, with his familiar smile, inexplicably sent shivers down her spine.

His deep black eyes held a chilling glint.

"Good!" Lin Weiwei felt reassured with just one word, and she left.

Bai Xiaosheng played with his teacup, appearing deep in thought.

...

At three in the afternoon, Bai Xiaosheng took Lin Weiwei with him, clutching the contract.

That contract, having been scrutinized numerous times by various professionals, was flawless and error-free, waiting only for a signature.

Shang Wanwan's signature before departing would make it effective.

Coincidentally, this signing was set for the Zhongjing Media Tower's twelfth floor, in the third meeting room—a place that seemed predestined for Bai Xiaosheng.

When the time came, they proceeded there.

Bai Xiaosheng found that Shang Wanwan, her assistant, and the agent had already arrived, and there were only three of them.

"Miss Shang is quite early," said Bai Xiaosheng, slightly surprised but still smiling courteously as he greeted her.

Lin Weiwei, who stood behind him, wore a serious face and wasn't inclined to small talk, particularly in the presence of Shang Wanwan and that assistant, Xiao Mai; she really couldn't manage a smile.

That Xiao Mai, too, displayed no emotion.

"Mr. Bai, good morning. We've also just arrived," Shang Wanwan said, still smiling serenely, every word and laugh exuding elegance.

She always maintained this image that was both noble and friendly, which impressed Bai Xiaosheng.

"Mr. Song should also be here soon. Let's wait for a moment," said Bai Xiaosheng with a smile.

Shang Wanwan had said before that she had also invited Song Changkong.

"No need to wait," Shang Wanwan giggled, "I told you 3:15, but I told Mr. Song 3:30. When Mr. Song arrives and sees the contract settled, won't he be happy?"

Bai Xiaosheng nodded his head and sat opposite Shang Wanwan, with Lin Weiwei taking a seat next to him.

"Miss Shang is very straightforward this time. Alright, let's sign the contract now."

As Bai Xiaosheng said this, he stretched out his hand, and Lin Weiwei deftly pulled out the contract and handed it over, with Bai Xiaosheng then passing it to Shang Wanwan.

Shang Wanwan placed the contract on the table in front of her and extended two slender, fair fingers, flipping through the pages in an elegant and leisurely fashion—one glance here, another look there.

Lin Weiwei frowned at the sight.

This didn't seem like a serious review of the contract at all.

Bai Xiaosheng silently watched.

About five minutes passed.

The door to the third conference room was suddenly pushed open, and several people filed in, the leader letting out a light chuckle.

"Have you already started?"

Bai Xiaosheng looked over.

It was Chen Changqing, followed by Lin Beichen, Yu Qing, and Murong Yan.

"Mr. Chen, we're using this conference room," said Lin Weiwei, unable to restrain herself from reminding him, "Do you need something?"

Chen Changqing glanced at her and then looked towards Bai Xiaosheng, his smile concealing malice.

"We're here to sign a contract with Miss Shang!" Lin Beichen couldn't contain his excitement as he blurted out.

But we're the ones supposed to sign the contract!

Lin Weiwei almost blurted out.

Thud, a contract was tossed in front of her, treated like a piece of waste paper.

It startled Lin Weiwei.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Bai," Shang Wanwan apologized, her smile sweet, "Although I wanted to sign with you, the deal I discussed with Mr. Chen was the first to be finalized—and his terms were better than yours! So, I can't sign with you!"

Lin Weiwei was gaping in shock at Shang Wanwan's words.

Only now did she say this—until this moment, they had clearly been played!

Lin Weiwei trembled with anger.

Bai Xiaosheng's eyelids drooped, and his face was covered with a thin layer of frost.

"Mr. Bai, one should learn to accept defeat, especially when lacking connections and background. You've got to know your weight!" Chen laughed heartily.

Lin Beichen and the others behind him also laughed, their eyes filled with ridicule.

Lin Weiwei's eyes were bloodshot.

"To rely on others' help and speak so boldly—I've learned my lesson!" Bai Xiaosheng slowly stood up and glanced at Shang Wanwan, "Miss Shang Wanwan, please remember! Now that you refuse me, if you wish to sign later and beg me, I might not agree!"

"Weiwei, let's go!"

Bai Xiaosheng strode away.

If that's the case, then let the battle begin!

Chapter 309 Mr. Cui Calls_1

Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changqing brushed past each other, their faces expressionless.

Lin Weiwei felt incredibly ashamed and annoyed, she snatched up the contract and, with a look of sorrowful anger, glanced at Shang Wanwan and others before hurrying after Bai Xiaosheng. Passing by Chen Changqing and his group, she let out a heavy snort of contempt and strode away.

"Lin Weiwei, Mr. Chen is right here, what kind of attitude is that!" Lin Beichen rebuked.

Lin Weiwei ignored him completely.

"Rebellious, truly rebellious!" Lin Beichen said angrily.

"Forget it, forget it, why get upset over a little girl." Chen Changqing said with a beaming smile.

He was happy, incredibly so.

Hadn't he just seen how unpleasant Bai Xiaosheng's face looked? The uglier Bai Xiaosheng looked, the better he felt.

Asking for help? This was called having connections!

Did you, Bai Xiaosheng, have it?

Just a commoner, you have the ability, so find someone to help you!

Chen Changqing sat down in front of Shang Wanwan, still wearing a smile on his face, his steps light and casual.

"Mr. Chen, you must be pleased now," said Shang Wanwan with a hand over her mouth, chuckling.

"No, no, no!" Chen Changqing laughed as he shook his head, "What's the use of only seeing him like this? I want the whole company to know that he's lost again! That it was me, Chen Changqing, who signed the deal with Miss Shang!"

Having said that, Chen Changqing glanced at Lin Beichen, "Mr. Lin, don't just stand around here. You know what to do!"

"Understood, understood!" Lin Beichen said excitedly, his smile tinged with a trace of viciousness, as he turned and hurried away.

Before the workday was over, everyone in the company would know that Bai Xiaosheng had failed again, which made for a hot topic of discussion!

By comparison, Mr. Chen's successful signing would certainly amaze them!

Lin Beichen couldn't wait to spread the word.

Yu Qing and Murong Yan exchanged smiles, walked over, and stood behind Chen Changqing.

Chen Changqing turned and flashed a smile at Shang Wanwan, "My apologies for causing Miss Wanwan to see such a spectacle."

"Not at all," Shang Wanwan smiled.

She had seen too much of this kind of internal strife. Especially in their circles— even Shang Wanwan herself had eliminated quite a few competitors. If this made her "smile," what would be the difference between her and the pot calling the kettle black?

"We should just sign the contract quickly. When Mr. Song arrives, it'll be a surprise for him too," Shang Wanwan said with a smile.

"Good." Chen Changqing gestured, and Murong Yan passed a contract to Shang Wanwan.

...

Lin Weiwei's pace was harried as she tried desperately to catch up, not caring about the several centimeter high heels she was wearing.

She was worried that Bai Xiaosheng might have taken a blow to his confidence.

However, when she caught up to Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Weiwei was taken aback. She saw that Bai Xiaosheng was actually in the mood to play with his phone, looking completely at ease.

"Mr. Bai, are you okay?" Lin Weiwei asked cautiously.

It wasn't appropriate for her to call him Xiaosheng in public.

"Chen really gave me a lesson today," Bai Xiaosheng said to her with a smile.

"Ah?" Lin Weiwei was confused by his smile.

"It turns out asking for help isn't something to be ashamed of, it's called having strong connections," Bai Xiaosheng said with a laugh, shaking his phone and moving forward.

This is it, our Mr. Bai is in shock!

Lin Weiwei was panic-stricken.

...

In the third meeting room, Shang Wanwan's agent quickly glanced through the contract.

After a few minutes, she handed the contract to Shang Wanwan, nodding to indicate that there were no problems.

"Good," Miss Shang said with an elegant smile, pulling out a pen and moving to the signature line. Just as she had written a dot, and under the gaze of Chen Changqing and the others, the phone beside her started to buzz insistently.

Initially, Miss Shang didn't pay much attention to it, but her agent took a glance at it and his expression changed drastically, quickly pushing the phone towards her.

The typically composed and smiling gaze of Miss Shang suddenly paused, and she laid down the pen and hurriedly picked up the phone.

"I'm sorry, this is a call from the company, I need to take it first!" Miss Shang hastily excused herself, then rushed to a corner of the large conference room to answer the call.

Chen Changqing was mildly surprised.

"It's the boss of Xingchen Media," her agent said in a low voice, explaining to Chen Changqing.

Xingchen Media was a multinational company. Unlike Zhongjing Media, they operated only in the film and music industries, and were a formidable enterprise with strong capabilities. Compared to Zhongjing Media, they were the true behemoths.

Shang Wanwan was a contract artist under Xingchen's banner.

"The boss of Xingchen personally called Miss Shang? It seems that Miss Wanwan's status in the company is prestigious!" Chen Changqing exclaimed in amazement.

No wonder Song Changkong had personally accompanied her, and no wonder his uncle, too, wasn't hesitant about proceeding with mutually beneficial cooperation; they believed this marked the beginning of establishing relations with Xingchen.

Chen Changqing gained a deeper understanding of Miss Shang.

It seemed that after this, he would have to establish a closer connection with Shang Wanwan.

This was indeed a rare resource.

...

In a corner of the large conference room, Shang Wanwan's back was turned away from Chen Changqing and the rest.

Her face, usually calm and composed, was now filled with earnest fear.

To the outside world, she was an esteemed rising star in the film industry, a leading figure among young actors.

But she knew that within Xingchen Media, being ranked in the top ten domestically was already quite good, and that was just among the newcomers. Xingchen was an international company, with contracted artists overseas who were tens to hundreds of times more famous than she was.

This time, the boss himself had called her.

Amidst her astonishment, she couldn't help but feel a tremble and excitement.

"Mr. Cui, you personally called me, is there something wrong?" Miss Shang asked with utmost respect and in the gentlest voice she could muster, cautiously inquiring.

"Wanwan, are you in Zhongjing, at a company called Zhongjing Media?" Mr. Cui's voice was very calm on the other end, but it carried an immense authority.

With a single word, he could confer splendor and wealth, or strip them away entirely.

To someone like Mr. Cui, it was probably just that level of influence.

"Yes." Even through the phone, Shang Wanwan felt overwhelmed by trepidation.

What shocked her was that Mr. Cui actually paid attention to where she was.

"Did you refuse to sign with a certain Bai Xiaosheng, Mr. Bai?" The next sentence struck like a thunderbolt, exploding in her ears.

Miss Shang's beautiful eyes suddenly widened to their full extent.

How did Mr. Cui know about Bai Xiaosheng! And that she had just refused to sign with Bai Xiaosheng!

That was impossible!

In her view, there was a vast chasm between Mr. Cui and Bai Xiaosheng, one akin to an exalted god and the other like a nameless commoner. How could there possibly be any connection between them, it just couldn't be!

"Are you referring to Bai Xiaosheng?" Miss Shang asked, mustering all her strength.

Under normal circumstances, she would never dare to ask the boss to repeat himself, but in such a frightened state, she had forgotten her trepidation.

"That's right, Bai Xiaosheng, the deputy head of Zhongjing Media!" Mr. Cui's voice carried a hint of chill, "Do you know who he is? You actually refused him! He is a friend of our young miss! You Shang Wanwan, what right do you have to toy with him!"

As if struck by a huge thunderbolt, Miss Shang was left utterly shocked by his words, her voice trembling, "Which, which young miss?"

"Which other young miss could there be? Shang Wanwan, if you don't handle this matter well, I will ensure you never work in this industry again!"

Chapter 310: The Fear of Shang Wanwan_1

Miss Shang Wanwan felt a wave of dizziness, her incomparably pretty face twisted in fear.

Only now did she deeply understand the meaning of a phrase—she was chilled to the bone!

Her entire being seemed to have fallen into an ice cave, that bone-chilling cold emanating from the bottom of her heart, causing her to shiver and tremble.

In her eyes, Mr. Cui was already terrifying, but the moment he mentioned "Miss," his voice was filled with deep reverence.

It was a profound respect for power, for money, for status.

That miss, Shang Wanwan had heard of her, because of her singing talent, she wanted to be a pop star.

And then in the span of two years, she became a diva and a mega star.

An abundance of resources that Shang Wanwan couldn't even imagine—she was powerless to envy—piled at the feet of the Miss, for her to use as she pleased.

Domestically and internationally, top lyricists, composers, conductors, and vocalists. Whatever the Miss wanted to learn, there would be peak professionals to teach her, and if she wanted to perform, her supporting acts would be at the pinnacle of their careers.

Such energy, how terrifying it was.

Xingchen Media was merely one of the companies under the Miss's family banner, and Shang Wanwan, a frontline star, was just one of the newcomers Xingchen was currently promoting.

What hottest celebrity, what frontline star—if they wished, they could manufacture a dozen more at any minute!

And this terrifying Miss was actually Bai Xiaosheng's friend.

Shang Wanwan's long slender legs were trembling slightly.

She couldn't imagine it, and couldn't figure it out!

If someone else told her, she wouldn't believe it even if she were beaten to death.

Even if Mr. Cui told her personally, she still felt as if she were in a fog, so surreal.

"Shang Wanwan, I don't know what you've done! This person, you can't afford to offend! His contract, even if it's akin to a deed of sale, you have to sign it for me! Otherwise... hmph!"

Mr. Cui's voice was chilling to the utmost degree.

When the Miss called him and her voice was displeased, he was already terrified.

He naturally wouldn't be polite to Shang Wanwan, who had caused him trouble!

Shang Wanwan was almost in tears.

Unfortunately, her tearful expression was something Mr. Cui couldn't see. Even if he could, he wouldn't feel the slightest compassion.

The call disconnected with a click, the persistent busy tone was like invisible needles pricking Shang Wanwan's heart.

Struck as if by lightning, Shang Wanwan stared blankly for a dozen seconds, then suddenly came back to her senses, strode forward, and rushed toward the door.

Now was not the time to be shocked; she had to hurry, to seize every second and find Bai Xiaosheng at once, to sign the contract immediately!

She couldn't delay for a single moment!

Otherwise, her life would be over!

The cold glare Bai Xiaosheng gave her when he left reappeared before Shang Wanwan's eyes.

And that phrase, which she had thought was so disdainful, so laughable at the time.

Now it made her shiver.

"Miss Shang Wanwan, now that you're refusing me, if you want to sign later, to beg me, I might not agree!"

It turned out that Bai Xiaosheng was the one with the most powerful backing!

It turned out he was the one who absolutely should not be offended!

In comparison, what Chen Changqing, what Chen Jiuzheng, were not worth a sneer!

Shang Wanwan now regretted it, and her regret was so deep that her guts were turning green.

At this moment.

Chen Changqing was chatting and laughing with Shang Wanwan's assistant, Xiao Mai.

Hearing the commotion behind him, Chen Changqing turned around with a smile, only to be startled.

A sweet and fierce wind whistled toward him.

He saw the always composed and elegant Shang Wanwan, running madly with her long legs, her high heels clacking in a frenzy.

Chen Changqing's eyes were wide with astonishment.

Yu Qing, Murong Yan, as well as Shang Wanwan's own assistant Xiao Mai and her agent, were all shocked.

Shang Wanwan rushed to the door and, like a madwoman, yanked it open, ready to burst out.

As the door opened.

Song Changkong and his assistant appeared outside the door, and also in everyone's field of vision.

They were about to come in.

Seeing Shang Wanwan opening the door, Song Changkong was taken aback, then his face lit up with a smile, "Miss Shang, you..."

"Get out of my way!"

Shang Wanwan let out a hysterical scream and aggressively pushed her way through between Song Changkong and his assistant.

Caught off guard, Old Song nearly fell over and couldn't help but feel shocked and angry.

"Miss Shang? What are you doing! What's wrong!" Song Changkong shouted, snapping Shang Wanwan out of it.

She turned back, grabbed Song Changkong's suit, and with eyes that were once as clear as autumn water, now round and wild with fury, like a female desperado, demanded, "Tell me, where is Bai Xiaosheng?!"

Her shout left Song Changkong utterly dumbfounded.

"Bai Xiaosheng, Mr. Bai, isn't he inside?" Song Changkong asked in shock.

It was she who had made the call to herself.

"He's gone! I'm asking you, where has he gone?!" Shang Wanwan screamed again, "I'm asking you! Which department is he in, on which floor!"

Shang Wanwan gave Song Changkong a look as if she were staring at an idiot who couldn't understand a word.

"He's downstairs, in the New Media Department!"

It was Song Changkong's assistant who reacted quickly and shouted.

Only then did Shang Wanwan let go of Song Changkong and took off with long strides, sprinting towards the elevator on several centimeters high heels.

"Has she gone mad?" Song Changkong murmured in shock.

Song Changkong's assistant swallowed hard, not knowing how to answer.

Thankfully, Chen Changqing and the others rushed out from the large conference room.

"Mr. Chen, you're here too?" Song Changkong frowned and asked in surprise.

"I'm here to sign a contract!" Chen Changqing, watching Shang Wanwan running away, couldn't help swallowing hard as well.

What got into this woman, to suddenly go crazy like this!

"Shang, Shang!" Xiao Mai and Shang Wanwan's agent, faces filled with terror, looked on and hurried after her.

"What on earth is going on?" Song Changkong, frantic, started slapping his thigh and asked Chen Changqing, "Wasn't Bai Xiaosheng the one signing the contract? Why is he not here, and you are? What's gotten into Miss Shang? Why is she in such a rush to find Bai Xiaosheng? What did Bai Xiaosheng do to her?!"

Song Changkong blurted out a series of agitated questions.

He glanced at Chen Changqing and speculated that perhaps Chen Changqing had swiped the contract from Bai Xiaosheng, but even if the contract had been stolen, how did things turn out this way?

Seeing Shang Wanwan in this manic state, what on earth had happened!

Song Changkong, who had been eagerly anticipating a showdown between Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changqing, was equally a hundred and twenty percent unwilling for anything untoward to happen to Shang Wanwan, but unfortunately, it did!

He was also incredibly regretful.

Chen Changqing didn't know where to begin.

Fortunately, their assistants were there, and each took turns speaking rapidly, explaining what had happened.

Song Changkong still couldn't understand what the problem was. Shang Wanwan received a call from her own boss and went crazy, rushing after Bai Xiaosheng in desperate haste?

"Never mind, quick, let's head to the New Media Department too!" Song Changkong yelled, hurrying toward the elevator.

Please, please let there be no trouble!

If Bai Xiaosheng had angered Shang Wanwan, he, Song Changkong, would make sure this Mr. Bai apologized properly until Shang Wanwan was appeased!

Chen Changqing hurriedly followed, a glimmer of light flashing in his eyes. He grabbed Yu Qing and whispered urgently, "Go find Lin Beichen right away, have him bring people from various departments to the New Media Department to watch the spectacle!"

A sinister smile showed on Chen Changqing's face!

No matter what the problem was, he was determined to add fuel to the fire and blow things up!