

Two Trillion 321

Chapter 321 I'll Show You What Being Overbearing Is_1

You've been fired.

When Bai Xiaosheng said this with the kindest and most amiable tone, nobody thought he was joking!

Shang Wanwan truly believed it, and so did Wenqing!

Considering what Bai Xiaosheng had done before, one couldn't judge him by conventional wisdom!

He, could indeed do it!

No matter how talented you are, I won't use you!

I'll dismiss you with no reason. You say I'm a domineering CEO, so I'll show you what a domineering CEO looks like!

Bai Xiaosheng walked towards the door.

With regret, Shang Wanwan glanced at Wenqing. She truly lamented, but there was absolutely nothing she could do to stop Bai Xiaosheng's decision.

After all, Wenqing was just like Chen Changqing, too proud, too arrogant. They underestimated Bai Xiaosheng.

Once Bai Xiaosheng got angry, no one could stop him!

Shang Wanwan had wanted to include Wenqing in her own team, but in the end, she gave up on the idea.

On the one hand, doing so would offend Bai Xiaosheng, which was not worth the loss.

On the other hand, Wenqing was like a wild horse, unyielding and solitary within a team. Even if he had great abilities, compared to a whole team, Shang Wanwan chose the latter.

"It seems that he made the same choice," Shang Wanwan silently thought to herself.

Perhaps, this was for the best.

"You, you want to fire me? This, this, you can't fire me, I can write such good scripts, you can't fire me!" Wenqing looked at Bai Xiaosheng in disbelief, murmuring in horror.

He too realized the seriousness of the problem.

"I can."

Bai Xiaosheng opened the door, too lazy to waste words with him, and said indifferently, "You say I'm a domineering CEO, so you should know, characters like me in TV dramas don't need to be reasonable. Especially with someone who is impolite and doesn't know how to respect others!"

Wenqing's face instantly turned pale; he reached out to pick up the screenplay but his hands were shaking so much that he couldn't pick it up.

He invested his blood, sweat, and tears into this screenplay, racking his brains over it. Seeing his hard work go down the drain was even more painful than death itself!

Ironically, Bai Xiaosheng discarded it like a pair of worn-out shoes.

If Zhongjing Media didn't use it, then this screenplay was truly done for!

If not Shang Wanwan playing the leading lady, what was the point of it all?

Wenqing finally seized the screenplay.

"Such a good screenplay, I don't believe that Mr. Song would give up on it either..." Wenqing clenched his teeth and said.

Convincing Mr. Song was his last sliver of hope.

Shang Wanwan, feeling a bit sorry for him, sighed and said, "Today, Mr. Song tried to intercede on my behalf but was turned away at the door... If Mr. Bai doesn't agree, even if Mr. Song approves, I'm sorry, I refuse to use this screenplay!"

That sentence struck Wenqing like a bolt from the blue.

He looked at Shang Wanwan in panic, "Why, even if Mr. Song approves, you won't perform?!"

Shang Wanwan did not continue.

Bai Xiaosheng's background would be beyond his understanding even if she told him!

Wenqing's face was ashen.

Was the screenplay really going to waste?

No! How could such a good piece go to waste!

"Get out," Bai Xiaosheng said to him softly.

Those two words, like a thunderclap, left Wenqing utterly horrified.

It wasn't just that the script was a failure; where else could he find such a significant platform to fulfill his ambitions?

Would his dreams, his cinematic ambitions, be shattered just like that? They were his life's love, even surpassing his dignity!

"Mr. Bai, I was wrong! It was my arrogance, I, I was wrong! Please give me another chance!" Wenqing suddenly stood up, deeply bowing to Bai Xiaosheng with tears streaming down his face.

Bai Xiaosheng was unmoved, staring at him steadily, his gaze completely unflinching.

Shang Wanwan couldn't help but glance at Wenqing and then at Bai Xiaosheng, and back and forth between them.

To be honest, such talented individuals were extremely rare. If he was willing to humble himself, it would be best for Bai Xiaosheng to keep him.

However, Bai Xiaosheng's eyes were indifferent, showing no intention of relenting.

"Mr. Bai, please give him another chance," Shang Wanwan couldn't resist and pleaded in a lowered voice.

She, Shang Wanwan, had never pleaded for someone she had only known for such a short time; it was solely out of admiration for Wenqing and the script.

Bai Xiaosheng was silent for several seconds.

Those few seconds felt incredibly long under the oppressive atmosphere.

Wenqing wept continuously, apologizing non-stop.

"I will keep you on for now, for Miss Shang's sake," Bai Xiaosheng finally spoke, his impatience evident.

"However, you, Wenqing, remember this is only temporary! If I find out you're still undisciplined and lacking in manners, I'll send you packing!"

Bai Xiaosheng snorted coldly at Wenqing, "Leave the script here, and go find Gao Dazhi. Start by learning some workplace etiquette for a couple of months! After that, join the classes with the other actors! Go!"

Despite Bai Xiaosheng's icy words, Wenqing was incredibly excited and grateful as he ran out of the office.

He initially forgot to close the door behind him, causing Bai Xiaosheng to frown and cough lightly. The man ran back like he'd been shocked by electricity, apologizing as he shut the door.

Outside, the sound of footsteps faded.

Shang Wanwan carefully watched as Bai Xiaosheng, with a stern expression, sat back down.

The atmosphere was frigid, and Shang Wanwan hardly dared to take a deep breath.

Suddenly, Bai Xiaosheng chuckled and apologized to Shang Wanwan, "I'm sorry, Miss Shang, did I scare you? I had no choice. If this guy isn't scared into submission, if we don't deal with him harshly, there will be trouble later. Once the TV series starts, communicating with him will be an issue."

Shang Wanwan was dumbfounded.

The change in Bai Xiaosheng was drastic.

One second apart, yet a world of difference.

Just moments before, he was a domineering CEO, but now he transformed into a smiling and approachable Bai Xiaosheng.

Which one was the real him?!

Shang Wanwan, who prided herself on her professional training, was only now fully grasping that life imitates art – Mr. Bai was a true maestro, self-taught at that!

"You were pretending with him just now?" Shang Wanwan asked incredulously.

"We're friends now, so you don't have to use 'you' with me; it's too formal. That was entirely to crush his arrogance," Bai Xiaosheng said with a shrug and a smile.

Lucky for me that we're friends. I've realized how terrible it would be to have you as an enemy, Shang Wanwan thought to herself, relieved.

She suddenly realized, "From the start, you never intended to fire him!"

"Ah? Right,"

Bai Xiaosheng looked at Shang Wanwan with a puzzled expression, "To let go of such talent, to fire him, would I have water in my brain?"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled at Shang Wanwan.

"In my view, talent needs to be utilized wisely. Coddling and indulging him, letting him grow increasingly spoiled and unchecked, will eventually make him unfit for greater tasks; it's bad for everyone involved. Making him understand his limits, instilling a sense of fear, then providing space for him to shine – supporting him maximally without easing the pressure, allowing him to bloom – that is the proper way."

Bai Xiaosheng's words were a reflection of his personal beliefs.

Shang Wanwan nodded incessantly, her gaze filled with admiration. She was truly impressed by Bai Xiaosheng now!

This man was formidable!

Chapter 322 Return of the Prodigal Son_1

Having dealt with Wenqing, Bai Xiaosheng also felt very relieved.

"It seems I do have a talent for acting. If it weren't for the heavy responsibilities on my shoulders, being an actor wouldn't be too bad either!"

As Bai Xiaosheng was thinking, the voice of Red Lotus echoed in his mind.

"Helping the Group's important wholly-owned subsidiary—Zhongjing Media, key department—the Film and Television Department, to recruit top talent, add three points. The current total score is twenty-five points for the deputy general manager level, with seventy-five points still needed for the general manager level!"

Bai Xiaosheng was startled, then he laughed.

This Wenqing is really something special to receive such high scores from the system.

The bonus points made Bai Xiaosheng feel even more refreshed. He picked up the stack of scripts, divided half out, and passed them to Shang Wanwan.

"Come on, let's take a good look at Wenqing's script. The few scenes I saw just now were not bad at all," Bai Xiaosheng said.

"Yeah," Shang Wanwan also laughed.

She also found the viewing experience hard to let go of.

...

At this time, Gao Dazhi was holding a meeting with the film crew.

He had been waiting outside the office just now but hadn't heard anything. Thinking that everything was ready—the actors, funds, and scriptwriter were all in place—he was very excited and took the chance to run back and hold a briefing session.

Seeing the big drama they had been planning for half a year was finally about to start shooting, the actors were also extremely excited.

Gao Dazhi emphasized specifically that from now on Mr. Bai would be in charge of this department. In front of Mr. Bai, everyone should be more spirited, more cautious, and avoid any screw-ups at all costs!

In fact, there was no need for him to emphasize this.

Ever since the cocktail party, Bai Xiaosheng had acquired a "notorious reputation" in everyone's hearts.

To offend him, was there any difference from seeking death?!

Gao Ya and Zhao Xiaoying were also present, and the two women were a bit unhappy.

These people, in their discussions, were practically treating Bai Xiaosheng like a flood or a wild beast!

Mr. Bai, Bai Xiaosheng, is clearly very approachable and amiable, young, and quite handsome...

...

"I wonder how they're getting on in there. Wenqing, that blockhead, had better not cause any trouble for me!"

While Gao Dazhi held the meeting, he was also thinking about the situation there, feeling a bit uneasy.

Eventually, he couldn't sit still.

"It's been ten minutes! I have to go and see... Will it disturb their conversation, make Mr. Bai unhappy... Never mind, I must go and check!"

As Gao Dazhi was wrestling with his thoughts, the others started whispering among themselves.

"Mr. Bai is talking with Wenqing, right? It's been quite a while now; no idea what's happening inside..."

"That blockhead! The drama-addict! Once he starts talking about the script, he completely loses himself. I remember the time he argued with Director Gao and even insulted someone..."

"More than that, when he gets mania, it doesn't matter who the other person is! Have you forgotten that he also argued with the former Mr. Liu?"

"And Mr. Song!"

"My God! This time, he better not start a fight with Mr. Bai!"

"Hard to say. This guy has double master's degrees from Beiyang, is very talented, and the bosses all value talent. If they really start to argue, I don't know if Mr. Bai will tolerate him..."

"Hard to tell..."

...

The murmuring made Gao Dazhi restless.

"Stop talking!"

Gao Dazhi, usually so good-natured, suddenly shouted, frightening everyone into silence.

"I have to go and see what's going on!" Gao Dazhi, his rear end on fire, darted out.

Before he could reach the door, it opened.

Someone stumbled in, nearly crashing into Gao Dazhi, scaring him tremendously.

"Who?!" Gao Dazhi exclaimed in shock and anger.

The others looked over.

"Director Gao, I've been looking for you!" Wenqing, with tears streaming down his face as if seeing a relative, grabbed Gao Dazhi's arms with both hands.

Gao Dazhi's heart dropped.

Did this big fool really get fired by Mr. Bai?!

Was he coming to him now to seek comfort?

What's the damn use? Can Gao Dazhi persuade Mr. Bai to take back his orders? Does he have that kind of clout!

Everyone else was shocked, looking at Wenqing.

This blockhead had never acted like this before, what on earth had happened?!

Mr. Bai was furious?

Everyone's hearts were in their throats, wondering if the film and television department would be implicated!

"What happened? Speak up, man, stop fucking crying!" Gao Dazhi cursed loudly.

His entire being was like a tight string.

"Mr. Bai said, Mr. Bai said..."

The more agitated Gao Dazhi became, the more breathless Wenqing got.

Director Gao was so angry, he almost wanted to slap both of them.

All were anxious.

"Mr. Bai asked me to study business etiquette with everyone for a month!" Wenqing finally caught his breath and begged, "When does it start, I want to learn right away!"

Not a dismissal!

Gao Dazhi's spirit relaxed completely, nearly collapsing to the ground.

Everyone else looked confused.

To study business etiquette, you mean Wenqing?

And the key... this blockhead agreed?!

Far from just agree, Wenqing's face showed an urgent, thirsty-for-knowledge look that left everyone too astounded to speak...

Gao Dazhi looked incredulous.

He and the former vice president had also toyed with the idea of teaching Wenqing some rules.

The guy was like a tough hunk of flesh, impervious to both oil and salt, fire and water; after a couple of months of prodding, he simply wouldn't listen.

They, too, had no choice but to give up.

Faced with the same request from Mr. Bai, this guy came crying to learn, but how long had Mr. Bai actually spoken with him, a total of ten minutes...?

Gao Dazhi was shocked beyond measure and almost wanted to bow down in complete admiration to Bai Xiaosheng.

If Mr. Bai went into education, how many great wayward youths would be saved...

"My god, Mr. Bai is like a great forge of life, remaking people in minutes!"

Gao Ya, Zhao Xiaoying, and the others were all shocked.

Wenqing had changed.

The news spread, and the entire film and television department was in awe...

...

Meanwhile, Bai Xiaosheng was browsing through the script with Shang Wanwan.

Both of their eyes sparkled as they nodded frequently, exchanging ideas now and then, and applauding the writing.

Wenqing was truly talented!

This script was simply perfect.

The story's tension, the impeccable rhythm, the deep character portrayals, and some of the lines were incredibly lifelike.

Bai Xiaosheng compared it with the work of those from the new media department he himself had found and realized that in terms of literary strength alone, Wenqing definitely came out on top.

It seemed they had really found a treasure this time!

Bai Xiaosheng smiled broadly.

"With this script, I think if we reach out to first- and second-tier actors, they'd be willing to cut their fees to take part." Shang Wanwan said.

"Having you, a big star, is enough, let's still use our own people for the other roles," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

This TV series was not just for profit, but also to cultivate new talent for their own.

Shang Wanwan smiled and nodded, clearly understanding Zhongjing Media's purpose.

This time, with Bai Xiaosheng at the helm, those young actors would surely dare not slack off, and might even give two hundred percent effort,

thought Shang Wanwan.

"It's just that, in this script, there appear four key female roles," Bai Xiaosheng frowned, "and now, are we still short one?"

Shang Wanwan nodded and said with a wry smile, "What's annoying is that Mr. Wen added a remark in the last female role's description, 'The company currently has no suitable candidates!'"

"None?" Bai Xiaosheng snorted coldly, as if not willing to believe it, "Then we shall choose!"

Chapter 323 Chen is displeased_1

Bai Xiaosheng and Shang Wanwan were discussing the script when Gao Dazhi came over. The Director Gao looked extremely admiring.

"Mr. Bai, I've already sent Wenqing to study business etiquette, and his enthusiasm is very high. It seems that he will transform very quickly!" Gao Dazhi reported with a smile.

"Things don't change that quickly!"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and said to Gao Dazhi, "Starting today, you must try to fulfill any needs Wenqing has in terms of creation, let him unleash his full potential. However, you can't indulge him in any unreasonable and troublesome antics just because you value his talent. Otherwise, I'll punish you along with him!"

Gao Dazhi hurriedly smiled apologetically, "I won't spoil him anymore, you have my word! If I can't manage him within two months, you can punish me along with him!"

Gao Dazhi slapped his chest in assurance.

Just now, seeing the look on Wenqing's face when he mentioned Bai Xiaosheng, like a mouse hearing a cat, Gao Dazhi felt relieved. With Mr. Bai as the Imperial Sword, he must straighten out Wenqing, the crooked tree!

Bai Xiaosheng nodded and told Gao Dazhi about the need for a fourth female role in the script.

Shang Wanwan supplemented from the side.

According to the script's plot, there were actually two "female seconds" in the script, only one of whom would die from an illness, which was also a major tearjerker in the drama.

The fourth female role, called the fourth female lead, was not less important than the third female lead when speaking of screen time.

Therefore, it must be given due attention.

"Are there really no suitable actresses among all the women in the company?" Gao Dazhi asked in astonishment after hearing what Bai Xiaosheng said about Wenqing's annotations.

Currently, although Wenqing was subdued by Mr. Bai, when it came to work and scripts, he would probably still rather die than yield, unwilling to compromise.

Plus, Bai Xiaosheng and Shang Wanwan really acknowledged this role.

"Should we hold open auditions or recruit fresh faces from acting schools?" Gao Dazhi tentatively asked.

"No rush, we have a thousand or two people in our company, plenty of beauties. Maybe there is a suitable one; it doesn't necessarily have to be someone formally trained. I've discussed with Miss Wanwan, and this role is more suitable for someone with a grassroots background. Pay attention to potential candidates," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

There was still plenty of time.

Gao Dazhi nodded.

"It's late, I should be going back," Bai Xiaosheng stood up, smiled at Shang Wanwan, and extended his hand, "Miss Shang should head to the airport too, I wish you a pleasant journey."

"Thank you, Mr. Bai." Shang Wanwan smiled sweetly, extending her fair hand to shake Bai Xiaosheng's, "I will arrange for my team to come over as soon as possible, and I will hurry back myself. This collaboration has been delightful!"

"Delightful collaboration!"

...

Bai Xiaosheng left the Film and Television Department, refusing to be escorted by anyone, and wandered back by himself.

All of a sudden, he felt light and carefree.

The contract was signed, Shang Wanwan would be leaving temporarily. There was silence from Chen Changqing, and no movements from Song Changkong either.

All worries were gone.

Back at the New Media Department, Bai Xiaosheng had nothing to do.

In this department, Bai Xiaosheng's personal reputation had reached a new peak, as if he were a deity.

Everyone worked hard and earnestly, seldom reporting back, not wanting to trouble their leader.

But in reality, this was a hardship for Bai Xiaosheng.

"This score of mine, currently it's twenty-five points for the vice president position, seventy-five more to the president!" Bai Xiaosheng lamented.

However, once he scores enough, if he stays on at Zhongjing Media as the president, then what would Song Changkong do...

"Whether Old Song would be promoted or reassigned laterally..." Bai Xiaosheng didn't know.

Actually, Old Song, aside from a few flaws, was still reliable and pretty interesting.

...

Bored in his office, Bai Xiaosheng had nothing to amuse himself with.

Fortunately, there was Lin Weiwei.

In front of others, she was a capable and graceful female assistant.

When it was just the two of them, Lin Weiwei turned into an attentive little maid, serving tea, pouring water, offering snacks, and even sharing jokes she heard and company gossip with Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng was certainly living a comfortable and satisfying life.

However, Mr. Chen wasn't having such an easy time.

On the surface, he lost face and his department was stripped of a significant amount of funds, but these were minor issues.

What really troubled Chen Changqing was the situation with Chen Jiuzheng!

Problems had arisen in what were initially settled dealings; Shang Wanwan's female assistant had given him a heads-up that Shang Wanwan's cooperation with Chen Jiuzheng was off the table—they wouldn't sign!

Chen Changqing was stunned when he heard this news.

Even if Shang Wanwan had her reasons to sign a contract with Bai Xiaosheng, the cooperation on both sides did not conflict.

After all, they were all under one umbrella: Zhenbei Group.

Why sign with one and not the other?!

Chen Changqing was amazed and could not fathom the reason.

Finally, when Shang Wanwan was about to leave, Chen Changqing met with her and asked her outright.

In this encounter, Shang Wanwan was still very polite, very cordial, but there was also a certain distance in her words.

About the contract signing, Shang Wanwan had one reason, "Schedule conflict!"

No matter what Chen Changqing said, she just wouldn't sign.

In fact, Shang Wanwan feared getting too close to Chen Changqing and inadvertently offending Bai Xiaosheng; she was unwilling to take any risks.

In the end, Chen Changqing had to accept it.

"Miss Shang, it's okay if you don't want to cooperate, but I, Chen Changqing, want a reason, a real reason!"

Chen Changqing wasn't content; he wanted to know, otherwise, he wouldn't be able to eat or sleep in peace!

To this, Shang Wanwan only said something very inexplicable.

"Mr. Chen, people, well, everyone has their destiny. Wealth and splendor are not always clearly visible to the naked eye. With a leaf obstructing their view, sometimes people may end up in a very tragic situation. Plus, there's something I'm not sure you've heard—"

"If a person doesn't court disaster, they won't die!"

Having said this, Shang Wanwan elegantly slipped on her oversized sunglasses and turned to leave.

Chen Changqing didn't understand the meaning of this statement, nor did he have the time to figure it out.

Returning to his own place, Chen Changqing looked gloomy and was silent for a long while before dialing Uncle, Chen Jiuzheng's number.

Over the phone, Chen Changqing kept apologizing, while Chen Jiuzheng listened without uttering a word.

This silence was the greatest form of discontent, and it made Chen Changqing feel incredibly oppressed.

"Uncle, do you have time in the next couple of days? There's a decent Cantonese restaurant that opened in the downtown area; I would like to invite you for a taste," Chen Changqing attempted to shift the conversation.

He had expected Chen Jiuzheng to refuse.

But to his surprise, over the phone, Chen Jiuzheng agreed. His voice, when it finally came through, was amiable, "Sure, let's make it the day after tomorrow. Coincidentally, I have a friend I need to bring along. He has something to discuss with you."

Chen Changqing was taken aback and quickly responded, "That's fine; I'll reserve a table and touch base with your assistant later."

With the dinner arranged, Chen Changqing let out a sigh of relief.

In this country, relationships are often mended over the dining table—a meal, a drink, and most problems tend to dissolve easily.

But he had no idea what matter Uncle's friend wanted to discuss with him?!

It didn't matter; he would find out when the time came!

Chen Changqing thought to himself.

...

For two consecutive days,

Bai Xiaosheng enjoyed the relaxed and comfortable life of an office emperor.

Until the next afternoon, when the door to Bai Xiaosheng's office was forcefully pushed open.

In a waft of perfumed breeze, Yang Qian'er stormed in with a commanding presence, "I, Yang Qian'er, am back!"

Chapter 324 Yang Qian'er is Back_1

When Yang Qian'er burst in, Lin Weiwei was tenderly holding a small tray, with a gentle smile on her face, placing a cup of Da Hong Pao tea, a plate of pastries, and a plate of cut fruit in front of Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng had now been spoiled by this girl with the habit of having afternoon tea, and he quite enjoyed these.

Yang Qian'er came in with a rush, breaking the tranquility of the afternoon.

Upon seeing her, both Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei were taken aback.

According to the schedule, it seemed that the dispatched editorial staff would not return until tomorrow.

Yang Qian'er had come back early.

"Yo, living quite the good life here, aren't we, Bai Xiaosheng, Mr. Bai!" Yang Qian'er snorted coldly, took off her sunglasses, and said with a smirk.

Lin Weiwei's cheeks immediately turned red.

Since this was the office, it was actually perfectly normal for Lin Weiwei to be doing these things, and even if someone else saw it, there was nothing to say about it.

But the point was, she and Yang Qian'er were friends, and she knew about Bai Xiaosheng and Yang Qian'er being matchmaking partners.

Although there was yet no substantial progress in Bai Xiaosheng and Yang Qian'er's relationship, it was still somewhat awkward to meet under such circumstances.

"Qian'er, you're back, please take a rest. I'll go pour you a cup of tea," Lin Weiwei said without missing a beat. Almost instantly, she had adjusted her demeanor, smiling warmly as she headed over to help Yang Qian'er pull her small suitcase to the side.

"Weiwei, you, as an executive assistant also doubling as a nanny, shouldn't always be too indulgent with certain people. You're too gentle. I'm afraid you'll let people take advantage of you!" Yang Qian'er said, laughing.

She was just teasing and didn't show any signs of jealousy or dissatisfaction. On one hand, there indeed wasn't anything of concern, and on the other, she was friends with Weiwei and trusted her.

Moreover, she had no official relationship with Bai Xiaosheng yet.

However, Yang Qian'er still felt an inexplicable irritation in her heart, not knowing where it originated, but it all seemed to be directed at Bai Xiaosheng as she spoke.

"This girl can't really have rushed back to seek revenge on me, right? Is it just because I didn't tell her about the share issue? The bonus I should have given, I didn't miss a penny!"

Bai Xiaosheng acted as if he didn't notice Yang Qian'er's sharp gaze and continued to eat his sweet and juicy pear, secretly guessing the reason behind the animosity in her gaze.

Bai Xiaosheng had exceptional scheming abilities, but still, when it came to understanding women, his research was far from sufficient...

"You two talk. Qian'er, what would you like to drink? I'll get it for you," Lin Weiwei said with a smile.

"Well, thank you, Weiwei. I'll have a cup of green tea," Yang Qian'er replied with a smile.

Lin Weiwei nodded and walked out the door.

To her surprise, as soon as she turned around, a multitude of eyes were fixed on her, filled with curiosity and gossip.

The men and women in the office were smiling with a trace of teasing.

Lin Weiwei glared at them, menacingly mouthing the words, "What are you looking at? Get back to work!"

A wave of muffled laughter rose around the room.

Those gazes retreated.

Lin Weiwei took a deep breath, looked back at the office one last time, and silently left. In her eyes, there was a faint hint of dejection.

It wasn't that she really wanted anything more, she just wished to stay by Bai Xiaosheng's side, as his female assistant...

Back in the office.

Yang Qian'er strolled over carefree and started to help herself to the pastries on Bai Xiaosheng's plate.

"That's mine..." Bai Xiaosheng mumbled as a reminder.

"You really can, Xiaosheng. In front of your official matchmaking partner, you dare to be so close with her friend," Yang Qian'er snorted coldly.

What a bunch of nonsense!

Bai Xiaosheng looked at her both amused and annoyed, this girl really hadn't changed, with her outspoken nature.

"Firstly, concerning my official matchmaking partner, Weiwei and I have no issues. Secondly..." Bai Xiaosheng retorted, annoyed, "Don't sit on my desk. You know, I'm the deputy general now, believe it or not, I can make sure you..."

"Make sure I what!" Yang Qian'er exclaimed angrily, "Don't think I don't know. The reason we had to go on a business trip for extra days, it was your doing, wasn't it? How dare you play tricks on me!"

At the mention of this, Bai Xiaosheng immediately felt a bit guilty.

"It's all work needs, work... needs," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

Yang Qian'er was about to say something.

The desk phone on Bai Xiaosheng's desk rang, and he grabbed the receiver, making a silencing gesture.

Yang Qian'er huffed quietly and settled down.

"Director Gao, oh, you have something you want to discuss with me, very important, right away? Ah, I've got an important guest here," Bai Xiaosheng said with a glance at Yang Qian'er and a smile.

Hearing herself referred to as an important guest, Yang Qian'er felt at least a bit satisfied.

"Is that so, this serious? Then it can't be delayed, alright, I'll be right there!" Bai Xiaosheng hung up the phone with a snap and stood up with a serious look.

"There's some issue with the Film and Television Department, I must go right away; I can't keep you company any longer. You rest here for a while!"

Bai Xiaosheng hurried off at once, turning and leaving.

"Hey," Yang Qian'er called out, but it didn't slow Bai Xiaosheng's pace.

She had no choice but to let it go.

In the Film and Television Department, Gao Dazhi held the receiver in surprise, looked at it, and muttered, "What's up with Mr. Bai? Isn't it the same if I report over the phone..."

...

After Bai Xiaosheng "ran off," Yang Qian'er dwelled on it and felt that something was amiss. When Bai Xiaosheng was on the phone, his expression seemed forced, somewhat exaggerated.

Based on her understanding of Bai Xiaosheng, he was always calm and indifferent. What kind of news could make him rush to leave immediately?

"Could he have been deceived?" Yang Qian'er murmured.

"Qian'er, here's the green tea you asked for." The door opened, and Lin Weiwei came in with a smile, carrying a cup of tea. Seeing Bai Xiaosheng's empty seat, she paused, "Mr. Bai went out?"

"Weiwei, has there been any big issue in the company lately, concerning Mr. Bai? Especially in the Film and Television Department!" Yang Qian'er couldn't help asking.

"Yes!"

Lin Weiwei answered with utter certainty, placing the Cup on the desk.

Yang Qian'er was surprised to find that this usually serene and elegant girl's eyes were shining with an unprecedented brightness, just like a girl chasing her favorite star.

"To talk about Xiaosheng during this period, he's been incredible!" Lin Weiwei's cheeks flushed slightly, and before she even spoke, she was visibly excited.

She even inadvertently referred to Bai Xiaosheng as Xiaosheng.

Yang Qian'er was very surprised.

"Tell me, how has your Xiaosheng been so amazing lately."

...

Bai Xiaosheng casually strolled over to the Film and Television Department, and everyone who saw him smiled broadly, showing great warmth.

"Mr. Bai!"

"Hello, Mr. Bai!"

"Mr. Bai!"

This feeling of being respected and revered was immensely enjoyable. Bai Xiaosheng walked around with a smile for half an hour.

During that time, Gao Dazhi approached him with a beaming smile.

Bai Xiaosheng called him over, and they went together to see Wenqing.

The two stood outside the etiquette classroom, peering in through the window, much like teachers back in their student days.

That blockhead Wenqing really had a one-track mind; if she didn't learn, she didn't learn, but once she got started, she worked harder than anyone.

Truly fitting of someone with a scholar background! Bai Xiaosheng thought.

Guessing that Yang Qian'er should have left by then, Bai Xiaosheng returned.

But, when he entered the office, there was Yang Qian'er, sitting there, looking at him with a cold smile.

"Mr. Bai, back already? You seem to have had a good time while I was away. Well, then I can't let you off. Pay me overtime, or I'll tell Mrs. Li! Say you've been bullying me!"

Chapter 325: The Distracted Deputy Director_1

Yang Qian'er looked at Bai Xiaosheng with a beaming smile, her beautiful eyes like two crescent moons, bright and captivating. Her lips slightly curled up in a mix of feigned anger and affectionate chiding.

She had just spent a good half an hour listening to Lin Weiwei speak with an adoring tone about Bai Xiaosheng's achievements.

Defeating Chen Changqing, firing Lu Fanyu, refusing to see Shang Wanwan, and even making Song Changkong personally plead with him.

All this, one incident after another, had repeatedly shocked Yang Qian'er.

But she quickly accepted it.

Ever since she met Bai Xiaosheng, this guy had always been able to shock people, always able to do things others wouldn't dare to think of, let alone accomplish.

At this moment, Yang Qian'er was pressing Bai Xiaosheng to the point where he had a helpless look on his face, and she couldn't help feeling a bit smug.

Towards Yang Qian'er, Bai Xiaosheng indeed felt a little guilty.

After all, in order not to be bothered by Yang Qian'er, he had assigned extra tasks to the remote work team. Even though he later added an extra subsidy, Yang Qian'er had to do interviews and rush to complete articles. Her workload was much greater than others, and she was the hardest-working.

Thinking this, Bai Xiaosheng actually felt a bit remorseful.

Moreover, Yang Qian'er had his mother's phone number. If she really called, Bai Xiaosheng would have more troubles.

"Alright, hero, I give up," said Bai Xiaosheng with a wry smile. "State your demands, as long as they're not too excessive, I can consider them."

Bai Xiaosheng admitted defeat.

"Great! Let's go now, for a shopping spree!" Yang Qian'er exclaimed excitedly.

"Now? Shopping? But it's working hours, Comrade Yang Qian'er. Besides, haven't you had a long journey? Aren't you tired?" Bai Xiaosheng said, speechless.

"I'm not tired!" Yang Qian'er huffed. "As a vice-president, if you can't even slip away during working hours for a break, what's the point of working!"

That argument... sounded so reasonable...

Bai Xiaosheng, for a moment, actually found himself at a loss for words.

...

It wasn't even four in the afternoon, still working hours, when Vice-President Bai Xiaosheng brazenly left his post.

The only person accompanying him was Yang Qian'er.

The two of them took the opportunity to sneak away and hit the streets.

...

Yang Qian'er attended university in Zhongjing and stayed in the city after graduation. Over the years, she had come to know the place inside out.

Under her guidance, Bai Xiaosheng tasted various snacks, visited the ancient and aromatic old buildings in the city center, and even went to big shopping malls for a shopping spree, buying all kinds of cosmetics and clothes. Two hours flew by, making it seem like time was tight.

In the end, Yang Qian'er dragged Bai Xiaosheng to a place she touted as a "great spot"—the Zhongjing Dijing.

It was a renowned urban complex project with several buildings offering food, drinks, entertainment, and leisure, referred to as a "city within the city."

"Especially the Dijing Xiaotiancheng inside the Zhongjing Dijing, we must visit it!"

Yang Qian'er was all smiles and enthusiasm as she explained to Bai Xiaosheng, "It is the shortest among the buildings of Zhongjing Dijing, only five stories high, and it specializes exclusively in dining, with no other businesses. However, the dining options there are extraordinary; the merchants that set up there must have been in business for at least ten years! Countless snack shops on the first to third floors, many of which you have never even heard of. The fourth and fifth floors are occupied by century-old establishments, each one good enough to feature on top gourmet shows!"

Yang Qian'er spoke with great excitement.

"Really? Are there that many time-honored brands?" Bai Xiaosheng, carrying the results of their shopping, wore a skeptical expression.

"Yes, of course! The government supports such places to preserve the culinary cultural heritage and provides policy subsidies," Yang Qian'er explained.

So that was the reason. It was indeed worth checking out!

When it came to gourmet food, Bai Xiaosheng also became interested.

Appetite comes with eating, and men love good food; he was no exception.

And a complete foodie at that.

The two hailed a taxi and had a smooth ride.

Zhongjing Dijing, the area where they were headed, was a newly planned CBD zone, focusing more on ecology with explosive regional development.

Arriving at Dijing Xiaotiancheng, they saw a grand imitation-ancient building with five floors, and the ground floor was already packed to the brim.

"The first and second floors are crowded because of the specialty snacks which are tasty and not too pricey. The third floor is a bit more expensive but still affordable for common folk. The fourth floor starts to get pricey, and as for the fifth floor, it's exclusively high-class, with steep prices but definitely worth it for the rich food enthusiasts!"

Yang Qian'er pulled Bai Xiaosheng along, "Come on, we're heading to the fifth floor!"

I'm really getting gouged for a meal here!

Bai Xiaosheng smiled bitterly, not because of the money.

He wasn't short of cash. After investing in his department, he won two million, and with the ten million in his account, he now had twelve million in total. What couldn't he afford to eat?

"Then off to the fifth floor we go," Bai Xiaosheng nodded generously.

The two squeezed through the noisy crowd, aiming straight for the elevator, only to finally reach it as it went up.

"How unlucky, just a step too late!" Yang Qian'er was annoyed.

"What's the rush? Good food is worth waiting for, let's just wait for the next one," Bai Xiaosheng said nonchalantly, with a smile.

...

The elevator that Bai Xiaosheng and Yang Qian'er failed to catch went all the way up to the fifth floor.

With a "ding," the elevator doors opened.

After four or five people got off, the person who came out next would certainly surprise Bai Xiaosheng.

Because he was no stranger to him.

Yu Qing and Murong Yan were leading the way, with Chen Changqing following behind.

"Young Master, this way," Yu Qing pointed to one side of the hallway.

Both sides of the hallway were decorated in antique charm, each restaurant grand and imposing, creating a spectacular view that felt like a journey back to ancient times.

Every restaurant here bore a century-old brand name.

At the entrance of each establishment stood servers dressed in traditional long gowns with white towels over their shoulders, all smiling and respectfully greeting every passing guest with warm enthusiasm.

The foot traffic here might seem sparse, but all the businesses were profitable without loss.

Each restaurant in this place charged a hefty price for their food and services, with the emphasis on high-end sophistication.

And it just so happened that the owners and entrepreneurs of various Zhongjing businesses valued this kind of setting, feeling that it provided an elegant and respectable venue for hosting guests. Hence, among the people who frequented these places, even the most unassuming of them might be worth hundreds of millions or even billions.

"Murong, stay here and wait for my uncle and the others," Chen Changqing instructed.

"Yes," Murong Yan nodded.

Today, she was dressed in a plain-colored cheongsam that had been modernized in design, adding a touch of vintage charm and grace to her appearance. As a greeter, she was indeed a pleasant sight.

Normally, she wore glasses, but the prescription was very low. Without her contact lenses, it didn't make much of a difference. Her bright eyes, too, were quite beautiful.

Chen Changqing followed Yu Qing through the corridor towards the restaurant they had booked.

This time, he planned to host his Uncle Chen Jiuzheng as a gesture of gratitude and perhaps to offer an apology.

However, Uncle mentioned that a friend wanted to meet him? Chen Changqing had been puzzled by this.

Even though he was a rising talent among the younger generation, he was still far from being recognized by the older one.

Uncle's friend, whose status would presumably be similar to Uncle's, why would they want to meet him?

"Stop thinking about it. When the time comes, everything will become clear," he told himself.

Chen Changqing shook his head to clear away the thoughts and followed Yu Qing into one of the century-old establishments.

Chapter 326: Release the Person!_1

"Why isn't it down yet? So slow!" Yang Qian'er said, bored and somewhat impatiently.

The two parallel elevators, she had just missed one, which was regrettable, but the other one had come down and stopped on the fourth floor, not moving for quite a while.

Yang Qian'er pouted, not happy at all.

"How old are you, and still, you have no patience?" Bai Xiaosheng looked at her, finding it all quite amusing.

"Laugh all you want, laugh all you want, but I won't be polite later. Whatever is expensive, I'll order, and I'll eat you out of house and home!" Yang Qian'er said huffily, seeing his reaction.

"Sure, as long as you're not afraid of getting fat, you can order whatever you want, I can afford it no matter how much you eat," Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

While they were talking, the elevator that was stopped on the fourth floor finally came down.

As soon as the elevator doors opened, a full load of people came bustling out.

Before the elevator was empty, Yang Qian'er hurriedly dragged Bai Xiaosheng inside, and behind them, about a dozen more people got on, leaving no room for those behind them.

Yang Qian'er couldn't help feeling smug.

Bai Xiaosheng shook his head with a smile.

The elevator went up, briefly stopping on the fourth floor, where most of the people got off, and then it continued to the fifth floor.

Yang Qian'er, still inside the elevator, couldn't wait to tell Bai Xiaosheng about their destination, "I heard from my friends that a new Cantonese restaurant has opened here. It's a branch of a century-old restaurant from out of town, very authentic! We're going to try it out today!"

Yang Qian'er was very much looking forward to it.

"You're always on business trips; do you still have time to exchange these tips with friends?" Bai Xiaosheng wondered aloud.

This girl is also a little foodie.

"That woman, she flaunts food pictures in her Moments every day. She posted about this place for three days straight. Ugh, I couldn't stand it eating my boxed meals out there; this time, I'm going to have a feast at your expense!" Yang Qian'er declared with vehemence.

What does it have to do with me? I wasn't the one showing off...

Bai Xiaosheng wore a resigned expression.

The others in the elevator couldn't help but chuckle.

Yang Qian'er, though dressed casually in sportswear, was still undeniably a sporty beauty, radiant and charming. Coupled with her foodie nature, she was indeed quite endearing.

Even some people couldn't help but feel envious, secretly sizing up Bai Xiaosheng. But after observing him, they all shook their heads secretly.

This was clearly a very ordinary man, nothing extraordinary, with only a pair of impressive black eyes.

That such a man could end up with a goddess, truly, it seemed like the heavens were blind...

Bai Xiaosheng himself hadn't realized that in the eyes of others, he became a guy who had stumbled upon great fortune.

With a ding, the elevator stopped and the doors opened, and the remaining people walked out.

Bai Xiaosheng and Yang Qian'er were the last to leave.

In the corridor.

Murong Yan was not far away, she glanced around but couldn't spot the person she was waiting for.

Although she was nearsighted by over two hundred degrees, and today she didn't wear glasses or contacts, it didn't affect her significantly.

Chen Jiuzheng, when going out, would be accompanied by three or four assistants. Such an entourage was a symbol of status and quite easy to recognize.

Due to the angle, Yang Qian'er blocked the view slightly, and Murong Yan didn't even notice Bai Xiaosheng.

Since the person hadn't arrived, Murong Yan lowered her head and started fiddling with her phone. Waiting for a long time can be quite boring, after all.

"This way! My friend and the owner of that place are friends; even though we didn't make a reservation, it doesn't matter. They reserve some small private rooms, which aren't open to the public. Those are the really good spots. Let me tell you, the interior decoration I saw in the photos is so interesting..." Yang Qian'er excitedly said, pulling Bai Xiaosheng by the sleeve in one direction.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled; he was also beginning to feel interested.

Raising his head to glance in the direction they were heading, Bai Xiaosheng's smile suddenly faded, and he frowned.

Several people were running from over there towards this direction.

The one leading them was extremely disheveled.

His hair was a mess, his tie crooked, and even his shirt was torn. His expression was frantic, like a fish out of water gasping for breath with its mouth wide open, his legs running swiftly.

The people chasing behind him were silent.

Seeing the person running ahead, Bai Xiaosheng looked somewhat surprised.

Yang Qian'er also noticed the commotion and realized it was a chase. Her complexion changed abruptly, and she subconsciously tried to pull Bai Xiaosheng away to hide.

Better to stay out of fights—it was wise to avoid unnecessary trouble.

But when she looked over, even she was stunned for a moment. The person at the front looked very familiar, clearly someone she had seen before...

A moment later, Yang Qian'er's eyes widened in shock and she said to Bai Xiaosheng, "Isn't that your..."

"My cousin, Bai Fei!" Bai Xiaosheng said in a grave tone.

...

In the eyes of the family, Bai Fei, the paragon among the younger generation—the dragon among men—was presently being chased.

In his panic, he hadn't seen Bai Xiaosheng at all; his eyes were solely focused on the elevator, with a faint trace of joy in them.

If he could get on the elevator, he might have a chance to escape!

However, Bai Fei had overestimated his own physical stamina and underestimated the speed of his pursuers.

The man following closely behind Bai Fei was proportionally built, robust and strong, and he ran as swiftly as the wind, with a physical condition seemingly countless times better than Bai Fei's.

Just as Bai Fei thought victory was within reach, his neck was suddenly clutched by the man behind him. Following that, his arm was twisted by hands as strong as iron pincers, and in an instant, Bai Fei was captured like a little chick.

"Kid, you sure can run. I saw you dart out faster than a rabbit as soon as I left the bathroom. If it weren't for me, they definitely would have let you get away. But you might as well save your energy because you can't escape from me!"

The man who caught Bai Fei snorted coldly and landed a heavy punch in Bai Fei's abdomen.

Bai Fei's face instantly turned pale, his expression twisted in pain. He tried to cry out but a coarse hand covered his mouth.

The other two pursuers finally caught up, cursing and swearing, and grabbed Bai Fei from both sides.

From start to finish, this chase had made very little noise, including the man reprimanding Bai Fei. His voice was so low that people farther away didn't know what had happened.

Watching the two men holding up a pale-faced man, others might think he was just drunk.

Bai Xiaosheng furrowed his brows.

The leading man looked around and locked eyes coldly with Bai Xiaosheng, mistaking him for just another onlooker, his gaze not without a threat.

"Let's go!" The man gestured, and the other two, holding Bai Fei, were about to leave.

"Stop right there!"

Suddenly, a cold voice sounded. It wasn't loud, but it made the group of men hear it clearly.

The leading man frowned and turned around, only to realize that the speaker was the young man who had just been watching. A beautiful woman stood beside him, and the pair seemed to be a couple.

"Just now, did you speak?" the leading man asked coldly.

"Yes." Bai Xiaosheng nodded calmly, setting down the things in his hand and walking over.

"What is it to you?" the man asked with a frown in his voice, which was low and menacing.

The implication was clear: This wasn't his business, and he should not meddle.

"Let him go!"

Bai Xiaosheng was straightforward, saying just one sentence.

Chapter 327: Tough Nut to Crack_1

"Kid, this is none of your business, so don't meddle. Go wherever you were headed with your girlfriend!"

The burly man calmly stated; his words were not particularly harsh, but they still carried a chilling undertone.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and walked towards the other party.

"Actually, I'm not one to meddle, but unfortunately, you cannot take this person away!" Bai Xiaosheng said with resolve.

No matter how deplorable Bai Fei's character was, he was ultimately a member of the Bai Family, as the saying goes—blood is thicker than water.

He was, after all, one of Grandma Li Fengguan's grandsons; anything serious happening to him would deeply pain the old lady. Even if just for the sake of his grandmother, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't let others just take Bai Fei away.

Although Bai Xiaosheng didn't know what had happened, he could tell from their vicious looks and ruthless actions that these men were no ordinary people.

"You won't let us take him, just by yourself?" The leader among the men asked in return, a sneer forming at the corner of his mouth.

In his eyes, this young man was nothing but a frail little chick.

"Lei Ying, stop wasting words with him, my brother-in-law is waiting for us!" The man holding Bai Fei, with a face full of flesh, let go and charged at Bai Xiaosheng like a fierce demon.

"Put him down? You motherfucker, talking big! Let's see if your body is as tough as your words!" The man threw a punch, aiming for Bai Xiaosheng's face.

"Ah!" Yang Qian'er let out a sharp scream.

She had seen Bai Xiaosheng deal with robbers before, but at that time, Bai Xiaosheng had been prepared and had ambushed the bad guys.

Now, without any warning, the man threw a punch at him right away!

The punching man was also incredibly sturdy; his arms were so thick they looked like legs, and just the sight of his massive fists made one's skin crawl.

Could Bai Xiaosheng possibly win?

If he got punched in the face, it would most certainly break!

Yang Qian'er was terrified and worried for Bai Xiaosheng.

"Red Lotus, close combat skills," Bai Xiaosheng said with abnormal calmness, his mind in sync with his thoughts.

"Understood!" Red Lotus's voice echoed in his mind.

The man named Lei Ying beside him had a hint of pity in his eyes.

But still, he did not interfere.

There was no need to watch the outcome, the young man would not withstand it!

His own man's punch was fierce and ruthless; once delivered, that kid would surely faint on the ground.

Blame yourself for being so foolishly assertive!

Lei Ying sighed inwardly.

"Kid, just take this punch as a lesson. In this world, there are too many things you must approach with caution. Reckless bravery never ends well!" Lei was ready to leave.

"Bang bang bang," a series of dull striking sounds erupted, each punch landing squarely on flesh.

Lei's expression turned severe and he looked over again.

The man had gone down, but it wasn't the young one – it was one of their own!

The man who had been as fierce as a tiger just a moment ago now curled up like a big shrimp, his forehead planted on the ground, holding his belly, unable to even cry out in pain!

Taken down just like that?!

Did he do it?!

Lei Ying looked at Bai Xiaosheng in disbelief.

He had only missed a split second and hadn't seen how the kid managed it!

Yang Qian'er watched, gobsmacked; she also hadn't seen it clearly!

How did Bai Xiaosheng do it?!

It was unimaginable that he was so skilled!

Yang Qian'er looked at Bai Xiaosheng, a strange light shining in her eyes.

Bai Xiaosheng stood there expressionlessly, calmly meeting Lei's gaze and said unhurriedly, "I told you, you cannot take this person!"

The other man holding Bai Fei looked in shock at his fallen comrade, then at the calm Bai Xiaosheng. The fallen man was pretty tough and daring in a fight, yet he was taken down so easily and couldn't even get back up!

This young man was a master!

Shocked, he couldn't help but look toward Lei Ying. In his mind, Lei Ying was the only person capable of such a feat!

"You say they can't be taken away, just because you say so? I want to try."

In Lei Ying's eyes, a bright torch-like brilliance burst forth; he twisted his neck and pressed his fingers, producing crackling sounds.

He approached Bai Xiaosheng at a measured pace.

The aura of this man was absolutely incomparable to the one before!

"Moves agile, stable lower body, muscles well-defined, possessing both endurance and explosive power," Red Lotus suddenly said, "Increase combat skill level!"

Bai Xiaosheng's expression became stern.

Ever since Red Lotus assisted him, he had had his share of scuffles, but against those big guys or those wielding blades, Red Lotus never issued a warning. This was the first time.

"Select combat moves, increase adrenaline..." Red Lotus's voice continued to rise.

Bai Xiaosheng felt his mind flood with many new moves, and he felt an unprecedented sense of "spirit."

Lei Ying moved.

As swift as a leopard, unbelievably fast, on a completely different level than the man before.

Bai Xiaosheng moved as well.

Both were as fast as lightning, like two violent winds colliding, crashing together, separating, and then colliding again.

After several exchanges, the two finally separated.

For the first time, Bai Xiaosheng had not been able to bring his opponent down, while Lei Ying's face changed unpredictably, deeply staring at Bai Xiaosheng.

Yang Qian'er was flabbergasted.

It had happened too fast; she only heard the sound of their bodies colliding, and by the time she could see clearly again, they were at a standoff.

The person holding Bai Fei was wide-eyed with disbelief.

In their group, Lei Ying was invincible, capable of taking on ten men without issue.

And this skinny kid actually fought Lei Ying to a draw!

Inconceivable!

"Still want to fight?" Lei Ying finally spoke, his voice calm.

"I told you, this person, you can't take him away today! Whether we fight or not, I'm game."

Bai Xiaosheng smiled slightly.

Lei Ying silently regarded Bai Xiaosheng for a long while, then actually nodded.

"Xiao Liuzi, let him go. Take Cheng Xiaosi with you; we're leaving," Lei Ying commanded in a deep voice, and turned to leave.

Xiao Liuzi, who was holding Bai Fei, was dumbstruck.

Lei had actually taken a step back this time?

The man called Xiao Liuzi was extremely shocked to see Lei Ying walking away slowly, his right foot even seemed a bit unnatural.

Lei had been at a disadvantage!

Xiao Liuzi, incredulous, looked at Bai Xiaosheng with a smile and a respectful gaze, gently slapped Bai Fei's face to bring him somewhat back to consciousness so he could stand on his own, then let go and slunk over to help his fallen companion up and left in a hurry.

Bai Fei shook his head, fearful and bewildered, watching those people leave.

When he turned his head and saw Bai Xiaosheng, he couldn't help but exclaim, "You, how did you get here!"

He knew he had been saved, but he had no idea that his savior was Bai Xiaosheng.

Without any expression, Bai Xiaosheng glanced at him, watching Lei Ying and the others leaving, and said in a low voice to Yang Qian'er, who had come up to him, "Support me."

Yang Qian'er, not understanding why, supported Bai Xiaosheng and only then discovered that his arm muscles were spasming as if electrocuted.

Bai Xiaosheng's body swayed, and his legs shook uncontrollably, beads of sweat the size of peas forming on his forehead.

If the standoff had continued for much longer, he would have been the one to fall!

Damn, it hurts!

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but grimace.

Today, he was in no condition to fight anyone else.

Chapter 328: Chen Jiuzheng, Arrive!_1

Bai Fei watched the retreating figures in the distance, still feeling a chill in his heart.

Yet, those fearsome men had been driven away by Bai Xiaosheng, he simply couldn't believe his own eyes.

When Bai Fei turned back around, he saw Bai Xiaosheng's body slightly leaning over, being supported by Yang Qian'er, his face pale as paper.

Bai Fei was secretly shocked and moved to the other side of Bai Xiaosheng to support his arm as well.

As soon as he touched Bai Xiaosheng's arm, Bai Fei was truly startled.

All the muscles in Bai Xiaosheng's entire arm were trembling, a kind of spasm and twitching, and he could feel Bai Xiaosheng's whole body quivering slightly, like a leaf in the wind.

Bai Xiaosheng's face was fearless, and the reaction in his body was just a muscular response.

It seemed that the fight with those men had been a fierce battle!

Gratitude involuntarily showed on Bai Fei's face.

But at the moment, Bai Xiaosheng had no time to pay attention to his expression. Suffering in silence, Bai Xiaosheng was inwardly lamenting.

He hadn't expected his opponent, Lei Ying, to be so formidable. With the aid of Red Lotus, he had forcibly raised his adrenaline, his reactions becoming several times faster than before, and he had only just managed to fight to a draw!

Lei Ying's punches and kicks had not hit Bai Xiaosheng squarely even once, but the mere brushes, the mere touches, caused him to feel intense pain in several places all over his body!

It was easy to imagine the kind of damage a direct hit would do—certainly bone-breaking and tendon-snapping!

What a terrifying man!

However, underneath the shock, Bai Xiaosheng still found the humor in the situation.

This time, he hadn't been at a disadvantage, having landed more than a dozen punches and kicks on Lei Ying himself.

The techniques Red Lotus had given him targeted, besides the vital points such as the eyes, throat, and groin, the weak spots of the human body—the major acupoints. An accurate hit on an acupoint could have a staggering effect. For example, if an ordinary person's arm acupoint was struck, they wouldn't be able to lift their arm for quite a while.

Assisted by Red Lotus, Bai Xiaosheng's strikes were incredibly precise.

Bai Xiaosheng had hit the acupoints on Lei Ying's legs many times, and he was surprised that Lei Ying could still walk in the end. However, the man was certainly pushing through the pain.

"You can still laugh?" Yang Qian'er was so worried that she was almost in tears upon sensing Bai Xiaosheng's condition.

"Let's go to the restaurant," Bai Xiaosheng whispered.

Their opponents weren't just Lei Ying; they had been temporarily intimidated, but once they regained their senses and returned, Bai Xiaosheng wouldn't have the strength for another fight.

"Okay!" Yang Qian'er quickly nodded in agreement.

"Sheng, this time, thank you," Bai Fei said quietly, his voice full of gratitude.

Aside from a blood relationship, he and Bai Xiaosheng didn't have much of a bond, and had even clashed before. Yet, Bai Xiaosheng still stood up for him in his time of need.

Human hearts are all made of flesh; even though Bai Fei liked to calculate and was greedy for wealth, he was not without emotion.

At this moment, Bai Fei was truly grateful.

Bai Xiaosheng fell silent for a moment, then suddenly spoke with a laugh, "After all, we are family!"

With that one sentence, Bai Fei felt a slight sting in his nose.

"All right, all right, let's not talk anymore, we need to hurry. This isn't the place for conversation," urged Yang Qian'er.

With Yang Qian'er and Bai Fei supporting Bai Xiaosheng, they left in haste for the restaurant.

In the distance, Murong Yan's beautiful eyebrows were slightly furrowed.

She hadn't paid much attention to the scuffle from the start, until she inadvertently noticed Bai Xiaosheng!

Murong Yan was surprised but not alarmed by her discovery.

The world is indeed small; even going for a meal could lead to an encounter with Mr. Bai.

Mr. Bai, who usually seemed so delicate and weak, was actually quite ferocious in a fight!

He knocked down a stout man and drove away two others!

Murong Yan wasn't aware of how formidable Lei Ying was, but seeing those large and powerful men retreat easily made it clear to her just how skilled Bai Xiaosheng was.

She watched Bai Xiaosheng and his companions leave with narrowed eyes.

Initially, it was just a chance meeting that, while surprising, didn't warrant much attention.

But then Murong Yan watched wide-eyed as Bai Xiaosheng's group entered Dingxiang Building, her luscious lips forming an 'O' and her eyes involuntarily widening in surprise.

It wasn't for any other reason.

They had reserved a private room this time too, and it was at the Dingxiang Building!

This was more than a coincidence; it was almost like fated nemesis between Mr. Chen and this Mr. Bai!

Murong Yan couldn't help but pick up her phone to send a message to Chen Changqing.

Just as she was typing, the elevator on the other side dinged.

A group of people came out whooshingly.

Murong Yan subconsciously glanced over and was startled, quickly putting away her phone.

Chen Jiuzheng had arrived!

Murong Yan had followed Chen Changqing in meeting this Uncle from the Chen Family before and her impression of him was especially vivid.

Chen Jiuzheng's cheeks were angular and his profile rugged. His body was sturdy and robust, resembling a rough man. However, his eyes were deep and spirited, exuding a kind of deterrence.

Around Chen Jiuzheng were four suit-clad bodyguards, a standard entourage for when Chen Jiuzheng traveled.

To Murong Yan's surprise, walking side by side and chatting with Chen Jiuzheng was a foreigner.

The foreigner appeared to be in his forties, and although he was balding, he still looked very handsome, somewhat like a thinning-hair version of Prince William.

When they came out of the elevator, Chen Jiuzheng even gestured for the other person to go ahead.

Who is this?!

Murong Yan couldn't contain her surprise.

Chen Changqing had mentioned to her and Yu Qing that the Uncle from the Chen Family was bringing a guest this time, so this must be that person!

Murong Yan quickly went forward to greet him, smiling broadly and calling out, "Mr. Chen."

Chen Jiuzheng noticed Murong Yan, waved to have the bodyguards step back, looked the young assistant up and down, finding her pleasing to the eye and smiled, "Did Changqing send you to wait for us? Good!"

"Our young master has already gone ahead to urge the other side to prepare; we wouldn't dare neglect you and this guest," Murong Yan replied with a smile. Talking as an assistant, her words were watertight and well-received.

Chen Jiuzheng was extremely satisfied.

The foreigner, wearing a smile, courteously said to Murong Yan, "Then please, this beautiful lady, lead the way for us."

His Chinese was really good!

Murong Yan was internally amazed, but her face remained composed, and she elegantly and politely led the way.

The group headed straight for the Dingxiang Building.

...

Bai Xiaosheng and his friends went to a small private room on the second floor.

The connection to Yang Qian'er's friend was incredibly useful; the owner's attitude was incredibly warm.

They only found out upon asking that Yang Qian'er's friend had actually introduced her bestie to the owner of this restaurant, and the couple, as close as glue, was naturally extremely enthusiastic toward the friend who played matchmaker for them.

When Yang Qian'er found out, she couldn't help but be shocked.

This was clearly a foodie's version of sacrificing friends for personal gain. However, since everyone was satisfied, it was considered a good thing.

Yang Qian'er and Bai Fei helped Bai Xiaosheng into the private room and asked the waiter to leave for the moment.

Bai Xiaosheng was grimacing in pain.

Unable to worry about much else, they massaged his shoulders and squeezed his legs, eventually Bai Xiaosheng felt somewhat better; he could at least move, though he was still far from being able to exert himself.

Nowadays, he couldn't say he could beat Lei Ying, let alone any other strong man who might come along.

"What are those people about, Fei bro? How did you get on their wrong side?" Bai Xiaosheng took the opportunity to ask.

Yang Qian'er also looked at Bai Fei curiously.

Such matters usually involved emotions, money, or offending some rich family's youth, right?

However, Bai Fei shook his head, "I didn't offend those people."

Bai Xiaosheng and Yang Qian'er were taken aback, exchanging glances.

"If it wasn't you who offended them, then who was it?" Bai Xiaosheng asked curiously.

"Bai Shuanglei!" Bai Fei said through gritted teeth.

Chapter 329: Extinguishing Familial Ties_1

"Bai Shuanglei?!" Bai Xiaosheng and Yang Qian'er almost exclaimed in unison, surprised.

How could it be Bai Shuanglei? Wasn't he hospitalized in the south? They said he had some sort of tumor in his head, and needed eight hundred thousand, which later increased by another hundred thousand!

The Bai Family was nearly torn apart trying to raise money to save his life. Bai Fei even played a very disgraceful role in it!

"What exactly is going on, Bai Fei, tell me clearly!" Bai Xiaosheng frowned and stared at Bai Fei as he asked.

Bai Fei spilled the beans, explaining the whole sequence of events while seething with rage.

Bai Xiaosheng and Yang Qian'er were a mix of shock and anger as they listened.

All that talk about having a tumor in the head and needing surgery was all a scam!

Bai Mingyuan's second son, Bai Shuanglei, had gambled and was deep in debt!

The creditors had made it clear that if there were no money, they'd use a knife on him. Out of sheer terror, he had concocted a lie to trick his parents into raising money for him.

The uncle and aunt from the Bai Family rushed over with the money only to learn the truth, feeling both angry and humiliated in public.

But by then it was too late, and they had no choice. Life-saving money was still life-saving money, but paying for treatment and repaying gambling debts were two different issues.

The former didn't need to be repaid, but if other family members found out about the latter, they'd be obligated to pay it back!

So, the couple decided to keep it a secret and told the family back home that the surgery was successful, Bai Shuanglei was fine and was recovering well...

"Good, very good!" Bai Xiaosheng's eyes narrowed, and he sneered, repeating the word 'good' twice.

The old lady Li Fengguan was so worried about this situation that she couldn't eat or sleep properly for several days and nights. She had to force a smile on her birthday, always concerned about the situation over there, only for it to turn out like this!

Bai Xiaosheng's face was cold as frost, and his eyes filled with a deadly aura.

Although Bai Fei was already incensed, the look in Bai Xiaosheng's eyes made him shiver, feeling a chill from the inside.

'When my cousin gets angry, why are his eyes so terrifying, carrying such an oppressiveness? I've only felt this from the big boss when he was truly enraged!' Bai Fei swallowed hard to himself.

"Shameless!" Yang Qian'er couldn't help but curse.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at Bai Fei and asked again, "What's Bai Shuanglei's relationship with these people? The money was sent, wasn't it? His gambling debt should be paid off, right?"

Yang Qian'er also couldn't help being curious.

"The debt is paid," said Bai Fei, his anger making him pound the table, "but that bastard, he convinced my uncle and aunt to go back, claiming he needed a while before he could return to his hometown. He played his act to the hilt, and because they were too indulgent, they gave him all the remaining money!"

Bai Xiaosheng's heart sank.

No need to ask, Bai Shuanglei must have gambled again!

And sure enough.

"He went gambling again, and this time he lost even more!" Bai Fei sighed deeply, filled with loathing, "He sneaked back, didn't go home, and headed straight for the city, seeking Bai Ran and me to borrow money!"

Incurable!

Bai Xiaosheng's gaze was icy.

In his memory, Bai Shuanglei was a blowhard, a fat man who liked to grin mischievously. He hadn't imagined that this man could sink to such depths!

"Do you know what he said to me when Bai Ran brought him to me, asking for help?" Bai Fei was shaking with anger, "He said that since we earned so much money and it was just sitting there, we might as well loan it to him to save his life! He even asked us which of our friends were wealthy, so we could help him borrow from them! As he said these words, he didn't show a trace of remorse!"

"Absolutely shameless!" Yang Qian'er couldn't help but curse loudly.

Bai Xiaosheng remained silent.

For a cousin like him, even if he had money, he wouldn't lend a penny!

There would always be a next time. Bai Shuanglei would swallow everyone's kindness like a greedy abyss.

"You know me, I do value money quite a bit," admitted Bai Fei, "When it was about gathering money to save him, I even considered leveraging the old lady's house, but in the end, I was ready to give the money. Even without you, Sheng, I wouldn't have just watched him die of illness without doing anything! But this time, I refused to lend him the money!"

"Good on you for refusing!" Bai Xiaosheng said gravely.

It wasn't that they disregarded family ties but that this person was beyond redemption.

Bai Shuanglei had accumulated a debt close to a million, and even after it was covered, he didn't think of reforming. In his heart, he probably had no concept of fear.

"But this time, Bai Shuanglei didn't come by himself; he brought his creditors with him," Bai Fei trembled with anger. "Bai Ran and I didn't know that he had told them we had money and could help him repay his debts. It was okay for me because I was busy living at the company and working overtime, so they had no chance to trouble me. But I didn't expect that right after Bai Ran left my place, he would be taken away!"

Taken away? Kidnapped!

Yang Qian'er was startled.

"Did you call the police?!" she couldn't help but exclaim in alarm.

"Call the police? What should I say, that it was a kidnapping?"

Bai Fei yelled angrily, "It was Bai Shuanglei who called me, and the creditor was right next to him. Bai Shuanglei said if I called the police, he would testify that I was making a false alarm, that he and Bai Ran were just partying with friends, claiming that Bai Ran was just drunk! There was no binding, no threatening! If the police came and found them partying and drinking, how could they take them in for questioning?!"

Yang Qian'er was rendered speechless in shock.

Bai Xiaosheng slowly exhaled a murky breath.

Bai Shuanglei had gone mad, using family to threaten family, and the worst part was that Bai Ran was still helping him!

The beasts were not as despicable!

This peculiar way of kidnapping was unheard of.

"They asked me to meet here and to bring money with me. Bai Shuanglei lost over a million, and even if I were really willing to help, I couldn't gather even a third of it. Besides, I need my money to support my family; it's not come by easily!" Bai Fei sighed. "However, for Bai Ran's sake, I still came to check on him. Bai Ran was fine; he was just forced to drink a bottle of liquor and got drunk. Those people were very well-behaved, only after money and not harming anyone."

Bai Xiaosheng nodded slightly.

His impression of Bai Fei greatly improved.

Considering these circumstances, Bai Fei had the courage to come, and he kept Bai Ran in mind, showing true Bai Family loyalty.

"In the end, our talks fell through, and I secretly recorded a little with my phone, planning to go to the police, but unfortunately, Bai Shuanglei caught me, and my phone was smashed. I fled wildly, chased like a dog, and you all know what happened after that."

Bai Fei sighed.

"Are you saying they're still around here?" Bai Xiaosheng suddenly asked.

"Yes!" Bai Fei nodded earnestly, "Right at the end of the corridor, in a private dining room of a restaurant!"

Bai Xiaosheng nodded, his eyes narrowing slightly, "At this hour, the upstairs might be okay, but downstairs is crowded and noisy. I figure they won't leave anytime soon! Since we're here, we must rescue Bai Ran!"

"But how? You're in no shape to..."

Bai Fei couldn't help but say bitterly, "Even if we get others to help, by the time they arrive, they might have run away."

Considering the opposition had more people and out of the three of them, only Sheng was able to fight, and even he couldn't do it now.

"Who said you need to fight to rescue someone? Leave it to me!"

As he spoke, Bai Xiaosheng's mouth curved into a smile.

Full of confidence!

Chapter 330 Disguised as Another_1

Zhongjing Imperial Scenery Little Heaven City, this building, resembles a five-story courtyard house piled high, a bit like a courtyard building with an enclosed atrium.

In the courtyard, there is a landscape design.

Looking up, you see blue sky and white clouds; looking down, you see rockeries and pavilions, with the best views on the fourth and fifth floors.

A large tree was transplanted into the central courtyard, its crown like a majestic canopy. Normally, birds would fly down to perch on the tree, chirping noisily and creating a lively atmosphere.

This area falls within the new CBD, close to the so-called city's green lung—a large park. The design of the building's courtyard landscape also counts as a way to be close to nature within the city.

However, with a multitude of birds comes the need for someone to maintain cleanliness, a task that requires constant attention.

Liang is responsible for this area, and per regulations, he must inspect and clean every hour. But today, during mealtime, as he came over with his broom and dustpan, he was shocked to find not a single bird in sight—those normally clamorous little creatures had disappeared.

Liang gazed puzzlingly at the sky, but there was no trace of them.

"Strange, today really is bizarre," Liang couldn't help but mutter to himself.

The birds hadn't disappeared.

If Liang had taken a careful look on the fifth floor, he might have found them. On the decorative carved railing at the top of a fifth-floor corridor, a dark mass of small birds stood silently en masse.

Centered around Dingxiang Building.

In a private room at Dingxiang Building, Bai Xiaosheng had Yang Qian'er take a seat while an array of bottles and jars, along with various makeup tools, lay on the adjacent table.

Bai Fei stood beside them, staring wide-eyed and slack-jawed, unfamiliar with many of the items.

From foundation, mascara, eyeshadow, and blush to eyeliner, lip color, eyelash curler, and tweezers, everything one could ask for was present.

These were all purchased by Yang Qian'er today. She had just returned from a business trip and had coerced Bai Xiaosheng into going shopping with her, conveniently giving her makeup collection a complete makeover.

Just as Bai Xiaosheng started unpacking her newly bought makeup, Yang Qian'er became a mix of shocked and furious, on the verge of freaking out, "What are you doing? Don't touch my makeup!"

"Sit still and don't move!" Bai Xiaosheng ordered, "Those three recognized us, but they're less familiar with you. I need you to put on a good act to avoid blowing our cover. I have to do your makeup so you won't be recognized."

"Makeup? You know how?" Yang Qian'er said, disbelieving.

"If after I'm done, you still recognize yourself, then consider it my loss!" Bai Xiaosheng declared, pouring makeup remover onto a cotton pad.

"Red Lotus, I need some makeup skills," Bai Xiaosheng silently prayed in his mind.

"Understood!" The voice of Red Lotus echoed in Bai Xiaosheng's mind.

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes sparkled with brilliance, and he swiftly wiped off Yang Qian'er's foundation, eyeshadow, and lip color.

Yang Qian'er was astonished, Bai Xiaosheng's movements were gentle and incredibly quick, far more adept than her own despite having spent over a decade perfecting her makeup routine—his speed was many times faster.

Bai Fei was also stunned, "You even know how to do this?"

"Hmm, elective course in university," Bai Xiaosheng lied blatantly.

...

It took less than five minutes for Bai Xiaosheng to finish Yang Qian'er's makeup and let her hair down.

Yang Qian'er had transformed into a completely different person, barely recognizing herself in the mirror.

She looked supremely elegant, like a major celebrity.

"Forget being an executive, we should quit our jobs and start a business!" Yang Qian'er couldn't help but murmur to herself.

She was astounded.

This was so much better than her own makeup!

This guy, he doesn't have some special fetish, does he?

Yang Qian'er couldn't help but glance at Bai Xiaosheng.

Later, I'll have to get a thorough lesson from him!

Yang Qian'er thought to herself.

"You have two minutes to change into your clothes, the new ones you bought, time for their debut," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

Without a word, Yang Qian'er picked up her new clothes and walked into the restroom of the small private room.

While she was changing, Bai Fei couldn't help but murmur to Bai Xiaosheng, "Shouldn't we ask someone for help? It's just the three of us, and there's a woman. They may not count Bai Shuanglei, but they have six people!"

"We're not going to clash with them, why would we need so many people?" Bai Xiaosheng laughed, staring at Bai Fei with a sudden remark, "Just now, I saw you run quite fast."

"What are you trying to say?" Bai Fei, catching Bai Xiaosheng's smiling eyes, suddenly felt a bit uneasy.

"Nothing much, just that I've prepared two plans... for one of them, we might need your speed," Bai Xiaosheng said, scratching his face and avoiding the question.

Bai Fei was utterly astonished.

Bai Xiaosheng's gaze flickered, considering that the situation could be settled with money, but he was not happy about it!

Why should they get off so easily!

...

On the fifth floor, at the end of a corridor, there was a restaurant named Ju Feng Garden.

Inside a private room.

Four men were sitting on a sofa, and at a small table in the corner, a woman with her arms on the table and her head buried in her arms, her cheeks flushed, was sleeping soundly – it was Bai Ran.

Her body reeked of alcohol.

On the table, there was an empty bottle, emitting a strong fragrance of liquor; it was 52% proof strong aromatic baijiu, and it was empty.

An hour or so earlier, out of no choice and at Bai Shuanglei's pleading, Bai Ran had drunk the entire bottle of liquor and promptly passed out.

On the sofa, a man with a fawning smile and somewhat sleazy look was Bai Shuanglei.

"Brother Hao, it's really not my fault. How would I know my cousin would secretly film anything, and it was I who found the phone and took it away!" Bai Shuanglei said, anxiously patting his chest, explaining to the man with triangular eyes among the three, afraid of being misunderstood.

The man with triangular eyes smirked as he looked at Bai Shuanglei.

"Don't worry, I won't misunderstand you. And now, I won't lay a finger on you. I must say, Bai Shuanglei, you're good. Last time, in just a few days, you got your family to cough up eight or nine hundred thousand, so I don't think there will be a problem this time either, right? Why the fuss with your two cousins? Just get your father to prepare it, and it's all settled," he said.

Brother Hao looked at Bai Ran sleeping in the corner and remarked to Bai Shuanglei.

"You're quite crafty, little guy. To get a hostage, I've heard of tying up with ropes and sticking with tape, but never of getting someone drunk. Impressive, truly impressive. Even if the police show up, there's nothing they could say. You're a damn talent, and if it weren't for the money, I'd seriously consider taking you in."

"Thank you, Brother Hao!" Bai Shuanglei quickly said.

"Thank my ass!" Brother Hao's expression turned dark as he snorted coldly, laughing scornfully, "To be my minion, first you have to pay back the money! Not a cent less. Kid, let me tell you, it's not easy to make money these days, and it's even harder to ask for it. It's tough to get by in society without resorting to violence, and Brother Hao, I'd rather not get rough."

"But you, don't push me!"

As he spoke, Brother Hao leaned forward and patted Bai Shuanglei's chubby face.

The other two men snickered.

Bai Shuanglei's face turned a bit unnatural, but he still forced a laugh, "No, no! I wouldn't dare owe Brother Hao's money, even if it killed me!"

"Alright, I'll remember that. If I don't get the money in half a month, then we'll kill you," Brother Hao nodded.

Bai Shuanglei felt like crying but had no tears.

There was a knock on the door of the private room, and one of the men by Brother Hao's side immediately stood up, asking in a low, wary voice, "Who's there?!"

"It's me!" came a response from outside the door.

"Lei Ying and the others are back!" The people inside the room perked up.

Brother Hao's smile overflowed.

With Lei Ying there, nothing could go wrong.