

Two Trillion 331

Chapter 331 A Secret_1

The private room door swung open, Lei Ying and Xiao Liuzi walked in, supporting the constantly groaning Cheng Xiaosi.

The person who opened the door was instantly taken aback.

"What's going on?!" Hao's face changed abruptly as he stood up in alarm and demanded.

It was one thing that the person they were after wasn't brought back, but how did their own man get injured?

With Lei Ying with them, how could such a thing even happen?!

Hao found it unbelievable.

Lei Ying was no ordinary man. He started learning martial arts at the age of six, and then spent twenty years mastering a range of martial arts from traditional styles to international combat techniques, sparring with experts from around the world.

To train his courage and reflexes, he had even joined a foreign legion.

Such a monster was like a human weapon!

If it weren't for Hao's favor over him, nobody would be able to command him.

With Lei Ying involved, who could possibly hurt Cheng Xiaosi!

Hao was baffled.

"Brother-in-law, ow, it hurts to death, brother-in-law!" The groaning Cheng Xiaosi, upon seeing Li Hao, suddenly started screaming as if his bones had been broken.

"Stop fucking yelling!" Hao, his head aching from the noise, glared fiercely with his triangular eyes and barked sharply.

Cheng Xiaosi immediately shut up.

His brother-in-law had a fierce temper; if he continued to wail, he was surely not going to end well.

"Lei Ying, what on earth happened?!" Hao turned to Lei Ying and asked with a dark expression.

Lei Ying frowned and recounted the events meticulously.

Everyone was shocked!

Someone intercepted and took Bai Fei on the way? And even fought Lei Ying to a draw?

Who was this person!

Hao turned his head to look at Bai Shuanglei, his triangular eyes revealing a hint of viciousness, "Bai Shuanglei, what's going on here? Are you hiding something, or did you find someone to deal with us? Speak!"

How could it be such a coincidence that a master appeared here to help them out?

"Hao, please don't get me wrong; I wouldn't dare!" Bai Shuanglei said with a pale, bitter face, "I have no idea where that person came from. Maybe, it really was a coincidence, someone who likes to meddle!"

Hao gave him a cold glance, believing that Bai Shuanglei didn't have the guts to do such a thing.

"There were three of you. If you fought him to a draw, couldn't they have tipped the balance? At the very least, you could have brought the person back," Hao said with a sneer, his triangular eyes slightly narrowed as he looked at Lei Ying, "Lei, did you deliberately go easy? I know you had reservations about our debt collection this time!"

At Hao's words, everyone tensed up, looking at Lei Ying.

Lei Ying remained calm, not evading anyone's gaze, and after about two seconds of silence, he actually nodded, "That's right!"

"Then explain yourself," Hao said.

"Paying one's debts is a matter of principle, even gambling debts. However, Hao, if you keep going like this, you'll be crossing a line!" Lei Ying sighed, "I owe you, working as your bodyguard for three years. Time is almost up, and I don't want to cross that line. After all, once the three years are over, I want to live a normal life. Moreover, crossing the line won't do you any favors!"

Lei Ying was teaching Hao how to do things?!

The others couldn't help but watch anxiously.

Hao, known for his hot temper and ruthlessness, looked at Lei Ying and suddenly laughed.

"Three years haven't yet passed, and I haven't overstepped the line either. Lei, for now, you'd better focus on doing your job well," Hao said with a smile.

To reprimand Hao in front of everyone and still be spoken to politely in return.

This could only be Lei Ying!

The others couldn't resist and swallowed hard.

"Actually, I didn't go easy. That person was very strong! I... even took a loss. Cheng Xiaosi had already fallen, and Xiao Liuzi alone probably couldn't handle it," Lei Ying said earnestly.

Lei Ying's explanation was also a form of humility.

Hao nodded.

"No matter how strong he is, after all, he's just one person. We have so many here, should we still be afraid of him?" Hao said.

"However, by now, they've probably already left," Lei Ying said.

"No, they didn't leave!"

Cheng Xiaosi suddenly shouted, "When we came back and reached the entrance of this shop, I glanced back and saw the guy who fought with Lei Ying, propped up by someone surnamed Bai and a woman. They didn't take the elevator but went into some store... I didn't see clearly which one, but definitely around that area!"

Hao and Lei Ying were both startled at the same time.

Propped up by someone?

That person must have been injured!

And more severely than Lei Ying!

"Turns out, we were fooled!" Hao looked at Lei Ying, then turned to Cheng Xiaosi with a sneer, "Xiaosi, are you certain of what you saw?"

"I'm absolutely sure!" Cheng Xiaosi stated with conviction, "The only ways down from here are these stairs and that elevator. They didn't use the elevator, and they certainly wouldn't have gone to this side to take the stairs, so they must have found a store to hide in!"

Hao laughed.

"Good! Whether they want to hide or they want to escape, let's find them!"

As he spoke, Hao grinned mockingly at Lei Ying, "Since it was you who let them slip through your fingers, you'll be the one to bring them back. You heard Xiaosi, the other party is injured and can barely walk; I trust you won't fail this time. Besides Xiaosi, take those three with you. I look forward to your good news!"

With things laid out like this, Lei Ying could only nod silently, gesture to the three men, and head out the door.

Hao walked over, locked the private room door from the inside, and listened to the noise outside.

Then, he picked up a new bottle of liquor from the adjacent table and unscrewed the cap.

"Shuanglei, I hear you can hold your liquor well?" Hao asked leisurely.

"Where did you hear that? For liquor over forty degrees, I can only handle about two ounces," Bai Shuanglei said, not understanding the implication but still replied with a forced smile.

Hao nodded; he knew that Bai Shuanglei couldn't really drink.

Placing the bottle of white liquor in front of Bai Shuanglei, Hao smiled amiably and said, "Come on, down it."

Down it?

Bai Shuanglei was shocked; this was a 52-degree, 500ml bottle of liquor. Drinking that would surely knock him out dead drunk.

"Drink!" Hao commanded with an undeniable tone.

Bai Shuanglei glanced at Bai Ran, who was lying down nearby, and understood.

This was intended to make him pass out drunk!

"What the fuck are you dawdling for, drink up!" Cheng barked fiercely, glaring at him.

With a morose face, Bai Shuanglei picked up the bottle, steeled himself, and poured the liquor down his throat.

He choked several times and gagged several times.

In the end, like a dead pig, Bai Shuanglei collapsed onto the sofa, gasping, completely unconscious.

"That's a good method!" Hao commented with a glance at Bai Shuanglei, chuckling.

"Brother-in-law, you got him drunk; is there something you want to say to me?" Cheng Xiaosi asked slyly.

Hao nodded and lowered his voice, "Xiaosi, you followed Lei Ying earlier; did he act strangely at any point?"

For the past three years, Hao had never fully trusted Lei Ying.

"Nothing unusual! The kid who suddenly showed up is really tough, just as much a match for Lei Ying," Cheng Xiaosi thought and assured, "Brother-in-law, you're too suspicious. All these years, you've been wary of him. I just don't get it. What are you worried about? Are you afraid he'll find out that it was you

who arranged to have his parents framed, and then you lent him money to work off the debt as your bodyguard? Relax, the guy who did that job is already locked up..."

"Shut your mouth!" Hao snapped angrily, "I should have sent you in too, you'll end up blabbing sooner or later."

Cheng Xiaosi pursed his lips.

Now, there were only the two of them and two oblivious drunks. Surely the walls didn't have ears!

He, Cheng Xiaosi, was no fool; he would never speak of it to outsiders, knowing full well that as one of the culprits, he would be in deep trouble if Lei Ying found out.

"Brother-in-law, you're too tense," Cheng Xiaosi muttered.

Hao shot him a look, his expression slightly softened.

Meanwhile.

Bai Ran, who had been slumped over the table, face down, silently opened his eyes, revealing an unexpectedly clear and alert gaze.

It seemed he had overheard a secret!

Chapter 332 Action Begins_1

Some women can outdrink men.

Bai Ran was one of them.

A whole bottle of white liquor would normally knock a man out, but Bai Ran was unaffected; she stayed completely sober!

The reason she pretended to be drunk was to look for an opportunity to escape.

Unfortunately, with several men always in the private room, she never found the chance.

Her complete anger and disappointment with Bai Shuanglei solidified. This man had completely erased his conscience and basic morals, even helping outsiders to "kidnap" her. Bai Ran had decided she would no longer bother with Bai Shuanglei's affairs!

Whether he lived or died, Bai Ran had done all she could, and from now on, they would be strangers to each other!

At the moment, her only thought was to escape!

Her cousin—Bai Fei—had managed to attend the banquet alone to negotiate with these people for her, which surprised but also moved Bai Ran.

Bai Fei was first her idol, but then his image was shattered due to family matters.

Yet now, he had once again made Bai Ran feel the warmth of kinship.

Bai Ran was happy that Bai Fei had escaped.

But she was curious about who had helped Bai Fei make his escape.

Listening to those people talk and hearing Lei Ying and Cheng Xiaosi's descriptions, the image formed in Bai Ran's mind was unexpectedly that of Bai Xiaosheng.

"How is that possible! My cousin is quick-witted and articulate. But he's so frail, how could he possibly defeat these fierce and vicious men?"

Bai Ran dismissed the thought from her mind, concentrating instead on how to escape.

Now, with only two people in the private room, the chance to escape was greater, but the door was locked, and she had indeed drunk a bottle of white liquor, which would probably make her less agile.

Run out and cry for help?

Hao and his men could easily drag her back, reeking of alcohol, and claim she was having a drunken fit!

This wouldn't work!

It might also provoke Hao and his men, who were capable of anything!

Bai Ran was extremely cautious.

As she pondered a more reliable plan, she overheard a secret.

A secret about Lei Ying, the most capable fighter of them all!

It turned out Hao had deceived him!

This was definitely valuable information!

Bai Ran felt excited.

However, would Lei Ying believe it just based on her word? What if he didn't, what then...

After her excitement, Bai Ran calmed down again.

She still didn't dare to act rashly, still considering a more secure method.

...

When Lei Ying led people out of the private room, Bai Xiaosheng and Yang Qian'er hurried into a shop next to Ju Feng Garden with few customers and sat down by the window.

With make-up and preparation included, rushing over took them less than ten minutes, an impressively quick sequence of actions.

Lei Ying's mobility was impaired by his injury, and on their way back, they moved slowly. Upon reaching the first floor of Ju Feng Garden, Cheng Xiaosi even fell into his seat, clutching his stomach and grimacing in pain for quite some time.

After going upstairs, Lei Ying had another conversation and explanation with Hao, and when all those snippets of time were added up, it was nowhere near as quick as Bai Xiaosheng and his group.

Bai Fei didn't follow Bai Xiaosheng and the others; he had a different task to complete.

"Why aren't we taking action yet?"

Yang Qian'er, in her changed attire, couldn't contain her excitement again.

She found the whole affair incredibly thrilling, like being a secret agent in a movie.

"What's the rush?" Bai Xiaosheng drawled, and suddenly knocked the menu to the floor, bending over but not picking it up immediately.

As Yang Qian'er looked on in surprise, she saw that brawny man named Lei Ying, leading a few people in a hurried walk past the window.

During this, Lei Ying's gaze swept over Yang Qian'er.

Yang Qian'er was startled, but thanks to her years as a journalist, she showed no fear and indifferently glanced back at him.

Only after they had passed did Yang Qian'er allow herself to pat her chest.

"What are you afraid of? With the makeup I've applied, even your own mom wouldn't recognize how pretty her daughter's become!" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but joke.

"Go to hell!" Yang Qian'er hissed in a lowered voice.

Bai Xiaosheng stroked his chin, watching her with interest, "That act just now, with your snobbish little look, was pretty good. I've discovered you're actually quite alert and have a real talent for performing!"

Yang Qian'er rolled her eyes at him.

But she felt a bit proud being praised.

Bai Xiaosheng's expression turned serious as he looked at her and smiled, "That Lei Ying is no simple character. I had two plans depending on whether he stayed in the restaurant or not. If he didn't come out, I'd have to find a way to get him out. Now it's easier for us. Bai Fei said that group has six people; four have left. Inside, there are probably just that Hao guy and the man named Cheng Xiaosi who I fought with."

"This time, Lady Luck is on our side!"

Bai Xiaosheng stood up and flashed a snow-white smile at Yang Qian'er, "Let's go, it's your turn to take the stage!"

Bai Xiaosheng and Yang Qian'er left the restaurant.

As they went out the door, Bai Xiaosheng saw Lei Ying and his group's retreating figures. He gestured with his hand and a rather large bird flew down from the overhead corridor railing. Bai Xiaosheng emitted a series of low bird calls, and the bird, cocking its head, turned towards the direction of Lei Ying's group.

It took off, flapping its wings.

"You still have time for fun," Yang Qian'er said, half irritated, half amused.

She'd seen Bai Xiaosheng toy with wild sparrows and was curious, though she didn't pay it much mind.

"I'm not just playing, I'm helping Bai Fei... never mind, it's too complicated to explain, it's nothing..." Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

Yang Qian'er glared at him, ready to get angry.

"Come on, I must hurry and explain the plan to you!"

Bai Xiaosheng leaned in and whispered in Yang Qian'er's ear.

Yang Qian'er looked shock, then her eyes brightened and she nodded repeatedly.

"Got it?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with a smile, "Put on a good show later. If you mess up, I'll have to go all out in a fight. My arms are sore, my legs are weak, and my whole body aches—I'm no match for them in a direct fight."

"Don't worry. If I don't act, it's because I don't need to. But when I do, I'm the best leading lady!" Yang Qian'er declared proudly.

"Then let's go, best leading lady," Bai Xiaosheng said as he gestured for her to proceed.

Yang Qian'er smiled and confidently took the lead.

Meanwhile, Lei Ying and his men had already started to make inquiries in each establishment.

The characteristics of Bai Xiaosheng's group were quite distinct: two men and one woman.

Despite it being mealtime, the fourth and fifth floors were upscale dining areas that weren't overly crowded, making it relatively easy to gather information.

As Lei Ying and his men were making inquiries from place to place, Bai Fei was seated in a restaurant a few doors down from Dingxiang Building, also by a window, keeping an eye on the situation over there.

Though his gaze held traces of fear, he gritted his teeth and persisted.

His mission was to keep an eye on these people and, if necessary, even reveal himself to stall them, ensuring the rescue operation Bai Xiaosheng was orchestrating went smoothly!

Bai Xiaosheng had also promised to arrange external support for him.

But where was it?

Bai Fei scanned around, but couldn't spot any trace of the supposed backup.

No matter!

I alone must hold these people off!

Bai Fei steeled himself with determination and inwardly swore.

Chapter 333 Too Good at Acting_1

Ju Feng Garden, a century-old prestigious brand, the interior decoration is quaint and replete with the air of the Republic of China era.

Its owner, surnamed Shen, is a middle-aged man with ever-smiling eyes, often seen wearing a melon-skin cap and a traditional Chinese overcoat. He loves to stay behind the counter, especially when the place is crowded; he enjoys greeting guests and often likes to take photos with them.

Amid the flow of customers, Boss Shen suddenly notices a beautiful woman enter. Her face is delicately flawless, her demeanor elegant and aloof. Behind her closely follows a young man, who seems to be her attendant.

"Oh, welcome, please come inside..." Boss Shen takes the initiative to approach them with a smile.

These two individuals are none other than Yang Qian'er and Bai Xiaosheng.

"And you are?" Yang Qian'er arches her exquisite eyebrow, asking with a frown.

"I am the owner of this establishment," responds Boss Shen with a smile.

"Oh. We have a private room reserved." A faint smile appears on Yang Qian'er's face, her gaze lofty but not overly showy, and her tone is as light as a breeze, "A private room called 'Nan Yuan', reserved under the name Li Hao."

After checking the reservation book at the counter, Boss Shen finds the details match and nods immediately, saying with a smile, "Yes, right! Mr. Li Hao, the 'Nan Yuan' private room!"

Ordinarily, the patrons who dine here include celebrities and socialites.

Their intentional understatement coincides with sporadic exhibitions of distinctive temperament.

In Yang Qian'er, Boss Shen can perceive a similar quality, and his face instantly beams with an added warmth.

Bai Xiaosheng follows behind Yang Qian'er with an extremely respectful demeanor.

He is greatly surprised by Yang Qian'er's behavior and choice of words.

Although the plan was his idea, this girl seems to have a natural gift for acting.

At first, he was worried about giving themselves away, but now it appears that Yang Qian'er has perfectly mastered this "role," eliminating any need for his concern.

If someone professionally trained were to play the part, they might have let something slip.

Acting convincingly is one thing, deceiving the average person is manageable, but the eyes of restaurateurs like these are sharp; even the slightest trace of a performance will be detected.

By comparison, Yang Qian'er's act is incredibly natural.

Bai Xiaosheng inwardly admires Yang Qian'er's performance.

"Shall I have the waiter show you to your room?" Boss Shen asks with a smile.

"There's no rush," responds Yang Qian'er indifferently, "I want to see what dishes they've ordered."

Again, Boss Shen checks the record.

"Oh? They've opened two bottles of baijiu, saying they're waiting for guests and not to hurry with the dishes," Boss Shen asks, "Are you the guest they're waiting for?"

The excuse made up on the spot by Hao and his companions now perfectly shields Yang Qian'er's true identity.

Without betraying any emotion, Yang Qian'er nods slightly, "What price range of baijiu did they order?"

"Over a hundred per bottle," Boss Shen honestly replies.

"Can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. I'm treating them and they're embarrassing me," snorts Yang Qian'er with a frown, "Bring me the menu!"

In her words, there's an unmistakable tone of command.

Without thinking, Boss Shen brings over a thin, bound thread-bound menu and hands it to Yang Qian'er.

Both parties carry on with such natural ease that neither feels anything amiss.

Meanwhile, the restaurant waitstaff watch on, dumbfounded.

This beautiful woman is actually bossing their own boss around, and he's complying so obediently...

But looking at the lady's demeanor and poise, one can tell she's no ordinary person!

"Are you going to order here?" Boss Shen asks, a hint of curiosity in his voice.

"In a while. I have some requests to discuss with you later. I'm afraid that if I order inside, the waitstaff might not convey them clearly," Yang Qian'er replies lightly.

Her response is calm and composed!

This style! Bai Xiaosheng is impressed.

Boss Shen is momentarily startled but then nods with a smile.

"Bring us two bottles of Moutai VIP Special Edition to start," Yang Qian'er says, still sounding somewhat dissatisfied, "Is this the highest grade you have?"

Picking up on her meaning, one might think she considers it too cheap?

Boss Shen can't help but be astonished; a bottle of Jin Bottle Collectible VIP Special Edition sells for several thousand on the market, and in their establishment, it's priced over ten thousand, exclusively used as a centrepiece, and they only have two bottles.

She still thinks it's too cheap!

"The prices of the dishes here don't seem to be very high-end either," notes Yang Qian'er.

Boss Shen was at a loss for words. In all his years of doing business, it was the first time he'd heard that the price wasn't up to standard.

Yang Qian'er closed the menu, no longer interested, and looked at Boss Shen with a half-smile.

"Let's do this: I won't bother with the menu anymore. I'll just state my requirements," Yang Qian'er said to Boss Shen. "We have a total of ten people. You decide on the dishes, but they must be exquisite and high-class. I've heard that owners of century-old restaurants have some special skills, so please personally take a turn in the kitchen! I won't ask about the price; just serve it. If you agree, we'll eat here. If not, we can change locations. I will pay for the private room and service fees in full. How does that sound?"

She demanded that the boss himself cook!

The service workers by their side were taken aback.

Light flickered in Boss Shen's eyes, betraying an extraordinary gleam. It had been a while since he had seen someone come to dine without asking about the price, wanting only to experience something special. Such guests were invariably generous spenders!

It looked like today he had a big customer.

"Okay, I'll showcase my skills for you!" Boss Shen laughed. He had no reason to refuse a customer delivered to his doorstep.

Yang Qian'er nodded, then turned to the waiter. "Where is our private room?"

"On the second floor, walk in and it's the third room on the left," the waiter stuttered, clearly overwhelmed by Yang Qian'er's assertive manner of speaking.

Yang Qian'er nodded, then smiled at Boss Shen. "Then I look forward to tasting your culinary arts."

"Sheng, let's go!" Yang Qian'er beckoned.

Sheng...

Bai Xiaosheng instantly felt a streak of frustration, yet he couldn't get angry and had to maintain a respectful expression.

Yang Qian'er, as if an empress setting out, led Bai Xiaosheng upstairs.

The waiter intended to lead the way.

"No need to guide us, just hurry up and serve our cold dishes. Oh, and bring the wine while you're at it," Yang Qian'er waved her hand dismissively, instructing the waiter to leave.

"Go on, hurry!" Boss Shen urged as well.

The waiter scurried away.

Yang Qian'er and Bai Xiaosheng ascended the staircase.

Following behind, Boss Shen watched the two ascend, his eyes shining with excitement. Rolling up his sleeves, he headed straight for the kitchen.

Once upstairs, Yang Qian'er looked back, her poise and grace vanishing in an instant as she patted her chest. "Hey, not bad, right?"

"I thought you were a billionaire here to dine!" Bai Xiaosheng gave a thumbs-up.

Yang Qian'er smiled, then quickly put on a serious face. "Come on, it's this way!"

Yang Qian'er knocked on the door of the Nan Yuan private room, while Bai Xiaosheng hid in a corner not too far away.

After all, there were people inside who recognized him.

"Who is it?" A deep voice from inside the room inquired, belonging to Cheng Xiaosi.

"Hello, I am from the restaurant," Yang Qian'er called out.

There was a moment of silence from the room before the door opened, and Cheng Xiaosi stared in surprise at the stunning woman at the doorway.

Even face to face, he failed to recognize her.

Yang Qian'er felt relieved.

"You're from the restaurant?" Cheng Xiaosi said, still in disbelief.

Behind him, Hao was also sizing up Yang Qian'er.

Yang Qian'er smiled charmingly, "I am no server; I'm the lady boss. Which one of you is Mr. Li Hao?"

"I am," Hao looked on in amazement at the young lady boss, who was a far cry from the middle-aged man downstairs.

Could this be for real?

He had his doubts.

Yang Qian'er glanced in the direction from which she came, spotting the waiter from downstairs rushing over with several people carrying things.

"I told you to be quick, they're all getting impatient!" Yang Qian'er's voice showed a trace of impatience as she shouted.

"Yes, yes!" The waiter hurriedly urged their companions to pick up the pace.

She really was the lady boss!

This time, Hao and Cheng Xiaosi believed it.

If she wasn't the lady boss, why else would those workers be so obedient...

Chapter 334 Got it_1

"What are you doing?!"

Even though he believed that Yang Qian'er was the owner, when he saw several waiters rushing over, Hao was still on alert and asked.

"Are you Hao?" Yang Qian'er asked.

"Yes," Hao answered with a gloomy nod.

"Then there's no problem. A person named Lei Ying ordered these dishes. He said it wouldn't look right for you guys to only order drinks and no food. I didn't understand what he meant, but since he ordered, we brought them," Yang Qian'er said with a smile.

Hao and Cheng Xiaosi exchanged a surprised glance.

When you think about it, it made sense.

Six or seven men with a woman, only ordering two bottles of liquor and occupying a private room, what's that about?

If they didn't order any dishes, others might suspect something, and even if no one did, the restaurant wouldn't allow them to just take up space. It was mealtime, and they had to do business.

"This Lei Ying guy, he thinks of everything, huh?" Cheng Xiaosi muttered.

Hao looked back into the private room, where two people were so drunk they were unconscious, but since they weren't tied up, even if it looked a bit strange, there was nothing incriminating.

"Alright then," Hao nodded and stepped aside from the door, "bring in the food."

Yang Qian'er entered the private room and stood aside. The waiters arrived and filed in, placing each dish and drink on the table.

Inside the private room, there was a faint odor of alcohol, and someone was sleeping on the sofa.

But obviously, the waiters weren't concerned with that; after setting everything up, the lead waiter nodded respectfully to Yang Qian'er, "Is there anything else you need?"

"No, that's it. You can go now," Yang Qian'er waved them off, and they left respectfully.

"Boss lady, you've got quite the presence," Hao commented with admiration.

Despite her youth, she carried herself with extraordinary grace.

"Flattery will get you nowhere. I usually stay in the back kitchen and don't deal with the front," Yang Qian'er replied with a sweet smile.

"So why did you personally bring the food this time?" Hao asked in surprise.

Meanwhile, unable to contain himself, Cheng Xiaosi sneaked a bite to eat and grabbed a bottle of Maotai from a golden lacquered wooden box, "Wow, Maotai special for honored guests, this liquor must be really expensive, right, brother-in-law?"

At that, Hao's expression suddenly darkened.

"Maotai special for honored guests?!" He hurried over to take a look and exclaimed in amazement, "A golden bottle collection!"

He had tried this drink before, worth several thousand on the outside!

Here, wouldn't it be over ten thousand?!

"What's going on, who ordered this liquor!" Hao suddenly shouted.

No matter how casually he loaned out tens of thousands and had a name that included 'Hao', he wasn't extravagant, especially when spending his own money.

"You all!" Yang Qian'er said matter-of-factly, but looking somewhat puzzled at Hao, "Didn't you ask why I, the owner, personally came to serve the food? For a big customer like you, I naturally have to come myself. This whole table of dishes is of the highest quality. That bite your brother just ate probably costs a hundred."

Cheng Xiaosi stood dumbstruck.

He just ate a mouthful worth a hundred?

To think a hundred yuan wasn't a big deal to him, but if a tiny bite was over a hundred, then how much would the whole plate cost!

And how much would these seven or eight dishes just served add up to?!

"Have you all gone mad? These dishes are so damn expensive!" Cheng Xiaosi screamed.

If they had known that running a restaurant could earn so much, they wouldn't have bothered with petty loans!

Hao's face turned grim too, looking at Yang Qian'er, the boss lady, as if she were about to scam them.

"Don't talk like that, and stop looking at me that way, we should be reasonable!" Yang Qian'er glanced over the menu, looked at the dish, and coldly smiled, "That little appetizer you just had, it was made with black truffles, wild matsutake mushrooms, and edible gold flakes. Tastes good, right?"

Cheng Xiaosi was taken aback.

He thought the taste was fine, but to think it even contained gold.

A dish with a dozen or so pieces, that must be over a thousand yuan!

"Who the hell ordered these dishes!" Hao's eyes were bloodshot.

"That guy named Lei Ying, said it was instructed by Brother Li Hao Hao." Yang Qian'er was unfazed, facing Hao's rage with a smile, "By the way, my man is cooking personally, preparing a few superb dishes for you guys. These ordinary-priced items are just appetizers."

This is considered ordinary-priced?

Is your man cooking us gold in the kitchen?!

Cheng Xiaosi had a pained expression as he watched Hao.

"Don't serve it, not a single dish! Tell your man to stop, stop cooking!" Hao screamed.

Outside the private room, Bai Xiaosheng, his face red with suppressed laughter, dared not laugh out loud as he listened to the commotion inside.

These moneylenders really do treasure their wealth as if it were their life.

But who wouldn't feel the pinch with such spending. Even with my net worth of over ten million, I'd die of heartache eating like this.

However, what surprises me the most is Yang Qian'er's acting skills! She's incredible!

As Bai Xiaosheng sighed in admiration, a thought suddenly struck him.

The film and television department is in need of a fourth female lead, isn't it? Yang Qian'er seems quite fitting.

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes shone as he recalled the plot, the more he thought about it, the more interesting it became!

Once this is all over, I must discuss it thoroughly with Wenqing. This plan is feasible!

Bai Xiaosheng smacked his lips, feeling that the trip wasn't in vain. Not only was he able to save someone, but he had also discovered a potential talent. It's just that he didn't know whether Yang Qian'er was interested in changing her job.

While Bai Xiaosheng was pondering this outside, inside, Yang Qian'er was showcasing her unparalleled acting talent, carrying out Bai Xiaosheng's insidious plan.

Her smiling face suddenly turned serious as she looked at Hao, "Are you guys joking? The dishes you ordered have already been served, and the rare delicacies are already in the pot. Now you're telling me you don't want them? It's not that easy! Let me tell you, it's not an option to refuse. Are you not their leader? You can't decide over the dishes your people ordered? Fine, if you insist on canceling, you go to the kitchen yourself and speak to my man, to see if he agrees!"

Yang Qian'er adopted a fierce demeanor, like a feisty chili pepper, even suppressing Hao's momentum.

"Fine, I'll talk to your man!" Now all Hao could think about was his money boiling away. The veins on his forehead were throbbing, and regardless of where the problem lay, he needed to rush to stop the restaurant owner right away.

With Cheng Xiaosi in the private room, weren't these two drunks being watched?

And with the lady boss here, nothing could go wrong. After all, you might escape the monk, but not the temple.

Moreover, a woman wasn't worth fearing!

Hao stamped his foot indignantly and rushed out.

Hiding in a corner, Bai Xiaosheng watched Hao disappear at the stairway, guessing that he would have a row in the kitchen and wouldn't be able to extricate himself anytime soon.

Now it was his turn to act!

Bai Xiaosheng lowered his head and stepped into the private room.

Cheng Xiaosi, concerned about his money, looked up startled as someone entered. He barked, "Are you delivering food? Don't bring any more in!"

Without a word, Bai Xiaosheng directly headed towards him.

"What are you doing?!" Cheng Xiaosi sensed something was amiss.

"What do you think I'm doing?" Bai Xiaosheng lifted his head, giving him a radiant smile.

"It's you!" Cheng Xiaosi screamed in fright, his face turning pale.

Bai Xiaosheng's previous punches were still fresh in his memory. At the shock, his knees went weak.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't hit him now, Cheng Xiaosi was even less able, but compared to this weakling, Bai Xiaosheng was much stronger.

Seizing the moment while Cheng Xiaosi was scared stiff, Bai Xiaosheng clenched his fist, extended his index and middle fingers, and struck Cheng Xiaosi's neck from the side.

With one strike, Cheng Xiaosi passed out.

Success!

"Let's go quickly!" Bai Xiaosheng immediately said.

They needed to get out of there fast!

Chapter 335: Return to Dingxiang Building_1

Bai Xiaosheng was only able to knock out Cheng Xiaosi with one punch because he took advantage of the latter's momentary shock and suddenly made his move, hence achieving success.

Yet even with such a simple punch, Bai Xiaosheng felt immense soreness in his arm, with the muscles aching as if pricked by needles.

That Lei Ying, he's really a pervert! The cost was not small for dealing with him.

Bai Xiaosheng mused in his heart.

"What do we do now? With you like this, we can't take two people!" Yang Qian'er said, unable to hide a trace of urgency upon seeing Bai Xiaosheng's condition.

"Who said we're taking two? We're only here to save Bai Ran!" Bai Xiaosheng said coldly, glancing at Bai Shuanglei snoring on the couch.

He had never intended to save Bai Shuanglei!

Bai Shuanglei was a scoundrel to the extreme, vile to the utmost degree.

The most unforgivable part was that he had even betrayed his own family; such behavior had crossed the line of Bai Xiaosheng's tolerance, and even though he was also one of grandmother's grandchildren, Bai Xiaosheng decided to abandon him.

"Good." Yang Qian'er very much agreed with this; she was afraid that Bai Xiaosheng would waver and in the end, save no one, possibly even risking herself in the process.

Now, Bai Xiaosheng's decisive decision earned her admiration.

Yang Qian'er walked towards Bai Ran.

But before she even touched Bai Ran,

Bai Ran actually sat up by herself, startling Yang Qian'er and nearly making her cry out in surprise.

"Sheng, Qian'er, I can walk by myself!" Bai Ran said with a smile, looking at the two.

She had never been unconscious; she had been awake the whole time, repeatedly confirming until she was sure it was indeed Bai Xiaosheng before getting up.

"Ran, you're not drunk?" Bai Xiaosheng asked in surprise.

Bai Ran smiled wryly, "My tolerance, naturally bestowed and honed through practice, can't be felled by a mere bottle of alcohol. Dream on!"

Bai Xiaosheng and Yang Qian'er exchanged glances, quite surprised.

If that's the case, then nothing could be better.

Bai Ran looked at Bai Xiaosheng with gratitude.

This is what family is, someone who comes to save you when you're in danger!

As for that despicable cur...

Bai Ran's gaze was cold as she glanced at the fat man on the sofa, clenching her teeth, "We shouldn't bother about Bai Shuanglei anymore."

"Mm! Let's go," Bai Xiaosheng urged.

He didn't give Bai Shuanglei another look. From now on, he would act as if he didn't exist.

Bai Xiaosheng decided he would call home tonight and tell his father and the rest the whole story, urging them not to trust Bai Shuanglei's family anymore.

The trio hurriedly left the private room, descended to the second floor, and reached the lobby, where they heard a commotion coming from the kitchen area.

Many diners walked over to watch the excitement.

Seizing the opportunity to slip away, Bai Xiaosheng, while unnoticed by others, took out the remaining thousand-odd dollars from shopping and casually stuffed it into the front desk.

It wasn't much, but it was the thought that counted—the owner of the restaurant had been swindled significantly by him...

"I'll definitely promote you more later, encouraging the company to host more business entertainments here in the future," Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

After leaving the restaurant, Bai Xiaosheng did not hurry away with Bai Ran and Yang Qian'er but instead entered the next door shop and pretended to be customers.

The three of them were too conspicuous; if they ran into Lei Ying and his people, there would be no chance of escape.

Bai Xiaosheng sent a message to Bai Fei first.

"We've succeeded on our end, how's the situation on yours?"

Moments later, Bai Xiaosheng received a reply from Bai Fei.

"I've circled back to Dingxiang Building, it's safe here!"

Upon seeing the message, Bai Xiaosheng felt a sense of relief.

Bai Fei was the person he had arranged to watch over Lei Ying and her people. They were searching for them from one shop to another. If everything went as expected, it should be fine, but if they came back early, then Bai Fei would have to risk her life to draw them out.

For Bai Fei's safety, Bai Xiaosheng had arranged "outside assistance," those birds.

If Bai Fei was in danger, the birds would attack those people, causing disturbances and, at the very least, slowing their pace.

Now, it seemed Bai Fei hadn't needed to use them at all. He was cautious enough to return to Dingxiang Building after Lei Ying and others had already checked it.

Bai Xiaosheng was quite impressed by this.

At the moment, Bai Xiaosheng and the two women were sitting next to the window in the restaurant adjacent to Ju Feng Garden, closely monitoring any movements there.

Now, two women and him, a man with injuries, who could neither fight nor run, would be done for if discovered.

"Don't be nervous, we'll play a game of 'in the dark under the lamp' with them. They won't be able to find us!"

Bai Xiaosheng said with a comforting smile to the two women.

Bai Ran and Yang Qian'er were initially a bit tense, but seeing how composed Bai Xiaosheng was, they also relaxed.

After a while, Yang Qian'er nudged Bai Xiaosheng and nodded towards the distance. Bai Xiaosheng looked over.

Lei Ying and a few others had already come out of a shop, apparently ready to continue the search.

Just then, Lei Ying received a phone call.

After hanging up, he hurried back to Ju Feng Garden with his people.

It seemed like it was Hao who had called.

Bai Xiaosheng, Bai Ran, and the women hurriedly hid themselves, and once the others had passed by, Bai Xiaosheng quickly signaled to the two women, "Let's go, back to Dingxiang Building!"

Go back?

"Shouldn't we take the chance to go downstairs and run away?" Yang Qian'er asked in surprise.

Bai Xiaosheng was about to answer when he saw two people rushing out from Ju Feng Garden towards the stairs.

"We want to leave, but we have to be able to. They've already sent someone to wait for us downstairs," said Bai Xiaosheng. "Waiting for the elevator is too obvious, and if it doesn't come, they'll get to us first. Let's go back to Dingxiang Building. They've already made a round and are unlikely to go back. It should be safe there."

After thinking for a moment, the two women nodded in agreement.

The three of them left the restaurant, paying close attention to the activity at Ju Feng Garden and quickly returned to Dingxiang Building.

It went incredibly smoothly.

Whether it was rescuing someone or escaping, everything seemed blessed, and Bai Xiaosheng was overly satisfied.

He dismissed the birds on the corridor railings, but in the future, he realized he should properly thank these helpers. Although they didn't assist this time, they still added a layer of insurance to their mission.

...

Inside Ju Feng Garden, Hao and Boss Shen were furious, having quarreled for most of the day until finally understanding the crux of the problem—

That woman!

The woman who was Hao's "leader" and Boss Shen's "wife." Everything was orchestrated by that woman, and as they continued the search, they realized she was nowhere to be found.

Hao returned to the private room to find Bai Ran gone and Cheng Xiaosi lying on the ground like a dead pig. He exploded with rage and quickly called Lei Ying.

A moment later, Lei Ying returned but only brought back one person.

"I've had someone guard the exit downstairs," Lei Ying told Hao. "They won't escape so easily!"

Lei Ying's composure and astuteness earned him Hao's admiration.

"Lei, you've done well!"

"Not just that!"

Lei Ying's lips curved into a cold smirk. "I've already figured out which restaurant they're in! They want to play a guerilla war with me? I'll accompany them! I'll wait for them to walk right into the net!"

Chapter 336 Mr. Kevin_1

Bai Xiaosheng brought Bai Ran and Yang Qian'er back to the Dingxiang Building and returned to the private dining room.

Upon opening the door, the room was surprisingly empty, no one was there.

Bai Fei?

Bai Xiaosheng and Yang Qian'er were both taken aback.

Bai Ran made a shushing gesture, pointing at the coat closet, she had heard a faint noise coming from inside just moments earlier.

"Bai Fei, no more hiding, it's us!" Bai Xiaosheng tried to suppress his laughter as he called out loudly.

The door of the coat closet opened.

Bai Fei crawled out somewhat embarrassed, looked at the three of them, and gave a sheepish smile, "Better safe than sorry, better safe than sorry, huh."

It seemed that my cousin had truly been scared by Hao and his people!

Bai Xiaosheng fully understood but still couldn't help wanting to laugh.

However, the more it was like this, the better the impression Bai Xiaosheng had of Bai Fei. After all, to still stick around in such a situation, was truly commendable!

What is courage?

It isn't about being foolishly fearless but knowing fear and still persevering.

That is what courage is!

"Bai Fei!" Bai Ran stepped forward, smiling.

"Bai Ran, you're awake?" Bai Fei was very surprised.

After chugging down a bottle of liquor, Bai Ran should have been blackout drunk. Now, she looked perfectly fine!

"I'm alright now, thank you for coming to save me!" Bai Ran said with sincere gratitude.

She was truly thankful!

If Bai Fei hadn't come at that time, as a single young girl facing a bunch of ruthless men, she would have been certainly desperate and helpless.

While Bai Fei was negotiating with those men, Bai Ran pretended to be drunk and heard every word of the conversation clearly.

Bai Fei never gave up trying and always wanted to get her out.

This is what family is!

In times of crisis, having someone wanting to give their all to help you feels really good!

"Good that you're back, good that you're back!" Bai Fei laughed, unable to help but look at Bai Xiaosheng with admiration, "We owe our rescue to Sheng this time! Compared to him, I...feel ashamed! At the critical moment, our brother here really came through!"

Bai Fei gave Bai Xiaosheng a thumbs-up.

This brother of his was talented both intellectually and physically, full of wit and wisdom, and was said to be making waves in the large corporation, Zhongjing Media.

Bai Fei was completely convinced.

"You both are my lifesavers!" Bai Ran said with a smile, clinging to an arm of each.

"Stop it with the formalities, I'm going to ask the waiter to hurry up with the food, I'm starving to death," Yang Qian'er muttered.

In the flurry of activity, they had ordered a table full of food for Hao and his party, and she had watched without being able to eat anything. She was understandably ravenous.

Bai Xiaosheng and the others nodded in agreement.

Yang Qian'er took a menu and left the private dining room, waving to catch a waiter's attention and directly ordered food from him.

Engrossed in ordering, Yang Qian'er was completely unaware that behind her, a pair of eyes were silently watching her.

"It's her!"

The owner of those eyes confirmed the room number and quickly left.

Dingxiang Building, second floor.

In a large private dining room.

Chen Jiuzheng sat in the seat of honor, conversing and laughing with the foreigner next to him, discussing both golf and investment, with neither commonplace nor repetitive topics.

Chen Changqing sat alongside, wearing a smile, quietly listening.

"Kevin, I have a golf course ready to go here, tomorrow, I'll have to compete with you. Our idle talk here won't determine who's better," Chen Jiuzheng said with a smile, "As we say in our country..."

"To see if it's a mule or a horse, pull it out for a stroll!" Kevin, the foreigner, said humorously.

Chen Jiuzheng was taken aback but then burst into hearty laughter, raising his glass of red wine, "All right, tomorrow we'll see whether we're mules or horses when we take them out for a walk!"

Kevin raised his glass, smiled at Chen Jiuzheng as they clinked glasses, and then gestured a toast to Chen Changqing.

Chen Changqing smiled and toasted back.

After drinking, Chen Jiuzheng placed his glass down and looked at Chen Changqing with a smile, "Kevin and I are old friends, and I've been so busy chatting with him! Now, let's talk about business. Changqing, Kevin came here specifically to meet with you!"

"Uncle, you're making me feel unworthy with your words," Chen Changqing said with a smile, his eyes gleaming with light.

Finally, it was time for the main topic!

Having sat there for half a day, Chen Changqing had been contemplating this issue.

What's the background of this foreigner?

What does he want to do by seeking me out?

In the territory of Zhongjing, whether it's connections or anything else, Uncle Chen Jiuzheng surpasses me by tenfold, a hundredfold.

If Kevin is Chen Jiuzheng's friend, why would he need to talk business with me?

After much thought, Chen Changqing was sure—

This matter must be related to Zhongjing Media!

Although Zhongjing Media is part of the group's industries, in Zhongjing City, and with Uncle being the head of the province's industries, he does not have control over Zhongjing Media!

If he were to forcefully intervene, it would be an overstep, and those inspectors who appear unpredictably and are as elusive as dragons seen only in glimpses would certainly cause trouble.

And I am the Vice President of Zhongjing Media, some matters are more convenient for me to address!

Chen Changqing's gaze flickered slightly.

"Kevin is my friend from my student days, and a classmate as well. Over the years, he's done quite well for himself in Europe, with his business flourishing day by day," Chen Jiuzheng said, veering off topic again before getting to the main point.

Kevin gave a modest smile, "That's not quite it. I still have a long way to go compared to my old classmates."

"Come off it!"

Chen Jiuzheng glanced at Chen Changqing and said with a smile to Kevin, "You still have a long way to go? Your Kelson Company is nearly becoming a media giant in Europe, isn't it!"

As soon as Chen Jiuzheng spoke, Chen Changqing's eyes widened in disbelief as he stared at the foreigner.

Kelson Company!

He was not unfamiliar with it; he had repeatedly seen this name in various reports!

Their Zhongjing Media's partner, Kaisen Company, has Kelson as its biggest competitor in Europe, and Kaisen has never gotten the upper hand in their confrontations!

In Chen Changqing's view, Kelson was more worthy of partnership than Kaisen!

Before taking up his post at Zhongjing Media, he had even reviewed the information, intending to persuade Zhongjing Media to partner with Kelson.

However, after his arrival, that bastard Bai Xiaosheng, who seemingly came out of nowhere, had already facilitated a partnership between Zhongjing Media and Kaisen.

For this, Chen Changqing had deeply regretted.

And now, this Mr. Kevin, he is actually the boss of Kelson?!

The shock in Chen Changqing's heart was indescribable, and even his complexion slightly changed, though he quickly returned to normal.

Chen Jiuzheng's mention of Kevin's identity was a deliberate hint to Chen Changqing.

Seeing Chen Changqing regain his composure so quickly, Chen Jiuzheng also nodded slightly.

"Everyone says Changqing is the most outstanding of the younger generation in the family, and indeed, you are extraordinary, with exceptional self-control! You're countless times stronger than that worthless son of mine who went to America for nothing but wining and dining," Chen Jiuzheng inwardly praised Chen Changqing.

"So, Mr. Kevin is actually the helmsman of Kelson, my apologies," Chen Changqing stood up, raised his glass, and toasted respectfully.

Kevin also stood up, holding his glass, and they lightly tapped them together.

"Young man, you're very good!" Kevin commended.

Chen Changqing's excellence, he acknowledged as well.

"I just don't know, what business does Mr. Kevin wish to discuss with me?"

After the drink, Chen Changqing looked at Mr. Kevin as he sat down, followed by sitting down himself and asked with a smile.

"Naturally, to discuss a partnership," Kevin said with a smile.

Those few simple words made Chen Changqing's heart skip a beat!

Chapter 337: Is that Bai Xiaosheng?!_1

Kelson Corporation, in terms of strength, far surpasses Zhongjing Media and is currently thriving in Europe!

Their big boss, Mr. Kevin, is sitting right across from him at this moment, repeatedly mentioning partnership discussions with his side!

Chen Changqing was initially shocked but quickly regained his composure.

Kelson is not like Kaisen; they are a giant python truly intending to expand into the domestic market, aiming for the Greater China Region. There are plenty of better partners than Zhongjing Media!

Why set their sights specifically on Zhongjing Media for a challenge against Kaisen?

It couldn't be just out of pettiness!

Chen Changqing's mind raced, and he couldn't help but glance at Uncle Chen Jiuzheng.

Chen Jiuzheng's smile was overflowing.

A thought struck Chen Changqing.

Perhaps Kelson's focus on Kaisen was just a facade; in reality, Uncle and his old friend Mr. Kevin had broader, more extensive cooperation in mind. Uncle might want to use Kelson to leverage opportunities at Zhongjing Media, harboring other intentions!

Chen Changqing truly couldn't guarantee that wasn't the case, but he didn't feel any opposition to it.

After all, Uncle Chen Jiuzheng coveting a hold over Zhongjing Media was harmless, if not beneficial, to their Chen Family.

Moreover, facilitating the cooperation between Zhongjing Media and Kelson could also bring about a series of achievements for him, Chen Changqing!

However it's calculated, this seems to be a rather good deal.

"Mr. Kevin, naturally, I hope for a partnership with you, but I am just a deputy director," Chen Changqing spoke frankly, "For a strategic partnership like this, even the general manager Song Changkong cannot make the decision alone; it must be reported to the group. However—"

Chen Changqing paused.

"Mr. Changqing, feel free to speak your mind," Kevin said with a smile.

Chen Changqing took a look at Uncle and spoke earnestly, "However, we have just signed a contract with Kaisen, establishing a strategic partnership. Jumping into a partnership with Kelson at once is strategically redundant and may cause resistance from our partner Kaisen.

I am concerned whether the group will consider these aspects and reject it... this is beyond our control!"

Chen Changqing's words were entirely considerate, worrying from the perspective of someone keen on the cooperation.

He showed the greatest sincerity and the most cooperative attitude, also for Uncle Chen Jiuzheng to see.

"Changqing makes sense," Chen Jiuzheng, satisfied with Chen Changqing's attitude, nodded and smiled at Kevin, "Old friend, as I've said, family is family, and Changqing is in agreement! Zhongjing Media is not like any ordinary company; a deputy director does have real power. At the very least in Zhongjing Media, you have one-third of absolute support! You don't need to worry about Song Changkong. As long as it doesn't harm the company and it benefits his performance, and the group doesn't oppose it, he won't refuse!"

"Exactly, I support the cooperation between Kelson and Zhongjing Media. With Uncle here, Changqing will certainly cooperate with all his might!" Chen Changqing put it straightforwardly.

Kevin nodded with a satisfied smile.

"Haha, alright! Changqing has said as much, Kevin, now it's time for you to lay out some groundwork for him to hear," Chen Jiuzheng laughed.

Lay out the groundwork?

Chen Changqing was momentarily startled, knowing that although his Uncle Chen Jiuzheng appeared rugged, he was actually very meticulous and cautious, never acting rashly without an ace up his sleeve.

Kevin looked at Yu Qing, who remained behind Chen Changqing after the female assistant had left...

"Mr. Kevin need not worry, both of my assistants have been brought out from the family; they are absolutely trustworthy!" Chen Changqing said with a laugh.

Yu Qing and Murong Yan, who often informally addressed him as 'Young Master' at non-formal events, didn't do so without reason.

Chen Jiuzheng also nodded at Kevin.

Only then did Kevin start to speak with a smile, "Regarding your group, you don't have to worry; they will change their mind and consider partnering with us!"

Chen Changqing gave a surprised look.

Kelson was indeed mighty compared with Zhongjing Media, but in the eyes of the group, it still wasn't impressive enough!

How could the group possibly switch the partnership with Zhongjing Media due to the "insignificant difference" between Kelson and Kaisen?

Mr. Kevin noticed what Chen Changqing was thinking and chuckled lightly, "Because there's trouble at Kaisen! In a maximum of half a month, or perhaps in just three to five days, the news will come... They will terminate the contract unilaterally! By then, your group will surely not reject Kelson!"

Kaisen had run into trouble!

They would terminate the contract unilaterally!

This news was too shocking!

Chen Changqing was completely stunned, looking at Kevin in disbelief.

"Kaisen is a partnership corporation. They seem united, but in reality, they are like loose sand, thinking to fight against Kelson? They are simply seeking their own doom!" Kevin snorted coldly, his gaze exceptionally chilly as he spoke.

Chen Changqing couldn't help but shiver; the president's eyes were too fierce for a moment, startling him.

It seemed, no matter what the issue with Kaisen was, or the extent of the trouble, Kelson had some involvement in it!

Chen Changqing felt a chill in his heart.

"It's a pity that among their partners, that guy named Ron is tough and won't budge. Hmph, if it weren't for him holding Europe's most exceptional team of business consultants, I wouldn't bother with that ungrateful bastard at all!" Kevin seemed to recall something unpleasant and sneered.

"Forget it, forget about such ungrateful people. They'll learn their lesson sooner or later!" Chen Jiuzheng consoled. Kevin smiled and nodded, as if he quite agreed.

He looked at Chen Changqing with a smile and said, "This time, I've come to greet Mr. Chen through the introduction of an old friend, and I'll need your cooperation later on to facilitate the partnership between Kelson and Zhongjing Media!"

"Of course!" Chen Changqing laughed, expressing his stance very firmly, "Changqing is willing to offer his modest assistance!"

For an opportunity as sure as this, Chen Changqing naturally wouldn't refuse.

"Haha, good, come, let's drink. This is a treasured bottle of Romanee-Conti I brought, perfect for toasting to a smooth partnership between us!"

Chen Jiuzheng raised his glass.

Chen Changqing and Kevin followed suit, everyone wearing smiles and feeling very satisfied, making the atmosphere in the private room exceptionally harmonious.

Just then.

The door to the private room opened, and Murong Yan hurried over, approached Chen Changqing, and whispered in his ear.

She had wanted to tell Chen Changqing about Bai Xiaosheng's presence for a while now, but there simply wasn't a chance!

A moment ago, she spotted him again and noted the room number.

"What, he's here too!" Chen Changqing moved his drink away from his lips in surprise.

"Who's here?" Kevin asked curiously.

"Bai Xiaosheng, oh, he's also one of the senior executives of Zhongjing Media," Chen Changqing explained.

"Bai... Xiaosheng? The Vice President!" Kevin's eyes lit up, and his glass paused!

"I've heard of him. So, he's here as well? I'd like to meet this man!" Kevin declared decisively.

Mr. Kevin knew of Bai Xiaosheng? And he wanted to meet him so urgently!

Chen Changqing was taken aback.

Bai Xiaosheng was so famous that his reputation had spread to Europe?

Chapter 338

Even Mr. Kelson, the CEO Kevin, knows about Bai Xiaosheng and has shown great interest in meeting him.

Chen Changqing felt a mix of surprise and a tinge of jealousy in his heart.

He and Bai Xiaosheng, it seems that adversaries often meet, but in all their contests, he had never won! Every time Bai Xiaosheng outsmarted him, it was worse than the last!

The first loss of money was bearable, but the second time, losing money and face, and in front of all company supervisors at that!

Now, the mere mention of Bai Xiaosheng made Chen Changqing's liver boil with anger.

"You know about Bai Xiaosheng too?" Chen Changqing suppressed his hatred for Bai Xiaosheng and asked.

Chen Jiuzheng slightly frowned, looked at Kevin, and asked with surprise, "Who is Bai Xiaosheng?"

He didn't even know.

"Bai Xiaosheng is a very interesting person!" Kevin said with a smile to Chen Jiuzheng, "The last time Kaisen came to negotiate, the one who met with Ron was Bai Xiaosheng. On his first day at work, he took down Ron."

"Oh?" Chen Jiuzheng was intrigued and glanced at Chen Changqing.

"I heard about it too." Chen Changqing nodded.

At that time, he had not yet joined Zhongjing Media and only heard about it afterward.

Chen Changqing always believed that if he had happened to meet Ron, he could have taken him down and secured the contract as well.

After all, they had been talking with Zhongjing Media for so long, dragging it out further wouldn't have been good for either side.

But that's as far as Chen Changqing's knowledge went; he wasn't clear on the details.

He had his pride and wasn't willing to delve deeper into Bai Xiaosheng's "battle achievements."

He believed that Bai Xiaosheng was just lucky!

"Indeed, a lucky person!" Chen Jiuzheng shared the same view.

They both thought that Bai Xiaosheng had just picked up a bargain!

"I think you two might not understand the details of that contract signing!"

Mr. Kevin felt somewhat regretful that his good friend, along with another young man he saw great potential in, knew nothing about this person, this event right beside them!

"What do you mean?" Chen Jiuzheng asked in surprise.

Kevin was so concerned about this matter, this person, it felt strange to him.

"According to the information I have, Bai Xiaosheng met Ron without any preparation, and it only took him an hour to get Ron to sign the contract!" Kevin said.

An unexpected encounter, and within one hour he had closed the deal!

Finally, Chen Jiuzheng seemed somewhat astonished.

Chen Changqing was also stunned; this was something he hadn't anticipated.

"He's talented," Chen Jiuzheng finally acknowledged.

"Haha, talented?" Kevin laughed, "You underestimate him! He not only persuaded Ron to sign, but he also made that guy cancel all the concessions obtained from the previous negotiations! It was all signed according to the original contract!"

"What!" Chen Jiuzheng couldn't help but widen his eyes in shock.

So Kaisen gave up all the benefits from numerous negotiations—that's real money! Since when have foreigners become so generous!

"Changqing, is that true?" Chen Jiuzheng couldn't help but ask.

"I only knew that he facilitated the contract signing that day." Chen Changqing also found it hard to believe.

When he first heard the news, he was quite upset. He hated it when people kept harping on such petty matters, acting as if Bai Xiaosheng were so remarkable.

Now it seemed that Bai Xiaosheng was truly impressive in this matter!

Chen Changqing couldn't figure out how Bai Xiaosheng managed to do it.

This was something even he couldn't achieve!

It seems I know too little about him! Chen Changqing clenched his fists, resolved to investigate everything about Bai Xiaosheng once he got back.

"Now, is this Mr. Bai Xiaosheng also in this shop?" Kevin looked at Murong Yan and asked.

"Yes." Murong Yan nodded hurriedly.

"Very well, I want to see this person!" Kevin said to Chen Jiuzheng with a smile.

"Meet with him, now?" Chen Jiuzheng raised his eyebrows slightly.

Is it appropriate at the moment...

"It's okay, news about Kaisen will come over soon. Letting him know in advance isn't a problem," Kevin shrugged his shoulders, "And as for the relationship between you and me, are you worried he'll find out?"

Chen Jiuzheng chuckled.

What a joke!

He, the esteemed person in charge of Anjiang Province's industry within the group, afraid of a mere deputy general manager?

"What's the harm in him knowing!" Chen Jiuzheng declared proudly, "Since you want to meet, then let's meet. Changqing, go and call him over."

This...

Chen Changqing didn't move, his face showed hesitation.

"What's wrong?" Chen Jiuzheng asked in confusion.

"Uncle, you don't understand, this Bai Xiaosheng, he's different from ordinary people," Chen Changqing glanced at Mr. Kevin and said to Chen Jiuzheng, somewhat falteringly.

"Different in what way?" Chen Jiuzheng asked impatiently, "I don't care if he's different or not, just call him over, and it's settled."

Chen Changqing gave a wry smile and didn't beat around the bush any longer.

"Uncle, I'm afraid I won't be able to summon him."

"As the person in charge of the provincial industry here, I can't summon him either?" Chen Jiuzheng snorted coldly.

"A while ago, Shang Wanwan annoyed him because of a contract signing. Later, for some reason, Shang Wanwan insisted on seeing him to sign the contract but was barred from even entering the door, not given the chance to see him at all. Afterwards, Song Changkong went as well, and it was the same. In the end, it was Song Changkong who ended up seeking him eagerly," Chen Changqing said cautiously.

To be honest, he really didn't want to bring this up.

It involved Shang Wanwan and contract signing, wasn't this just making his uncle upset? But obviously, it couldn't go unsaid.

When Chen Changqing spoke, he tried to keep the focus off himself and on Song Changkong instead.

Even the company's top brass weren't shown any consideration, surely that made Bai Xiaosheng quite different from others.

Chen Jiuzheng was stunned.

This time, it was his turn to be astonished.

Not just him, even the Kevin next to him felt the same.

"In the end, Song Changkong insisted on visiting him?" Chen Jiuzheng asked incredulously.

"In front of the entire company's managers," Chen Changqing added seriously.

Chen Jiuzheng and Kevin looked at each other.

Not even giving face to his direct superior, Chen Jiuzheng might have a prestigious title as the provincial industry head, but if he had no sway over the person, well, one could only imagine...

"He's an interesting person." Kevin stood up smiling, "Alright then, let's go and see him!"

"How can this be, Mr. Kevin!" Chen Changqing exclaimed.

Mr. Kevin was the boss of Kelson, a man of such noble status. It wouldn't be appropriate for him to actively seek out Bai Xiaosheng, that would be demeaning!

Speaking of Bai Xiaosheng, Chen Changqing already felt displeased, and now, even a bit envious and resentful.

What kind of dumb luck did Bai Xiaosheng have!

Why did all the good things happen to him!

Chen Changqing, not convinced!

"Since Mr. Kevin wishes to go, I have nothing more to say." Chen Jiuzheng stood up under Chen Changqing's shocked gaze, "I too shall go and see just what abilities this Bai Xiaosheng has!"

Two big shots, they were insisting on visiting Bai Xiaosheng!

Chen Changqing and the others were left speechless!

Chapter 339: A Visit from a VIP_1

Dingxiang Building, private room.

To Bai Xiaosheng's surprise, the three people in front of him—Bai Ran, Bai Fei, and Yang Qian'er—looked just like three starving ghosts. Faced with a large table of dishes, they hadn't even had time for a sip of liquor and were wildly devouring the food in great relish.

"I mean, we're all civilized people here, can't we behave a little?" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but mutter to himself.

At this, Bai Ran and Bai Fei suddenly felt a bit embarrassed and slowed down their pace.

Yang Qian'er, however, snorted coldly.

"We're starved to death, and besides, we know each other so well, there's no need to be so pretentious. There are no strangers here... Hey, if you're not eating, pass me that dish of salt-baked prawns," she demanded.

"Why should I? I haven't even started yet!" Bai Xiaosheng huffed indignantly.

He had been influenced by the eating manners of the three and stopped being polite, digging in.

As they ate, the door of the private room was suddenly pushed open, and a group of men in sharp suits walked in.

Upon hearing the noise, Bai Fei looked up, her face turning white, her eyes widening in shock with her mouth full of food, she cried out, "They're here, they've followed us!"

Who's here?

Bai Xiaosheng and the others turned in surprise and immediately tensed up.

Bai Ran quickly grabbed a bottle of wine, followed by Yang Qian'er.

Bai Xiaosheng frowned, took a look, and said sternly, "It's not them, don't panic!"

The men who entered were dressed in suits and shoes, emanating an imposing aura. In terms of presence, they were different from Hao and his gang of hoodlums dressed up like they were something.

The four burley men stood to one side, hands folded in front of them, silent.

Then, a man and a woman entered, bowing respectfully on either side.

Isn't that Yu Qing and Murong Yan?

Bai Xiaosheng recognized the two and was immediately taken aback, but then he saw the expressionless Chen Changqing.

"Old Chen! It's our own people, our own people!"

Bai Xiaosheng quickly turned back to reassure Bai Fei and the others.

Seeing the two women each holding a wine bottle, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but burst into wry laughter.

They were gearing up, ready to fight for their lives!

"Mr. Chen?" Yang Qian'er also recognized Chen Changqing and quickly put down her wine bottle, speaking in a low voice to Bai Ran beside her, "They're from our company, not outsiders!"

Bai Ran then let out a sigh of relief, having been on edge and scared.

Chen Changqing couldn't help but give Bai Xiaosheng a stern look for calling him "Old Chen."

Bai Xiaosheng didn't care and was about to joke with him.

Seeing an acquaintance bring a group of burly men, Bai Xiaosheng felt a comforting sense of security, at least they needn't worry about Hao and his gang coming back.

They had a strong force on their side!

Just as Bai Xiaosheng was about to speak, he was surprised to see that Chen Changqing also stood aside, respectfully.

Two more people came in after that.

One resembled Prince William, with a receding hairline, a smile on his face, and a sturdy build—a foreigner.

The other had a chiseled face with sharp contours, and with his sturdy, solid body, he looked like a brute.

Who were these two, to command such respect from Mr. Chen?

Bai Xiaosheng watched the two in astonishment.

Mr. Jiuzheng's face carried a calm smile as his gaze swept over the room.

There were only two men in this small room.

One was older, the other extremely young. The elder's expression was panic-stricken, while the younger's was utterly calm.

By their demeanor, Mr. Jiuzheng immediately recognized Bai Xiaosheng, yet he still couldn't quite believe it.

This was Bai Xiaosheng?

The deputy director of Zhongjing Media?

The man who forced Ron to sign that day, giving up favorable conditions, who made Shang Wanwan come to him begging for a contract, who Song Changkong actively sought out to meet?

He was so young!

Mr. Jiuzheng found it a bit hard to believe, and looking at Bai Xiaosheng, he couldn't help but ask, "Are you Bai Xiaosheng?"

Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

"Who are you?"

"This gentleman is Mr. Chen Jiuzheng from Zhenbei Group, responsible for the entire industrial sector in the Greater China Region, East China, and Anjiang Province," Chen Changqing rattled off Chen Jiuzheng's titles in one breath.

Taken aback by the revelation, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but glance at Chen Changqing.

The old Chen sure could, reading off such a long string of titles without missing a beat.

Chen Jiuzheng had an arrogant expression, but what he didn't realize was that Bai Xiaosheng's focus was entirely off...

In fact, Bai Xiaosheng did feel surprised, he just didn't show it.

Next to him, Yang Qian'er's pretty face slightly lost its color.

She was also an internal member of the company, and after so many years, she naturally knew who Zhongjing Media belonged to—Zhenbei Group. Zhenbei Group managed over a dozen of the leading large enterprises in Anjiang Province, not to mention the numerous smaller ones.

Even if Zhongjing Media was special and didn't fall under anyone's jurisdiction, reporting directly to the group, it was still located in Anjiang, in the provincial capital Zhongjing, on their home ground.

One must show respect to Chen Jiuzheng!

"Mr. Chen, hello!" Yang Qian'er hurried to Bai Xiaosheng's side and nudged him subtly, respectfully addressing Chen Jiuzheng.

"So, it's Mr. Chen who graces us with his presence, what an honor!" Bai Xiaosheng said to Chen Jiuzheng with a smile, neither too humble nor arrogant.

Bai Xiaosheng's attitude, neither too respectful nor too modest, made Chen Jiuzheng feel slightly displeased.

Of course, on the surface, he still smiled and nodded politely, exuding an air of grace.

"This gentleman..." Chen Changqing looked towards Kevin respectfully, hesitating whether it was appropriate for him to do the introductions.

"This is Mr. Kevin, the CEO of Kelson Media!" Chen Jiuzheng introduced personally.

Kevin smiled at Bai Xiaosheng and said, "Hello!"

The CEO of Kelson?!

Bai Xiaosheng's gaze involuntarily narrowed slightly.

This was a significant figure!

Kelson Company and Ron's Kaisen Company were rivals, battling to the death in the European market!

Unexpectedly, the CEO of Kelson had come to Zhongjing!

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but take a closer look at Mr. Kevin.

Thinking of Ron, Bai Xiaosheng became worried.

Ron hadn't been in touch with him for a long time, and his messages had gone unanswered; he didn't know what had happened!

Bai Xiaosheng had once prepared a business plan for Ron, and at that time, Ron, full of excitement, had resolutely returned to his country.

However, Bai Xiaosheng was very worried at that time!

Things wouldn't be so simply and easily solved!

Bai Xiaosheng's understanding of the market situation over there was limited to data, yet, a lot of things couldn't be conveyed by data!

Even if the plan he devised for Kaisen was flawless and could turn the situation around, it would require a considerable amount of time.

Would Kelson let them do as they pleased?!

Faced with the CEO of Kelson, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but feel slightly dazed, but he quickly adjusted and, smiling modestly and respectfully, said, "So it's Mr. Kevin, what an honor!"

Kevin smiled, took a step forward, and unexpectedly reached out his hand.

Bai Xiaosheng's expression changed slightly, and he stepped forward to shake Kevin's hand.

When someone shows me respect, I'll pay back even more.

To Bai Xiaosheng, if others showed him respect, he would reciprocate accordingly—it was all about equality.

Seeing Kevin set the example, Chen Jiuzheng didn't want to lose face and smiled as he took the initiative to reach out his hand for a shake with Bai Xiaosheng.

Chen Changqing looked on with a hint of envy.

Why should these two bigwigs pay such respect to Bai Xiaosheng!

"Since all the leaders are here, please take a seat and have a drink," Bai Xiaosheng invited with a smile, turning to Yang Qian'er, "Go call the waiter to change the table to a different set of drinks and dishes."

"Okay," Yang Qian'er obediently nodded, her eyes revealing a mix of pride and mischief when Bai Xiaosheng directed her.

You smug rascal, just enjoy your moment!

Yang Qian'er secretly rolled her eyes at him while feeling surprised at the influential figures around, thinking, "Who would have thought, this rascal has such clout!"

Incredible!

Chapter 340: That Proposal!_1

Yang Qian'er went out to instruct the waitstaff to replace the table with one offering higher-grade dishes and the most expensive wine.

After all, this was Bai Xiaosheng's "home turf," and for men, saving face was paramount.

Moreover, Yang Qian'er reasoned that since it was a banquet for Chen Jiuzheng, Bai Xiaosheng could easily report these hospitality expenses to the company, and with Chen Changqing as a witness, even General Manager Song Changkong should have no objections.

She did not realize that if Song Changkong found out that Bai Xiaosheng, and Chen Changqing were wining and dining Chen Jiuzheng, he would be sleepless for nights on end, incessantly fretting about it.

"These two are my cousins," Bai Xiaosheng introduced Bai Fei and Bai Ran to Chen Jiuzheng and the others.

"You, you, you are Mr. Jiuzheng!"

Bai Fei's eyes widened in shock, and he stuttered as he spoke.

Chen Changqing had described Chen Jiuzheng to him, and Chen Jiuzheng often appeared in the news, so Bai Fei immediately recognized the tycoon!

In Zhongjing, Chen Jiuzheng was more than just famous—he was renowned far and wide! He was known as Chen Banbi, implying that he was responsible for half of Anjiang Province's GDP, as if he was propping up half of the province's economy!

This tycoon had even met with the governor to discuss the development plans for industries, a meeting that was broadcast on television!

The mayor of Zhongjing City also frequently visited his subordinate enterprises, expressing immense affirmation of his achievements.

The enterprise where Bai Fei worked was regarded as a big company, but it likely wouldn't rank much in comparison to Chen Jiuzheng's scale and achievements. Even the big shots at his company who usually carried themselves with such superiority did not have enough status to meet Chen Jiuzheng!

But now, he had met him!

Bai Fei felt as if he was dreaming, so nervous that his breathing quickened, and he fumbled with his hands, not knowing where to place them, even potentially messing up the handshake.

Faced with such genuine trepidation and utmost respectful eyes, Chen Jiuzheng laughed heartily, seemingly enjoying the moment, and engaged in a friendly chat with him.

Mr. Kevin, who was beside Chen Jiuzheng, also greeted him with a smile.

Although Bai Fei didn't know about Kelson or how significant Mr. Kevin was, seeing Mr. Jiuzheng treating him so courteously, he understood this must be an important person and showed him great respect.

After greeting the big shots, Bai Fei tactfully stepped aside, and when his gaze returned to Bai Xiaosheng, it was filled with admiration.

"Is this the level Xiaosheng can connect with, Chen Banbi... My god! This guy, usually so unassuming, turns out to be so impressive!"

At this moment, Bai Fei was thoroughly convinced by Bai Xiaosheng, "He is truly the most successful person in the Bai Family; the entire Bai family put together probably doesn't match up to him! And all this time, he has been so modest—it's unbelievable!"

Not just Bai Fei, Bai Ran was equally shocked.

Thinking back to when Bai Xiaosheng had just returned home, she was still trying to find him a job, urging him to work hard in his career. Bai Ran felt her face flush with embarrassment—how could a sparrow understand the ambition of a swan!

It was her lack of vision!

"Sheng, from now on, you are my role model, the benchmark I strive for!" After meeting the two prominent figures, Bai Ran's strong-willed personality took hold, and she silently set a goal for herself.

The food and drinks were served again, and everyone took their seats around the table.

Initially, Bai Fei and Bai Ran were somewhat uncomfortable, as the two highly ranked tycoons at the table were people who could dine with mayors and even provincial governors—far beyond what they felt they deserved as small fry.

But Bai Xiaosheng insisted that they stay, and they had no choice but to accept. Yet, the thought of bragging about dining with Chen Banbi filled them with pride.

...

Bai Xiaosheng exchanged pleasantries with Chen Jiuzheng and Kevin for a few moments before, with a smile, he asked, "Mr. Chen and Mr. Kevin are such high-ranking personages, busy managing vast businesses. It's a rare opportunity to have a meal together. Are you two... old friends?"

Bai Xiaosheng inquired tentatively.

"Mr. Chen and Mr. Kevin are old classmates and haven't seen each other for many years. Since Mr. Kevin rarely visits Zhongjing, Mr. Chen naturally wants to show the hospitality of a host," Chen Changqing answered on their behalf.

"I see!" Bai Xiaosheng nodded, smiled at Chen Changqing, and said, "Mr. Chen, how come you are accompanying them, are you and Mr. Jiuzheng..."

"Mr. Jiuzheng is my uncle," Chen Changqing stated plainly.

Bai Xiaosheng "Oh"ed, and while he did not show much surprise, he gave Chen Changqing a deep look.

Yang Qian'er, however, could not help but be astounded.

I hadn't expected Mr. Chen to have such a formidable background, actually being the nephew of the provincial head of Zhenbei Group. No wonder he always seemed so proud and arrogant, turns out he has a strong backer!

"If I had known the two big shots were dining here, it should have been me coming over to pay my respects. Having troubled you to come here is truly inexcusable, I must punish myself with a drink later!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

Chen Changqing secretly curled his lip.

He might say that now, but if I had actually sent someone to call him over, who knows how this kid would have reacted.

"Just wondering, what brings the two big shots to see me?" Bai Xiaosheng asked softly, smiling.

It was time to get to the heart of the matter.

Chen Jiuzheng glanced at Kevin, who gave Bai Xiaosheng a slight smile.

"Primarily, I wanted to meet Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, I have long admired your talent!" Kevin said leisurely.

These foreigners, so insincere!

Chen Changqing couldn't help but scoff internally.

You, Mr. Kelson, located in Europe, and he, Bai Xiaosheng, in Zhongjing, thousands of miles apart, not related in the least, and yet you admire his talent and have long adored him—the way you talk is just too superficial!

"Oh?" Bai Xiaosheng laughed, "I wonder, Mr. Kevin, how you came to know of my talent."

This kid, really shameless, climbing up the ladder!

In the depths of Chen Changqing's eyes, a trace of disdain appeared.

Kevin smiled without a word, took out his phone, and after operating it for a moment, showed it to Bai Xiaosheng.

"This business proposal by Mr. Bai Xiaosheng is truly flawless!"

Bai Xiaosheng's smile froze on his face and slowly faded.

His gaze became grave.

The business proposal, he had only made one for Luo Pangzi!

It was for Kaisen to take back the market, to combat Kelson!

And now, the president of Kelson is holding the proposal and praising him!

Bai Xiaosheng felt a sudden tightness in his chest.

Something had indeed gone wrong on the other side, but he didn't know how this document ended up in Mr. Kelson's hands, Kevin!

Those present looked at the two with surprised expressions.

Mr. Kevin took out some kind of electronic version of the business proposal, causing Bai Xiaosheng's complexion to change.

What's going on here?

Chen Jiuzheng looked at Kevin with confusion, while Chen Changqing and the others were also at a loss.

"Mr. Bai Xiaosheng made a business proposal for Ron, a shareholder of Kaisen Company, which is our Kelson's rival," Kevin explained as he looked at his phone, nodding with admiration. "Purely from a market perspective, if Kaisen implemented this plan, it could execute it over two to three years, and Kelson would be defeated!"

After Kevin spoke, he sighed with deep appreciation, "It's truly a remarkable plan!"

For Kevin to praise a mere business proposal so highly, to admire a person like this, it shocked Chen Jiuzheng deeply. He looked at Bai Xiaosheng in disbelief, his gaze becoming slightly fervent.

Only now did he understand why Kevin was so keen to come and see this young man!

Genius, no, a monster!

This Bai Xiaosheng, he definitely had real ability! Such a person had to be wooed to one's side!

Chen Jiuzheng quickly made a decision.

"Mr. Kevin, let's be frank, why do you have this document? What exactly happened on the other side?"

Bai Xiaosheng asked calmly, his gaze incredibly intense!