

Two Trillion 351

Chapter 351 Bai Xiaosheng, This Bastard_1

The fifth meeting room is the smallest but the highest-standard meeting room of Zhongjing Media, usually reserved for special purposes, such as receiving special guests or for senior-level meetings.

At the moment, Song Changkong, Chen Changqing, and Special Envoy Kelson William were sitting around the round conference table in the fifth meeting room.

While Kelson had already indicated that it would accept the original Kaisen contract unconditionally, there are, after all, differences between Kaisen and Kelson in resources, channels, and other aspects.

Therefore, many things still needed to be readjusted.

William had already stated that he could fully represent Mr. Kelson Kevin, making all decisions on the spot.

Song Changkong was very surprised by this.

He decided on the spot that they should hammer out a cooperative framework adjustment proposal today, including an incident report and a contract change application, and submit it to the group. Even if the higher-ups did not look at it, it would highlight their efficiency in handling matters. The senior executives of the group would certainly be extremely satisfied.

Neither Chen Changqing nor William had any objections to this, the sooner it was settled, the fewer complications would arise.

As they were talking, the office door was gently knocked five times.

Song Changkong's assistant pushed the door in, nodded to the three of them, and said to Song, "Mr. Song, Mr. Bai has arrived!"

As he spoke, Bai Xiaosheng had already come in, looking rather solemn.

"Mr. Bai, you've finally arrived, good, take a seat quickly, we shall start the meeting right now!" Song Changkong was already impatient, he glanced at his assistant, "You take the minutes of the meeting, use the group's OA system, my authority, as soon as we vote on an item, you upload it!"

"All right," the assistant responded, found a seat to the side, and set up the laptop.

The resolutions uploaded to the group's OA system are considered urgent documents and are prioritized for processing. However, even at its fastest, it still required a day for a response. This was already very efficient considering the group owned countless wholly-owned subsidiaries with a startling accumulation of affairs.

"Mr. Bai, my assistant mentioned it to you on the way here. Kaisen Company is insolvent and currently facing bankruptcy, undergoing legal procedures," Song Changkong said.

"Yes, I'm very sorry to hear that!" Bai Xiaosheng's expression was grave as he walked over, "The European market expansion plan has already been reported to the group, it can't just be paused abruptly. Kelson's timing is very timely."

Bai Xiaosheng smiled at William.

William immediately stood up, reached out his hand, and said with a smile, "Mr. Bai."

Bai Xiaosheng shook hands with William and gestured for him to sit, then sat down next to Chen Changqing.

"Given the urgent situation, I'll cut to the chase."

William did not understand Mandarin, but Song Changkong did not avoid the subject. He addressed Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changqing directly, "Kaisen is finished, that contract was signed less than a month ago, if the group finds out, none of us will be in good shape! I'm incompetent, and on both your records, a mark will inevitably be made as well!"

Song Changkong was truly anxious, and his words were straightforward.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded, indicating agreement.

"Although we are all working diligently for the company and the group, we must also consider our own promotions and futures. We can't let such an incident damage the company's interests or the group's trust in us. Now, let's go over this cooperative framework one more time. I hope that any disagreements we have had in the past will not affect this vote," Song Changkong emphasized.

"Okay!" Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changqing agreed in unison.

Rare indeed were such moments of unity. Song Changkong felt moved.

"Mr. Bai, before you arrived, Mr. Chen made some adjustments, which were very good. I also added a few points, and Mr. William has agreed as well. You listen, and if it sounds good, we'll vote," Song Changkong motioned to Chen Changqing to read.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded, looking at Chen.

"Firstly, for the first item regarding the adjustment of timeline milestones, the commencement of the first phase of cooperation needs to be postponed from the original early November, adjusted to mid-December..." Chen Changqing said.

After Chen Changqing finished speaking, Bai Xiaosheng nodded and readily agreed, "Agreed."

"Agreed," Song Changkong also nodded.

Song Changkong's assistant quickly typed it out, checked for any typos, and directly uploaded it.

The assistant was a former stenographer and had never made a mistake in such work.

"The second item, regarding the spokesperson for the three stages of advertising, suggests adjusting according to Kelson's existing resources to..." Chen Changqing continued.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded, "Agreed."

"Agreed," said Song Changkong.

Song Changkong's assistant quickly typed, proofread, and uploaded.

Done in one go.

Thus, with the read-through of ten to twenty revisions to the cooperative framework, as Chen Changqing read them out, Bai Xiaosheng and Song Changkong continually agreed.

At the venue, the staccato rhythm of keyboard tapping filled the air as resolutions were entered into the corporate system one after another.

Chen Changqing, after reading aloud so many items, felt a bit exhausted. He paused to take a sip of water and gestured for Sheng to continue.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded, first flashed a smile at William, and said in English, "Mr. William, my supplements do not concern your party, and to expedite the process, I will use Chinese to cover them. You don't mind, do you?"

William was taken aback, glanced at Chen Changqing, who nodded slightly.

"Sure," William agreed.

That made it convenient for the assistant to take notes quickly, and naturally, Song Changkong had no objections either.

"Firstly, regarding the first-phase advertising cycle and methods, I believe we should make the following adjustments..." Sheng said in Chinese.

Song Changkong nodded frequently while listening.

This suggestion was good; it was exactly what they had overlooked.

"Agreed," Chen Changqing said without even thinking.

Was there any need to think? Including the next seven or eight points that Sheng was about to make—all had been discussed by Chen Changqing with him that morning.

Subsequently, Sheng made several points, all very sensible and reasonable.

Chen Changqing was very accommodating in his approvals.

Seeing everyone so harmonious, Song Changkong let out a sigh of relief. He had been anxious and exhausted since early morning, and now, he finally could relax a bit.

Getting a bit lax, Song started to mindlessly echo agreements after Chen Changqing. On one hand, Sheng would not, and could not, talk nonsense about the group, and on the other, Chen Changqing was, after all, keeping watch...

...

As he spoke, the corners of Sheng's mouth curled up into a faint smile.

"The seventh point is to recruit Ron's Business Consultancy Team into Zhongjing Media."

"Agreed," Chen Changqing said, almost without thinking.

"Agreed," Song Changkong followed suit.

After shouting their agreement, the two guys froze.

Especially Chen Changqing—his pupils dilated in disbelief as he turned to look at Sheng.

...

Upon hearing the two agreements, Song Changkong's assistant, expressionless, typed, proofread, and sent the resolution.

...

"What did you say, Mr. Bai? Recruiting the Ron Team into Zhongjing Media!" Chen Changqing asked with a frown in surprise.

That was not included in the tasks he had assigned to Sheng!

Moreover, during the dinner meeting, hadn't it been agreed upon?

Wasn't the Ron Team supposed to go either to his Uncle or, secondly, to Mr. Kevin? Why bring them into Zhongjing Media?

Chen Changqing's gaze was unfriendly.

"Ron came to me; he hoped to join Zhongjing Media," Sheng said calmly, smiling at him. "What's wrong? Isn't this a good thing?"

Caught off guard but somewhat pleased, Song Changkong agreed, "Indeed, indeed, a good thing!"

Now that Song Changkong had said as much.

And the resolution was already uploaded...

It was too late to say anything!

Chen Changqing was inwardly frantic, but he could not make a scene in front of Song Changkong. He glared fiercely at Sheng.

Sheng looked so infuriatingly complacent and smug that Chen Changqing had the itch to give him a good slap.

All his careful calculations, yet he had not anticipated Sheng, the damn guy who had played them all.

Uncle would definitely be furious once he found out!

Chapter 352 You Dare Insult Me!_1

The meeting attended by only five people ended in just two hours.

Overall, Song Changkong was satisfied.

They had combed through thirty-five suggested amendments to the cooperation framework and reported them to the group.

It appeared to be sent out one by one by an assistant, not as a single report, but in fact, such electronically sent files always followed a fixed template and modules.

Before calling Bai Xiaosheng to the meeting, Song Changkong's assistant had already prepared the background information for the meeting, including Kaisen's bankruptcy and Special Envoy Kelson's visit, in text form and filled it in. By the time the meeting minutes were sent, it formed a complete electronic file.

Once uploaded, no one, including the companies below and the uploader themselves, besides the group's senior executives tasked with reviewing the document, had the authority to make any changes.

That is to say, the application to recruit Ron Team to Zhongjing Media had already reached the group.

Once the group approved, they could start hiring.

"When did you get in touch with Ron Team, was it Ron himself?" Song Changkong asked, recalling the past with some doubt and seemingly asking casually.

"Yes, it was Ron himself. He just sent me a message shortly before your assistant approached me," Bai Xiaosheng said.

This was indeed an incredibly perfunctory and full of holes excuse!

Song Changkong gave him a deep look, then glanced at Chen Changqing.

He suddenly felt that both of these guys were hiding something from him.

Whether it was Chen Changqing or Bai Xiaosheng, the suggestions they made, now that he thought about it, were all remarkably concise and hit the nail on the head.

Did they seem like they had just thought of them? The more he pondered, the more it seemed they had thought this through well in advance!

There's a saying, "A man in a hurry makes no sense," and Song Changkong, preoccupied with matters before and during the meeting, had unconsciously overlooked these issues. Now, the more he thought about it, the more peculiar it seemed.

"These two, they knew the news before I did!" Song Changkong thought with a start.

Bai Xiaosheng with Ron, Chen Changqing with William... not so simple, uh...

They were each mingling with Kaisen and Kelson people...

I'm the only one on my own!

Song Changkong grew wary.

However, looking at the current situation, whether it was cooperating with Kelson or recruiting Ron Team, both seemed like pretty good deals and posed no harm to him.

Unable to find an excuse to question them, Song Changkong maintained a smiling face and said to them, "Regarding Ron Team, I think Mr. Bai should be in charge. Mr. Chen, you'll handle the Kelson side. No objections, right?"

Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changqing nodded, agreeing readily.

"Mr. William must be tired too. Take him to rest, and arrange a welcome dinner for this evening," Song Changkong instructed his assistant.

The assistant nodded and left with William.

Song Changkong glanced at Bai and Chen, "I have other matters to attend to, so I will take my leave. You two should get busy as well."

With that, Song Changkong also left.

The entire fifth meeting room was left with only Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changqing. Chen Changqing stood up and walked to the door of the meeting room. Bai Xiaosheng thought he was leaving, but unexpectedly, Chen Changqing locked the door from the inside and walked back.

Chen, you've got something to say to me!

Bai Xiaosheng was stirred, but not at all surprised.

It would be surprising if Chen Changqing didn't speak.

"Mr. Bai, what's the meaning of this?!" Sure enough, Chen Changqing sternly dropped his facade and questioned Bai Xiaosheng.

"What's wrong with me?" Bai Xiaosheng looked bewildered, his face the picture of innocence.

Acting, you're fucking pretending with me!

Chen Changqing watched him expressionlessly.

"Oh, you're talking about the Ron Team," Bai Xiaosheng laughed, and seriously said to Chen Changqing, "I won't lie to you, I really did suggest that they go to Mr. Jiuzheng! But if they don't agree, what can I do?"

Indeed, Bai Xiaosheng spoke with full confidence.

Chen Changqing looked at him suspiciously. He could no longer tell if Bai Xiaosheng was telling the truth or lying, or what his state of mind was.

This kid, too good an actor...

"As for Mr. Kevin's side, the Ron team clearly stated they won't go. I can't exactly put a knife to their throats, can I!" Bai Xiaosheng sighed, "Even if I forced them, it would be useless."

"Fine, they don't go to Kelson, so be it! But why won't they go to my uncle's? Is Zhongjing Media really offering better prospects than my uncle's place?" Chen Changqing couldn't contain himself anymore, he snorted coldly and scoffed, "I'm afraid that you, Mr. Bai, have strongly advised them to come to Zhongjing Media instead, haven't you? You want to add a big accomplishment to your resume! Hmm, to lure over a top European business consultancy team, the group would surely regard Mr. Bai with new respect!"

Chen Changqing's sarcasm wasn't without reason. Bai Xiaosheng hadn't given away even a hint before, not a single heads-up, catching them off guard with this move was clearly intentional.

Chen Changqing was really irritated.

Especially since he had no way to explain to Uncle Chen Jiuzheng, just days ago he had been beating his chest, swearing he would handle things well at Zhongjing Media and keep an eye on Bai Xiaosheng!

And today, this kid Bai Xiaosheng pulled such a stunt!

How could Uncle be happy about this!

What would he think of him!

The more Chen Changqing thought about it, the angrier he became. It wasn't just irritation; he felt a burning rage inside.

"Old Chen, if you insist on seeing it that way, then so be it. Anyway, it makes no difference to me." Bai Xiaosheng laughed it off and rose to head toward the conference room door.

As if Bai Xiaosheng, the future president, needed to boast about such an achievement when his status alone would make the entire group bow down. Why would he need to seek credit in this affair!

"Bai Xiaosheng!"

As Bai Xiaosheng reached the conference room door and stretched out his hand to turn the doorknob, a low shout came from behind him.

He paused, turning around.

Chen Changqing looked at him with a detached expression.

"I know you have personality and talent, and sometimes I even begin to admire you," Chen Changqing said coolly, "But in the face of absolute power, you need to know what things you should not do, and who you should not offend! Otherwise, your talents and abilities will only lead to a more miserable end!"

"There's nobody else here, which is why I'm saying this to you!"

"I need to remind you. Now, what you and I should do is find a way to persuade Ron to go to my uncle's! Don't cling to your folly! And don't harbor any cunning thoughts. In front of my uncle, you're just a mantis trying to block a chariot, deluding yourself!"

Chen Changqing's last words were delivered with utter coldness.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled at Chen Changqing, "Old Chen, for your kindly advice, I'll give you a bit more insight as well. Don't always think that others are deluding themselves; maybe you are the ant, and what you threaten is the great tree. An ant trying to shake a tree is not only ridiculous..."

"But also pitiful!"

Having said that, Bai Xiaosheng opened the door of the conference room and, without looking back, strode away.

Bai Xiaosheng!

Chen Changqing's gaze turned icy.

I had given you a chance, and you insult me!

Chapter 353: Not So Easy!_1

That afternoon.

In Zhongjing City, the villa district of Moon Lake.

By the lake, on a platform paved with bluestone, there were two wicker chairs placed side by side.

Chen Jiuzheng and Kevin each held a fishing rod, chatting and laughing while fishing.

Chen Changqing, led by a servant, hurried through the courtyard.

"Uncle, Mr. Kevin," Chen Changqing approached and greeted.

"Changqing's here," Chen Jiuzheng said with a beaming smile, apparently in a good mood.

"We were just talking about you," Kevin said with a smile to Chen Changqing, "If you hadn't come over, I'd have had to call you. William told me after he came back that everything went quite smoothly. Your Zhongjing Media takes this seriously, holding a small meeting at the top level, with one general manager and two deputy managers; that's a high specification. However, afterward, you switched to Chinese, and he didn't understand a word. How's that supposed to work? I'll have to get him to learn Chinese, or if he's not fluent within nine months, I'll fire him!"

Kevin made a joke.

Chen Changqing forced a smile.

"So, what's the specific situation?" Kevin asked.

Chen Jiuzheng also looked at his nephew.

"Regarding the cooperation between Kelson and Zhongjing Media, we've already reported it to the group along with the adjusted contract framework, which is based on what we had preliminarily drafted. From any perspective, the group should not oppose this cooperation..." Chen Changqing explained.

Especially when the heads of the subsidiary both suggest it, the group's approval should come more easily.

"I'm asking about... what you discussed afterward?"

"Although William can't understand Chinese, he noticed that Mr. Bai seemed to bring up something significant, and both you and Mr. Song looked quite surprised," Kevin said with a light smile.

Upon hearing this, Chen Changqing couldn't help but give a bitter smile, "That's precisely what I'm here for, to report to the two of you in person!"

Kevin nodded; Chen Jiuzheng was also curious.

"About the Ron Team! Bai Xiaosheng has already met with Ron and discussed their team's direction!" Chen Changqing said.

"Oh?"

Chen Jiuzheng propped up his fishing rod, now truly interested, "That's the matter? Then I must listen!"

Chen Changqing silently smiled bitterly.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Kevin, but according to Bai Xiaosheng, Ron and his team have no intention of joining Kelson," Chen Changqing said.

A faint look of disappointment was evident in Kevin's otherwise calm demeanor.

"No worries," Kevin shrugged and said with a smile, "It's a bit regrettable, but to me, that team is just a relatively powerful—tool."

Team, tool... The perspective of those at the top!

Chen Changqing reflected.

"If they don't join Kelson, they won't be able to establish themselves in others in the same industry in Europe! That is my tribute to their choice!" Kevin showed his pearly white teeth as he spoke.

Hearing Kevin's words and seeing his smile, Chen Changqing felt a shiver run down his spine.

This Mr. Kevin is ruthless!

"So, did Bai Xiaosheng suggest to Ron and his team to come to me?" Chen Jiuzheng asked.

"Yes!"

Chen Changqing nodded, "It seems that Ron Team has already decided to develop in our country!"

With that remark, Chen Jiuzheng burst out laughing, patting Mr. Kevin on the shoulder with a bit of pride, "Old classmate, see? They favored my side over yours! With the rapid development and bigger space in our country, they naturally..."

While speaking, Chen Jiuzheng suddenly felt his fishing rod jerk; he swiftly grabbed it.

The expensive fishing rod was bent into an arc, the fishing line taut, big splashes rolled on the surface of the lake.

"This must be a big fish!" Chen Jiuzheng exclaimed excitedly.

Chen Changqing glanced at him and continued, "Ron's team wants to get into... Zhongjing Media! This matter has already been reported to the group. Unless something unexpected happens, the group will agree, and their team will... soon enter Zhongjing Media!"

Chen Changqing said this with some difficulty and nervousness, his voice choked up twice.

The smug look on Chen Jiuzheng's face suddenly stiffened, his smile freezing over, slowly coated with a layer of frost.

Kevin looked in his direction, smiling without a word.

The fishing rod in Chen Jiuzheng's hand jerked continuously as the big fish struggled, causing the rod to creak.

Chen Jiuzheng lost his grip, and the rod, worth tens of thousands, slipped into the lake, dragged away by the creature in the water.

"The big fish got away..."

Chen Jiuzheng, disregarding it, turned back with a degree of fury in his eyes, staring directly at his nephew.

"Speak! What exactly is going on?!"

Chen Changqing felt the air solidify, the intangible oppression making his breathing somewhat difficult.

"I'm not sure how Bai Xiaosheng discussed it with Ron, but the result is this... According to him, he suggested that Ron's team come to you, but it was not accepted..." Chen Changqing stammered.

"Bullshit!"

"He suggested it, and Ron's team would still go to Zhongjing Media? Does my place mean less than mere Zhongjing Media? What a great suggestion!" Chen Jiuzheng said angrily.

Ever since that day at the Dingxiang Building meal, Chen Jiuzheng had been displeased with Bai Xiaosheng.

That young man, too arrogant!

It was only because Kevin repeatedly showed humility that he restrained himself.

Now, that brat dared to undermine him!

Who gave him the audacity!

"He doesn't even show me face, this ignorant young upstart, really thinks I can't touch him in Zhongjing Media?!" Chen Jiuzheng fumed.

"Old classmate, you're too worked up! How do you know that Mr. Bai is deliberately against you? It's of no benefit to him," Kevin said calmly, trying to soothe him, "Did you have someone investigate him? What did they find?"

Chen Jiuzheng suppressed his anger, pulled out his phone, and dialed a number, "Hello, how's the investigation on the person I told you about?"

"Mmm, mmm..."

As Chen Jiuzheng listened to the report, his frown deepened, "That's it? Alright, I got it!"

After hanging up the phone, Chen Jiuzheng said to Kevin, "This kid, he rose up from a real estate company in Tiannan, a subsidiary of our group, and somehow became the vice president of Zhongjing Media. It is said that he was discovered by our group's inspection team. Also, he doesn't have any significant family background; in his family, he is probably the most successful one."

No background?

Chen Changqing fell silent.

Considered reliable since his uncle had someone investigate, but he couldn't shake off a feeling of disbelief!

Not to mention the distant matters, but Shang Wanwan actively seeking him for a contract, could that be achieved without any background?

If that were true, he, Chen Changqing, would have to admit wholeheartedly his admiration!

"No background, a minor figure?" Kevin laughed, sighing, "Being so young and already sitting in such a position is indeed impressive!"

"I think he's too arrogant!"

Chen Jiuzheng said angrily, "It seems I need to give him a wake-up call!"

"Young talents are prone to make mistakes, we should give him a chance!" Kevin said with a smile, "You can chastise him first, let him reacquaint himself with... our power."

"What do you have in mind?" Chen Jiuzheng asked suspiciously.

"Him wanting Ron's team to join Zhongjing Media... won't be so easy!" Kevin's smile held a hint of coldness.

Chen Changqing's heart skipped a beat, but he was also extremely curious.

This is Zhongjing, not Europe; what could this foreigner possibly do here?!

Chapter 354: Sudden Turbulence!_1

The following day, nearing noon.

Bai Xiaosheng was in his office on a video call. For lunch, he had Lin Weiwei bring it to him, as whatever she brought always suited his taste anyway.

On the video call with Bai Xiaosheng was Ron.

"Yesterday, we had a meeting about your team and reported it to the corporation. I think there won't be any issues," said Bai Xiaosheng jokingly. "A top European business consultancy team is about to become my subordinate. Just thinking about it gets me a little excited."

"There's nothing to be excited about," Ron said with a roll of his eyes, then seriously continued, "I've communicated with my members. Including myself, there are five of us who can come here. The other six don't want to leave their hometown, but that's fine. With the internet being so developed, they can work from there just as effectively!"

Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

"I'll send you the team's profile in a while, including everyone's aspirations, interests, preferences. This is top-level internal information!" Ron said with emotion. "They're like my family, and I hope you'll read it carefully and provide them with more than money—give them your detailed care!"

Bai Xiaosheng nodded vigorously.

He was beginning to admire them, no wonder no one could poach Ron's team!

The Ron Team shared profits and each member was fully trusted, valued, and respected.

Such a team was solid as steel!

"I'll take note!" said Bai Xiaosheng.

"Moreover, for some reason, I feel a bit uneasy," Ron said, his face growing serious on the video call. "I'm not familiar with Chen Jiuzheng whom you mentioned, but I do know Kelson's Kevin. He is very persistent about things and never lightly gives up on what he's set his mind to. He's ruthless in his actions. I'm thinking if he is personally in Zhongjing, and if he sets his sights on our team, it could be quite problematic, like a hyena watching its prey!"

"And with Chen Jiuzheng, a big shot from your group involved... Could there be an accident with this matter?" Ron worried.

"Don't worry, I'm here!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a confident smile.

This matter also involved his score, and Bai Xiaosheng was ready to clash with anyone who interfered, even Chen Jiuzheng!

Ron nodded silently, his eyes reflecting trust.

The telephone on Bai Xiaosheng's desk suddenly rang. He gestured to Ron to hold on and picked up the receiver.

"Mr. Bai? This is Song Changkong here."

It was a call from Song Changkong.

Bai Xiaosheng listened calmly to Song Changkong, a smile slowly spreading across his face.

"Alright, I've got it!"

Bai Xiaosheng hung up the phone and turned to Ron with a smile, "I just received a call, the corporation has agreed to recruit your team. The official notice will be issued the day after tomorrow. You can rest easy now."

Ron let out a sigh of relief and smiled back at Bai Xiaosheng, "This calls for a celebration. How about spicy crawfish tonight?"

"Can't you pick something new!" Bai Xiaosheng said, both annoyed and amused. "Eating spicy crawfish every day, you better watch out for hemorrhoids!"

...

In the office of the General Manager of Zhongjing Media, Song Changkong hung up the phone with a smile. An hour earlier, he had received the news from the corporation that Ron's team was allowed to join Zhongjing Media and they had highly praised them.

This team was incredibly valuable!

The corporation's senior management evaluated and deemed the team even more valuable than cooperation with European media companies.

Such high praise!

Feeling gratified by the recognition, Song Changkong decided to give Bai Xiaosheng a call, as Ron's team's arrival was entirely due to Bai Xiaosheng's efforts.

"It seems this guy is capable of bringing some good things, not just problems," thought Song Changkong, in good spirits.

All the longstanding resentment from Bai Xiaosheng's past actions seemed to diminish significantly.

There were five knocks on the office door, and the assistant entered.

He held a piece of paper in his hand and walked over to hand it to Song Changkong.

"Mr. Song, this is the employee cafeteria's menu for today, what would you like to have for lunch? I can bring it to you?"

Zhongjing Media has an entire floor dedicated to the employee cafeteria, offering a rich variety of dishes for free.

Usually, Song Changkong was busy, and he generally had his assistant fetch the menu, so he could choose and have his assistant bring the meal to his office.

"It's already this time; no wonder I'm hungry." With his mood brightening, his appetite surged, and he casually placed the menu on the table, "This time I'll go there myself. It's hard to choose just looking at the menu."

Mr. Song is in a good mood today! The assistant smiled, "Shall I accompany you?"

"No need, suffer a bit at lunch, eat later, and keep an eye on the phones in my office. There's a document being sent over soon that can't be left unattended," Song Changkong chuckled, "or else shall I bring something back for you?"

"How dare I ask that, you go and have your meal, I'll keep watch here," the assistant said with a laugh.

Song Changkong nodded with a smile and left with a spring in his step.

The assistant settled on the sofa area, playing with his phone.

After about half an hour, there was no activity from Song Changkong's office phone, but the assistant's mobile phone started ringing.

"Hello?" the assistant answered the call.

The message on the phone slowly changed his expression from surprise to tension.

"Okay! I understand, I'll report to Mr. Song immediately!" Song Changkong's assistant said anxiously.

After hanging up, he hurriedly dialed Song Changkong's number.

A ringtone sounded.

Only then did the assistant realize that Song Changkong had left his cellphone in the office!

Perhaps, Song Changkong had deliberately not taken it with him after all, wanting to enjoy a peaceful lunch.

The assistant, looking worried, dashed out; he needed to find Song Changkong immediately.

Something had happened!

The fifth floor of Zhongjing Media Tower housed the entire employee cafeteria.

It was divided into four halls—east, west, south, and north—each capable of accommodating three hundred people, mainly in self-service style.

It was lunchtime, the place was packed and bustling.

Lin Weiwei held a multi-compartment food tray, picking and choosing along the way.

After some time, she had figured out Bai Xiaosheng's tastes.

Bai Xiaosheng enjoyed meat, sweets, leafy greens, but not carrots, broccoli, or cauliflower, and he couldn't handle spicy food well.

Lin Weiwei packed roasted duck, seafood fried rice, eggplant and potato stew, and also a moderately spicy Spanish mackerel, along with two delicate little cakes.

After selecting quite a few items, Lin Weiwei left with the food tray, but halfway she caught a glimpse of a figure in the corner and stopped in her tracks in astonishment.

It was a rare sight indeed; wasn't that Mr. Song!

Mr. Song had actually come down to eat in the cafeteria himself, and in the main hall no less, a once-in-a-blue-moon occurrence. Lin Weiwei, still holding the food tray, smiled and went over to greet Mr. Song.

"Is this for Mr. Bai? You should hurry and deliver it," Song Changkong said amicably, appearing to be in a good mood.

"Okay," Lin Weiwei turned to leave, but then she saw a commotion in the distance and, to her surprise, spotted Song Changkong's assistant running towards them, looking extremely anxious.

Had something happened?!

Curious, Lin Weiwei no longer hurried to leave.

Chapter 355 Was Ron Team Sued?_1

Song Changkong is someone who places great importance on etiquette; his assistant, who has followed him for so many years, is also extremely particular in this regard.

However, at the bustling restaurant, Song Changkong's assistant was seen running over.

Surprise could be seen in the eyes of those around, who all made way.

With a look of shocked suspicion, Song Changkong immediately put down his chopsticks.

Curiosity filled the employees' hearts, but no one dared to crowd around and make a scene, hovering at a distance instead.

Lin Weiwei pretended to run back, dawdling to get a soft-pack juice, all the while keeping an eye on the situation over there.

The assistant ran up to Song Changkong, bent down, and whispered in his ear.

Song Changkong abruptly stood up, his expression seemingly very unsightly.

"Weiwei, come here," Song Changkong called her over with a wave of his hand when he saw Lin Weiwei hadn't left.

Taken aback, Lin Weiwei rushed over with her meal box.

"What's wrong, Mr. Song?" Lin Weiwei asked cautiously.

"You need to go back now and tell Mr. Bai—" Song Changkong's face looked terrible, and his tone of voice was somewhat urgent, "The Ron Team he's interested in, they're in trouble!"

The Ron Team, in trouble?

Lin Weiwei was stunned into silence.

As Bai Xiaosheng's assistant, she naturally knew about the plans to recruit the Ron Team.

"What happened?" Lin Weiwei asked cautiously.

"They've been sued!" Song Changkong scoffed coldly, dropping the information in a low voice and hurried off with his assistant.

As he left, his brow was furrowed into a lump.

This Bai Xiaosheng, always a troublesome head—whether he causes trouble or not, matters associated with him tend to brew trouble!

"Who sued them, who sued them..."

Watching Song Changkong leave with his assistant, Lin Weiwei snapped back to reality and hurried back with her meal box.

...

"What?!"

In the office, Bai Xiaosheng rose to his feet, his face a picture of disbelief.

Almost simultaneously with Song Changkong receiving the news, Ron had also gotten wind of it and immediately informed Bai Xiaosheng.

Ron looked terrible; he was upset about how late the news had come to him.

And moreover, it was inconceivable!

The two shareholders at Kaisen had actually joined together to sue the Ron Team, with accusations including data fraud, leaking trade secrets, among other issues, with a laundry list of grievances, they were seeking damages from the Ron Team—for five million euros!

"The court has already accepted the case, I must rush back to deal with it," Ron said anxiously.

"Don't panic! Keep me informed of any developments!" Bai Xiaosheng commanded in a deep voice.

Ron nodded and hung up hastily.

Bai Xiaosheng frowned.

Such a strange turn of events, Kaisen is in that condition, and they still have the energy to sue their own team?

Especially at this time!

The group had just approved the recruitment of the Ron Team, and now this happens?

This was no coincidence, it was clearly deliberate!

"It's Kevin!"

Bai Xiaosheng drummed his fingers on the table, muttering to himself, "I wonder if Chen Jiuzheng is involved too. That move is sinister enough! They are forcing the group to make a decision, to give up the Ron Team!"

As Bai Xiaosheng was pondering, the door to the office swung open. Lin Weiwei entered briskly with her meal box, and said urgently, "Xiaosheng, there's been trouble! Mr. Song got the news that the Ron Team has been sued..."

"I know!" Bai Xiaosheng's expression softened as he spoke to Lin Weiwei.

"Ah, you know?" Lin Weiwei was surprised.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, his eyes glittering slightly, "It's normal for me to know, but it's not so normal that Mr. Song knew before I did!"

"So what do we do now?" Lin Weiwei asked.

"Now?" Bai Xiaosheng nodded toward the lunchbox in Lin Weiwei's hands, "Now we eat!"

The more critical the situation, the more important it was not to lose one's composure.

Lin Weiwei set up lunch for Bai Xiaosheng, who ate quietly without saying a word.

However, Lin Weiwei could tell that Bai Xiaosheng's mind wasn't on his meal; he repeatedly picked up nothing with his chopsticks, unaware, and still brought them to his mouth.

Lin Weiwei bit her tongue and, on tiptoes, thoughtfully went to brew him a cup of tea.

The fragrance of tea could calm the mind and soothe the spirit.

...

In Chen Changqing's office.

Chen Changqing listened quietly to Yu Qing's report, a cold smile playing at the corners of his mouth.

Bai Xiaosheng was being stubborn. He hadn't heeded his warnings; did he think that just because the group had passed the report, everything was settled?

It wasn't that easy!

"As long as the Ron Team hasn't officially joined, you can't count it as a success. Even if they join, they'll be driven out just the same! See if the group wants this trouble," Chen Changqing scoffed coldly.

"The news was leaked to Mr. Song's assistant from our side, could it cause us any trouble?" Yu Qing asked softly.

"Hmph, does Song Changkong even have time to think about that? He's already in a mess, trying to figure out how to explain it to the group!" Chen Changqing laughed loudly.

...

Chen Changqing guessed right; Song Changkong was indeed both angry and anxious, cursing loudly in his office.

"Bai Xiaosheng, ah, Bai Xiaosheng, you're a freaking jinx. I thought you'd finally done something good this time, but you've brought me a huge problem again. Since you came here, you've caused me no end of trouble!"

Song Changkong closed the door and almost lost control of his emotions, wishing Bai Xiaosheng was right there, hanging his head, docile, allowing him to vent his frustrations.

But this troublemaker was not so submissive and his reputation within the company was growing day by day. Even Chen Changqing couldn't compare to him. Give it time, and he'd be the former vice president.

"No, this Bai Xiaosheng is definitely more dangerous than the previous one—that damned Liu. If things go bad, I might just be sidelined!" Song Changkong's forehead bulged with veins as he paced in circles in his office, his face ominously dark.

"I absolutely can't just watch him grow stronger. If this continues, do I have any way out?" Song Changkong stopped in his tracks, his eyes narrowing, "Chen Changqing has always been one step behind him—could that ambitious young man endure this? I see, using this trouble as leverage, maybe I could join forces with Changqing just this once. Even if I can't kick Bai Xiaosheng out, I could at least strip him of his real power!"

There came a knock on the office door.

Song Changkong's expression became composed, and his face somewhat calmer.

Song Changkong's assistant entered through the door, responsible for verifying the news, now bringing a stack of printed documents.

"Mr. Song, the news is confirmed; this Ron Team is a big trouble now," the assistant hurriedly handed over the file.

Song Changkong took it, sat behind his office desk, and flipped through it page by page, his frown deepening with each page turned.

The news had already become public and was accessible.

Kaisen suing their own kind—there must be something there! However, Song Changkong had absolutely no interest in knowing the details!

All he knew was that the Ron Team was now a colossal trouble, a hot potato.

How the group would respond was still a big question...

As Song Changkong grappled with his headache, his office door was knocked on five times.

Then, the door was pushed open.

Bai Xiaosheng walked in calmly.

"Mr. Song, I need to talk to you about something. It's about the Ron Team!"

Chapter 356 I Disagree!_1

"I also just wanted to talk to you," Song Changkong said deeply, looking at Bai Xiaosheng. He turned to his assistant and ordered, "Go call Mr. Chen and have him come over!"

"Okay," the assistant nodded and hurried off to do so.

Should I call Chen Changqing to come too...

Bai Xiaosheng didn't say anything, nor did he intervene.

"Mr. Bai, come, take a seat. Let's wait for Mr. Chen for a while," Song Changkong said.

Inviting Chen Changqing seemed like a move to discuss matters, but the real intent was to show Bai Xiaosheng a tougher stance and also to demonstrate his own attitude to Chen Changqing.

Ever since Bai Xiaosheng publicly "fined" Chen Changqing last time, Song Changkong knew they could never reconcile.

The opposition to Bai Xiaosheng, known briefly as the Anti-Bai Alliance, had a basis.

It's crucial to form an alliance quickly!

Song Changkong even felt that there was no time to lose!

Bai Xiaosheng, however, hadn't grasped this point, let alone imagined that he had pushed the old Song to the extent of teaming up with Chen Changqing against him.

"Try the new tea I've recently got, Mengding Ganlu, top grade, unlike the ordinary ones," said Song Changkong politely, even pouring a cup of tea for Bai Xiaosheng.

Despite the faint scent of gunpowder, Song Changkong should have been furious, yet he managed to keep his composure and even offered tea...

If something is abnormal, there must be a demon in the details!

Bai Xiaosheng smiled his thanks.

If Old Song didn't lose his temper, he too would remain as polite as one could be, at least on the surface.

As for whether this was the calm before a storm, that would depend on how the conversation went in a while...

Bai Xiaosheng was mentally prepared; in fact, he wanted to resolve things as smoothly as possible. After all, people come to work at the company to do their jobs, not to fight.

"Third system assistance, Micro Expression Analysis System activated..."

Upon thinking, Bai Xiaosheng activated the system assistance.

He wasn't using it to judge whether Song Changkong was genuinely angry, and he didn't need to.

Bai Xiaosheng found that while the system assistance was powerful, it could cause strong dependency in the user, and relying on it long-term could possibly deteriorate one's judgment skills, which wasn't a good thing.

The fact that Shang Wanwan, merely by wearing sunglasses, could reduce the efficiency of this aid by half also alerted Bai Xiaosheng!

Thus, Bai Xiaosheng found an interesting way to use it.

He let the system do the analysis, while he would compare the analyzed expressions to the person's face, feeling the shifts in their voice as their emotions changed.

In short, Bai Xiaosheng was using the system as a training tool, to practice observing and interpreting speech and behavior, deducing emotions, and the true intentions behind them.

To be honest, this was difficult, and short-term success was not visible.

But Bai Xiaosheng wasn't in a rush. He was very patient. Even if this special method only improved his insight by one percent, it was still his own progress!

The system designers probably never anticipated that Bai Xiaosheng would use their assistance tool this way.

Song Changkong was unaware that he had become like a zoo's big monkey, an object of Bai Xiaosheng's study.

After a brief conversation, the office door was knocked five times. Song Changkong's assistant opened the door and invited Chen Changqing in.

"Mr. Chen, come, we've been waiting for you," Song Changkong then told his assistant, "Close the door and stand guard outside. Take care of any issues and don't let anyone disturb us!"

"Yes!" Song Changkong's assistant nodded, walked out of the office, and closed the door.

Chen Changqing walked over.

Song Changkong was sitting on the long sofa. Chen Changqing walked over, took a silent glance, and sat beside Song Changkong, facing Mr. Bai directly.

Mr. Bai seemed oblivious to the seating arrangement of the two men, his expression unchanged.

"We are sitting together this time because there is an important matter to discuss," said Song Changkong, looking at Mr. Bai and then at Chen Changqing, "about the Ron Team! They have been sued by Kaisen, and it involves many issues! They are being asked to pay five million euros in damages!"

Said Song Changkong in a muffled voice, "And we, not long ago, just submitted a request to the group to recruit this team! The group has agreed!"

As Song Changkong spoke, his tone took on an unfriendly edge, and he gave Mr. Bai an extra glance.

Mr. Bai remained expressionless, unflappable.

"This is a serious issue. If this team didn't have these disputes, I would also agree to hire them, since they are a famous business consultancy in Europe!" Chen Changqing said, shaking his head, "Unfortunately, they haven't cleaned up their act. Bringing them into Zhongjing Media now would bring a lot of trouble for our company! If they lose the lawsuit and are unable to pay this sum, should we, as their new employer, pay this money for the Ron Team!"

Five million euros!

Song Changkong frowned.

That would be more than thirty-nine million yuan at the current exchange rate!

"Impossible, the group would never agree!" declared Song Changkong decisively. "We can't take this team! There's no need for discussion! Right now, let's think about how to explain this to the group!"

"I agree with Mr. Song's opinion. We can't employ the Ron Team. What's most important now is to explain the details to the group." Chen Changqing concurred. "We can say the Ron Team approached us on their own and hid the truth from us! We are the victims!"

"I like this idea!" praised Song Changkong. "Whether it was intentional concealment or oversight, they didn't tell us! We are indeed the victims!"

This way, they could push the blame onto the Ron Team.

Although there might have been a lapse in their own due diligence, they discovered it in time. The timeliness of this discovery would be appreciated by the group, especially since this matter was still in the application stage, not finalized, and had not caused any loss.

Mr. Bai said not a word, while Song Changkong and Chen Changqing, in their concerted effort, had already resolved the issue.

"What do you think, Mr. Bai?" asked Song Changkong, as if he had only just remembered Mr. Bai's presence.

Before Mr. Bai could speak, he added another sentence.

"Mr. Bai, I know you young people want to make a mark, and Ron is your friend. Out of loyalty, you want to help him, and that's understandable! But we have to be rational! We, as leaders, need to be rational! We should act with the big picture in mind; the interests of the majority is the big picture!" Song Changkong said with profound implications.

If Mr. Bai was sensible, he would agree with this decision, and the three of them would send an urgent report to the group, resolving the matter cleanly. Although Song Changkong would not stop scheming with Chen Changqing against Mr. Bai, he would surely take his time and employ gentler methods.

If Mr. Bai was insensitive to their position...

Song Changkong stopped his thoughts there and waited for Mr. Bai's reaction.

Mr. Bai looked at him, then at Chen Changqing, and nodded. "What you're saying does seem like a 'proper' way to handle this."

Song Changkong and Chen Changqing had not expected Mr. Bai to agree. But to their surprise, Mr. Bai appeared to be in agreement from the moment he began speaking, which made them momentarily taken aback, but they quickly regained composure.

"Good, since Mr. Bai also approves, then we..." Song Changkong couldn't help saying.

"You misunderstood," said Mr. Bai, his face expressionless.

"I don't agree!"

With those words, Mr. Bai countered Song Changkong.

"I suggest we report this matter objectively to the group, tell the truth, and not shift the blame onto others; that's what it means to be a responsible leader! As for the Ron Team, we shouldn't give up either! We are Zhongjing Media, a large company, not weaklings that succumb to threats! We three are the helmsmen of Zhongjing Media; our decisions are not worthless, not something to be abandoned at the first sign of trouble! They want to take it to court in Europe, then let's fight them in court!"

Mr. Bai leaned back, arms spread wide across the back of the sofa, his presence dominant, "Who wins and who loses is far from certain!"

"Right, Mr. Chen?"

Mr. Bai directed a cold chuckle at Chen Changqing.

Chapter 357 Objections and Arguments_1

Facing Bai Xiaosheng's meaningful words, Chen Changqing just gave him a glance, with no response.

"Mr. Bai, we're discussing a very important matter right now, and here you are, talking about 'eggs' and 'farts.' What kind of impression does that give!" Song Changkong said somewhat angrily, "To tell the group exactly what happened? Haven't we done that already! The Ron Team sought a partnership with us indeed, they didn't mention any of these issues, did they? And indeed, we may have been deceived by them, is that not the fact? What's wrong with stating that? As for whether or not we continue to engage the Ron Team... let's wait until they have sorted out their own affairs, then they can come and talk to us about partnering!"

Song Changkong's tone was harsh, a departure from his usual manner.

"Right now, regarding this matter, Mr. Changqing and I share the same view!" Song Changkong declared firmly.

The implication was clear: the blame was to be placed on the Ron Team, and their recruitment was to be halted!

"I also stand by my view!" Chen Changqing's voice was equally resolute.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at the two of them.

Sitting side by side, Song Changkong and Chen Changqing looked at him with an indifferent gaze, creating an immense pressure.

"Fine, I too will stick to my opinion!" Bai Xiaosheng did not yield.

Whether it was for Ron or for himself, Bai Xiaosheng was ready to fight.

"Red Lotus, in the case of a serious divergence of opinion between the first and second in command in a subsidiary about a major decision, even to the point of having opposing views, how would the group handle it?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

In the group system, where companies like Zhongjing Media existed, where the deputy manager could challenge the general manager, such confrontations were not surprising. It was inevitable that there would be a corresponding resolution system.

"According to the regulations, if a significant divergence of opinion arises in such a subsidiary, the parties involved must each prepare an electronic report, submit it to the group, explaining their reasons, and engage in a discussion to argue their opinions," Red Lotus said. "This process is known as 'opinion litigation,' and the document must be within a thousand words."

There was such an option...

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes flickered.

This was just about fighting with words, wasn't it?

Who was he afraid of!

What's more, in the New Media Department, he had formed a five-person writing team; to say they had a magic touch with words would be an understatement!

"So that means we don't agree," Song Changkong said with a gloomy face. "We're all part of the group system, everyone knows about 'opinion litigation,' so let's each prepare and let the group decide!"

Having said that, Song Changkong stood up coldly, not even glancing at Bai Xiaosheng, though he gave Chen Changqing a nod.

Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changqing stood up and left.

This little meeting ended on a discordant note!

As soon as the office door closed, Song Changkong looked towards the door, huffing and puffing with anger.

This Bai Xiaosheng was like a rock in a latrine—stinkingly obstinate!

"Play 'opinion litigation'? Hmph, we have two people on our side!" Song Changkong couldn't help but snort coldly.

He refused to believe that he and Chen Changqing's double the length of reasoning couldn't crush Bai Xiaosheng's mere thousand words!

Outside the office, the assistant watched as the two deputy directors walked out with somber expressions; neither looked happy.

He wisely greeted them and without asking further questions, turned and entered Song Changkong's office.

"Mr. Song..." The assistant cautiously greeted him.

"This afternoon, cancel all of my appointments, and yours too. Come and help me put together an 'opinion litigation' document," Song Changkong ordered.

The assistant could guess they had reached an impasse; this was going to be a war of words at the group level!

The assistant didn't dare to ask further and quickly nodded in agreement.

"Good!"

Over there, Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changqing walked in silence until they reached the elevator lobby.

"Mr. Bai, no need to rush off—I have a couple of things I want to say to you," Chen Changqing suddenly said, making a gesture inviting him to proceed.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at him and followed him to a relatively secluded corner.

"Mr. Bai, do you really intend to openly break with my uncle and Mr. Kevin?" Chen Changqing's brows furrowed, his gaze sharp.

"I don't want to openly break with anyone!" Bai Xiaosheng said very calmly.

"Then why are you, like a madman, insisting on bringing the Ron Team into Zhongjing Media?" Chen Changqing lowered his voice, utterly puzzled, "What's the benefit to you?"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled faintly.

There were emotions and reasons involved, but neither was something he could explain to Chen Changqing.

Even if he did, Chen Changqing wouldn't understand.

"Retreating ten thousand steps, even if you insist, what's the benefit for the Ron Team?" Chen Changqing spoke gravely, "Is Zhongjing Media better than my uncle's place, better than Kelson?"

Chen Changqing was utterly baffled. From any perspective, Bai Xiaosheng seemed to be doing something meaningless, a waste of effort and goodwill.

If it weren't for his uncle and Mr. Kevin's insistence that he try one last time to persuade Bai Xiaosheng, he wouldn't even want to waste his breath right now!

"It's Ron's choice; I'm just respecting his decision. As for the benefits, you wouldn't understand," Bai Xiaosheng replied.

"Ha, haha." With a mix of anger and amusement, Chen Changqing said, "Just because you're good friends with Ron, you think insisting on his choice is for his benefit? I'm not afraid to tell you, this insistence of yours will only bring nightmares to Ron and his team!"

Chen Changqing looked at Bai Xiaosheng as if he were an idiot.

He suddenly felt that it had been a mistake to consider Bai Xiaosheng a formidable enemy because of his capabilities! A person with great abilities who can't see the facts and antagonizes a power far beyond their imagination is just stupid, a fool!

Bai Xiaosheng was ordinarily astute, so why was he being so naively ridiculous and stupid over this matter?

Chen Changqing couldn't understand it, and he expected Bai Xiaosheng to give him a reason.

"Whether it's a nightmare or not, you don't get a say! Whether they can join Zhongjing Media or not, you also don't get a say," Bai Xiaosheng said indifferently, "Often, you all are just too presumptuous."

"So you mean to say, 'everyone else is drunk, only you are sober,'" Chen Changqing mocked with a laugh.

Bai Xiaosheng merely smiled noncommittally.

"If there's nothing else, I'll no longer keep you company for chitchat. I still have a thousand-word 'opinion and appeal' to write. Mr. Chen, you should go back and put in some effort too. I hope that together with Mr. Song, you can best me," Bai Xiaosheng said jokingly as he turned to leave.

"Stop right there!"

Chen Changqing's eyes were cold as he watched Bai Xiaosheng, "With things having reached this point, indeed, there isn't much left to say. As such, I don't need to continue persuading you. Before coming here, my uncle gave me a message to convey to you if all my persuasions turned out to be futile."

Bai Xiaosheng turned his head with a hint of curiosity, "What message?"

"I, my, heart, turns, towards, the, bright, moon!"

Chen Changqing enunciated each word deliberately as he walked past Bai Xiaosheng.

It was a line from "The Pipa Record," and the following line translates to, "But alas, the bright moon illuminates the ditch."

Are you saying I'm lacking perception?

Watching Chen Changqing's retreating figure, Bai Xiaosheng responded with a smile, "Please convey a message to Mr. Jiuzheng for me."

Chen Changqing paused in his steps, hearing the resounding words from behind.

"The bright moon has never bowed its head!"

Chapter 358 How I See Him Win_1

Bai Xiaosheng rushed back to the New Media Department, thinking as he walked.

He was organizing his thoughts, phrasing his words, planning his argument, summarizing and analyzing the pros and cons of insisting on hiring the Ron Team under the current situation, pondering how to make the most persuasive case.

At the same time, Bai Xiaosheng also had Red Lotus search for all available information from Europe and look for similar cases and judgments to analyze.

He wanted to gauge the worst-case scenario, to see how bad it could get!

It was a grand project of thought, so much so that Bai Xiaosheng, overly focused, missed many people's greetings.

"Mr. Bai rushes with such urgency, is he troubled, why is he so distracted?"

"Yes, he wasn't like this before."

"Perhaps he is considering the company's development, tired, he should pay more attention to rest!"

Countless concerns followed him along the way.

Lin Weiwei was busy in the department when she heard the discussions, so she hurried back to the office and found Bai Xiaosheng with his hands stacked on the desk and his chin resting on the back of his hands, leaning on the desk with wide-open eyes, infrequently blinking.

It looked like he was deep in thought and yet not.

"Xiaosheng?" Lin Weiwei called out with concern.

After several calls, Bai Xiaosheng finally came back to his senses, recognized her, and smiled good-naturedly, "Oh, is something up?"

"Are you all right?" Lin Weiwei probed.

"Me? I'm fine, I'm just thinking. Right, tell the writers in the department to come to me in two hours. I need them," Bai Xiaosheng said.

Lin Weiwei responded and saw Bai Xiaosheng lying on the table like a sloth again, his eyes wide and expressive yet unfocused, his gaze drifting far away.

Lin Weiwei tiptoed out, following Bai Xiaosheng's instructions to find people.

Bai Xiaosheng quietly lay for over an hour before finally sitting up straight and rubbing his temples.

"After analyzing fifteen similar cases, in the worst-case scenario, Ron's team, to avoid other penalties, might have to pay a fine of about two million euros, which is equivalent to fifteen million seven hundred thousand yuan in RMB—a hefty sum indeed!" Bai Xiaosheng exclaimed.

Ron had mentioned over drinks that he was bankrupt.

This wasn't a joke; Ron Team really had no money now and couldn't afford such a large fine.

Of course, this was Bai Xiaosheng preparing for the worst-case scenario.

"This must be Kevin's doing. Judging by the determination he showed in taking down Kaisen, this man is a ruthless and aggressive figure. If Ron's team doesn't fall in line with Kelson, this two million euros, the worst outcome, is bound to happen..." Bai Xiaosheng sighed as he turned on his computer.

In that hour, he had also sorted out his thoughts and had virtually completed the "position paper" he needed to submit to the group, just needing to type it out.

"Merely a thousand words, it's nothing." Bai Xiaosheng pressed his fingers, his gaze fixed on the computer screen, his hands on the keyboard. In moments, the clattering of keys rose, almost in one breath.

In ten minutes, the thousand words were written, and Bai Xiaosheng read through it three times without stopping, feeling very satisfied.

After finishing these tasks, Bai Xiaosheng felt a bit tired, stood up, and stretched his back.

Just as Bai Xiaosheng was resting, the door to the office was knocked.

Lin Weiwei entered with the team.

The same five from last time, Bai Xiaosheng's carefully selected, reliable writers.

It was relying on their writing that several brilliant articles were published last time, forcing Song Changkong to halt Chen Changqing's activities in the gaming department and leading their department to victory.

Bai Xiaosheng had immense trust in their abilities.

"Ladies and gentlemen of talent, I need you now!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, beckoning everyone over, pointing to his computer screen, "Here are a thousand words. I'm entrusting them to you—do not exceed this word count. Make it so compelling that after reading it once, people are convinced! Once it's done, I'll pay you a handsome fee for the piece!"

A few people laughed and crowded around.

Having handed the task over to the professionals, Bai Xiaosheng fully relaxed, walked out of his office, strolled about, and took a breath of fresh air.

...

Chen Changqing went back and explained the requirements to Yu Qing and Murong Yan, asking them to start working on it while he went off to make a phone call.

He needed to report the situation to Uncle and to Mr. Kevin.

Bai Xiaosheng, this stubborn bastard who wouldn't be swayed easily, was actually planning to fight a verbal battle with them within the group. However, this time, Song Changkong's stance was clear, as he chose to stand on the same side as him—an extremely rare occurrence.

Chen Changqing too had a plan; he wanted to join forces with Song Changkong to deal with Bai Xiaosheng...

"That's the situation," Chen Changqing said on the phone, providing a description and recounting his private conversation with Bai Xiaosheng.

Without holding anything back, in its entirety.

"Since he refuses to see reason, then no need for pleasantries!" On the other end of the phone, Chen Jiuzheng snorted coldly, "Song Changkong has clearly indicated his desire to collaborate with you, so join forces with him. The two of you together should be more than enough to deal with someone surnamed Bai!"

"Yes, that's exactly what I was thinking!" Chen Changqing replied.

"Look for an opportunity to have a good talk with Song Changkong..." Chen Jiuzheng gave Chen Changqing some pointers over the phone, to which Chen Changqing repeatedly agreed.

...

Zhongjing, Moon Lake Villa District.

The home of Chen Jiuzheng.

Chen Jiuzheng hung up the phone, tossed it onto the coffee table, picked up his tea cup with an expressionless face, and leisurely sipped his tea.

Mr. Kevin was sitting on the couch, swirling a glass of wine in his hand, admiring its amber hue.

"That Mr. Bai, he really is quite a character," said Kevin with a smile, as if in admiration.

Chen Jiuzheng had used speakerphone, and Kevin had heard the entire conversation clearly.

"Character? In my eyes, that's called courting death!" Chen Jiuzheng put down his tea cup and snorted coldly, "If he can't be of use to me, the more talented he is, the more I detest him. Such a person is better off scrapped! Don't you agree, Kevin?"

Kevin didn't respond, merely taking his time to savor a sip of his wine.

"It's too early to give up now. I believe he still can be persuaded." Kevin said with a laugh, "My people have already located Ron. I'm looking for a chance to have a chat with Mr. Bai Xiaosheng and, incidentally, let Ron witness something interesting. You all got it wrong: whether the Ron Team joins Zhongjing Media isn't up to your group, but rather it's up to Ron and his team. If they change their minds halfway, what good is your group's agreement?"

Chen Jiuzheng was startled, then burst into laughter.

"Interesting, this is interesting. Then I'll wait and see how you manage to win them over!" Chen Jiuzheng said with a laugh.

At their level, talent was like a gemstone; having it was delighting, without it, well, there were always others.

Nothing was truly indispensable!

"Do you really want to watch this play out?" Kevin said with a smile, "Your old tastes haven't changed one bit! My show will take center stage a bit later, but isn't Zhongjing Media currently putting on a grand show? Bai Xiaosheng alone against two; I am very curious to see how he plans to win!"

"Shall we then wait and see?"

"Wait and see!"

Chapter 359 The Alliance between Song and Chen_1

Bai Xiaosheng leisurely strolled over to the film and television department, partly on inspection and partly to clear his mind.

He had been busy with Ron Team's affairs, not only formulating a "grievance and rebuttal" for the group but also analyzing the lawsuit against Ron and his team, which was incredibly "brain-consuming".

His mind tired, he also needed to relax.

He had left Lin Weiwei in the new media department, to assist the writers with whatever they needed.

As soon as Director Gao Dazhi heard that Bai Xiaosheng had arrived, he hurried over with a smile on his face to accompany him, and Bai Xiaosheng didn't refuse. He also needed someone to properly explain the current work progress of the film and television department to him.

Over here in the film and television department, they were busy as a beehive, going full throttle, preparing for the shooting of that big IP TV drama. The script had already been thoroughly dissected and refined by the Wenqing Team and the scriptwriting team of Shang Wanwan's company, even the storyboards were being done to the standards of a film.

It seemed that these people were truly preparing to make a major effort.

Bai Xiaosheng felt impressed that working with such perfectionist dedication, the drama was bound to be a hit!

"Mr. Bai, do you have any guidance or suggestions for our work?"

After the report, Director Gao Dazhi asked with a beaming smile.

"Me, give guidance? Director Gao must be trying to make me embarrass myself," Bai Xiaosheng joked, "It's taboo for an outsider to direct an expert. With you keeping watch, I'm at ease! If you have any demands or difficulties, just come to me, or tell Weiwei. To your department, I'm just a logistics leader, the only thing I can do, is to think of every possible way to support you!"

Director Gao Dazhi, after years of office politics, was actually moved by Bai Xiaosheng's words.

This young man, occupying a high position at such a young age, not arrogant or impatient, what's truly commendable is his clear understanding of his role! He knows what to control and what to delegate!

His future was boundless!

Director Gao Dazhi felt emotional!

At the same time, he was also glad that it was Bai Xiaosheng who led this department.

"Rest assured, Mr. Bai! The department is my second home, and this drama, it's like my own child, I will put my utmost effort into safeguarding and ensuring it succeeds!" Director Gao Dazhi spoke very emotionally.

Old Gao, tainted by the slick ways of office life, could make even heartfelt words seem ingratiating, and sensing this, he quickly tried to change his phrasing.

Bai Xiaosheng stopped him.

"I understand," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

In the end, Director Gao Dazhi didn't say anything more. Words are empty; only actions are substantial!

These two, wandering along, peered into various studios through the glass windows for a while, doing their best not to disturb the busy drama crew...

Through Director Gao Dazhi, Bai Xiaosheng learned about many things.

Wenqing, although still a hot-headed person, was now able to cooperate with others and open to different opinions...

Yang Qian'er had a remarkable talent for acting, and under the guidance of her professional teachers, was learning things rapidly, drawing closer to her character with notable success...

Bai Xiaosheng didn't disturb them, quietly arriving and quietly leaving.

Before leaving work, Bai Xiaosheng hurried back to the new media department, to his own office.

Only Lin Weiwei was there; the other writers had already left.

When Bai Xiaosheng saw the Thousand Character Classic article again, he was stunned and full of admiration.

The content was the same, the reasons were the same.

But after being finely crafted by the five senior writers, reading it felt completely different!

Especially persuasive and motivating!

One read made you feel that Ron Team absolutely needed to be brought under the fold, not to mention spending three to five hundred million euros, even doubling that amount would be worth it!

"This bunch of folks, lucky they didn't go into pyramid schemes, otherwise they would all be a disaster!" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but remark.

With this document in hand, Bai Xiaosheng was full of confidence.

He immediately logged into the OA system and uploaded the document.

After the upload, the file status showed as "Pending."

Only when both Song Changkong and Chen Changqing had finished uploading, would the system send them out together.

Once uploaded, Bai Xiaosheng realized that even as the uploader, he couldn't make any changes; he only had viewing rights.

That would do! Bai Xiaosheng felt relieved.

However, he hadn't noticed one thing. Actually, it wasn't that changes couldn't be made!

At the bottom of the page, there was an inconspicuous line of remark in small letters: To make changes, the top two executives from the subsidiary must grant permission together!

...

After wrapping up, Bai Xiaosheng, feeling light-hearted, hummed a tune to himself as he clocked out.

He might have left, but Song Changkong and Chen Changqing were still at the company.

Not only were they still there, but the two were together in Song Changkong's office.

Following instructions from Chen Jiuzheng, Chen Changqing immediately went to "form an alliance" with Song Changkong.

Of course, some probing was needed... Whether Song Changkong was truly determined to deal with Bai Xiaosheng, or merely dissatisfied, had to be clarified.

Chen Changqing came with his own "opinion and argument" printout, ostensibly to discuss the content with Song Changkong.

But after talking about the printout for a bit, the conversation quickly turned to Bai Xiaosheng.

"This Bai Xiaosheng has always been way out of line. Just the other day, he humiliated me in public and showed you no respect. Despite that, he hasn't been punished and naturally continues to overstep his bounds time and again, completely disregarding the bigger picture! Plus, he's always targeting the two of us! How are we supposed to carry out our work in the future!" Chen Changqing became increasingly indignant as he spoke.

Several key points were evident in his words.

Firstly, by calling Bai Xiaosheng by his name directly in front of Song Changkong, instead of Mr. Bai, he was giving a hint!

Secondly, he positioned himself and Song Changkong on the same front.

Song Changkong remained silent, listening and flipping through Chen Changqing's printed document, seemingly ignoring his complaints.

Chen Changqing casually criticized Bai Xiaosheng a couple more times, not with harsh words, but with a venomous undertone, pointing out how Bai Xiaosheng held actual power in the company's two key departments and how other departments, profiting from those two, were all eyeing his position with envy.

This was to strike a nerve in Song Changkong.

At the same time, Chen Changqing's tone suggested genuine frustration, not without reason, as even the gaming department was secretly hoping for Bai Xiaosheng to take over. Wasn't that a slap in his face!

Chen Changqing felt that many of the things he said were not without cause!

Song Changkong's expression was unreadable as he set down the printout.

When he looked at Chen Changqing, Chen Changqing saw Song Changkong's eyes filled with a dark gloom, terribly ominous.

How could Song Changkong have possibly not listened to those words!

No reply did not mean he was not affected!

"Mr. Chen, we are both smart people, and when smart people talk to each other, there's no need to beat around the bush," Song Changkong stated bluntly, with a cold smirk, "To show sincerity, I'll be

straightforward. We can't let Bai Xiaosheng continue this nonsense; we have to take action! Decisive and effective action! But it's not easy to deal with him, as he holds an equal rank to us at Zhongjing Media. Neither you nor I alone will be enough to handle him."

"You mean form an alliance?" Chen Changqing said.

"Form an alliance!" Song Changkong nodded with unwavering certainty.

"Okay, let's form an alliance!" Chen Changqing nodded vigorously.

No need for unspoken words.

Decidedly and efficiently, an anti-Bai Xiaosheng alliance was preliminarily formed.

"So what's next? What do we do?" Chen Changqing asked.

Song Changkong slapped the document and laughed, "First, we absolutely cannot let the Ron Team come in! Make sure Bai pays dearly this time!"

"As for the second step, it's to strip him of all his actual power, to thoroughly sideline him!"

Chapter 360: Really Can Write with Flair!_1

"Alright, I agree with your opinion! Let's do that," Chen Changqing was very satisfied. Song Changkong's proposed first step – stopping the Ron Team from entering Zhongjing Media – completely aligned with their interests.

Song Changkong smiled.

He had also seen that Chen Changqing and his team needed this outcome.

However, refusing the Ron Team, preventing this unknown explosive trouble from coming in, was also very much in line with Song Changkong's mentality and interests!

In this matter, it was a win-win for both parties!

Bai Xiaosheng probably hadn't expected that this time, his opponents would form a group so quickly and directly.

He was no longer facing just one person or even two people, but a small group!

Bai Xiaosheng was somewhat negligent in this affair.

After all, he didn't understand just how much trouble he had caused for Song Changkong and Chen Changqing!

The alliance between Song and Chen doubled their advantage!

Their partnership was concealed, while Bai Xiaosheng was out in the open!

Bai Xiaosheng was now acting objectively, not personally, but these two were now playing both the people and the situation!

Calculating against one unsuspecting, Bai Xiaosheng didn't know his trouble had just grown...

"Mr. Chen, this 'Opinion and Defense' document of yours is quite something – clear in structure, coherent in thought, very persuasive!" Song Changkong flicked the printout in his hands, complimenting.

"You flatter me, Mr. Song!" Chen Changqing couldn't hide his pride.

For this document, he had first shared several key points with Yu Qing and Murong Yan, and his two assistants had collaborated and worked on it for two or three hours.

Ultimately, he had personally made adjustments.

To reach a level that earned Song Changkong's praise, Chen Changqing felt it was well deserved!

"I haven't uploaded it yet, hoping for your opinion," Chen Changqing said with a smile, humbling himself in his words.

Chen Changqing knew exactly what kind of person Song Changkong was – he desired power and the submission of his deputy. Therefore, Chen Changqing started with the gesture, satisfying Song Changkong's need.

Song Changkong smiled broadly, clearly enjoying the moment.

"No need for further changes, it's already very good!" Song Changkong said, rising to his feet, going to his computer, and pulling up a document, "Mr. Chen, take a look at this and give me your feedback."

Smiling, Chen Changqing walked over, not sitting down, but standing and scrolling through the document with the mouse.

Swiftly scanning the document, surprise quickly showed in Chen Changqing's eyes.

He had thought the material he and his assistants had worked on was good enough!

But compared to Song Changkong's draft, it was still lacking!

Song Changkong's document was rational and well-argued, not only rigorous but also had an undertone of sincerity, like a cry from a devoted employee who deeply loved the company and the group. It was incredibly convincing!

"Incredible! Perfect, this is truly perfect!" Chen Changqing couldn't contain his astonishment.

He was now somewhat convinced.

The old saying goes, the older the ginger, the spicier it is!

So many years in leadership had not been in vain for Song Changkong; he was indeed skilled – extremely skilled!

Chen Changqing couldn't help but silently reflect, "The devil is in the details, and from this small matter, it's not hard to see that I still have a gap to bridge with Mr. Song! It's not that my ability is lacking, but rather that I fall short in my way of expression."

Thankfully, Bai Xiaosheng was unaware of Chen's musings at this moment, or else he would surely have laughed out loud. Chen Changqing belonged to those who could see a shortcoming yet still firmly believe in their own ability – frankly speaking, it was the humility of the presumptuous...

Mr. Song Changkong wore a smile.

He was quite proud inside, and showing it to Chen Changqing also included a bit of boastfulness.

He was extremely satisfied with this document of his own.

"With these two statements, I expect the group will recognize our viewpoint. Bai Xiaosheng, you, are still too arrogant! This time, picking a fight with the two of us at once! We don't even need to play any tricks, we can just overpower you openly and squarely!" Mr. Song felt a bit of triumph in his heart.

Before, they had suffered quite a bit at the hands of Bai Xiaosheng, but now it was their turn to have the upper hand.

"Let's upload it now, and once Bai Xiaosheng uploads his, we send it straight to the group. We'll get a result quickly and let Bai Xiaosheng face a setback, then we can take the opportunity to move on to the second step and catch him off guard!" Mr. Song said with a laugh, "Mr. Chen, you have an electronic version of your document, right? You upload yours first. I'll give Bai Xiaosheng a call, to hurry him up! We can't let him relax!"

"Okay!"

Chen Changqing smiled and began to work on Mr. Song's computer, while Mr. Song grabbed his phone with a smile and dialed Bai Xiaosheng's number.

"Hello, is this Mr. Bai? This is Song Changkong!" After the call connected, Mr. Song's smile faded, his expression grew serious, and his voice became more forceful, "Where are you? Home? Have you finished your 'opinion defense'? It needs to be uploaded by today at the latest!"

Chen Changqing listened to Mr. Song urging on the phone while he operated the computer, a cold smile creeping onto his lips.

Their plan was to put pressure on Bai Xiaosheng, to force him, to ensure he wouldn't have an easy time!

"It's urgent, we need to hurry, you..." Mr. Song's elevated voice suddenly stopped abruptly.

Chen Changqing was waiting for him to continue, but when there was suddenly no noise, he looked up out of curiosity, only to have his gaze immediately riveted to the screen!

It wasn't anything else! The display showed:

Bai Xiaosheng had already uploaded!

So quickly? Chen Changqing was astonished.

On the other end, Mr. Song hung up the call in bewilderment, murmuring incredulously, "He said he's done..."

"Yes, right there on the screen," Chen Changqing muttered as well.

"This fast, this guy really doesn't take this seriously! Does he really think he can easily persuade the people in the group with his reasons, how conceited!" Mr. Song scoffed coldly, circling around to see, "Let's see if he can really make flowers bloom with his thousand words."

Neither Mr. Song nor Chen Changqing had editing permissions, but they did have viewing permissions.

They huddled together as Chen Changqing opened the document.

With mockery in their eyes and brows, they looked to see what Bai Xiaosheng had written...

In a matter of seconds, the expressions of Mr. Song and Chen Changqing changed drastically, from mocking to surprised, from surprised to dumbstruck.

It turned out he really could make flowers bloom with words...

Brilliant rhetoric!

A mere thousand words, yet they seemed to contain an incredible magic, compelling the reader to finish in one go, finding everything said so reasonable, so unquestionable, highly persuasive, and with sufficient justification!

Having finished, Mr. Song couldn't help but feel inclined to accept Ron Team, even if it meant paying the full five million Euros!

"Is this written by a human?"

"Did he write this?"

Mr. Song and Chen Changqing couldn't help but exclaim in disbelief.

Then, with a glance at each other, they both felt a bit embarrassed and at a loss for words.

They had been praising each other just before while mocking Bai Xiaosheng, but now it seemed they were far behind when it came to writing...

"No, we can't let this document get to the group!" Mr. Song suddenly exclaimed, "Mr. Chen, we need to edit it!"