

Two Trillion 361

Chapter 361 Tampering with the Report_1

Song Changkong's eyebrows shot up, a fierce look in his eyes.

He had truly been provoked to the limit by Bai Xiaosheng!

This time, he had intended to suppress Bai Xiaosheng thoroughly using legitimate means.

But he had not anticipated that Bai Xiaosheng's "Opinion Defense" would be more provocative than what he and Chen Changqing had put together!

If this was submitted as is, they would be utterly defeated by Bai Xiaosheng alone; where would their face be then!

Chen Changqing's face turned ashen as well.

"How can this kid's writing be so terrifying!" Chen Changqing had no choice but to admit that even five of him wouldn't match up to Bai Xiaosheng alone, based merely on writing ability.

Little did Song and Chen know that Bai Xiaosheng was not fighting alone.

Five top wordsmiths specifically revised those thousand words. Could ordinary people compete with that...

"We change it now!" Song Changkong declared resolutely.

"This has already been uploaded, and even though it hasn't been sent, we only have viewing permissions. How can we change it?" Chen Changqing asked, not understanding.

He, like Bai Xiaosheng, had not fully grasped the group's OA system.

"It's not that it can't be changed, it's just that the conditions for changing are stringent!" Song Changkong said with a sinister smile.

Having been in a leadership position for so many years, he was extremely familiar with these matters. He immediately pointed to the inconspicuous fine print for Chen Changqing to see.

"Needs simultaneous authorization by the company's top two leaders?" Chen Changqing murmured as he read it, his eyes lighting up with realization.

"Opinion Defense" was targeted at companies like Zhongjing Media. Both the top leaders had real power and could check and balance each other. In cases of extreme disagreement, they could go to the group to "sue" each other.

Once uploaded, it was not allowed to be retracted unilaterally, as this could hide conflicts.

Joint authorization meant that both sides had reached a middle ground, signifying the resolution of conflicts.

The creation of this system might be logical or idealistic, but the system was the system.

At the moment, Song Changkong was the General Manager, Chen Changqing the Deputy General Manager. Together, they met the requirements and could withdraw or modify Bai Xiaosheng the Deputy General's work!

"Good!" Chen Changqing said only one word.

Song Changkong operated personally, and they authorized the action together.

Finally, the document entered editing mode!

"I'll start making some changes first, then, Mr. Chen, you can go through it again!" Song Changkong said, smiling.

If they were going to do this, it could not be done by him alone. Even if Chen Changqing changed only a punctuation mark, he had to be involved and not remain uninvolved!

This was also a declaration of commitment!

Chen Changqing naturally understood and nodded immediately, signaling his agreement.

Song Changkong wasted no time and went on to amend Bai Xiaosheng's article meticulously.

He had a knack for it; instead of cutting content or views, he changed some of the more provocative and compelling sentences to a more bland expression. He also deliberately introduced a few typos in certain places. Although the typos were minor, they could easily cause annoyance and discomfort while reading.

Such changes lowered the overall impression, making solid arguments seem unreasonable...

Chen Changqing stood by, watching with a hint of admiration in his eyes.

Song Changkong was truly sly and experienced. Just three to five typos and five to six changed sentences were like dotting freckles on a flawless face.

Most importantly, even if Bai Xiaosheng reviewed it later, at a glance, he might not notice the changes!

"That'll do, come on, Mr. Chen, your turn to take a look," said Song Changkong, stepping aside for Chen Changqing.

Chen Changqing followed the lead and made a few symbolic changes.

By the end, the two men looked at each other and smiled.

"Should we upload ours now?" Chen Changqing couldn't help but ask.

Delay could breed mistakes, and if Bai Xiaosheng were to boast about his own document, wanting to review it one more time and found errors, wouldn't that be troublesome.

Song Changkong blinked and opened his document to check it.

"How about we revise it again?"

Stimulated by the piece Bai Xiaosheng had worked on, the more Song Changkong looked at his own work, the less satisfied he felt.

"Let's revise it again." Chen Changqing looked at his own printed draft, felt the same way, and couldn't help but nod in agreement.

Thus, one of them sat before his computer, tapping away at the keyboard, while the other held his printed draft, marking it up with a pen.

From time to time, one would mutter something.

"Why can't it have that effect..."

"What kind of brain does Bai Xiaosheng have..."

...

In the end, it took Song Changkong and Chen Changqing a whole two hours to finish revising.

After checking each other's work and feeling it was much better than before, they praised each other before finally uploading their documents.

Once the uploads were complete, the system immediately sent the three opinions and defenses to the group.

When Song Changkong and Chen Changqing left, the employees who were working overtime in the company felt emotional — with recent affairs piling up, the fact that both presidents were working so late showed their utter dedication...

At this moment.

Bai Xiaosheng had no idea that his document had been tampered with.

He had just finished talking to Ron, and according to the news from Ron Team in Europe, although they had hired an authoritative lawyer in this field, the outlook was still pessimistic. After all, nobody knew their own people better than they themselves, and the former shareholders of Kaisen held a full "evidence"...

According to the lawyer's estimation, Ron Team might partially lose the case, and to make sure each member was spared from prison, they would need to come up with about two million euros for compensation, to settle the matter.

This figure was almost identical to the one calculated by Bai Xiaosheng.

Due to Kaisen's dissolution, Ron Team had also incurred huge losses.

At the moment, let alone two million euros, it would be hard to scrape together even two hundred thousand.

"You don't need to worry about the money, just focus on getting the judgment as soon as possible! What you need to consider most is making sure to settle everything and avoid the recurrence of such a situation," Bai Xiaosheng said.

"Alright! I'll listen to you!" Ron replied.

After hanging up the phone, Bai Xiaosheng, with a frown, stepped out onto the balcony, gazed out at the night over Tiannan, and looked towards the Zhongjing Media Tower in the distance.

After a while, he returned to his desk, sat down, turned on his computer, and logged into the corporate office system. He found that the "opinions and defenses" had already been sent.

"Given the group's efficiency and the urgency of the matter, there should be a result by tomorrow," Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but frown, "Even if the group agrees to continue hiring Ron Team, whether they will come up with such a large sum of money is still unknown... No, I can't rely on the group! I have to make other plans!"

About to close the system page, Bai Xiaosheng inadvertently noticed the conditions for editing and uploading content underneath the "opinions and defenses" — authorization required from the top two executives...

Bai Xiaosheng, preoccupied with his thoughts, glossed over it and did not think any deeper.

After closing the page and turning off the computer, Bai Xiaosheng went to bed early.

The next day, at nine o'clock in the morning.

The moment Bai Xiaosheng arrived at the office and turned on his computer, a message popped up.

The group had responded!

Chapter 362 - I Go to Fight_1

As soon as Bai Xiaosheng saw the message notification, he couldn't wait to open the corporate OA system, clicked on the reply, and read the content.

He skimmed through the text at lightning speed.

"...Considering the current situation of the Ron Team, the Greater China Region Affairs Department, after carefully reviewing the 'opinion defense' submitted by Zhongjing Media General Manager Song Changkong, Deputy General Manager Chen Changqing, and Deputy General Manager Bai Xiaosheng, and meticulously analyzing the pros and cons of hiring the Ron Team, has finally determined..."

"The original hiring decision is rescinded!"

"The Ron Team will not be hired!"

Seeing the result, Bai Xiaosheng felt a chill in his heart.

Rejected!

His "opinion defense" had been detailed and reasoned, well-balanced with both logic and emotion, and very persuasive—how could it possibly fail?

Bai Xiaosheng didn't understand!

He wasn't conceited, but when it was time to be confident, he certainly had ample confidence!

Beneath that message, there was another separate reminder, sent only to him.

Bai Xiaosheng clicked on it.

"Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, Deputy General Manager of Zhongjing Media, please proofread and correct your 'opinion defense' before submission to avoid more than three errors. This is a sign of disrespect to the Greater China Region Affairs Department—a reminder!"

This reminder carried an undertone of discontent.

Bai Xiaosheng was stunned.

He didn't remember any errors! Besides, this Thousand Character Classic had been proofread by five of the strongest editors in new media—if there were still errors, it would be nothing short of a miracle.

Bai Xiaosheng quickly opened the article he had sent and started to read it carefully from the beginning.

The document had been annotated, and the mistakes were even specifically highlighted in bold red.

The more Bai Xiaosheng read, the deeper his frown became, and a hostile aura began to condense in his eyes.

The content had been altered!

The persuasiveness and appeal had been greatly reduced, with more than five or six typos! Any reader would be annoyed at such carelessness, and even with valid points, they would subconsciously resist the argument.

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes narrowed slightly.

He also noticed the inconspicuous reminder, "If you need to modify or retract, content must be co-authorized by the first and second in command of the company for it to take effect!"

Bai Xiaosheng suddenly stood up, his face overshadowed by gloom. He kicked his chair away with one foot, took large strides, and headed straight outside.

As soon as the office door opened, Lin Weiwei happened to be bringing in breakfast. She was caught off guard by Bai Xiaosheng walking toward her and was about to greet him with a smile when she saw the murderous look in his eyes!

"Sheng, you... you..." Lin Weiwei stammered in shock as she watched Bai Xiaosheng pass by her with a fierce expression, only then managing to ask in alarm, "Where are you going?"

"To fight!" Bai Xiaosheng didn't look back, his voice ice-cold!

Lin Weiwei stood there, dumbfounded for a long while before she snapped out of her daze, set down her things, and quickly followed after him.

Zhongjing Media, General Manager's office.

Chen Changqing entered with a beaming smile, knocking on the door as he did.

"Mr. Chen, you're here. I was just about to call you," said Song Changkong, holding a cup of milk with a radiant smile.

The group had indeed refused to continue hiring the Ron Team.

They had won this time, thoroughly defeating Bai Xiaosheng.

Thinking about it made Song Changkong feel happy.

When Bai Xiaosheng saw that message, who knows how furious he would be!

Damn it! That kid has been smug and arrogant for quite some time now. What goes around comes around, and it's about time he got taken down a peg!

At the same time, Song Changkong received additional information.

The group expressed appreciation for Song Changkong's decisive handling of the situation and affirmed the reasons he provided. They also included a few words of encouragement.

For others, this kind of encouragement, bearing no significant meaning, wouldn't matter much.

But for Song Changkong, it was like music to his ears!

It meant that the group still trusted and supported him, and his long-held worries about affecting his annual performance evaluation were unfounded! He, Song Changkong, would still become the Annual Excellent General Manager and win the grand slam for five years. Promotion and raise were just around the corner!

Given this encouragement, the moves he, Song Changkong, had made were totally worth it!

"Mr. Song, this time, the group acted very decisively and swiftly! Their decision was extraordinarily wise! Regarding the hiring matters of the Ron Team, they issued instructions twice, first affirming then negating, first supporting then opposing, which is detrimental to the higher-ups' image and could also tarnish the group's reputation if word got out. I think, after this, no matter the reason, the group will no longer agree to it, right?" Chen Changqing said with a smile.

The group's decisions weren't child's play, nor were they made carelessly, to be agreed upon one minute and opposed the next.

It's believed that the higher-ups handling this approval were already more than annoyed.

"Exactly, and this time, you can take it as set in stone!" Song Changkong returned the smile and gestured for Chen Changqing to sit down in the sofa area, "The Ron Team will not be entering Zhongjing Media anymore!"

Chen Changqing's face was full of smiles, "Mr. Song, our cooperation has been quite successful in this phase. Now, we can talk about the second phase!"

Strip Bai Xiaosheng of his actual power and render him powerless!

Song Changkong's eyes twinkled with eager anticipation, yet his smile carried a deeper meaning as he looked at Chen Changqing.

Once Bai Xiaosheng was deprived of actual power, would Chen Changqing become the next Bai Xiaosheng...

After all, he was also a talented young man with an incredibly remarkable background...

Noticing Song Changkong's gaze, Chen Changqing showed a hint of a smile on his face.

"Mr. Song, I know what you're worried about. Let me be frank with you! This Zhongjing Media, forget the position of deputy general manager, even your general manager position might not appeal to me!" Chen Changqing spoke calmly, "You may know, Mr. Jiuzheng is my uncle. If I wanted, I would have much better opportunities available, and I'm not afraid to tell you, my uncle is not even the most successful in our family in terms of business. I'll say something, and I don't mind offending you—"

"I don't value your position of general manager!" Chen Changqing said gravely.

"Oh?" Song Changkong's eyes narrowed slightly, but he laughed.

He didn't find the statement to be offensive at all; on the contrary, it was quite satisfying.

"You aim to soar high, like a phoenix, and that's good!" Song Changkong remarked with a smile.

If he had known this from the beginning, he would have joined hands with Chen Changqing much sooner!

It was all about inadequate communication at the start!

"Mr. Song understands my meaning, then let's now talk about how to deal with Bai..."

"Bang!"

Chen Changqing hadn't finished his sentence when the door to Song Changkong's office was forcefully pushed open. The sound was almost like someone kicking the door.

Chen Changqing jumped in surprise.

"What's going on!" Song Changkong also glared angrily in that direction.

Again, no knocking on the door, nor the customary five knocks, scaring him until his heart skipped beats!

Under their stares, they were shocked to find Bai Xiaosheng walking in with a grim face.

Seeing Song Changkong and seeing Chen Changqing, Bai Xiaosheng's face revealed a cold sneer.

"Well, well, everyone's here!"

Chapter 363: Do You Know the Consequences!_1

Song Changkong and Chen Changqing had a sudden change of complexion when they saw Bai Xiaosheng, their faces turning exceedingly unnatural in an instant.

They were conspiring here, discussing, about how to proceed with the second phase of their collaboration—to seize the real power from Bai Xiaosheng's hands and render him powerless!

And then, the man himself barged in with overwhelming momentum.

It was like being caught red-handed while doing something nefarious, too thrilling!

Even someone like Song Changkong, who long held a high position with a deep, calculating mind and a calm approach to affairs, was momentarily flustered.

Chen Changqing felt likewise, his heart skipping a beat, as if it paused for a breath.

In the case of someone else, they might not have reacted in such a way.

What kind of person was Bai Xiaosheng? This fellow was too sinister, at times overbearing and domineering, at times sly and crafty, and he switched between these traits with ease, never letting you get a handle on his pattern, never allowing you to guess his thoughts.

Both Song Changkong and Chen Changqing had suffered losses at the hands of Bai Xiaosheng on more than one occasion, and deep down, there was that bit of fear that neither of them wanted to admit.

Song Changkong's assistant followed Bai Xiaosheng with a pale face, looking at Song Changkong in panic; he had already made the mistake of barging in without knocking, and now, he had failed to prevent Mr. Bai from storming in.

Furthermore, Mr. Bai's entrance was too imbued with the flair of martial arts, it was indeed a palm strike that could startle both ghosts and gods...

The assistant, fearing being implicated by Bai Xiaosheng, stole a glance and was alarmed to find that both Mr. Song and Mr. Chen seemed to be scared as well...

"This isn't your concern, get out and close the door properly, don't let anyone else disturb our conversation!" Seeing his own assistant, Song Changkong quickly regained his composure and ordered.

The assistant hurried out and closed the door.

He didn't want to stay a second longer, for getting involved would be exceedingly inauspicious!

Song Changkong turned to Bai Xiaosheng once more, an added trace of displeasure on his face, coughed once, cleared his throat, and took up his dignity, "Mr. Bai, how can you not knock and just barge into my office? Is it appropriate?!"

"Barging in without knocking is indeed improper," Bai Xiaosheng nodded expressionlessly, his eyes cold with a glint of frost, and asked with a smile, "But is it proper to alter my 'Opinion and Argument' without my consent?!"

Bai Xiaosheng's last shout of inquiry barely concealed his rage.

"Alter your 'Opinion and Argument'? Who did that?!" Song Changkong frowned, asking back in surprise.

As if he knew nothing about the matter, and found it inconceivable.

Bai Xiaosheng narrowed his eyes slightly, silently staring at him.

Chen Changqing, on the other hand, quickly composed himself.

"Yes, how much was changed, was content deleted, or were the reasons distorted?" Chen Changqing asked seriously and then laughed, "It couldn't be that Mr. Bai, you finished it in one breath, feeling that it flowed smoothly and feeling good about it, only to directly upload it and fail to spot some typos, could it? That would be your own oversight, you can't blame it on others."

Chen Changqing was deliberately provoking Bai Xiaosheng.

Proud as he was, he had been suppressed by Bai Xiaosheng's aura just moments ago, now feeling a sense of embarrassment.

So he said this on purpose!

Bai Xiaosheng's gaze remained cold as he shifted his eyes from Song Changkong's face to Chen Changqing's and back again.

Both Song and Chen had fully regained their composure, smiling ambiguously at Bai Xiaosheng. It was as if they were saying, even if you guess it was us, what of it? We won't admit to it, do you have proof?

It was certainly a provocation!

Bai Xiaosheng had wanted to fight on this issue, but there was no way he could!

"I originally thought, since we are all people of status, even if we get into a dispute, we would at least pay attention to the means and methods used! But now, you both have taught me a lesson! It was naïve of me!"

Bai Xiaosheng sighed faintly, the fire in his voice turning into coldness, "However, do you know the consequences of using such methods to plot against me, Bai Xiaosheng?"

"I'm not afraid to tell both of you that since I entered the group, I've always wanted to be kind to others, and I've wanted to treat others well. But there always seem to be people jumping out to target me, to deal with me. Whether it's unintentional or coincidental, I, Bai Xiaosheng, have driven people away, I've driven people mad. I've caused people to lose their jobs, I've caused people to be laid off. I've caused people's futures to be wrecked, I've caused people to become pessimistic and hopeless. It's not what I wished for, but it was indeed caused by me!"

"Now, you two, are you formally drawing your swords against me? Fine, I, Bai Xiaosheng, am willing to accept the challenge!" Bai Xiaosheng's voice carried a bone-chilling coldness as he looked deeply at Song Changkong and Chen Changqing, "I also hope that you two will have a good ending!"

With that, Bai Xiaosheng turned around, opened the office door, and strode out.

Song Changkong and Chen Changqing just watched him, watched his threats, watched him march off proudly.

The two of them felt a chill run down their spines and their hair stand on end from Bai Xiaosheng's words.

"Crazy, this guy, he's talking to me like this!" Song Changkong exclaimed loudly, seemingly very angry, "I am still the general manager of Zhongjing Media, and he is... he's threatening me!"

Song Changkong was even a little furious with embarrassment.

Chen Changqing couldn't help but glance at him.

He always felt that Song Changkong seemed to be blustering with an inner fragility...

This time, we've really, truly provoked this major hornet into a frenzy!

Chen Changqing couldn't help but swallow hard, but his pride made him seethe inside—even if we've provoked him, so what!

His backer, Chen Changqing's, was fiercer than the next, what could Bai Xiaosheng possibly do to him!

"Uncle is right, in the face of absolute power, individual talent and cleverness are worth nothing! Bai Xiaosheng, I, Chen Changqing, am destined for greatness, will I be intimidated by someone who relies on luck and tricks? No! I am here to challenge you, to break you!"

As Chen Changqing thought this, his gaze grew fiery.

Song Changkong calmed himself by drinking several sips of warm milk.

He couldn't help but look at Chen Changqing beside him, the young man's eyes brimming with a fighting spirit, seemingly inspired by Bai Xiaosheng's provocation.

Excellent!

Song Changkong's eyes flickered slightly. Behind Chen Changqing stood Chen Jiuzheng, and other great figures whom even he did not know, with such an ally, along with himself, would they fear Bai Xiaosheng?

Ridiculous!

"Where did we leave off in our conversation just now? Let's continue," Song Changkong said to Chen Changqing.

"Okay!" Chen Changqing responded forcefully.

...

Bai Xiaosheng left, his expression calm yet tinged with iciness.

Behind him, Lin Weiwei, following quietly, didn't dare to make a sound, walking silently by his side.

"This time, we've completely torn our faces to shreds. If nothing unexpected happens, they will join forces against me, to strip me of my real power!" Bai Xiaosheng's gaze flickered unsteadily.

Bai Xiaosheng's anger slowly subsided as he quickly regained his composure, his thoughts racing.

"Time waits for no one, it seems I must accelerate my advancement! Fortunately, I've already had a conception of how to acquire points, I just haven't perfected it yet, unsure if it would be effective... It seems now, I must implement it as soon as possible!"

"Since the system tasks are so few, then I will forge my own way to earn extra points!"

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes sparkled as he walked with his head held high, his steps as steady as the wind.

Lin Weiwei, astounded, nearly jogged to keep up.

Chapter 364: Awarded Damages of 2 Million Euros_1

Back in his own office, Bai Xiaosheng didn't say a word and sat there with a frown.

His brow would knit and then relax, as if he had grasped some issues, but then seemed to fall into new troubles.

Lin Weiwei stood quietly by the side, her large eyes flickering as she watched him, like a little attendant.

In her gaze, there was only trust for Bai Xiaosheng. In her view, there was nothing that could trouble Xiaosheng. There wasn't before, and there wouldn't be in the future!

Suddenly, Bai Xiaosheng took a long breath, his gaze returning from contemplation. He lifted his head, saw Lin Weiwei, was momentarily startled, and then smiled warmly, "Weiwei, have you been standing here for a long time?"

"Uh-huh, for a little while now," Lin Weiwei said, smiling.

"Weiwei, I'm hungry, do we have anything to eat?" Bai Xiaosheng eyed a food container nearby.

"Ah, it's gone cold, I'll go warm it up right this moment," Lin Weiwei exclaimed.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't have the chance to stop her; the girl had already dashed out like a whirlwind, her stilettos clacking rhythmically. He wanted to tell her to slow down, but she was already out of sight.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

His expression showed a hint of fatigue, but more than that, there was confidence, calmness, and pleasure.

He had already preliminarily constructed the scoring method he had envisioned and was waiting for Ron's matter to come to a closure before immediately implementing it!

"I wonder how Ron and his team are doing..." Bai Xiaosheng muttered involuntarily.

Bai Xiaosheng sent another message to Ron, emphasizing a single principle.

Resolve it swiftly! The faster, the better!

Even if it meant being ordered to pay two million euros in compensation, as long as it could be resolved in the short term, he agreed!

A lizard sheds its tail, a warrior amputates his wrist to survive—when it's time to be ruthless, one must be ruthless!

After all, the longer it drags on, the more variables arise!

"Okay, I got it!" Ron sent back a message, and added, "This time, it's costing the company quite a bit!"

He didn't yet know that Zhongjing Media was no longer an option for them!

Bai Xiaosheng just glanced at it and didn't explain a word.

Right now, he was trying to keep himself in a state of neither joy nor sadness. Emotional fluctuations can lead to irrationality and affect judgment, which is extremely fatal in a game against powerful opponents.

Bai Xiaosheng's current opponents weren't just one person; they were Zhongjing Media's General Manager Song Changkong, Vice General Manager Chen Changqing, behind them, the industry head of Anjiang Province, Chen Jiuzheng, and the CEO of Europe's top media company Kelson, Kevin.

Facing this formidable lineup, Bai Xiaosheng was alone.

But he was fearless!

Lin Weiwei brought back the warmed-up breakfast, and by this time, it was nearly noon. Too late for breakfast and too early for lunch.

But Bai Xiaosheng didn't mind at all. He ravaged the food like a storm sweeping through.

He was starving and needed to maintain his strength and fighting power to face those formidable opponents.

Lin Weiwei watched quietly, her eyes tinged with a faint sense of heartache.

After eating, Bai Xiaosheng had Lin Weiwei postpone all of today's tasks. He himself stayed in the office, grabbing some A4 paper and started to sketch and scribble on one of them.

This was Bai Xiaosheng's way of organizing his thoughts. Using a computer or digital version was just too easy to leave traces, unlike this safer method.

"Red Lotus, if I do this, can I get the scores?" Bai Xiaosheng stopped midway to ask.

Red Lotus was silent for a moment before responding, "This is initiated by you, you set the terms, and it's good for the company! The final results will contribute to your total score, and this effect lasts until you leave Zhongjing Media!"

"That means, if I stay here as the general manager, I can still earn scores from this?" Bai Xiaosheng asked urgently.

"Correct!" Red Lotus replied decisively.

"Good!" Bai Xiaosheng laughed, his eyes shining with a bright and brilliant light.

The idea that it could become reality so quickly was all due to Song Changkong and Chen Changqing pressuring him, leaving him with no choice but to think about leveling up.

Now, Red Lotus had confirmed its feasibility!

This approach was not only feasible, but it could also bring him long-lasting and sustained profits!

"Speaking of which, I really should thank you, General Manager Song Changkong, Deputy General Manager Chen Changqing," Bai Xiaosheng's eyes turned excited into a hint of cold light, "Especially Mr. Song, this time, I'm sorry, but I really want your position!"

"Originally, I didn't want to, this, it's all because you forced me!"

Bai Xiaosheng let out a long sigh.

Zhongjing Media, the General Manager's office.

Song Changkong and Chen Changqing had talked for a long time, and the two had already tentatively agreed on a plan—to force Bai Xiaosheng to hand back the rights to the New Media Department and the Film and Television Department, of course, some preparation was still needed in the early stages.

"The things we just discussed should be implemented as soon as possible," Song Changkong said with a smile to Chen Changqing, "Mr. Chen will need to cooperate when the time comes, and I hope Mr. Chen will put in a good effort."

"Of course!" said Chen Changqing with a comfortable smile.

This time, Bai Xiaosheng had finally fallen into a desperate situation, there was no doubt about it!

This predicament was partly the result of their unrelenting efforts, but more so it was Bai Xiaosheng himself, ignorant of death, not knowing the immensity of heaven and earth!

The good days for Bai Xiaosheng were completely over!

Song Changkong and Chen Changqing both believed this idea wholeheartedly.

...

Bai Xiaosheng had an open fallout with Song Changkong and Chen Changqing.

This news was tightly sealed and did not spread.

But in the following two days, these three leaders at Zhongjing Media eerily entered into a "quiet" phase at the same time, not even holding meetings or doing inspections.

This unusual phenomenon was immediately sniffed out by some sharp-minded people.

According to them, the company was in a subtle and terrifying state of silence, promising to unleash a thunderous storm once broken.

This speculation made the rounds in the market, with rumors gradually arising.

No one stopped them; in fact, no one paid them any heed.

Bai Xiaosheng, Song Changkong, and Chen Changqing were each making their own preparations, busily.

Two days later, one morning.

Bai Xiaosheng suddenly received a definitive message from Ron—

The Ron Team had lost the lawsuit and was ordered to pay two million euros!

"All the troubles our team is currently facing, including the hidden threats, have been completely eliminated. Once the fines are paid, no one will be able to threaten us through legal means! I'm flying to Zhongjing overnight!" the message from Ron read.

He too had listened to Bai Xiaosheng's advice, seeking a quick resolution without considering bargaining.

A lesson learned through hardship.

Bai Xiaosheng also believed that with the ability of the Ron Team, after this incident, they would definitely finish things off cleanly and thoroughly.

Bai Xiaosheng had been waiting until the afternoon, yet he did not see Ron appear.

Taking the time difference into account, Ron should have arrived; even if he didn't come to find him immediately, at least a phone call, or a message would do.

However, Ron was nowhere to be heard from, as if he had disappeared.

Bai Xiaosheng sent messages without replies and made phone calls that no one answered.

Just as he was puzzled, someone came looking for him.

Chapter 365 Kevin's Invitation_1

Bai Xiaosheng was worrying about Ron when his office door was knocked.

Bai Xiaosheng furrowed his brows, looking at the door with curiosity. He had already instructed that he should not be disturbed unless it was something special.

"Come in!" Bai Xiaosheng put down his cellphone and called out.

The door opened, and Lin Weiwei walked in, followed by a tall and sturdy guy.

"Mr. Bai, Mr. William is looking for you!" Lin Weiwei said respectfully.

William?

Bai Xiaosheng saw clearly that the foreigner behind Lin Weiwei was none other than that special representative from Kelson.

He's looking for me?

A hint of confusion flashed in Bai Xiaosheng's eyes, but it vanished in a moment as he stood up with a smile.

"Host's requirement detected, activating secondary assistance, language translation..."

"Mr. William, what a rare guest!" Bai Xiaosheng walked around the desk and ushered William to the sofa area, asking in fluent English with a smile, "What would you like to drink, coffee or tea?"

William smiled warmly.

Ever since their last meeting, he had been amazed by Mr. Bai's accent. His spoken language carried the accent of his hometown, which was incredible and gave an innate sense of closeness.

This was also the beauty of the system-assisted "language translation." Just like the Chinese value hometown sentiment, so do foreigners. The same accent can quickly shorten the distance between two people and increase the other's favorability, which is very beneficial for promoting cooperation.

"Thank you, Mr. Bai, but I'm afraid I cannot stay long. I've come specifically to invite you," William said with a smile.

"To invite me?" Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback.

William leaned in and lowered his voice, "I'm here on behalf of Mr. Kevin to invite you. He would like to have you over for a cup of tea and a chat."

"Mr. Kevin?" Bai Xiaosheng's gaze flickered uncertainly.

William said with a smile, "If you don't have the time, or it's inconvenient, Mr. Kevin said not to worry about it. However—"

William couldn't help but say to Mr. Bai, who had learned English with an accent from his own hometown, "I personally suggest that you accept the invitation."

"Of course, if you disagree, it's alright. I can only take my leave then," William smiled.

"Alright, I'll go," Bai Xiaosheng agreed.

He also wanted to know what Kevin was up to. Why on earth was he inviting him for tea for no reason?

What was he really selling in this gourd...

What did they need to talk about...

...

Just a ten-minute walk from the Zhongjing Media Tower, there was a shaded, vintage courtyard, with a wooden signboard hanging outside featuring a few large characters written with flourish—

Tianxiang Tea House.

Here, they both tasted and sold tea.

The environment was elegant, and the prices were steep, only welcoming customers with both taste and capital. In such a pricey commercial area, staying in business for a decade without falling was not only a mark of prestige, but also fashion.

It must be said that the tea house's owner had quite a skill.

In a small courtyard room full of ancient charm, Kevin actually sat cross-legged on a cushion, holding a delicate white porcelain cup and enjoying the fragrance of the tea with a contented face.

"The tea culture of China has enchanted me. It truly is the finest beverage gifted to mortals by the heavens. In such a small cup of tea, you can taste the charm of culture and even the realm of life. Don't you agree, Mr. Ron?" Kevin said with a smile, putting down the cup in his hand and asking in fluent German the man sitting opposite him.

Opposite Kevin sat Ron, who had been out of contact with Bai Xiaosheng for a long time.

Except, Ron's face was ashen, and he was silent.

Behind him stood two tall men in suits, one on each side, with a hand lightly resting on his shoulder.

If Ron did not struggle, they would not press down. But as soon as he tried to resist, those hands tough enough to split bricks and carve stone would press down mercilessly, making him unable to move an inch.

Ron had tried, more than once, and he knew struggling was futile.

From the moment he got off the plane and took a taxi, the nightmare began. The cab drove straight into an area he had never been to before, and then, he was controlled by two strong men. It was only an hour ago that he finally got to see the person behind this "kidnapping"!

It was Mr. Kevin.

"Mr. Kevin, this is illegal detention, it's against the law!" Ron looked at Kevin impassively and said coldly.

"Ha ha." Kevin laughed loudly, "Mr. Ron, don't be so dull, and don't be so naive. Detention? Illegal? Where's the evidence? The laws in any country in this world are about evidence, not one man's word. I'm not afraid to tell you that I can find a dozen, or even two dozen witnesses to tell the judge that you

and I are just friends, that we're merely attending a social gathering. I can find dozens of people to prove that you have intermittent mental illness, do you believe that?"

Ron was silent.

He believed it!

Kevin was the kind of man he understood all too well. The other party had plenty of tricks, plenty of means, and what he had just said was putting it mildly...

"Today, I called you here because I want you to be an audience." Kevin spoke, "The person I actually want to invite will arrive soon. Speaking of this person, you are familiar with him... it's Bai Xiaosheng, the vice president of Zhongjing Media, your old friend!"

Ron was stunned.

Kevin wanted to invite Bai Xiaosheng.

"Speaking of Mr. Bai, he's really something!" Kevin said with interest to Ron, "He's been racking his brains, pouring his heart and soul into this team of yours, even to the point of falling out with two of his colleagues at Zhongjing Media."

Ron frowned slightly, still silent.

Kevin continued with a smile, "I originally wanted to enjoy a good show, to see how he would hold up against two colleagues on his own. But, unexpectedly, he was too formidable. Song Changkong and Chen Changqing, these two people, were so dull that they had to resort to tampering with other people's things to win... Bai Xiaosheng, what an anomaly, even more of a prodigy than any I have seen! However luckily for them, whether Song Changkong or Chen Changqing... nonetheless, they won."

Ron's eyes tightened, his hands involuntarily clenched.

He worried for Bai Xiaosheng.

"Don't you want to know what Bai Xiaosheng lost?" Kevin asked with a laugh, "It's related to you guys!"

Ron was taken aback, looking puzzled at Kevin. Finally, unable to hold back, he asked coldly, "What did he lose?"

"He lost you guys!" Kevin declared with a laugh.

Ron's eyes widened, dazed, his gaze flickering with unease.

"The group ultimately decided not to recruit you!" Kevin said with a smile of satisfaction, "We installed eavesdropping software on your phone, and according to what we've heard, Bai Xiaosheng never told you about this, he's always been keeping it from you!"

Ron was in disbelief.

"You're lying. They... their group refused to recruit us?" Ron couldn't help saying, "But..."

Bai Xiaosheng told him to expedite everything, not to worry about compensation. As a result, they gave up a lot of arguments and now owed a huge sum of two million euros. No one was willing to hire them now. How could they possibly pay off this debt!

"Why would Bai Xiaosheng do this?" Ron murmured, then glared at Kevin, shouting angrily, "Regardless, I don't believe he would harm me!"

Chapter 366 What on earth were you thinking!_1

Mr. Bai Xiaosheng clearly knew their group would not recruit the Ron Team, nor would they pay the money, yet he insisted that Ron spare no expense to close the case quickly.

Why was that?

This was also Mr. Kevin's confusion.

Chen Jiuzheng had someone run an investigation again. Bai Xiaosheng came from an ordinary family without much money, and he had even nearly caused a family crisis over a mere few hundred thousand Renminbi.

How could such a person, upon knowing there was no corporate backing, still persuade the Ron Team to settle the case swiftly at a financial loss?

Mr. Kevin wanted to know the reason as well.

Could it be that Bai Xiaosheng was really as he had tried to slander...

No, that wasn't like him.

"Regardless of what Mr. Bai's considerations were, he ultimately rushed you to accept a hefty fine on the conclusion that their group rejected you. This is an indisputable fact!"

Mr. Kevin did not mind Ron's angry gaze and calmly said, "If you ask me, he probably thought that if he couldn't have your team, then he would make you a hot potato that would cost anyone else who wanted your team an extra two million euros..."

"That's you! He's not that kind of person!" In a burst of emotion, Ron couldn't help but try to stand up.

Behind him, two burly men pressed down with their calloused hands, holding him firmly in place.

No matter how much Ron struggled, it was all in vain.

"Exactly," said Mr. Kevin, unbothered by Ron's shouting, instead shrugging his shoulders with a laugh, "If it were me, I would do just that, no, I would definitely do just that! As for Mr. Bai... I invite you to be a listener for once and hear his inner thoughts."

"If Bai Xiaosheng admits it, or regardless avoids talking about this matter, then I think you'll have to admit that my guess was true. For the Ron Team to survive and to have food on your table, I think you should come to Kelson. I will pay the two million euros fine, and moreover, I can offer you a much higher salary than before! The only condition is that you sign a fifteen-year contract with Kelson!"

"What do you think?" Mr. Kevin asked with a smile.

Today his second objective was to get Bai Xiaosheng, without knowing Ron was there, to say certain things under his guidance, making Ron misunderstand and give up hope.

Later on, Ron would have no choice but to accept his suggestion for the sake of his team.

Mr. Kevin smiled, full of confidence.

Ron's gaze was somewhat scattered.

The news was too shocking; he was having a hard time accepting it.

"Do you have anything else to say? If not, just quietly stay inside and listen to us talk," Mr. Kevin said.

Ron forced himself to calm down, grabbed the porcelain cup on the table, and gulped down the tea as if it were a shot of liquor. He then poured himself several more cups of hot tea from the teapot beside him and drank them down.

Finally, Ron calmed down.

"Bai Xiaosheng will not betray us!"

Ron looked at Mr. Kevin calmly, saying this sentence with unwavering certainty, "I trust him!"

"May your faith last forever! Take him away!" Mr. Kevin said sternly.

He was no longer interested in quarreling with Ron.

Two men took Ron by the arms, one on each side, and walked him into the inner room.

In the inner room was a large monitor, a translator set up by Mr. Kevin that could convert Chinese into German for Ron to read.

"This stubborn guy!" Mr. Kevin snorted coldly in Chinese, glancing at the time, "It should be about time now."

Under William's guidance, Bai Xiaosheng walked into the Tianxiang Tea House.

As he went along, Bai Xiaosheng nodded frequently.

This Tianxiang Tea House was a compound with interconnected buildings, set high and low.

A large courtyard within a small one, a small courtyard connected to a large one.

It was full of ancient charm and spirit.

"It seems that Mr. Kevin is quite knowledgeable about Chinese culture; he really knows how to pick a place," Bai Xiaosheng commented.

This place is so nice, I'll have to come here more often! A great spot for calming the mind and cultivating one's sentiments.

William led Mr. Bai Xiaosheng all the way into a yard.

The small courtyard was paved with blue bricks, adorned with green plants and flowers, exceptionally clean.

The main hall's doors were wide open, and Mr. Kevin, in a Chinese-style jacket, stood at the entrance with his hands clasped behind his back, smiling as he looked toward Mr. Bai Xiaosheng.

William stepped aside, and Sheng walked over.

"Welcome, Mr. Bai!"

"I don't deserve such courtesy, Mr. Kevin!"

The two shook hands, smiling as they entered the hall.

Once seated, Kevin personally poured Mr. Bai Xiaosheng a cup of Kung Fu Tea. Watching Kevin's skillful technique, Sheng couldn't help but express his admiration.

Quite rare for a foreigner!

Sheng had been to Lu Yun's estate and tasted the Kung Fu Tea personally brewed by Wei Xuelian. He had used Red Lotus to thoroughly investigate the intricacies of the ritual and had the memory permanently saved.

Now, he confidently engaged in smelling the fragrance and tasting the tea.

Kevin, observing this, nodded repeatedly. This set of skills was becoming increasingly rare to master; not only was it an enjoyment, but it also represented a certain taste.

The two exchanged pleasantries for a while.

"May I know why Mr. Kevin has invited me here? Is there something you wish to discuss?" Sheng asked with a smile.

"Purely for tea drinking," Kevin joked.

"Really? Then I've had my tea, I'll take my leave!" Sheng feigned getting up.

Kevin was momentarily taken aback before laughing, "Mr. Bai really does have a sense of humor. All right, I was just joking. I know you're a busy man, Mr. Bai, so of course there's something I want to discuss."

Sheng sat back down.

Kevin's smile faded slightly as he seriously said to Sheng, "Mr. Bai, do you have any... objections or concerns regarding our partnership between Kelson and Zhongjing Media?"

"Not at all!"

"Then, do you have any objections or concerns regarding Kelson Company?"

"Not at all!"

Sheng shook his head consecutively, laughing, "Why do you ask that? Wasn't our partnership and contract signing very smooth?"

The collaboration between Kelson Company and Zhongjing Media had gone off without a hitch.

"If you have no objections to the partnership or to Kelson, then why did you stop Kelson from recruiting Ron Team?!" Kevin's voice turned cold.

Sheng looked at him.

Kevin looked back at Sheng, earnestly saying, "You're well aware we can offer Ron Team generous terms, even shares, and can help them resolve any issues, such as this lawsuit from Kaisen! We are the best place for them!"

"However, this time, isn't it your doing that Ron Team was sued?" Sheng said.

"That was because you forced our hand!"

Kevin snorted coldly, "We were just putting on a show, forcing Ron Team to consider us. The moment he's willing, we'll immediately have those guys drop the lawsuit, and Ron Team won't have to pay a cent! The same goes for now!"

"But I didn't expect that you, Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, would be so ruthless. Knowing full well your group wouldn't hire them, wouldn't pay that money, you still wanted them to obtain the judgment as quickly as possible!"

"Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, you're harsh! Are you holding a grudge against me and Chen Jiuzheng for causing your recruitment to fail, looking to take revenge on us?!"

"You don't want others to happily get what you couldn't!" Kevin accused sharply.

In the next room, Ron's eyes narrowed.

He still couldn't believe that Sheng would do such a thing!

Chapter 367: I Want This Team!_1

Kevin's questioning struck like thunder and Storm, violently slamming into Bai Xiaosheng.

Instinctively, Bai Xiaosheng didn't seem like such a venomous person, and besides, to do such a thing would, at most, yield some petty satisfaction from revenge and have no other meaning. It would also cost him his friendship with Ron.

It was simply not worth it!

Having done his research, Kevin knew that Bai Xiaosheng was not only not heartless but actually placed great emphasis on loyalty and friendships.

The reason Kevin spoke like this, naturally, was for the ears of Ron who was in the next room.

If he could prompt Bai Xiaosheng to become angry and hot-headed, admitting to things recklessly in the heat of the moment, then nothing could be better!

If Ron became desperate and faced with a hefty compensation, he would easily break down and accept Kelson's suggestion. By signing the contract, it would be a fifteen-year labor agreement!

Bai Xiaosheng remained calm, silently facing the accusations from Kevin.

"Is this your silent admission, Mr. Bai?" Kevin said with a smile, raising his voice.

This sentence was also for Ron in the next room.

Even if Bai Xiaosheng disdainfully chose not to answer him, Kevin could manipulate his intent, creating the illusion of Bai Xiaosheng's admission.

Indeed, Kevin was a journalist and host by trade, especially adept at linguistic manipulation and distorting truth and falsehoods.

In the next room, Ron looked at the translated words on the big screen, his face slightly pale, yet his gaze remained firm—he still believed in Bai Xiaosheng.

"However, even if what Kevin says is true..." Ron silently told himself, "I don't blame you, after all, you've worked hard for us, and the decision of your group isn't something you can resist on your own..."

...

"Mr. Kevin."

Outside, Bai Xiaosheng finally spoke.

Kevin immediately perked up his ears, listening intently.

He aimed to latch onto any potential slip from Bai Xiaosheng, blow it out of proportion, then distort it, causing Ron in the next room to misunderstand. He was skilled at this tactic, and it had worked more than once.

This time, no matter how clever and cunning Bai Xiaosheng was, he surely didn't expect to be on such a perilous edge, where even a single misstep in his words could cause him to lose people's hearts forever.

A glimmer of excitement twinkled deep in Kevin's eyes.

Bringing down a talent like Bai Xiaosheng, there was a tremendous thrill in that.

Kevin was now like a swordsman, completely focused, waiting for the moment Bai Xiaosheng showed a weakness, the moment to strike home with one blow!

In the next room, Ron held his breath and concentrated, listening intently to the noises outside, watching the big screen closely.

No matter what Bai Xiaosheng said, he had decided he wouldn't hold any grudge because of it.

Bai Xiaosheng hadn't spoken yet, but he had already touched their spirits.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at Kevin, a faint smile curling up at the corner of his mouth.

"Ever since the group's final decision came through, I decided whether Ron Team enters Zhongjing Media or not, it doesn't matter!"

In one deft sentence from Bai Xiaosheng, Kevin was ecstatic, his eyes alight with fervor.

He didn't know whether Bai Xiaosheng's words were genuine, or if they had any other implication, and he didn't care. He just knew how he could interpret the sentence to mean whatever he desired!

In the next room, Ron couldn't help but close his eyes. However, when he opened them again, he was remarkably calm.

"F**k Zhongjing Media!"

Just as Kevin was getting excited and about to twist his words, Bai Xiaosheng suddenly threw in a curse.

"F**k Chen Jiuzheng!"

Bai Xiaosheng's expression was serene and his demeanor refined, but curses flowed from his mouth.

"And f**k Kelson too!"

Three insulting words made Kevin furrow his brow, his face a picture of astonishment.

He was expecting Bai Xiaosheng to speak again, to explain or to add something.

But what he hadn't expected was that Bai Xiaosheng would take on the demeanor of a modest gentleman while hurling insults!

This aberrant behavior left Kevin at a loss, even unsure of how to misinterpret it.

In a separate room, Ron was staring blankly at the screen filled with lines of insults, equally perplexed.

"To you, the Ron Team is just a tool, a means to earn money, a way to elevate your business, and that's why you want them. Especially you, Mr. Kevin—you really will stop at nothing!" Bai Xiaosheng said in a solemn voice, "But to me, Ron is my friend!"

"This time, I won't let any of you succeed!" Bai Xiaosheng downed the tea in his cup and stood up, his tone icy, "The Ron Team, you won't get them, because I'm taking them!"

"You? On what grounds?!" Kevin couldn't help but shout, "They are carrying a penalty of two million euros..."

"A mere two million euros, I'll pay it!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a contemptuous smile.

Two million euros was roughly equivalent to 15.6 million yuan.

Bai Xiaosheng had ten million in that supreme-level bank card, the investment department had made another two million, and then there was Red Lotus—from whom, if Bai Xiaosheng had a reason involving group affairs, he could use another ten million!

Bai Xiaosheng had asked Red Lotus whether it was feasible for him to invest in a business consulting team in his capacity as the future president.

The answer was affirmative!

Bai Xiaosheng could access that money!

Meaning, he now had 22 million at his disposal!

More than enough!

"You can pay a penalty of two million euros?" Kevin asked in disbelief, his eyes wide.

To people on their level, this sum was nothing, but they had investigated Bai Xiaosheng and for him, this amount should have seemed astronomical, something he couldn't afford!

"If Ron and his team are willing, I will be the new employer of this team!" Bai Xiaosheng said, looking directly at Kevin with an authoritative tone, "None of you should even think about getting your hands on them again!"

Kevin was at a loss for words.

In the side room, Ron, seeing the words on the big screen, turned red with excitement and couldn't restrain himself from letting out the loudest roar he had ever made, "I'm willing!"

At the same time, Ron burst out so forcefully that the two bodyguards couldn't hold him back.

Caught off guard by a loud roar, Bai Xiaosheng saw a figure crash through the wooden door and charge out.

"Ron?!" Bai Xiaosheng exclaimed in surprise.

The missing Ron was actually here!

"I'm willing, we're willing to be your team!" Ron shouted with some excitement.

Bai Xiaosheng had shown sincerity, risking his own wealth to help them solve their problems; how could Ron not like such a boss, how could he not be moved by such a friend!

Seeing him say this, Bai Xiaosheng also smiled.

Behind Ron, two burly men lunged forward, still trying to grab Ron.

Bai Xiaosheng's gaze turned fierce, and in a quick, lightning-fast motion, he stepped forward before the two men could react and threw them out.

The two were also trained fighters; they quickly got up, shook their heads, and were about to charge again.

"Enough, stop!" Suddenly, a loud voice commanded.

It was Kevin.

The two bodyguards immediately stopped in their tracks and looked toward him.

But Kevin was just calmly holding a cup of tea, serenely watching Bai Xiaosheng.

"Let them go!"

Chapter 368 Astounding Rewards!_1

Mr. Kevin spoke, and the two muscular bodyguards silently withdrew.

They were merely fulfilling their duty, charging in headfirst; the scene just now, when Bai Xiaosheng instantaneously threw both men out, demonstrated skills far superior to theirs. Continuing to fight would only result in them getting beaten down, merely a matter of time.

Mr. Kevin naturally noticed this as well.

Since that was the case, there was no point in seeking further humiliation.

Watching Ron look towards Bai Xiaosheng with gratitude, Mr. Kevin knew he had thoroughly lost.

A physical confrontation? Utterly meaningless.

Given this situation, it was better to be magnanimous about it.

Mr. Kevin was indeed a magnanimous person, at least he knew how to read the situation and let things go.

"Bai Xiaosheng, you are a very unique individual!" Mr. Kevin said earnestly, "At your age, you might be the most outstanding person I've ever met!"

Mr. Kevin's words came from the heart.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled at him, nodding his head, "Mr. Kevin, you flatter me too much, I don't deserve such praise. Thank you for your hospitality today and for your courtesy towards Ron. We have other matters to attend to, so we'll take our leave."

"No need to see you out!" Mr. Kevin busied himself with his tea.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, gestured to Ron, and they both strode away.

Mr. Kevin watched quietly as their figures disappeared, then muttered, "I was shocked earlier; that Bai Xiaosheng unexpectedly knows Chinese kung fu, and he's an expert at that! Chen Jiuzheng's lousy intelligence... Earlier, if he had taken me hostage, I would have lost face completely..."

After saying that, Mr. Kevin glanced at the two bodyguards and couldn't help but shake his head, "Chen Jiuzheng, you've given me two useless men..."

...

Bai Xiaosheng led Ron out of the Tianxiang Tea House and they walked back.

Halfway there, Bai Xiaosheng directly asked Ron for an account number.

"Red Lotus, transfer the money into this account," Bai Xiaosheng instructed in his mind.

He had previously discussed with Red Lotus that such a large sum of money could be transferred directly, with all the related transaction fees being covered by the Group. Moreover, the transfer would go through the Group's efficient payment network, which would ensure the money arrived very quickly. Any legal issues involved in the transfer would be fully handled by the Group's lawyers, leaving him with no worries.

Bai Xiaosheng greatly admired this fast and efficient financial system.

Not wanting to surprise Ron when the money arrived—since Bai Xiaosheng had only asked for an account number and made no visible transactions—he pretended to operate his phone.

"I'm getting someone to transfer money to you. It should arrive very soon," Bai Xiaosheng emphasized to Ron again.

"Okay!"

Ron nodded, responding earnestly.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at him oddly, "Why do I feel that your attitude is a bit strange?"

There was a note of respect, unlike the Ron he knew before.

"That's because from now on, you will be my employer, not just my friend! I must show you more respect," Ron said seriously.

"Go back to how you were!" Bai Xiaosheng said.

"Yes!" Ron's face broke into a smile, familiar and slightly mischievous, just the way Bai Xiaosheng recognized.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded in satisfaction.

Ron's phone suddenly rang urgently, and he hurriedly answered it.

After the call, an incredulous look crossed Ron's face as he stared at Bai Xiaosheng, "The money is in the account?!"

So quickly?

Bai Xiaosheng was also somewhat surprised, scratching his face involuntarily.

Too fast, and a bit hard to explain; had he known, he would have asked Red Lotus to slow down the transfer.

"Over fifty thousand Euros extra?!" Ron was startled by the voice on the phone, staring at Bai Xiaosheng in astonishment.

"Since you are employed by me, that means you're my team, so naturally I need to give you some upfront salary to ensure you don't come looking for me later because I can't pay you," Bai Xiaosheng joked.

"Thank you!"

Ron was a bit excited and quickly explained over the phone.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled wryly.

He transferred a total of twenty million yuan which, after being converted to euros, would be enough to cover the fine and the team's everyday expenses.

"This team! It's one of the top commercial consulting teams in Europe. Even the Zhenbei Group holds it in high esteem, and both Chen Jiuzheng and Mr. Kevin are vying for it. Although it cost me twenty million, the future benefits they bring may well exceed this amount!" Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

Ron was his friend, and helping was only right.

However, Bai Xiaosheng really did value this team!

Securing such a powerful team was worth more than any amount of dead money!

"It's just a pity that this task..." Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help feeling regretful.

The task released by the system for the role of deputy general manager seemed destined to fail.

Just as Bai Xiaosheng had this thought, a series of prompt tones echoed in his mind!

It was Red Lotus's voice.

"Host has hired the Ron Team as a personal consulting team in the capacity of the future president of the Zhenbei Group, and the Ron Team has entered the group's system. Task completed!"

"Score is rated as the highest, twenty points. The current total score for the deputy general manager level is forty-seven points, with fifty-three points left to reach the general manager level."

"Given that the host completed the task as the future president, exceeding the system's original preset, an additional eight points are awarded. The current total score for the deputy general manager level is fifty-five points, with forty-five points left to reach the general manager level!"

...

In one breath, the score shot up by twenty-eight points!

More than double!

Bai Xiaosheng was utterly shocked; he initially thought he might not score any points, but to his surprise, he scored unexpectedly high!

"This time, I've struck it rich," Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help muttering to himself.

"Ah, what did you say?" Ron, who had just walked over after hanging up the phone, asked in surprise, staring at Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng seemed even happier than he was.

"I'm saying, I should have hired you guys sooner!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a grin.

"It's not too late now, boss!" Ron was delighted, "How about we go for a drink to celebrate? How does spicy crayfish sound?!"

...

An hour later.

Zhongjing, Moon Lake villa district, Chen Jiuzheng's home.

Kevin sat on the sofa, holding a glass of wine, recounting the events in full detail to Chen Jiuzheng.

Chen Jiuzheng was astounded, and even found it a bit hard to believe.

"You're telling me, Bai Xiaosheng paid out of his own pocket to hire the Ron Team?" Chen Jiuzheng exclaimed, "He has two million euros?"

"What's even more unbelievable is that news just came from Europe! The money, it's been received!" Kevin sighed, "This Bai Xiaosheng, always so unpredictable!"

"Indeed!" Chen Jiuzheng mumbled, unable to resist glancing at Kevin, "Are you just going to let it go?"

"We can't recruit the Ron Team anymore! But..." Kevin snorted coldly, "I've already asked William to formally reach out to Zhongjing Media, informing them that we need to renegotiate!"

...

Bai Xiaosheng, who was eating spicy crayfish with Ron, suddenly heard Red Lotus's voice in his mind.

"Deputy general manager level, second task, triggered!"

Chapter 369: Another New Task_1

Bai Xiaosheng had just raised his glass of ice-cold beer to his lips, but before he could drink, he froze, staring blankly ahead.

A Deputy General Manager level task, triggered again?!

The last one had just ended, and the new one was already here, the speed was a bit, unbelievable!

The glass Bai Xiaosheng had brought to his lips was put back down again.

"Hey, what's wrong?" Ron asked in surprise, "Why aren't you drinking?"

Bai Xiaosheng waved his hand at him to signal him to be quiet, and he concentrated, listening intently.

"The host must represent the subsidiary company, Zhongjing Media of the Group, to negotiate with representatives from Kelson Corporation, and under the premise of ensuring cooperation, push for the lowest possible terms offered by Kelson Corporation!"

"The score for this task is assessed to be between fifteen and twenty points."

Another big task!

Bai Xiaosheng was shocked by the score, his eyes gleaming.

After the confrontation with Song Changkong and Chen Changqing, he had planned to actively gain points to accelerate his promotion.

But still, he couldn't be promoted in a short time!

After all, he was still half short of the promotion score!

This task now, like timely rain, came at just the right moment!

Only, this task was a bit strange.

Kelson's special representative William had already come for discussions, and they were nearly finished, without any excessive demands. Bai Xiaosheng even felt they were at a bit of a loss.

The framework for cooperation between both parties had been reported to the Group, and the Group should have already approved it.

Why was the task from Red Lotus to push down the other side's conditions? And the points given were so high...

Could it be that there was a change in the situation?!

A thought struck Bai Xiaosheng.

Kevin had just been rebutted by him, suffering a loss on the matter with the Ron Team, who's to say he wouldn't want to make a move on this issue to recoup his losses!

But even if Kelson were to raise their demands, that would be a matter between the two companies, it shouldn't trouble him, unless...

These people might join forces to set a trap for him!

The more Bai Xiaosheng thought about it, the more likely it seemed.

No matter how they schemed, they would never guess that all their wrangling would only add points for him!

...

Bai Xiaosheng thought it over.

Now, all matters of cooperation with Kelson were being handled by Chen Changqing. The one reporting to the Group was Song Changkong. In this matter, Bai Xiaosheng had never interfered.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled faintly.

All these were now favorable arguments!

Trying to dig a hole for him wouldn't be so easy without paying a price!

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but curl the corners of his mouth into a smile.

"What's actually wrong with you, my boss?"

Ron asked somewhat impatiently.

The chubby man had even changed how he addressed Bai Xiaosheng; of course, most of it was in jest.

"Me? Nothing's wrong!" Bai Xiaosheng replied with a casual smile, raising his glass, "Come on, let's drink!"

...

At the Moon Lake Villa District, in Chen Jiuzheng's home.

Chen Jiuzheng looked at Kevin in astonishment.

"Old classmate, what did you mean by that statement just now? Are you thinking of renegotiating the terms with Zhongjing Media?" Chen Jiuzheng said in surprise.

"That's right, I think the terms were too low!"

Kevin scoffed coldly, "It wouldn't have been a big deal in the past, and I would have just been selling you face. But this Bai Xiaosheng guy took away a top business consultant team from me, and he himself won't possibly join my Kelson. So why should I be polite!"

Kevin was quite angry.

Chen Jiuzheng pondered thoughtfully.

In fact, Kevin's real cooperation on his visit to Zhongjing was with him! They had embarked on a partnership across many industries in Zhongjing!

But it was being carried out in secret.

Chen Jiuzheng, upon learning that Kelson had taken down Kaisen, and since Kaisen was Zhongjing Media's partner in Europe, immediately decided to have Kevin's Kelson negotiate a partnership with Zhongjing Media.

He intended to use the successful partnership as a merit, to present to his nephew Chen Changqing, so he could win favor within the group.

Chen Jiuzheng also wanted to use this to help Song Changkong achieve a perfect five-year review and get him promoted!

Once Song Changkong left, the position of General Manager of Zhongjing Media would be vacant, and even if Chen Changqing couldn't get the position, he could exercise more power during the interim period, essentially becoming the de facto ruler!

Once Chen Changqing truly held power, a major overhaul at Zhongjing Media would mean it would effectively bear the Chen name!

Chen Jiuzheng had thought this through very well, and indeed, there was room to operate.

If it weren't for Bai Xiaosheng, none of this would have been an issue! Unfortunately, with Bai Xiaosheng as the biggest variable, there was a problem!

Chen Jiuzheng had originally wanted to buy off Bai Xiaosheng.

However, his offer of "I direct my heart at the bright moon" was met with a response of "The bright moon never lowers its head"!

Every time Chen Jiuzheng thought about it, he felt like he was about to explode with anger!

"If you want to add terms, then add them!" Chen Jiuzheng told Kevin, "I'm not afraid to tell you, the group made a huge blunder in recruiting the Ron Team, and I guess the people in charge of approval in the Greater China Region's affairs must be furious. For the sake of the group's image, they would not easily refuse cooperation with Kelson. Song Changkong is a man of caution and seeks stability in his career. With his five-year performance review coming up, he will not allow such matters to fall apart easily. You've got good timing here!"

Chen Jiuzheng was completely considering the matter from Kevin's perspective.

Kevin nodded in agreement.

He knew that in Chen Jiuzheng's eyes, Zhongjing Media wasn't in his grasp yet, so it naturally couldn't compare to Kelson, which had already begun full-scale cooperation.

"But I have one condition," Chen Jiuzheng said, his eyes narrowing and his smile sinister.

"What condition?" Kevin asked, curious.

"If you want to add terms, specifically demand that they send Bai Xiaosheng to negotiate!" Chen Jiuzheng sneered, "This kid is very arrogant, offending both you and me, and still expecting an easy time? Make tough demands and take a strong stance. If he dares to botch the negotiation, let him explain that to the group himself. I'd like to see if the group will clean up after him! This is also beneficial for Changqing! If Bai wants to negotiate, then never yield an inch, make him come to us begging!"

Chen Jiuzheng's smile was malevolent.

"Old classmate, that's exactly what I was thinking!"

Kevin virtually agreed immediately, laughing heartily, "It's rare that we think alike! You'll need to inform Chen Changqing and Song Changkong over at Zhongjing Media. We need to coordinate well."

"No problem!" Chen Jiuzheng laughed, "I'll contact Changqing immediately and make arrangements!"

Kevin nodded, smiling.

This time, they had all set a trap, inviting Bai Xiaosheng alone into the pot!

"You're seeking your own death, and I can't be blamed for that," Kevin murmured with a smile.

Half an hour later.

At Zhongjing Media, Chen Changqing entered Song Changkong's office for a secret discussion...

Another half hour later, as Bai Xiaosheng was enjoying his drinks with Ron, his phone rang.

It was a call from Song Changkong.

"Hello?" Bai Xiaosheng answered calmly.

In his heart, he had actually been impatiently waiting!

Song Changkong spoke in a tone all business, "Mr. Bai? There's something I need to tell you. Tomorrow, a representative from Kelson, William, will come to sign the contract, and he specifically asked for you. You'll handle the signing with them!"

Chapter 370: First, Agree to My Two Conditions_1

On the phone, Song Changkong's tone was authoritative and indisputable, as if there was no room for Bai Xiaosheng to have any objections; he had to accept it.

Bai Xiaosheng's eyebrows twitched, and although this call was to his liking, considering Song Changkong's tone and attitude...

"Mr. Song, for this matter, you should go to Mr. Chen; I won't go!" Bai Xiaosheng refused on the spot.

Chen Changqing was sitting right next to Song Changkong, and Song had the phone on speaker mode.

Upon hearing Bai Xiaosheng speak like this, Chen Changqing's face changed immediately, as he had been worried that Bai Xiaosheng would refuse. And just as he feared, Bai Xiaosheng did refuse!

"Mr. Bai, this is the company's job assignment. As a deputy general manager, how can you refuse it!" Song Changkong remained adamant.

"Is it wrong for me to refuse?" Bai Xiaosheng chuckled lightly and countered, "Mr. Song, wasn't it you who assigned the tasks? I manage the recruitment affairs of the Ron Team, and Mr. Chen Changqing is in charge of all dealings with Kelson Corporation, am I wrong? I just don't want to overstep my boundaries; otherwise, how would you have me get along with Mr. Chen without disrupting the harmony and friendship among colleagues?"

Song Changkong was at a loss for words.

Bai Xiaosheng was really sharp-tongued and even had the better argument. Initially, it was indeed his own extra remark that had caused this. That slight oversight had now allowed Bai Xiaosheng to grasp a flaw!

As for overstepping and disrupting relationships... nonsense!

At this point, both sides were nearly coming to blows!

What more was there to talk about friendship?

Chen Changqing was visibly anxious and couldn't help but throw significant glances at Song Changkong.

Song Changkong was filled with irritation but couldn't let it show; he immediately lowered his voice and tried to persuade more softly, "Ahem, the situation is like this... Kelson specifically asked for you. It's just

signing the contract, clarifying a few details at most. You just need to take on a little more, and I'll talk to Mr. Chen about it, no problem."

"Kelson is eager to negotiate a partnership with us, and they're still picky about who they talk to?!" Bai Xiaosheng scoffed, "Besides, what you think is not a problem, Mr. Chen might not see it the same way. I don't think this will work!"

No way no matter what?!

Chen Changqing, listening by Song Changkong's side, also felt a sudden surge of impatience.

The trap was set, but if the person just refuses to walk into it, what can you do!

"Look, Mr. Bai, if you go, I'll handle things with Mr. Chen, and if you have any demands, just say them!" Song Changkong was getting tired of the back-and-forth and asked directly.

Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

After so much beating around the bush, he was finally getting to this point!

Even if this issue was immensely advantageous for him, he still had to strip another layer off Song Changkong and Chen Changqing! After all, they were "enemies" now!

Change my "opinion and defense," and scheme against me? Am I, Bai Xiaosheng, someone easy to bully? I have to charge you interest bit by bit!

Bai Xiaosheng's gaze was cold.

"Then I won't hold back, Mr. Song. I have two little demands to discuss with you."

Heh, daring to make demands—with two of them at that!

Song Changkong felt a fire burning in his chest, grinding his teeth, almost wishing he could hang up the phone.

Chen Changqing was by his side, urgently signaling him to agree.

As long as Bai Xiaosheng agreed, that was all that mattered. Once he stepped into the trap, they could discuss other matters!

"Alright, let's hear them." Song Changkong conceded.

Only then did Bai Xiaosheng leisurely say, "First, when I represent the company in negotiations with Kelson, no one else can interfere; I call the shots completely."

Song Changkong glanced at Chen Changqing, who nodded his head.

He had thought Bai Xiaosheng would ask for something substantial, but this request? Agreed!

"Agreed, I consent!" Song Changkong said.

"Second, after the cooperation with Kelson is settled, I would like to implement a reform initiative in the company, benefitting employees at the staff level, without affecting any managers or higher-level leaders." Bai Xiaosheng said.

Only to be implemented at the staff level?

"Agreed!" Song Changkong quickly consented.

When the time comes, if this reform proves even slightly disadvantageous to him, he can simply call it off, since what he has promised Bai Xiaosheng is nothing but an "initiation".

"Alright, I agree. Tomorrow I'll go talk to William from Kelson," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

He had two demands, the first of which was a throwaway, designed to relax the tense old Song's vigilance. His real proposition was the second one!

Since Song Changkong had agreed to everything, Bai Xiaosheng naturally didn't insist any further.

He then made small talk with Song Changkong for a bit before finally hanging up the phone.

Ron sipped his drink slowly while curiously watching him.

"Kelson wants to negotiate with you again?" Ron frowned, a bit worried, "Could our involvement have caused some kind of complication on Kevin's side? You need to be careful; they are not easy to deal with!"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "Don't worry, they're just handing out points!"

Ron was stunned; he didn't understand what "handing out points" meant.

Perhaps, it was some kind of slang.

Ron shrugged it off without taking it to heart.

...

At Zhongjing Media, in the general manager's office.

Song Changkong glanced at his phone and cursed under his breath, "This guy is tough to deal with!"

"To handle this Bai Xiaosheng, is that William reliable?" Song Changkong put away his phone and couldn't help but ask Chen Changqing with concern.

"Who said it's William who will be talking to him?" Chen Changqing smiled meaningfully, playing coy, "Mr. Song, our job here is done. As for the rest, let's just wait and watch the show tomorrow!"

Song Changkong hoped internally for a good show rather than a farce.

It wasn't that he lacked confidence, but Bai Xiaosheng was truly someone who couldn't be judged by normal standards...

...

After eating and drinking, Bai Xiaosheng and Ron strolled back as a way to digest.

Along the way, Ron seriously discussed his team's prospects with Bai Xiaosheng.

"With the money you gave us, we still have over four million yuan left. I'm thinking, we should start a new business consultancy company right here in China from scratch! With our accumulated reputation and database, we can start by building up, then expand and strengthen. You are our boss, anytime you need us, we will be your loyal employees," Ron said.

"That's a good idea!" Bai Xiaosheng was very supportive.

After some thought, he added, "But you can't be in Zhongjing, this is Chen Jiuzheng's turf, he has extensive connections, and might trouble you with certain matters... How about this, pick a major city, which one exactly, do some research first!"

"Sounds good," Ron nodded.

That settled the matter.

As for the details, Ron understood them, and Bai Xiaosheng couldn't be bothered to intervene.

The two chatted about other things before parting ways.

Bai Xiaosheng took a taxi back to his place, lay in bed and reflected on the day's events with much emotion.

Kevin had made a deep impression on him.

A foreigner with much cunning, a true Sinophile!

He had set a trap for him and even sinisterly kidnapped Ron, making him listen in the background in an attempt to sow discord.

"You're something else!" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but be impressed.

Tomorrow, someone from Kelson was supposed to talk to him, and the system had assigned such a high score.

Would someone as formidable as Kevin only send that William to talk?

Bai Xiaosheng suddenly had his doubts.