

## **Two Trillion 371**

### Chapter 371 Ariel\_1

A night passed without incident, and Bai Xiaosheng rested well.

The next day, he went to work as usual, and after enjoying the sumptuous breakfast prepared by Lin Weiwei, he began to deal with routine affairs.

During this time, Song Changkong contacted him by phone, sending a draft contract to his email.

Bai Xiaosheng downloaded it and glanced over it briefly.

This contract was the one to be signed with Kelson, and its content was amended according to the framework agreed upon last time.

Bai Xiaosheng first skimmed through it superficially, then scrutinized each clause in detail, consulting Red Lotus on legal issues.

Although Song Changkong was not likely to undermine the company's interests to set a trap for him, Bai Xiaosheng was still cautious, and did so for better communication during the upcoming negotiations.

After reading, Bai Xiaosheng found no issues and was reassured about the content; he printed two copies for backup.

Completing these tasks had taken Bai Xiaosheng two hours. He took a break to drink a cup of coffee brought by Lin Weiwei while mentally sorting through his score plan.

His second demand made to Song Changkong yesterday was exactly for paving the way for this!

Once the plan was in motion, Song Changkong would not stop it!

Bai Xiaosheng was very confident in this.

Implementing this matter would, on the surface, provide no benefit to himself, but only to the company and even Song Changkong; he believed the latter would not refuse.

"However, I still need to add some insurance. I have to make a greater sacrifice; otherwise, they won't feel secure. For now, I'll let Song Changkong and Chen Changqing enjoy the thrill of victory. Once the score is high enough and they've had their laughs, the real anticipation begins," Bai Xiaosheng mused, a faint smirk playing on his lips.

As he was thinking, there was a knock on his office door.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at the time—

It was ten in the morning, about time for the negotiation.

"Mr. Bai, Assistant Song is here to invite you to the meeting," Lin Weiwei said, opening the door and conveying the message.

Behind her stood Song Changkong's assistant, whom Bai Xiaosheng had only recently learned shared the surname Song and was, in fact, a relative of Song Changkong.

"Okay!" Bai Xiaosheng rose, grabbed what he needed, and walked out.

The way there was silent.

Assistant Song led Bai Xiaosheng to the door of Meeting Room Five and said with a smile, "Mr. Bai, I won't be joining you. The other party specifically requested a one-on-one chat with you. Mr. Song and Mr. Chen won't be present either. It'll just be you and the other party; if you need anything, you can call the Administrative Department directly from the landline."

Bai Xiaosheng nodded, Assistant Song smiled and left.

Bai Xiaosheng, looking at the door to Meeting Room Five, couldn't help but chuckle.

It felt somewhat like going into a duel alone, and as if the other party had come to Zhongjing Media, on his turf, to set up a Feast at Hong Gate for him.

"I'm quite eager to see this!" Bai Xiaosheng said, laughing as he pushed open the door.

Your CEO Kevin can't handle me, where do you get the confidence!

Bai Xiaosheng entered Meeting Room Five, where only two people were present.

One was the already familiar William.

The other was a woman.

She was tall and slender, with skin as white as snow, hair pinned up, a long, graceful neck, a full bust, and a slim waist—her figure was breathtakingly voluptuous.

Her face was exquisitely flawless, with classic Caucasian features.

"It seems this is my true opponent today!" Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

He walked over with a smile, and the other party also stood up.

William introduced with a smile in English, "This gentleman is Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, the Deputy General Manager of Zhongjing Media! And this lady is Miss Ariel, the representative for Kelson Company in this negotiation!"

"Hello, Mr. Bai," Ariel said, extending her hand with a smile. She actually spoke incredibly fluent and standard Mandarin, with a very pleasant voice that had the potential of a broadcaster.

Bai Xiaosheng even felt that if he closed his eyes, it would be very difficult to tell that she was a foreigner!

"Hello, Miss Ariel," Bai Xiaosheng extended his hand and shook her smooth, delicate hand lightly, unable to help but praise, "Your Chinese is really good!"

Ariel's smile was sweet.

"You know what, Mr. Bai, when I talk to people in China for the first time, every conversation always goes off-topic because, no matter what I say or ask, the response I always get is the same comment—'Your Chinese is really good'!"

Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback, but he couldn't help but burst into laughter, "Miss Ariel, you are quite humorous!"

William, standing to one side, watching Bai Xiaosheng and Ariel chat cheerfully in Chinese, felt completely lost as he couldn't understand, and couldn't help but give a wry smile.

"William, since you can't understand anything here, why don't you take a break outside? I can discuss with Mr. Bai alone," Ariel said to William in pleasant English.

"OK!" William sighed in relief, nodded, and left.

Bai Xiaosheng noticed that William's attitude towards Ariel was quite respectful.

It seemed that this beautiful woman had an extraordinary status in Kelson Company.

Once William left, only the two of them remained in the conference room.

"Please take a seat, Miss Ariel," Bai Xiaosheng gestured for her to sit, then opened his briefcase, took out a printed contract, and handed a copy to her, "You can take a look first."

Ariel nodded and began to flip through it.

In less than ten minutes, she had finished reading.

Not even speed reading novels could be this quick, let alone a strategic partnership contract—it seemed she must have read it before and knew it by heart!

Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

Ariel's brow was slightly furrowed, as if she found something quite unsatisfactory.

"Miss Ariel, if you find anything inappropriate, please speak up. We can discuss it," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, glancing at the time.

"Since Mr. Bai has said so, let's be candid. I won't stand on ceremony," Ariel said with a sweet smile.

Her smile was both delicate and stunningly beautiful; in any case, it was quite captivating.

However, following that, Ariel changed as if she were a different person. Her beautiful eyes gleamed with sharp brilliance, and between the opening and closing of her thin lips, her opinions flowed like floodwaters, endlessly.

"Mr. Bai, you're aware of Kelson's position in Europe. Our agreement to cooperate was reached based on strong recommendations from our business partners and our positive outlook for Zhongjing Media! In this contract, we have committed twenty-five percent of our company's resources, while you, I estimate, have committed less than twenty percent. Isn't that inappropriate? Is that the attitude you have towards a strategic partner? For a preliminary collaboration, it seems too meager as well!"

Then, Ariel analyzed each point, her arguments being sharp and with rational concern.

Each statement, more or less, criticized Zhongjing Media for being irresponsible in cooperation and lacking sincerity, eventually turning into a pressing accusation.

By the end, Bai Xiaosheng, checking the time, couldn't help but ask with a smile, "Miss Ariel, then what would you suggest?"

"You must revise the contract to give Kelson the treatment it deserves, otherwise, I don't think our cooperation can continue. You can explain that to your group, Mr. Bai," Ariel said, lifting her delicate chin in a pridefully charming manner.

Oh? So she's using our group to pressure me!

Bai Xiaosheng laughed and again glanced at the time.

Chapter 372 We Had a Good Talk\_1

The Ariel before him was like a fiery little chili pepper; it seemed Kevin had prepared her to rile him up!

Bai Xiaosheng believed that if he refused on the spot, there was no need to report back to the company; Song Changkong and Chen Changqing would take care of it for him.

Those two were probably eagerly waiting for the meeting to end so they could submit their report to the company.

The content must have already been prepared.

Bai Xiaosheng thought with interest, and concluded that the report certainly claimed his stubbornness and dominance had caused a postponement and even possible failure of the partnership!

The company, having just made a fool of itself over the Ron Team issue and still smoldering with frustration, would now see the already approved partnership turn to waste paper because of a certain vice president's stubbornness. The company would be ready to explode!

At that time, Song Changkong and Chen Changqing would shift the blame onto him, saying that this Mr. Bai held real power and had significant influence.

How would the company handle it?

Bai Xiaosheng believed that getting punished would be the least of his worries, especially since he was the one who had suggested recruiting the Ron Team to the company in the first place.

With both issues combined, he'd have enough trouble to last him!

If he agreed to Ariel's conditions now, or even partially agreed, Song Changkong and Chen Changqing would still place the blame on him, saying that his unilateral decisions significantly increased the company's investment budget and the company was extremely dissatisfied with him—punishment was even a possibility!

Such a clever plan!

Bai Xiaosheng looked at Ariel and, using the third function of the system—the Micro Expression Analysis System—he studied her genuine and false anger and dissatisfaction, while mentally clarifying the entire situation.

How much they must hate me, Bai Xiaosheng lamented.

It appeared that he had truly offended Kevin over the Ron Team affair.

At the moment, whether Kevin was savoring his misfortune or indeed securing benefits for Kelson, he was the winner.

As for Song Changkong and Chen Changqing, they would be quite happy as long as they could see him in trouble.

Bai Xiaosheng scratched his face.

What a pity, such a good plan—if they had acted immediately against him yesterday, he might have truly been caught between a rock and a hard place.

Sadly, they had given him time!

Yesterday and today might seem indistinguishable, but to Bai Xiaosheng, they signaled two different outcomes!

The difference in time was enough for Bai Xiaosheng to break the game!

Bai Xiaosheng looked at Ariel and smiled brightly, "Mr. Kevin is quite the strategist; it seems that once I've fallen into this trap, it won't be so easy to climb out."

Ariel frowned as she looked at Bai Xiaosheng's smile.

This man, so alert and sharp, had he already seen through his predicament?

No wonder Kevin praised him so highly!

The guy was clever!

Playing dumb with a clever person was unwise.

Ariel fixed her beautiful eyes on Bai Xiaosheng, but in the next second, her lips curled into a proud, cold smile, "You're wrong this time. It's not Kevin's calculation, but mine! I'm the real planner behind this proposal!"

"You?" Bai Xiaosheng was startled and exclaimed in surprise.

"Let me introduce myself properly. I'm Ariel, the vice president of the Kelson Company, and Kevin's sister!" Ariel said cheerfully, "I also act as Kevin's chief strategist, and I taught him Chinese!"

Kevin's sister?!

This truly took Bai Xiaosheng by surprise.

It looked like there was quite an age gap between the siblings...

His parents are quite impressive...

Bai Xiaosheng always thought that Kevin was a domineering and arbitrary decision-maker, but he didn't expect him to have a think tank behind him...

"You have shown your hand, Miss Ariel," Bai Xiaosheng said with a deep look at her, smiling.

"It's okay, Mr. Bai Xiaosheng," Ariel smiled sweetly, straightening her face and said seriously, "Mr. Bai, I now formally represent Kelson and propose the following conditions to you: First, Zhongjing Media must increase its investment, adding a nationwide advertising campaign for an additional six months, including traditional and new media; second, for the big IP TV drama you are currently preparing, Kelson wants the overseas priority agency rights, including advertising..."

Bai Xiaosheng watched as Ariel's delicate cherry mouth rapidly opened and closed, her sparrow-like tongue occasionally visible.

She listed ten additional conditions in one breath.

Bai Xiaosheng silently estimated the cost, it wasn't much, just an additional 60 to 70 percent on top of the original investment.

He really didn't know where they got the courage to make such bold demands!

"Above are the conditions we have put forward!" Ariel said with a serious face, and then she smiled sweetly.

For Bai Xiaosheng, agreeing or refusing was a dilemma.

His face was expressionless, but seemed to carry a hint of gravity, indicating he was in a predicament!

"How hard can he be to deal with! With just a little trick, I made him caught in a difficult situation," Ariel couldn't help feeling smug as she looked at Bai Xiaosheng.

"Is that all?" Bai Xiaosheng suddenly laughed.

"That's all," Ariel was taken aback, but nodded anyway.

"Miss Ariel, you are very beautiful," Bai Xiaosheng still had the mood to smile and compliment.

Ariel snorted coldly.

Complimenting her was useless!

"But your thoughts are even more beautiful!" Bai Xiaosheng glanced at the time, stood up, his smile faded, he gathered his belongings, preparing to leave.

Ariel was completely stunned.

What did Bai Xiaosheng mean by this?!

Agree or refuse, he ought to say something, even if it was to bargain.

Not saying a word, packing up his things to leave, what did that mean?

Ariel believed she had come fully prepared, confident that no matter what Bai Xiaosheng said, she could suppress him.

But she didn't expect that Bai Xiaosheng would stop talking.

"If you wish to leave, then our negotiation is considered concluded, and you must take responsibility for this!" Ariel panicked, running over to block Bai Xiaosheng's path.

"Miss Ariel, don't be childish. We are negotiating, it's a negotiation between two companies. It's not something that gets resolved in one go, successful after just one talk. Let's do this next time, okay?" Bai Xiaosheng said, coaxing her as he would talk to a child.

Next time?

But what exactly did they discuss this time?!

It was only me talking! Ariel felt like her brain wasn't working efficiently.

She had always been Kevin's think tank, capable of facing numerous sly and cunning businessmen with ease, quickly finding their weaknesses to suppress them.

Before coming, Kevin especially reminded her that the person she would face today doesn't play by the rules...

Ariel was disdainful, thinking how unconventional could he possibly be.

But now, she understood...

The conference room door was knocked twice, then opened, Assistant Song peeked in, stepped inside, greeted both of them respectfully and said to Bai Xiaosheng, "Mr. Bai, Mr. Song sent me to see how the discussion was going."

"Very well, very well. Miss Ariel and I had a candid conversation, fully exchanged our thoughts, and enhanced our mutual understanding. The talks were beneficial, and I look forward to further deliberation next time," Bai Xiaosheng replied as if he were being interviewed, leaving Assistant Song rather baffled.

Afterward, he marched off under Ariel's gritted teeth and watchful eyes.

Chapter 373: Even My Sister Has Been Taken Away!\_1

"Wait for me!" Ariel yelled, swinging her long legs as she quickly caught up to Bai Xiaosheng.

Under Bai Xiaosheng's astonished gaze, she tilted her delicate chin up and huffed, "Our conversation isn't over, you can't just walk away!"

She, Ariel, had joined the workforce at eighteen and become a vice president at twenty. She had faced all kinds of storms, always triumphed in business negotiations, and even her own brother followed her strategies obediently. Now, to leave without settling anything – she couldn't stand such humiliation!

Bai Xiaosheng doesn't want to talk? Ariel refuses!

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "Sorry, I'm on leave right now, going for a stroll and taking care of some personal matters. In other words, I'm off duty! Let's talk business some other time."

He's taking leave just like that... while still discussing a partnership... Only Mr. Bai could be so wilful!

Assistant Song gave a wry smile, thinking he should quickly report to Song Changkong and let him decide!

"It's fine, go ahead and stroll. Wherever you go, I'll follow!"

Ariel even let out a cold laugh and said, "Consider it a holiday for me too."

Assistant Song was stunned.

Then, he couldn't help but smile wryly.

This Vice President of Kelson, why has she also become so abnormal...

If it had been only Bai Xiaosheng acting up, Mr. Song could have phoned him and given him a scolding, even threaten him with a report to the corporation. But now that the Vice President of Kelson is acting like this...

What can Mr. Song do!

Assistant Song couldn't help but feel a headache on behalf of Song Changkong.

"If you're willing to come, then come," Bai Xiaosheng said indifferently, "But on one condition, don't talk about work. I could treat you to some street food though..."

"That sounds good," Ariel nodded.

As long as she followed him, there would be a chance to talk!

She didn't believe that with her own cunning and eloquence, she wouldn't be able to make this man yield.

Assistant Song was dumbstruck as he watched the two of them chatting and walking away.

He was completely bewildered and it took him quite a while to come back to his senses, then he rushed towards another elevator, "I must quickly inform Mr. Song, how did a negotiation end up like this..."

Zhongjing Media, General Manager's Office.

Song Changkong and Chen Changqing sat on the sofa, eagerly waiting for news.

"Mr. Chen, do you think Ariel can handle Bai Xiaosheng? She seems very young, just a girl, yet she's the Vice President of Kelson, tsk tsk, such background really does determine destiny..." Song Changkong sighed.

What you strive for in ten or twenty years, or even may never achieve, some people are born with!

Beyond his sighs, Song Changkong felt some envy as well.

"Mr. Song, if you think she got the vice presidency just because of her background, just a green youngster, then you are mistaken!" Chen Changqing couldn't help gossiping with Song Changkong.

He had heard it from Uncle Chen Jiuzheng.

This Miss Ariel was a business prodigy, a naturally gifted strategist. Reportedly, she was Kevin's chief advisor and could even sway Kelson's major decisions.

Kelson's swift takedown of Kaisen was half thanks to her.

With such credentials, can one really judge her based on gender and age?

Chen Changqing shared everything he knew, speaking animatedly.

"This Miss Ariel has always been behind the scenes, rarely taking the lead. But whenever she does, her success rate is a hundred percent! You know what a hundred percent means, right! It means she has never failed!" Chen Changqing sighed deeply, his tone not without admiration.

"With her in the game, what's Bai Xiaosheng compared to that! It's even possible that by now, Miss Ariel has already taken him down!" Chen Changqing's eyes sparkled.

Following Chen Changqing's description, even Song Changkong began to believe a bit.

Looking at Chen Changqing, it seemed he had taken a liking to Miss Ariel...

Song Changkong couldn't help but steal a glance at Chen Changqing, and he completely understood.

As the saying goes, "For a gentleman who cherishes virtue, a graceful lady is a match made in heaven." Miss Ariel was stunningly beautiful, with incomparable abilities, and most importantly, she had an extraordinary background. If it had been him, Song Changkong, younger by a decade or two, he would have certainly been smitten as well.

Chen Changqing continued with his endless praise.

Song Changkong nodded repeatedly, completely convinced.

So impressive, I shall wait and see! Song Changkong thought to himself.

The two were in the midst of their discussion when the office door was abruptly knocked on five times!

Is there news? That was fast!

Song Changkong and Chen Changqing couldn't help but brighten up, as just a moment ago Assistant Song had gone to check on the progress, and now they were returning in such a hurry, surely it must be good news!

"Mr. Song, Mr. Chen!"

As the door opened, Assistant Song entered with an eager look, as if he had much to say.

"How did it go?!" Song Changkong and Chen Changqing asked eagerly, almost in unison.

Assistant Song, faced with such a keen interest from his leaders, didn't know whether to laugh or cry, "Mr. Bai stopped the negotiation halfway, said he was taking a leave... to stroll around, handle some personal matters, claiming he was not on company time, and that the negotiation could resume another time..."

Song Changkong was cautious as he spoke, fearful of incurring wrath.

Song Changkong and Chen Changqing were stunned for a moment, exchanging bewildered looks, their expressions changing unpredictably.

"This Bai Xiaosheng, how dare he do this! Does he not have any respect for rules and procedures! Does he even care about the company!" Song Changkong was so angry he was ready to explode, wishing he could slam his fist on the table.

"And what about Miss Ariel, was she upset?" Chen Changqing couldn't help asking, "It must have been her who drove Bai Xiaosheng into a corner, and that's why he's acting so shamelessly."

"Mr. Song, we can't just sit back and ignore this. Call Bai Xiaosheng, tell him the severity of the issue, make him come back and apologize to Miss Ariel." Chen Changqing said with a sneer, "Otherwise, we'll report it to the conglomerate."

"Alright, I'll call him now!" Song Changkong said indignantly, picking up his phone.

"Mr. Song, Mr. Song," the assistant called out repeatedly.

Song Changkong and Chen Changqing were too caught up in their own discussions, completely oblivious to him.

"Mr. Song!" Finally, the assistant couldn't help but shout out loud.

Song Changkong and Chen Changqing stopped and looked at him in surprise.

"Miss Ariel, she went out with him too. They didn't come to an agreement on anything, Miss Ariel said she was taking leave too, that wherever Mr. Bai went, she would go..." Assistant Song explained hesitantly.

Song Changkong and Chen Changqing were stunned.

So, Bai Xiaosheng and Ariel were still together. In other words, instead of talking business, they went out shopping...

"Is this the same 'guaranteed victory, invincible' Vice President Kelson you were telling me about?" Song Changkong couldn't hold back and asked Chen Changqing.

How could they call to berate him now, or even report it to the conglomerate.

If they reported it, Bai Xiaosheng would just say he was accompanying a client, what could they say then...

Chen Changqing's face turned the color of liver, speechless.

At Chen Jiuzheng's home.

Kevin, having heard the news, was also stunned for quite a while before he finally muttered, "Bai Xiaosheng, you really have some nerve! Even my sister has been led astray by you!"

Chapter 374 I'll Find Someone to Talk to You\_1

Bai Xiaosheng looked relaxed, strolling down the pedestrian street with Ariel, introducing her to the famous local snacks of Zhongjing along the way.

Ariel was curious about these street foods, too. Having only experienced top-tier dining in Zhongjing, she'd never tasted such roadside delicacies before. After trying just a few, she became immediately overjoyed.

Shortly thereafter, her hands were full, juggling three or four snacks at once, munching away like a little girl.

"That's more like it, Miss Ariel, you're young and beautiful, the perfect age to enjoy the best years of youth. Being all tense and intimidating might be cool, but it's not adorable. When you try to act cute, it also lacks a bit of innocence," Bai Xiaosheng said with a laugh.

Ariel rolled her eyes at him and continued to feast.

They reached the end of the pedestrian street.

Bai Xiaosheng came to a stop and said to Ariel with a smile, "Miss Ariel, you've walked the street, you've tasted the snacks, it's time to go back now, isn't it?"

Ariel ignored Bai Xiaosheng, finishing the last spicy fish ball with relish and elegantly wiping her delicate lips with a moist towelette.

"Bai Xiaosheng, I've been thinking carefully just now."

Ariel had opened up to Bai Xiaosheng along the way, and now calling him by his name, she gave him a charming smile, "They said you were reluctant to take over this negotiation and even had conditions, but I think the opposite!

I arrived at Zhongjing Media, and you showed up within five minutes. During the discussion, you were very familiar with the terms, which indicates a positive attitude on your part.

You were willing to leave, yet you agreed to let me come along. You pay a lot of attention to controlling emotions, knowing when to tighten and when to let go. You defuse situations at their boiling point!

You bluntly refused to continue the talks as a way to disrupt my rhythm! You pointed out that negotiations are not concluded in a single step and that there is a next time. This proves that you don't want to give up! Am I right?"

Ariel rattled off quite a lot in one breath.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at her with a half-smile, feeling somewhat convinced deep down.

This woman's insight and sixth sense were so sharp, it was frightening!

If he truly followed the normal course of negotiations, he would definitely be at a disadvantage! Perhaps, he had already been outmaneuvered!

"Miss Ariel, impressive!" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but praise.

Ariel smiled triumphantly.

"Too bad, you're not as understanding as your brother," Bai Xiaosheng said with a light chuckle, "We Chinese value modesty and reserve, believing in keeping one's talent hidden. To me, this is absolute wisdom! You're so boastful and full of tricks, in my eyes, that's showing off too much. I think I can't argue with you, I can't outsmart you, so I, just won't talk with you!"

Bai Xiaosheng's words caught the triumphant Ariel off guard.

She always felt her arguments sharp as a knife, cutting through whether her opponent was resistant or compliant, whether they wanted to clash head-on or dodge and retreat.

But she hadn't expected Bai Xiaosheng to present her with a new proposition—if you're too strong, I just won't talk with you.

"You won't talk with me, then who will you talk to?!" Ariel felt as though she was being teased by Bai Xiaosheng and spoke angrily, "Even if you go talk to Kevin, he will listen to me! My influence is beyond your imagination!"

Watching Ariel getting somewhat flustered and irritated, Bai Xiaosheng burst into a hearty laugh.

"I said I won't talk to you, but I never said I was going to talk to your brother," Bai Xiaosheng said seriously after his laugh, "I am going to find someone to talk to you!"

"Find someone... to talk to me?" Ariel was perplexed, "Who are you going to find?"

"You're so clever, why don't you guess?" Bai Xiaosheng said with an infuriatingly playful look, laughing as he turned around and walked away.

"You'll know soon enough who's going to talk to you, Miss Ariel. Let's head back," he called as he walked off.

Bai Xiaosheng strode away.

Ariel was furious.

"I, Ariel, have never been outdone by anyone!" Ariel huffed, watching Bai Xiaosheng's retreating figure, her beautiful eyes suddenly shifting, "You don't want me to follow you? I'll follow you just to spite you, let's see what you do then!"

Ariel followed from a distance.

But five minutes later, she lost track of him.

The tall Western girl stomped her feet in frustration, searching aimlessly in a direction.

...

Bai Xiaosheng strolled leisurely down the street, crossed the road, and headed straight for a coffee shop.

The coffee shop wasn't crowded.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced around and immediately smiled, heading towards a corner.

There sat a man, sitting upright, sipping coffee.

"Perfect timing, can't help but admire myself," Bai Xiaosheng said as he checked his phone, reflecting on the moment.

He had been glancing at the time during his negotiation with Ariel, just to make sure he wouldn't be late; surprisingly, he found the error was within three minutes after arriving.

Bai Xiaosheng was quite pleased with himself.

"Just right?" the handsome man sitting there said, both amused and annoyed, "Is that how you ask someone for a favor? Shouldn't you at least come early? Are you making me wait for you? Do you know how much my three minutes are worth?"

"Lu, look at how petty you are!" Bai Xiaosheng grinned and ordered a cappuccino from the waiter.

Sitting across from him was none other than Lu Qingfeng!

"It's really something, how could I bump into you every time I'm away! You really are ubiquitous," Lu Qingfeng said with a laugh.

Though he said so, Lu Qingfeng was delighted to see Bai Xiaosheng again.

"A lot can happen in three days. Lu, you've learned to be sarcastic too," Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

It had been two months since he last saw Lu Qingfeng, and their reunion was naturally warm.

"By the way, how's my brother, your future brother-in-law, doing?" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but ask about Zhengdong Province.

"That fatso, he's really something now!" Lu Qingfeng used Bai Xiaosheng's tone to refer to Zhengdong Province, his face brimming with smiles.

From Lu Qingfeng's account, Bai Xiaosheng was truly startled.

With the Lu Family's channels, Zhengdong Province showed unparalleled business talent. His training agency expanded rapidly, branches sprouting like bamboo shoots after rain, resembling viral marketing. Capital ballooned like a snowball rolling down a hill, and now he was even preparing to go public!

It was said that even Lu Yun couldn't stop praising him, intending to cultivate him significantly.

Endorsed by a future father-in-law, the fatso was indeed lucky and capable, with a limitless future!

After expressing his emotions, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but instruct Lu Qingfeng, "Zhengdong Province is still a newbie in the business world after all, not as experienced as you all. So, you should take good care of him and guide him."

"With Wenqian there, do you really think I could stay out of it?" Lu Qingfeng said with a wry smile, "My little sister, who previously had no business acumen, guess what, she's now studying harder than anyone, even I have to praise her efforts! She's really met her match! I'm genuinely pleased for both of them!"

Bai Xiaosheng laughed heartily.

The two chatted idly for a while, filled with emotion.

For Bai Xiaosheng, becoming the Deputy General Manager of Zhongjing Media in just two months, was something Lu Qingfeng truly admired.

"Sometimes, I'm afraid that a few years from now, I'll have to look up to see you!" Lu Qingfeng couldn't help but feel nostalgic.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, saying nothing.

"Right, you didn't call me here just to catch up over coffee, did you? I heard you have something important to discuss with me?" Lu Qingfeng asked curiously, "What is it, tell me!"

#### Chapter 375

Ever since receiving that task from Red Lotus, Bai Xiaosheng had been pondering how to complete it.

For Bai Xiaosheng, it seemed almost everyone around him was an "enemy"—no support, no backup, and those people were even plotting to trip him up.

Trying to make it happen on his own was just too hard.

Bai Xiaosheng decided to seek some external help.

But whose help to seek and how to seek it? These were the questions!

Resorting to external help meant nothing more than "coercion and bribery," at most adding a bit of negotiation.

Coercion meant finding a more powerful force to intimidate Kelson and force them to compromise and concede.

But clearly, that was unlikely to succeed. Kelson's headquarters were far overseas, and it was an independent company—intimidation wouldn't reach them.

Finding a mediator for negotiation was also out of the question, as although Bai Xiaosheng didn't have a deep grudge with Kelson, because of the whole Ron Team affair, he had offended Kevin deeply. How could he expect someone to make amends with just a few words? Chen Jiuzheng might have the capability, but he definitely wouldn't help him.

In the end, Bai Xiaosheng thought of "seduction."

The most effective way to make a businessman yield is to offer him greater "benefits"!

This "benefit" didn't have to be short-term earnings, it didn't even have to involve making money.

Bai Xiaosheng thought of Kelson's media attributes and immediately thought of the Lu Family, Lu Qingfeng, who were not just media tycoons in the domestic sphere but also giants in the world's top 500.

If Bai Xiaosheng could facilitate a cooperation between Kelson and Tengyun, he believed Kelson would drop their grievances with Zhongjing Media!

After all, the chance to partner with Tengyun, with the Lu Family, no matter the size, was itself a huge temptation!

That very day, Bai Xiaosheng made contact with Lu Qingfeng.

Bai Xiaosheng initially thought that if this deal could go through, Lu Qingfeng could just assign someone to handle it.

Yet unexpectedly, Lu Qingfeng was passing through Zhongjing and would stop over for half a day. Bai Xiaosheng was delighted and immediately scheduled a meeting.

Now, Lu Qingfeng was asking Bai Xiaosheng what the matter was.

"I want you guys to engage in some business cooperation with a European media company—Kelson—standard cooperation will do. Use this as a lure to get them to drop the additional conditions on their partnership with Zhongjing Media!" Bai Xiaosheng said, "This is very important to me!"

"Kelson?" Lu Qingfeng frowned and repeated the name, muttering, "It seems familiar. They're a company that has gotten somewhat famous over in Europe in recent years, their scale... average."

This description left Bai Xiaosheng speechless.

In the eyes of Young Master Lu, Kelson was just a company of average scale!

Better than Zhongjing Media, yet still only average?

Lu Qingfeng was indeed the future leader of a top-tier group, with a vision so lofty, beyond what ordinary people could imagine!

It seems my previous impression of the Lu Family wasn't quite vivid enough...

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but feel astonished inside.

"However, you really have some nerve, trying to solve the problem like this, using my Lu Family as a bargaining chip," Lu Qingfeng said, half annoyed, half amused.

"But this matter is a piece of cake for me, taking them down will be effortless. Even if they refuse to see reason, we also have partnerships with the real heavyweights in Europe. A little pressure, and it's no problem," Lu Qingfeng said, looking at Bai Xiaosheng with a smile, "The question is, why should I help you?"

"Or are you going to seek my help with a 'promise of ten-year commitment'?" Lu Qingfeng laughed.

Of course, he knew that Bai Xiaosheng would not use a ten-year commitment to exchange for such a trivial matter.

"Qingfeng, don't take it the wrong way, I'm bringing you business here, just like last time with Wei Moran..."

"Stop right there!" Lu Qingfeng snorted coldly. "Last time was with whom, and this time is with whom again. Can the two even be compared?"

"Then consider it for the sake of our friendship."

"Friendship? I seem to only recall you setting me up!"

"Qingfeng, you talking like that makes us strangers!"

Bai Xiaosheng said angrily, "I'm still your big brother, remember? Right, you haven't even called me big brother this time!"

Lu Qingfeng's eyelid twitched.

"Let me tell you, I am now the vice president of a media company, and I have a team of twenty or so talented writers at my disposal. Add to that, dozens of influential social media accounts. Believe it or not, I could have them write about your embarrassing moments of acknowledging me as big brother, turn them into jokes, and publish them across dozens of accounts every day for six months without repeating a single one..." Bai Xiaosheng threatened with a cold laugh.

Lu Qingfeng huffed, "Fine, fine, you're formidable. I'll help you this one time, but remember what I've done for you!"

Bai Xiaosheng immediately switched to a smiling face, "Of course, of course! What's our relationship, huh? I trust you. I just didn't want to trouble Wenqian. Otherwise, I'd tell Fatty, Fatty would tell her, she would tell you, and after going in circles, you'd still end up helping..."

Lu Qingfeng choked.

If it really came down to that, it seemed it would indeed be the case...

"Then I should be thanking you," Lu Qingfeng said without enthusiasm.

"Don't mention it!" Bai Xiaosheng responded with a teasing smile.

In fact, Bai Xiaosheng and Lu Qingfeng were just having a verbal spat.

From the beginning, Lu Qingfeng was going to do Bai Xiaosheng this favor.

Although it was a minor collaboration with Kelson, he wasn't at a loss and would even earn a favor from Bai Xiaosheng.

Lu Yun had repeatedly advised him that Bai Xiaosheng was someone worth befriending, not to mention the connection with Zhengdong Province.

And Bai Xiaosheng, from the start, also believed that Lu Qingfeng would help him.

Otherwise, even if he faced those naive and ridiculous threats tenfold or a hundredfold, Lu Qingfeng would remain unfazed.

Having had a verbal tussle with Bai Xiaosheng, Lu Qingfeng felt no advantage was gained, but he was content at heart.

He glanced at the time and nodded, "It's getting late, I should head to the airport. Our meeting was brief this time; I hope we can have a drink together next time."

"We will," Bai Xiaosheng nodded. "I still have to thank you for this time!"

Lu Qingfeng smiled and stood up.

A middle-aged man with greying hair approached with a smile from a corner, and coming up to Lu Qingfeng, he said, "Mr. Lu, do you have any instructions?"

Lu Qingfeng smiled, "Uncle Wang, this is my friend from the Lu Family, Bai Xiaosheng, currently acting as the vice president of Zhongjing Media. Sheng, this is Mr. Wang Chao, the senior executive vice president of my company."

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and greeted Vice President Wang Chao.

"Uncle Wang, Sheng needs some help. The two of you can discuss the specifics; just let me know afterward," Lu Qingfeng said with a smile.

The way Lu Qingfeng introduced Bai Xiaosheng, using the term "friend of the Lu Family," was enough to be intriguing for Wang Chao!

Instantly, Wang Chao's attitude towards Bai Xiaosheng was barely less respectful than Lu Qingfeng's.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but feel moved.

With just a casual word from Lu Qingfeng, he had commanded a vice president!

That was really considerate!

"Alright, it's getting late, I must be going," Lu Qingfeng bid farewell to Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng shook hands firmly with Lu Qingfeng, "Safe travels!"

"Invite me for a drink sometime!"

Lu Qingfeng smiled at the two of them and turned to leave.

Wang Chao had seen everything clear as day, and his gaze at Bai Xiaosheng was even more enthusiastic!

This was the friend of Tengyun's future president; naturally, he would go out of his way to help with any problem at hand!

#### Chapter 376 Rescue Ariel\_1

Watching Lu Qingfeng leave, Bai Xiaosheng very politely invited Wang Chao to sit down, and Wang Chao was also very good to him.

After all, Bai Xiaosheng was "a friend of the Lu Family" according to Lu Qingfeng.

Bai and Lu had just behaved like brothers, and Wang Chao did not dare to show any disrespect.

"This time, I would like to ask Uncle Wang to help negotiate some cooperation with a company in Europe—Kelson Corporation, with the objective of having them sign a smooth contract with Zhongjing Media I work for without imposing any additional conditions."

Bai Xiaosheng explained the situation that could be shared in detail to Wang Chao.

Wang Chao nodded frequently as he listened.

To think that using the Lu Family's cooperation as a bargaining chip would make the other party concede in other cooperations. This seemed somewhat preposterous!

The key point was, Mr. Lu had actually agreed...

Wang Chao found it inconceivable.

However, he did not show any surprise on his face, instead, he listened attentively and occasionally asked questions with seriousness.

"This matter is not difficult to handle in operation. Kelson Corporation is just a company of moderate scale. They would be eager to talk to us about cooperation. However, we still need to negotiate and use as little cooperation as possible to accomplish this," Wang Chao smiled and said, "After all, the Lu

Family's cooperations in Europe are with big companies. Companies of such a scale... they are indeed not many."

Was this looking down on Kelson Corporation for being small...

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but scratch his face and silently pondered what Ariel would think if she heard this...

Bai Xiaosheng discussed in detail with Vice President Wang Chao and came up with a rough plan.

Wang Chao left his business card with Bai Xiaosheng and then took his leave, saying he would go back to prepare some written documents and draft a contract.

Bai Xiaosheng saw him off.

After parting with Wang Chao, Bai Xiaosheng walked back; he had to return to the company to arrange the next negotiation time with Ariel.

Feeling reassured, Bai Xiaosheng was in a great mood, humming a tune all the way, which was quite pleasant.

It was now past noon, the sunlight was a bit harsh, and people on the street were hurrying along.

As Bai Xiaosheng walked, he suddenly heard an uproar ahead. He looked up and saw a crowd gathered in the distance.

What happened?

Out of curiosity, Bai Xiaosheng walked over and squeezed to the front of the crowd through a gap. What he saw made his heart skip a beat.

About a dozen meters away from the crowd, a thin, dark man with a ferocious face was holding a small fruit knife, taking a woman hostage.

That woman, Bai Xiaosheng knew—

Ariel!

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes widened in stunned disbelief.

How did this foreign lady get kidnapped!

"That man is a lunatic; his wife ran away twice; he is mentally unstable."

"Why don't they keep an eye on the lunatic? Why is he out here?"

"And he's holding someone hostage with a knife? Mr. Officer, just shoot him down quickly!"

The onlookers chattered noisily.

Due to the distance, the small fruit knife in the man's hand didn't look very threatening, so the spectators weren't too afraid.

A police officer was slowly approaching, comforting the kidnapper while gradually getting closer.

"You stop right there! Don't come any closer. She's my wife, and I'm taking her home! Don't get in my way!" the thin, dark man shouted at the officer, gesturing with the knife at the artery on Ariel's neck.

"Okay, okay! Don't be rash!" the officer called out urgently, stopping in his tracks and starting to patiently persuade him.

Ariel's face was pale with fright, and she couldn't stop sobbing.

The comments from the onlookers only made the kidnapper more and more agitated.

The officer couldn't help but turn around and shout angrily, "Everyone quiet down, stop making noise."

No sooner had the officer finished speaking than he saw a young man step out of the crowd and even bend down to pick up a pebble from the ground.

"What are you doing, get back!" the police officer barked in a low voice.

"Bai Xiaosheng, Bai Xiaosheng!" Ariel spotted the young man and immediately began to scream excitedly, as if she had seen her savior.

But the officer's face changed, and he yelled at Ariel, "Don't talk!"

It was too late.

The skinny, dark-skinned man became instantly enraged, screeching, "Pretty boy, you want to steal my wife! I won't let you succeed, this time you can't take her away, you can't!"

As he spoke, the fruit knife in the man's hand moved as if to stab towards Ariel's throat.

Onlookers around them let out a gasp of horror.

The police officer threw caution to the wind and lunged forward.

Ariel was so frightened that her brain went blank, her eyes fixed on Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng, holding that stone, twisted his waist to gather strength and swung his arm.

A streak of darkness, fast as fleeting light, whizzed past the officer's ear and reached its target in the blink of an eye, hitting the skinny man squarely in the forehead.

Thud.

The stone split into two, the robber's forehead gushed red, and his eyes rolled back as he fell to the ground, motionless.

The officer watched in disbelief as the robber hit the ground, watched Ariel go from stunned to screaming, running past him.

He turned around, looking incredulously at Bai Xiaosheng.

This young man, his stone-throwing accuracy was incredible!

And the key was, the force was strong, the power immense!

After his moment of admiration, the officer quickly cuffed the fallen criminal, checked him over, and found the thief was unharmed, just knocked out.

Ariel flung herself at Bai Xiaosheng, hugging him tightly, sobbing uncontrollably without any thought for her appearance.

Accustomed to bodyguards at her beck and call, she had never experienced anything like this. Such a terrifying encounter was like a nightmare, and it was fortunate that Bai Xiaosheng had appeared in time. The image of his swinging hand was imprinted in her mind, unforgettable.

"Thank you, my hero, thank you!"

Ariel shouted in a mix of Chinese and English, almost strangling Bai Xiaosheng as she held on too tightly.

Only then did he get a profound sense of the vast and wide embrace of a Western woman.

"This young lad is really amazing! What an accurate throw!"

"Well done, everyone give him a round of applause!"

The crowd surrounded them, cheering, with whistles and applause ringing out.

Ariel took a moment to recover, her face flushed with color, and she loosened her grip on Bai Xiaosheng, joining in the clapping.

"Thank you, young comrade," said the officer, coming up with admiring approval, giving a thumbs-up, "What a precise throw!"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

That throw, he had Red Lotus search for the technique of world-class baseball pitchers. It looked ordinary, but with Red Lotus's assistance, it was a championship-level throw in a flash.

The wailing of sirens approached as several police cars stopped, a group of officers hastened out. Upon learning that the situation was resolved, the team leader was very surprised and thanked Bai Xiaosheng courteously.

Bai Xiaosheng and Ariel then went with them to the police station to handle the paperwork and give statements, keeping them busy for a while.

By the time they were done, it was already late, and there was no need to go to the company.

Bai Xiaosheng directly arranged the next negotiation time with Ariel.

At the same time, Bai Xiaosheng also extended an invitation to Kevin, asking him to come out for a chat before the negotiations.

"Sure, I'll definitely bring Kevin!" Ariel nodded earnestly.

The Western girl transformed into a docile little thing all of a sudden.

Her gentle gaze still made Bai Xiaosheng quite uncomfortable.

Chapter 377 - , You've Taken All the Good Stuff\_1

Mr. Bai Xiaosheng and Miss Ariel had agreed to have dinner together the next day. Miss Ariel insisted on being the host to express her gratitude for Mr. Bai Xiaosheng's life-saving grace.

Mr. Bai Xiaosheng didn't fuss about such matters; after all, neither of them was short of money—the key was to sit down and have a talk.

"If possible, please convey a message to Mr. Kevin privately," Mr. Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, taking out a business card and tearing off a corner to give to Ariel. "Just say I have a friend who would like to discuss cooperation with Kelson."

He emphasized the word "privately" heavily, trusting that a woman as gentle and virtuous, as shrewd and incomparable as Ariel, would understand.

"I understand, I will definitely pass the message," Ariel said with a smile, her eyes lingering on Mr. Bai Xiaosheng.

Even though she owed him a debt for saving her life, it seemed that Mr. Bai Xiaosheng did not want to use this favor to force Kelson into making any concessions.

This man was extraordinary!

In Ariel's heart, her fondness for him grew.

It was incredible to think that just a day ago, she had looked down on this opponent, feeling contemptuous of her brother's admiration for him.

One day later, she suddenly felt that a man like Mr. Bai Xiaosheng was the definition of a real man.

Mr. Bai Xiaosheng had a special charm about him. That indifference, that confidence, had a great magic that made people fall for him involuntarily.

The two said goodbye.

On his way home, Mr. Bai Xiaosheng got back in touch with Lu Qingfeng on WeChat.

It just so happened that Lu Qingfeng was also free at the time.

As for the result of the discussion with Wang Chao, Mr. Bai Xiaosheng believed that Wang would report it to Lu Qingfeng, so there was no need for him to reiterate.

What Mr. Bai Xiaosheng wanted to discuss was something else.

"I've just taken on a business consultant team from Europe, the Ron Team. They want to set up a company in one of the country's major cities. Any suggestions?" asked Mr. Bai Xiaosheng.

"The Ron Team? I've heard of them!" Lu Qingfeng replied promptly.

This surprised Mr. Bai Xiaosheng.

Lu Qingfeng was unfamiliar with Kelson yet knew about the Ron Team? Were they that famous?

"Their quarterly and annual reports are excellent; I always pay attention when they release them! It's said that their media database is complete. Recently, I've been thinking about asking for a quote to buy

it all, but I didn't expect that you're involved with them... Wait, did you say you took them on?!" Lu Qingfeng sent an astonished emoji.

It seemed that he had just grasped the crux of the matter!

Then, Lu Qingfeng initiated a video call.

"What exactly is going on here? Tell me!" Lu Qingfeng demanded.

Seeing his eagerness, Mr. Bai Xiaosheng picked out some details and told him about the situation with the Ron Team.

Lu Qingfeng was silent for a long time before managing to spit out, "Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, I'll give you fifty million for the team. How about that?"

He was offering a whopping fifty million right off the bat, the young master's bold move!

"These are people, not goods," Mr. Bai Xiaosheng replied, both annoyed and amused. "Besides, Ron is also my friend!"

Lu Qingfeng's expression darkened, his voice filled with resentment, "Why does all the damn good luck in the world seem to be picked up by you!"

Seeing Lu Qingfeng like this, Mr. Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but feel proud, yet he pretended to be humble, "It's not that much, just this one."

"Your one is worth ten of anyone else's! Do you realize the value of this team, this database? Who is responsible for your group's major affairs approval... Ah, it should be the Greater China Region Affairs Department, damn, a bunch of pigs! Can two million euros compare to the value of this team?!" Lu Qingfeng cursed.

Mr. Bai Xiaosheng just smiled.

"And it's not just this stroke of luck you have!" Lu Qingfeng continued to rant, "I forgot to tell you today, your good brother, that fatso, turned your five million investment into original shares! He's treating you like a major shareholder! The money you've spent is truly worth it; you'll probably be scared to death by how much it multiplies in the future! That fatty uses my channels, dates my sister, and still hasn't treated me as well as he treated you!"

"Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, I'm really so damn envious and jealous of you!" Lu Qingfeng couldn't help but blurt out a swear word.

Even such a gentle and courteous person like him had changed to this extent, which clearly revealed the turmoil inside his heart.

Listening to this, Bai Xiaosheng felt wonderful!

Eventually, after much persuasion and persistence, Bai Xiaosheng finally agreed to let Lu Qingfeng help establish the Ron Team and provide multi-faceted support. In return, the benefit he received was shared access to the database.

Just like that, Bai Xiaosheng could sense that Lu Qingfeng was grinning from ear to ear.

I really did pick up a treasure!

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but scratch his face.

According to Lu Qingfeng, the development in Zhengdong Province was booming, which meant his wealth was increasing non-stop.

Having just spent twenty million and left with only two million in his pocket, Bai Xiaosheng would be lying if he said he wasn't thrilled!

With money, Bai Xiaosheng stood tall and confident.

...

Meanwhile, after parting ways with Bai Xiaosheng, Ariel went straight back to Chen Jiuzheng's home.

As soon as she entered the living room, she heard her brother Kevin talking with Chen Jiuzheng.

"I've been in Zhongjing for a while now, and I can't always stay here. In at most a week, or at least three to five days, I'll have to go back. Old friend, when you have time, come visit Europe, and I'll host you," said Kevin.

"Certainly! You've had quite a bit of my fine wine here. When I visit, you better not stint on your treasured vintages!" Chen Jiuzheng replied.

The two of them laughed heartily.

While they were talking, Kevin saw his sister walk in and immediately smiled, "Ariel, you're back late."

Kevin truly treasured his sister, showering her with indulgence.

This time, had it not been absolutely necessary for Ariel to go, he would never have sent her.

"You must be tired, Miss Ariel," Chen Jiuzheng said with a nod and a smile.

The two men had already been informed of the negotiation situation through Chen Changqing and others. They were naturally also aware that Ariel had not discussed cooperation with Bai Xiaosheng and had instead gone shopping.

Kevin would not blame his sister, and Chen Jiuzheng was even less likely to say anything.

"It's regrettable that this negotiation didn't yield a result, I have arranged to talk with Mr. Bai Xiaosheng again the day after tomorrow," Ariel said with an apologetic smile.

"No problem, if you're tired, you should rest first," Kevin said with concern.

"Alright, brother," Ariel ran towards her room, stopping midway, "Oh, by the way, mom called me and left a message for you, come see me later."

Kevin smiled and nodded, watching Ariel return to her room.

About half an hour later, there was a knock on Ariel's room.

Ariel opened the door and let Kevin in.

"What sort of message did mom send me that's so secretive?" Kevin grumbled.

"It's not a phone call from mom, I have something to tell you," Ariel said, "Bai Xiaosheng has invited you to have dinner and chat tomorrow, privately."

Kevin was taken aback, looking at his sister quizzically.

"What do I have to talk about with him?" Kevin snorted coldly.

The last time, the private tea invitation ended with Bai Xiaosheng departing in displeasure.

"He asked me to give you this, saying that he has friends who want to discuss cooperation with us," Ariel said calmly, placing the slip of paper Bai Xiaosheng had given her into Kevin's hand.

With just one glance, Kevin's eyes narrowed slightly.

Chapter 378: He Has These Connections!\_1

"What is this?!" Kevin said in surprise, looking at the small piece of paper in his hand.

It was a corner torn from a business card, quite irregular, with no words on it, just a pattern.

This pattern was a company's LOGO—it represented the Tengyun Group!

A Fortune Global 500 company, a media giant among the top fifty—Tengyun Group!

Being in the same industry, how could Kevin not recognize it!

"Did Bai Xiaosheng give this to you?!" Kevin asked in surprise.

Ariel nodded.

Combining what Ariel had said with this small piece of paper, it was clear that Bai Xiaosheng was telling him that his friend—a person from Tengyun Group—wanted to talk to him about cooperation!

Did Bai Xiaosheng still have connections in Tengyun Group?

Kevin flipped the small piece of paper, frowning slightly.

Bai Xiaosheng should know that even if he had friends in a large group like Tengyun, it wouldn't be anything remarkable.

If the rank wasn't high enough, he, the prestigious Mr. Kelson, would not care either!

Unless, his this friend... had a high enough status to negotiate with him as an equal!

Did Bai Xiaosheng know such a person?!

Kevin was not certain.

Bai Xiaosheng was indeed a man full of surprises, his calm and composed demeanor left a deep impression on people, as if he was fearless about anything, as if he always had an ace up his sleeve...

If that was really the case...

A bright light suddenly burst in Kevin's eyes!

A figure in Tengyun Group capable of negotiating on equal terms with him—the value of cooperation could even surpass that of Chen Jiuzheng!

If that was the case, he must go tomorrow without fail!

Despite his best imagination, Kevin could only assume that Bai Xiaosheng's friend held a status comparable to his own.

If he knew that the person Bai Xiaosheng had truly befriended was the future helmsman of Tengyun—Lu Qingfeng, what would he think...

Ariel was also lost in thought; what Kevin was thinking, she naturally thought of as well, and even more!

Cooperating with Tengyun would bring immeasurable benefits to Kelson!

Although Kelson was reputed to be one of the top media companies in Europe, they knew deep down that it was just an image projected for public relations!

Though they had seen rapid growth in recent years, in the eyes of the real tycoons of Europe, they were still insignificant!

And Tengyun's partners in Europe were those very giants.

Right now, if they had the opportunity to discuss cooperation with Tengyun, even an average level of partnership would bring back benefits that couldn't be measured in monetary terms once publicized!

"Let's check it out; after all, we've got nothing to lose!"

Kevin made up his mind but couldn't help asking, "Didn't he reveal even a bit about his friend's position or the kind of cooperation they want to engage in with us?"

Ariel shook her head, "I'm not sure, we have arranged to dine together tomorrow, then everything will become clear."

Kevin nodded.

Bai Xiaosheng was very cunning. If you didn't go, you wouldn't get a hint about anything.

"But luckily, he's the one hosting this time. If we don't agree, we can just walk away. Ariel, what do you think—should I flip a table to make it more impressive?" Kevin joked.

"This time it's not him inviting us, it's us inviting him," Ariel corrected Kevin, looking at him.

"I'm inviting him?!" Kevin looked at his sister in astonishment, his composure immediately flaring up, "Why should I? I still don't know who he's bringing, and as for cooperation, not even the preliminaries have been set! Why the heck should I be the one to invite?"

Kevin's command of the Chinese language was impeccable; all sorts of idioms and colloquial expressions came to him naturally.

Ariel rolled her eyes at him and recounted the incident of her being kidnapped today and how Bai Xiaosheng rescued her.

"My God, you were kidnapped?!" Kevin was startled and became tense, but seeing Ariel standing soundly in front of him, he felt somewhat relieved.

"From now on, no matter where you go, take bodyguards with you!" Kevin said anxiously. "I'm going to hire a few more female bodyguards for you!"

"It's all over now!" Ariel stopped her brother and said seriously, "Bai Xiaosheng saved me and didn't use that favor to force us to give in. He's a gentleman, a real man."

Ariel sighed, "I don't want to plot against him anymore, and besides, this time, he wants to facilitate cooperation with Tengyun. I think you should take a look. And shouldn't we be the ones inviting him for this meal?"

"Absolutely!" Kevin nodded, shrugged his shoulders with a smile, and said, "Alright, since he saved my dear sister, I'll treat him to this meal."

With that, Kevin's gaze flickered. "And, I want to see just how impressive this friend, Bai Xiaosheng, really is!"

"Besides, it's better not to let your old classmate know about this," Ariel added.

Kevin nodded.

Of course!

"I'll arrange this dinner. I'll tell you the place before tonight, and you can inform Bai Xiaosheng," Kevin said.

Ariel nodded.

...

Bai Xiaosheng received a phone call before going to bed late at night.

It was Ariel on the phone, and she gave Bai Xiaosheng a time and place.

"Tomorrow noon at twelve o'clock, fifth floor of Zhongjing Imperial Scenery Little Heaven City, Shangshan Residence," Bai Xiaosheng repeated, "Okay, we'll be there on time."

"Looking forward to your esteemed arrival!" Ariel said playfully. "I hope that this time, Mr. Bai will show mercy and not leave abruptly again."

"I won't!" Bai Xiaosheng chuckled.

After hanging up, Bai Xiaosheng informed Wang Chao.

Everything being ready, Bai Xiaosheng had a very sound sleep that night.

...

The next morning, Bai Xiaosheng went to work as usual, without giving anything away. Close to noon, he gave a few instructions to Lin Weiwei and quietly left the company.

Bai Xiaosheng first went to a predetermined location to meet Wang Chao, and then they headed to Zhongjing Imperial Scenery Little Heaven City together.

There, Bai Xiaosheng naturally was not a stranger.

Returning to a familiar place, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but think of Lei Ying. He had gone back some time ago and wondered if he would return.

Bai Xiaosheng was looking forward to it deep down but had not actively tried to contact him; after all, everyone has their own aspirations.

If Lei Ying chose to stay by his parents' side to fulfill his filial duties, Bai Xiaosheng naturally supported him.

Bai Xiaosheng, Wang Chao, and Wang Chao's assistant went straight to the fifth floor and found Shangshan Residence.

William was already waiting there and respectfully led them to the private room.

In the room, there were only Kevin and Ariel.

When everyone met, the atmosphere was friendly.

Ariel was dressed in a modified, traditional Chinese cheongsam, looking dignified and stunning, a pleasant surprise to the eyes.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but take a couple of extra glances at her and gave her a thumbs up, which made Ariel very happy.

Bai Xiaosheng was just about to introduce Wang Chao.

"You're Mr. Wang Chao!"

Unexpectedly, Kevin suddenly shouted, his eyes shining brightly.

Bai Xiaosheng was startled, and Wang Chao was also somewhat surprised.

Their surprise was nothing compared to Kevin's.

Kevin's face showed shock and disbelief as he looked at Bai Xiaosheng and exclaimed, "Mr. Bai, your friend is actually Mr. Wang Chao!"

Chapter 379 No problem!\_1

"Mr. Wang Chao, he is the Executive Vice President of the network media business group under Tengyun Group!"

Kevin actually knew Wang Chao's position even better than Bai Xiaosheng, as he introduced him to his sister, Ariel.

"Mr. Wang, it's a pleasure!" Ariel's eyes gleamed brightly as she smiled and shook hands with Wang Chao.

"A pleasure," Wang Chao returned the smile.

Kevin's smile was enthusiastic as he said to Wang Chao, "I had the honor of seeing you at a cocktail party once, and your speech was truly amazing! It had a great impact on me personally! I didn't expect to be meeting you today!"

Kevin was secretly astonished.

Thank goodness he had come!

Bai Xiaosheng's status was nothing short of extraordinary!

One must know that under Tengyun Group, there are several business groups, each with heavyweight Executive Vice Presidents.

And this Wang Chao was one of them!

A look of shock flickered through Ariel's beautiful eyes.

She had not anticipated Bai Xiaosheng to have such formidable connections!

In Ariel's view, comparing Wang Chao with Chen Jiuzheng, Chen paled significantly!

"It seems, Mr. Kevin, that we truly are fated to meet!" Wang Chao said with a smile.

"Mr. Wang, please come over and have a seat! It's truly an honor for you to be here," Kevin called out with an abundance of enthusiasm.

Before taking his seat, Wang Chao gestured to Bai Xiaosheng with an inviting hand movement.

To Kevin, this simple gesture was even more astonishing.

To the side.

Ariel couldn't help but glance at Bai Xiaosheng.

As for Bai Xiaosheng, his face was calm, his demeanor composed.

That makes sense, after all, the two of them are friends!

Ariel was secretly astounded.

Bai Xiaosheng really kept his cards close to his chest, no wonder he always seemed so confident!

Ariel had always prided herself on being strategically minded, but unfortunately, this time, she had overthought it.

Bai Xiaosheng wasn't indifferent or casual among friends, he simply had no concept of Wang Chao's position...

After all, Lu Qingfeng had only arranged for someone to help him solve a problem... and this Mr. Wang was quite approachable, without an air of superiority...

So Bai Xiaosheng treated him with a sense of normalcy...

...

Kevin engaged Wang Chao in a fervent discussion about industry topics.

Bai Xiaosheng and Ariel became listeners.

They talked non-stop for half an hour, and Kevin still had more to say.

"Mr. Kevin, today, I am here to discuss a partnership with Sheng, and we've spent half the day discussing these topics, but it seems we've gone off-topic," Wang Chao said with a smile to Kevin.

"My fault, my fault! I was just too excited to see Mr. Wang," Kevin said with a laugh, apologizing.

"How about we start with the dishes and chat while we eat?" suggested Ariel.

Enjoying food and drink together would bring them closer, foster good relations, and make discussions about partnership smoother.

Wang Chao looked at Bai Xiaosheng, who nodded with a smile.

"Then let's do that, eat and chat," Wang Chao laughed.

Wang Chao would occasionally glance at Bai Xiaosheng, clearly seeking his opinion. This, to the Kevin Siblings, was as shocking as a tempest, signaling the utmost importance they placed on Bai Xiaosheng!

Kevin even made a silent vow—to never oppose Bai Xiaosheng in the future, not only to avoid conflict but to actively seek his acquaintance!

At the same time, Kevin was relieved that his "retribution" against Bai Xiaosheng hadn't resulted in any dire consequences.

Speaking of which, even with Ariel taking action, she didn't gain much advantage...

Now, Bai Xiaosheng is Ariel's lifesaver, and between them, it's better to be close than distant!

Thinking of this, Kevin became enthusiastic, "Mr. Bai, there were some misunderstandings between us a while ago. This banquet is to thank you for saving Ariel, and also, it's my personal apology to you!"

Kevin actually turned the cooperative feast into one of gratitude and apology.

"No friendship without a fight, Mr. Kevin, you don't have to mind," Bai Xiaosheng said with a generous smile.

The atmosphere instantly became friendly.

Dish after dish was served, the cuisine was Shangshan Residence's specialty, and the wine was the jewel of the house—the 1960 Wuliangye. This bottle alone was worth a million, personally delivered by the restaurant owner.

Kevin really spared no expense in his hospitality, showing utmost sincerity.

Around the dining table, toasts were made, and cups were exchanged in quick succession.

Everyone enjoyed the food, savored the wine, and laughed merrily.

After a while, Wang Chao put down his glass, smiled at Kevin, and said, "Mr. Kevin, let's talk business. On behalf of Tengyun, I'd like to discuss some cooperation with your Kelson."

Wang Chao then went on to explain the cooperation items that he had previously drafted with Bai Xiaosheng and had approved by Lu Qingfeng to Kevin, one by one.

Kevin and Ariel listened quietly to Wang Chao's proposal, their expressions still calm.

Bai Xiaosheng observed the siblings.

Lately, Bai Xiaosheng had often used the Micro-Expression Analysis System as an aid to hone his ability to read people. He had already become quite adept at catching key and subtle changes in a person's expression in the shortest time.

Just like now, the fleeting look of surprise that passed through the eyes of the Kevin siblings was accurately captured by him.

These two must be thrilled! Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

After Wang Chao finished outlining the cooperation, he looked at them with a smile and said, "These cooperation deals are fair for both sides, but there is one additional condition I'd like to add."

"Please say it," Kevin said eagerly.

Bai Xiaosheng keenly noticed that in the tone of Kevin's voice as he spoke, there was a subtle change.

Nervousness, with a hint of insecurity.

It looked as if Kevin was afraid of losing this opportunity for cooperation.

Bai Xiaosheng chuckled inwardly; in future negotiations, if he encountered a similar situation, he could certainly raise his price on the spot.

Such subtle changes in expression and voice are fleeting and impossible for most people to detect.

It was only through repeated practice and careful study with the aid of the system that Bai Xiaosheng could notice them.

Wang Chao, with a smile, glanced at Bai Xiaosheng and said to Kevin, "My condition is that I hope Kelson will drop all additional terms in your cooperation with Zhongjing Media!"

"Just this matter?!" Kevin said incredulously.

He had thought Wang Chao would put forth some excessively harsh conditions!

Even if they were extremely harsh, he would do his utmost to facilitate them, and Ariel beside him thought the same.

However, they didn't expect Wang Chao to put forth such a condition.

Put this way, it felt like Wang Chao was using a whole series of cooperative agreements to compel Kelson to stop making things difficult for Bai Xiaosheng!

This...

Kevin and Ariel couldn't help but glance at Bai Xiaosheng.

Could Wang Chao just be a simple friend to Bai Xiaosheng, using Tengyun's contract to help him like this?

"No problem!" Kevin immediately called out.

"To ensure the sincerity of our cooperation, we can even stop working with Chen Jiuzheng," Ariel said more directly to Bai Xiaosheng.

She knew that Bai Xiaosheng had a conflict with Chen Jiuzheng, and the cooperation with Chen was not as important now compared to Tengyun.

Kevin was taken aback, then earnestly said to Bai Xiaosheng, "That's right!"

"That's not necessary," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile. "Since that's the case, let's sign the contract on our end as soon as possible."

"We'll sign the contract this afternoon!" Kevin declared decisively.

Chapter 380 Kelson Signed?! \_1

Wang Chao carried a draft contract with him and showed it to Kevin.

The words were black on white, unmistakably clear.

Kevin was overjoyed, and Ariel was also very happy.

The value of the contract was immeasurable for them; they were even willing to forego all cooperation with Chen Jiuzheng, even at the risk of offending him!

Not to mention, Wang Chao had only attached one condition that was hardly worth mentioning!

Cancel the additional conditions for Zhongjing Media?

What was that?

"If Mr. Bai is willing, we can invest another fifteen percent in our cooperation with Zhongjing Media, or even reduce the terms of the cooperation!" Kevin said eagerly.

This was a strong gesture of goodwill!

"No need, the original contract is fine," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

The task involved additional conditions, which were unrelated to the original terms.

Kevin nodded and didn't insist any further.

Now, the way Kevin and Ariel looked at Bai Xiaosheng had changed.

To get them to stop giving Zhongjing Media a hard time, Bai Xiaosheng had actually brought in a friend who was an executive vice president of Tengyun, and just like that, he signed a broad cooperation agreement with them!

Such power was astounding!

It was not something that could be explained by just saying "we're friends," but the Kevin siblings tacitly refrained from asking...

Kevin felt moved.

What kind of intelligence was Chen Jiuzheng getting, to research Bai Xiaosheng and find nothing in his background...

Is this considered having no background?

Finding a friend like this was more influential than Chen Jiuzheng!

Kevin felt fortunate that he had never truly offended Bai Xiaosheng; otherwise, his losses would have been significant...

...

The banquet lasted until half-past one in the afternoon, and everyone left satisfied.

Wang glanced at the time, put his cup down, smiled at Bai Xiaosheng, and said, "Sheng, I'm really sorry, I have some business to attend to at my company. I need to head back. You continue with Mr. Kevin and Miss Ariel, I'm afraid I can't stay with you all."

"Alright, Wang, thank you for your hard work this time," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile as he shook hands with Wang Chao.

Their conversation was completely natural, showing they were on equal footing. Wang Chao even seemed apologetic for not being able to stay longer.

Kevin's look toward Bai Xiaosheng became even more profound.

Ariel's eyes fluttered, lingering more on Bai Xiaosheng's face.

After the group saw off Wang Chao, cleared the remaining seats, and had a cup of tea, Bai Xiaosheng also stood up to leave.

"Mr. Bai, please wait, there is something I don't quite understand and would like to ask you about," Kevin said as he stood up, unable to hold back any longer.

Kevin has questions?

"Please speak," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

In fact, he almost guessed what Kevin was about to ask.

"You have resources like Tengyun Group at your disposal... why go to great lengths to facilitate a cooperation between Zhongjing Media and my Kelson? Wouldn't it be more beneficial to have a direct cooperation between Tengyun and Zhongjing Media? Why would you prefer to play down your skills and give us this big deal, solely to make us cancel the additional conditions for Zhongjing Media? I... don't understand!" Kevin exclaimed.

As the president of a large company and a veteran of the business world, with sharp insight, he really couldn't make sense of this matter.

"I feel the same, Bai Xiaosheng, what exactly are you up to!" Ariel muttered.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

"Consider this as a little compensation for taking away the Ron Team from you," he said. "It's also for making my work as a vice president go a bit more smoothly."

Bai Xiaosheng did not invent reasons to explain.

One, there was no need.

Two, the siblings were each exceptionally sharp-minded; no lie would deceive them.

Rather than being insincere, it was better to offer a favor.

Bai Xiaosheng was not willing to explain too much, and the Kevin siblings tacitly did not ask any further.

"Alright, from now on, you, Bai Xiaosheng, are a friend of Kelson!" Kevin declared solemnly to Bai Xiaosheng.

Just by Bai Xiaosheng's doing, he managed to befriend an executive vice president of Tengyun on equal terms, skillfully facilitating a major cooperation. His influence was immeasurable!

Kevin had already decided to befriend him at all costs.

"Alright, I accept your friendship," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

More friends meant more paths. Although their friendship was shallow at present, there would be plenty of time to develop a deeper bond in the future.

"We'll sign the contract this afternoon, and I will personally attend!" Kevin said earnestly, then he couldn't help but ask, "Are you sure you don't need us to make concessions?!"

...

Afternoon.

Zhongjing Media, General Manager's Office.

Song Changkong and Chen Changqing were sitting together, engaged in a secret conversation.

Naturally, they were discussing how to seize real power from Bai Xiaosheng's hands.

There was an original plan, but now that Kelson was dealing with Bai Xiaosheng, this was an opportunity. They decided to adjust and see if they could make good use of it.

"If this matter gets stirred up and the group becomes dissatisfied with Bai Xiaosheng, they might even issue a document asking him to relinquish power!" Chen Changqing said with a smile, "If that happens, our job becomes much easier!"

"Exactly, but it will still be tough for you, Mr. Chen, to communicate with Mr. Kevin and push harder," Song Changkong said.

"No problem!" Chen Changqing confidently remarked.

Just as they were talking.

The phone on Song Changkong's desk rang. He walked over and picked it up.

After listening for a moment, Song Changkong was stunned, "What did you say, Bai Xiaosheng is negotiating a contract with Kelson? Wasn't it supposed to be tomorrow?!"

They had changed the timing, and he wasn't even aware of it!

Also, Bai Xiaosheng wasn't avoiding it this time?

Song Changkong let out a cold laugh.

Chen Changqing heard as well, his lips curving into a cold smile.

However, immediately after, Chen Changqing saw Song Changkong's smile stiffen on his face, as if he had heard something unbelievable, "What! Mr. Kevin came personally, and they've already... signed?"

Song Changkong stared at Chen Changqing with eyes wide in disbelief, and Chen Changqing's smile was replaced by shock.

Signed?!!

"Do you know the content of the contract? Did Bai Xiaosheng compromise?!" Song Changkong pressed, his eyes sparkling with urgency.

Chen Changqing abruptly stood up, excitement flickering in his eyes.

If Bai Xiaosheng had compromised, according to the plan, they should report it to the group.

Chen Changqing was eager to act, his heart sneering with cold amusement.

"Bai, you didn't expect this, did you? The day when you would face misfortune has come so swiftly!" Chen Changqing lamented, "We gave you a chance back then. You were arrogant, you were proud, you were 'never bowing to the bright moon'... Now, you no longer have a chance to bow!"

Watching Bai Xiaosheng, who had always been one step ahead of himself, facing misfortune, Chen Changqing was extremely excited and joyful, waiting for Song Changkong to hang up so they could report this together.

"The contract is in hand? Take a look quickly at what additional content Bai Xiaosheng signed with Kelson Corporation! Don't hang up the phone, I'm listening!" Song Changkong's voice was increasingly excited.

The signed contract was sure to reach the administrative archive. Assistant Song intercepted it midway and was checking it.

"Let him bring it directly to us, then we'll see," Chen Changqing suggested.

"Yes, that's a good idea, now send... What? Say that again!" Song Changkong's voice changed dramatically as he cried out in shock.

He listened again, his eyes bulging, "Say that again!"

"Say it to me one more time!" Song Changkong commanded.

Song Changkong's reaction startled Chen Changqing, who couldn't help but urge, "What's wrong? Is there a problem with the contract?!"

"The problem is big..."

Song Changkong hung up the phone with a snap and looked at Chen Changqing with difficulty, "Kelson has canceled all additional conditions, they signed the original contract!"

"How is that possible!"

Chen Changqing screamed in shock, his face filled with disbelief.