

Two Trillion 381

Chapter 381: One Must Not Judge Others Solely by Their Appearance_1

Song Changkong and Chen Changqing received news of the contract signing, which left them more than shocked, utterly dumbfounded. They stared blankly at each other for a long while, unable to recover their senses.

How could this be possible!

Why had Kelson's Kevin come in person, and why had he suddenly signed?!

They had clearly agreed to set a trap, yet he had suddenly changed his mind, and what's more, when had Kevin become so generous, not demanding a single additional condition?

Even more absurd was the fact that they hadn't been given any hint, leaving them completely unprepared!

Hadn't Kevin been full of resentment before, wanting to deal with Bai Xiaosheng... His attitude had suddenly done a complete one-eighty, the turn was so sharp that it threw Song Changkong and the others into a ditch...

"That Ariel went out with Bai Xiaosheng and so much happened when they returned; could it be that woman really fell for Bai Xiaosheng?"

Song Changkong couldn't help but say.

Chen Changqing had no time for jokes and hurried off to make a phone call to Chen Jiuzheng.

As soon as the call connected, Chen Jiuzheng's voice was calm and melodic, composed and measured, like that of a monk, speaking unhurriedly.

"Uncle, what are you doing?" Chen Changqing managed to suppress his anxious heart and asked hurriedly.

"What's wrong, Changqing? You sound panicked. What happened?"

Chen Jiuzheng's voice remained steady on the other end of the phone, "Me? I'm taking a break to enjoy some porcelain. You young people should also find some refined hobbies to cultivate your taste when you have some time. Moreover, you're now the vice president of Zhongjing Media, with limitless prospects. Remember as a leader, you need to be composed. You must be so calm that not even the collapse of Mount Tai in front of you could disturb you..."

Chen Jiuzheng still had the mind to lecture...

At that moment, Chen Changqing began to wonder if his uncle had known about the contract signing all along. Was this a new scheme he and Mr. Kevin had cooked up to catch Bai Xiaosheng off guard?

Am I overthinking it?

Chen Changqing couldn't help but think to himself.

"Yes, Changqing has learned his lesson." Chen Changqing evened out his breathing.

"That's right. What's the reason for your call?" Chen Jiuzheng asked in a calm and collected manner.

"It's nothing major. Mr. Kevin has signed a contract with Bai Xiaosheng, without adding any conditions." Chen Changqing reported calmly.

Crack!

Immediately, Chen Changqing heard a crisp sound through the phone, as if something had fallen to the floor and shattered...

"Uncle?" Chen Changqing exclaimed with surprise.

"He signed? Without any additional conditions! When did this happen! Did Kevin personally go to sign it?! Why didn't you tell me sooner!"

On the other end of the phone, Chen Jiuzheng's thundering voice was so loud it buzzed in his ears, his words so jumbled that Chen Changqing didn't even know where to start answering.

So I really did overthink it!

Uncle didn't know either!

Chen Changqing felt his heart sink into an icy pit.

All those earnest teachings Uncle had given him, about staying composed, about remaining unflustered even if Mount Tai were to collapse in front of him, were as good as farts...

Chen Changqing hastily filled Chen Jiuzheng in on the situation.

Meanwhile, he lamented.

This scheme had come to a premature end...

Beyond lamentation, Chen Changqing also felt a tinge of sadness.

Usually, when Bai Xiaosheng won, he would at least know why he lost. This time, he didn't even know how Bai Xiaosheng had done it...

How frustrating!

Chen Changqing felt incredibly stifled.

"Could it really be that he resorted to using a beauty trap? That guy isn't even particularly good-looking..." Chen Changqing even muttered doubtfully in his heart.

...

At the time Chen Changqing was calling Chen Jiuzheng, Chen Jiuzheng was playing with a porcelain vase, his face wearing a satisfied smile.

This vase was his own creation.

Not only did Chen Jiuzheng enjoy fishing, but he also liked this kind of pastime, even going so far as to seek guidance from several masters. The pieces he produced could pass for the work of a professional.

The one in his hands was the one he was most satisfied with in all his history of making them, so much so that he couldn't stop admiring it.

Then Chen Changqing's call came through...

Then, just one slip...

Then, there was no thereafter...

Chen Jiuzheng didn't have the time to feel distressed. As soon as he hung up the phone on one side, he immediately called Kevin on the other.

"Hello, Kevin, I heard you signed with Zhongjing Media? What's going on?!" Chen Jiuzheng suppressed his emotions, trying to sound calm and steady.

"You've already heard? Yes, I signed," Kevin's voice was calm.

"Why?!" Chen Jiuzheng also wanted to know the reason.

"My sister was out playing, and a lunatic kidnapped her. Mr. Bai Xiaosheng saved her. Out of gratitude, I agreed to sign the contract," Kevin's explanation seemed reasonable.

Chen Jiuzheng, however, was still somewhat skeptical.

Is it really that simple?

Then why not say something in advance!

"Where are you now? I want to talk to you," Chen Jiuzheng said.

"Me? I'm at the airport. In a couple of days, it's my mother's birthday, and Ariel and I are going back for a visit."

Kevin's answer took Chen Jiuzheng by surprise.

Was Kevin really leaving Zhongjing without any notice?

So hastily...

"Old classmate, you're not hiding something from me, are you?" Chen Jiuzheng asked, suspicious.

He always felt there was something complicated about this situation!

Kevin's reasons were rational, but something felt off.

"Haha, why would I?" Kevin chuckled dryly, then fell silent for a moment.

"How much do you know about Bai Xiaosheng?" Kevin suddenly asked.

"Hmm?" Chen Jiuzheng was puzzled.

"It's nothing," Kevin seemed to hesitate but finally added another sentence, "Good lenses, bad frames."

Kevin, who had been speaking Chinese all along, suddenly said a sentence in English.

Chen Jiuzheng was momentarily taken aback.

"I'm boarding the plane now, no more talking, bye!" Kevin switched back to Chinese.

Afterwards, a busy tone sounded.

Chen Jiuzheng frowned and looked at his phone.

His spoken English was quite good, but he didn't understand the meaning of what Kevin had said.

Chen Jiuzheng called his assistant and tried to imitate the pronunciation from his memory, asking his assistant for a translation.

After several attempts, he finally got it right.

"What does this sentence mean?" Chen Jiuzheng asked.

"Do not judge by appearances!"

Chen Jiuzheng was startled and fell silent for a long time.

On the flight to Europe, Ariel sat beside Kevin with a reluctant expression on her face; she didn't want to go back yet.

"If you're worried about your old classmate being unhappy, you could have gone by yourself. Why the hell would you book a flight for me too!" Ariel grumbled unhappily.

"Are you reluctant to leave this place, or someone here?" Kevin teased her, then became somewhat serious, "It's not just to avoid unpleasantness with Chen Jiuzheng. This cooperation with Tengyun is important! You need to come back with me to sort out some things."

With that said, Ariel's expression improved somewhat.

"Once things stabilize over there, you can come over anytime you want, I'm supportive of that," Kevin said with a smile, his grin tinged with banter.

Ariel rolled her eyes at him and muttered, "Successful contract signing, I don't know if Mr. Bai Xiaosheng is satisfied this time."

...

For Bai Xiaosheng right now, it's way beyond satisfaction, he's extremely pleased.

Mission accomplished, points awarded!

Chapter 382 - You Don't Understand a Damn Thing_1

"Representing Zhongjing Media, a subsidiary of the group, we have officially signed a contract with Kelson Corporation. The additional conditions proposed by Kelson Corporation for this signing are zero!"

"The mission has ended successfully, with the highest level of completion, scoring twenty points!"

"The current total score is seventy-five points for the Deputy General Manager level, only twenty-five points away from the General Manager level!"

In Bai Xiaosheng's mind, a series of prompts made him so happy he couldn't stop grinning.

All his busy efforts hadn't been in vain, as he watched his score jump higher and higher. It was truly exhilarating!

Now, just twenty-five points away from the General Manager level, promotion truly seemed just around the corner!

Bai Xiaosheng was in high spirits.

Compared to him, Song Changkong and Chen Changqing were completely thrown into disarray.

The two of them were utterly confused about what had transpired, almost deeming it a supernatural event.

They had thought that the contract was facilitated because Bai Xiaosheng had some connection with Ariel, but after the signing, Ariel and Kevin immediately returned to Europe, as if they had guessed wrong again...

However, in his heart, Chen Changqing felt an inexplicable sense of relief...

After this incident, Song Changkong and Chen Changqing had no choice but to postpone their second-stage plan against Bai Xiaosheng...

For several days in a row, the company was remarkably peaceful.

Bai Xiaosheng, happy to have some downtime, wandered around the two departments he oversaw.

However, beneath the appearance of calm, how could there truly be peace?

Especially since Bai Xiaosheng had already openly clashed with Song Changkong and Chen Changqing.

The reason Song Changkong and Chen Changqing had yet to make a move was that they lacked the right opportunity and conditions.

Moreover, Chen Changqing noticed with dismay that ever since Kevin and Ariel had left, Chen Jiuzheng seemed to have lost his enthusiasm for dealing with Bai Xiaosheng.

This simply wouldn't do!

Both sides had publicly fallen out, with no room to maneuver. Without Uncle's support, it would be difficult for them to completely deal with Bai. Were they supposed to make peace with Bai proactively? That would be too shameful!

After waiting for a few days, Chen Changqing could no longer restrain himself and hurried to the Moon Lake villa to have a face-to-face talk with his Uncle.

This was also of great concern to Song Changkong.

Upon visiting again, Chen Changqing found that his Uncle, usually an avid fisherman, was not fishing this time and instead received him in the living room.

After some pleasantries, Chen Changqing couldn't hold back any longer and broached the subject, "Uncle, regarding Bai Xiaosheng, what exactly are your thoughts? Dealing with him might be a bit challenging for Song Changkong and me alone. We need your help."

"Bai Xiaosheng."

Chen Jiuzheng muttered the name, frowning slightly and nodding his head.

"Changqing, let me tell you about someone," Chen Jiuzheng said, diverging from the topic at hand and starting another conversation instead.

Chen Changqing couldn't interrupt and listened patiently.

"You know this person, Kevin from Kelson. I met him when I was studying in England."

Chen Jiuzheng reflected on the past, "This person, two years younger than me, had a lot of cunning and was very shrewd. Always thinking three steps ahead when taking one! His judgment was extremely sharp! Let me tell you, in our class at school, there was a classmate from Africa. You know, when people mention Africa, the impression isn't always good. This classmate was just an ordinary person, very easygoing, and his lifestyle was no different from that of the average person. You know, those with money, like sons of chieftains and whatnot, they flaunted sports cars and beautiful girls at school; you could tell they were wealthy at a glance! While we were busy trying to fit in with those rich second-generation kids, only Kevin kept approaching the African student, even becoming a laughingstock among us in private."

"But you know what! That African classmate, his family owned a gold mine and an oil field! He was one of the wealthiest tycoons in our class! Just through that connection, Kevin made his first fortune in life! He earned a billion!"

Chen Jiuzheng sighed, "I had a good relationship with Kevin, but the kid wouldn't share a dime of his profits with anyone. In the end, he only left me with this piece of advice: 'Distinguish the wealthy by the details'!"

Chen Changqing nodded in admiration.

"Understand?" Chen Jiuzheng asked with a smile.

Chen Changqing nodded.

"Really understand?" Chen Jiuzheng asked again with a laugh.

Chen Changqing paused, blinked, and hesitantly nodded.

Such a simple story, what's there not to understand...

"You're telling me that everyone's success is no fluke."

"Nonsense!" Chen Jiuzheng's gaze narrowed slightly, "What I'm saying is, Kevin, that bastard, always talks in riddles, devouring all the benefits for himself and then leaving me some seemingly profound, nonsensical statement! He never speaks directly!"

Chen Changqing, ...

"The reason I'm telling you this is because Kevin mysteriously signed the contract this time, slipped away slick as an eel, and before he left, he dropped another English phrase for me," Chen Jiuzheng's gaze flickered uncertainly, "'Appearances are deceiving'! Referring to, Bai Xiaosheng!"

"Even though Kevin always speaks cryptically, his words aren't without foundation! So regarding Bai Xiaosheng, I suddenly felt an uncertainty I couldn't grasp!"

Chen Jiuzheng's eyes narrowed as he spoke gravely, "After thorough investigation, he seems unremarkable, yet he took down Kevin without a trace! Is that simple? Shouldn't we be a bit more cautious about him?"

A chill settled in Chen Changqing's heart.

If Bai Xiaosheng really isn't as simple as he seems, Uncle is being cautious, then I'll bear the brunt of it and be the unlucky one!

This won't do!

For a long time, Chen Changqing had held a wary respect for Bai Xiaosheng, but more than that, he wanted to defeat him. Seeing Uncle possibly pulling back, how could he agree!

"Uncle, now that things have come to this! You can't start having second thoughts!" Chen Changqing spoke bluntly, "Do you know how Bai Xiaosheng threatened us when he fell out with us?"

Chen Jiuzheng looked at him curiously.

"Bai Xiaosheng said that since he joined the group, he had driven people away, driven people mad, caused job losses, lay-offs, crushed careers, and led to despair and pessimism."

Chen Changqing, who had a keen memory of this statement, embellished it as he recounted it to Chen Jiuzheng, "He said he would remember everyone who crossed him and pay them back one by one, including me, including Song Changkong, including you!"

Chen Changqing spoke solemnly, "Even if we step back ten thousand paces, if Bai Xiaosheng is truly hiding some startling capabilities, shall we just wait for him to come at us, or should we strike first!"

After Chen Changqing's words, Chen Jiuzheng's gaze grew dark.

"Bai Xiaosheng really said that, and he wants revenge on me?!" Chen Jiuzheng snorted coldly.

"Exactly, he named you specifically! I was afraid you'd be angry, which is why I didn't dare tell you!" Chen Changqing said gravely.

Chen Jiuzheng's face showed a trace of anger as he scoffed.

"Good, good, good, I want to see just what this kid is capable of!"

Chapter 383 I Have a Plan!_1

Chen Jiuzheng was a man of great experience, having spent half his lifetime scrabbling in the corporate world, weathering numerous storms, and becoming immensely shrewd.

How could he possibly be frightened by Mr. Kevin's vague words and hesitate to take action against Bai Xiaosheng, or lose his composure and act irrationally due to a provocation from Chen Changqing?

At most, Chen Jiuzheng was somewhat dubious and hesitant. Chen Changqing's timely instigation, a nudge that added momentum, simply revitalized his existing intention to deal with Bai Xiaosheng.

"It's actually better that Mr. Kevin won't join. With him involved, we would have had to consider his stance, which would have been a hassle!" Chen Jiuzheng snorted coldly and asked Chen Changqing, "Exactly how did you and Song Changkong plan to take back the authority from Bai Xiaosheng?"

In the past, Chen Jiuzheng didn't pay much attention to details, but now that he was intrigued, he naturally had to inquire.

Changqing brightened up, knowing his Uncle held a significant position and had a thorough understanding of the corporate landscape. If his Uncle helped with the planning and oversaw the process, the scheme he and Song Changkong devised would undoubtedly stand a much better chance of success.

Changqing immediately spoke at length.

"You know, even though Bai Xiaosheng is a vice president, that 'vice' notwithstanding, Zhongjing Media has a system in place to prevent any one person from having absolute authority—the primary and deputy positions restrict each other and are essentially at the same level. That is to say, even though we have two people here, including the general manager, we can't simply depose him. The departments and powers in his hands can't just be retracted with an excuse or a word!"

"Originally, we did have some ideas, but the chances of success... didn't feel high even to ourselves. Mr. Kevin of Kelson targeting Bai Xiaosheng presented us with an opportunity and also an inspiration. That is to lure Bai Xiaosheng into making a 'mistake' that alarms the group, prompting the group to decree, taking his power away. If the group's voice isn't strong enough, we could use it as a pretext to make adjustments at work; with several adjustments, we could achieve a similar effect."

After finishing his explanation, Changqing gave a wry smile, "However, I didn't expect Mr. Kevin to change his mind and Kelson to back out halfway through. We have to think of other solutions, but... we do have some strategies."

Chen Jiuzheng nodded calmly.

"Tell me your current thoughts. Let me see what you plan to do," Chen Jiuzheng said.

"Okay." Changqing nodded and immediately outlined the plans he had made with Song Changkong in detail for Chen Jiuzheng to hear.

Chen Jiuzheng's face remained expressionless.

The plan that Changqing and Song Changkong had hatched was essentially to nibble away at Bai Xiaosheng's position gradually—consistently causing trouble for Bai Xiaosheng, standing firm against him, yet taking care to stop in time, to avoid pushing Bai Xiaosheng into desperation.

They were also aware that Bai Xiaosheng was quite stubborn; if provoked too far, neither of them would be able to handle the fallout!

In the process, if Bai Xiaosheng acted rashly, they would immediately join forces to petition the group for a statement and then exploit it.

After laying out the plan, Changqing looked at Chen Jiuzheng, awaiting his guidance.

A deep frown settled across Chen Jiuzheng's brow.

"Is this the extent of your tactics?"

It was evident that he was not satisfied.

"Uncle, you don't understand, when Bai Xiaosheng is cornered... he's not easy to handle!" Changqing said somewhat hesitantly.

Actually, both he and Song Changkong had started to fear Bai Xiaosheng a little. That guy's actions were too unpredictable, and they could easily end up being humiliated in front of the entire company.

That would be problematic...

"If you can't come up with anything, that's one thing, but Song Changkong can't even handle this. Now I see why he's never been promoted!"

Chen Jiuzheng snorted coldly.

"Do you think to defeat Bai Xiaosheng, you have to strike directly at him?"

"Do you think seizing power is about forcibly taking it from someone else's hands?"

"If you guys had dared to oppose me in the early years, I would have left you nothing but dregs!" Chen Jiuzheng coldly laughed.

Chen Changqing's eyes lit up with impatience, "Uncle, tell us, what should we do!"

Chen Jiuzheng looked at his nephew's "thirst for knowledge" eyes and nodded satisfactorily, speaking unhurriedly, "If you're trying to find faults with Bai Xiaosheng, you know he's a tough nut to crack, not easy to chew. Don't you know how to nibble on the meat around the bone?"

Don't go looking for troubles with Bai Xiaosheng; instead, look for the issues in the departments under his control. Have administration and logistics pay more attention to the flaws in those two departments. As soon as there is non-compliance or violation of regulations and systems, deal with them seriously!

Deal as harshly as you can, making them constrained at every turn, unable to accomplish anything, unable to do well!

By adhering to the system, can Bai Xiaosheng be arrogant? He has no justification! Besides, if the vice president leads the resistance against the implementation of the system, that's a charge in itself!

If Bai Xiaosheng wants to find issues with your departments, let him look!

His Film and Television and New Media departments can't afford it!

Furthermore, pay special attention to some critical links and critical periods, especially those that can cause a chain reaction. Prepare well and hit them with a strong dose! After dealing with it, wait for their own departments to mess up. As soon as a problem arises, immediately challenge Mr. Bai and report it to the group at the same time!"

Chen Changqing nodded repeatedly, continuously shocked.

Such a vicious strategy!

This move was indeed much more ingenious and lethal than what he and Song Changkong had come up with!

Chen Changqing became more and more excited as he thought about it.

"If a person is constantly faced with endless troubles, endures endless problems, over time, as days go by, they themselves will not be able to bear it. Perhaps, they will take the initiative to ask for a handover of departmental control!"

Chen Jiuzheng sneered, "Once he has no power in his hands, no voice, wouldn't he be at your mercy!"

A flash of excited light flickered in Chen Changqing's eyes instantly.

The miserable state of Bai Xiaosheng as described by Chen Jiuzheng filled him with immense anticipation.

"This ignorant kid, so arrogantly unbridled, extremely haughty, I really want to see if he can still be so arrogant when the time comes!"

A ferocious smile appeared on Chen Jiuzheng's face.

What he had told Chen Changqing was just one of the methods; if it didn't work, he still had plenty of tricks up his sleeve to deal with Bai Xiaosheng.

When the time came, he was determined to make Mr. Bai cry out in vain, scream to no effect!

"Alright, Uncle, I understand. I won't stay here any longer! I need to hurry back and talk with Song Changkong!" Chen Changqing could no longer sit still.

"Go ahead, refine it a bit more, and then properly take care of this Bai Xiaosheng!" A cold smile emerged on Chen Jiuzheng's face, "I am waiting for your good news!"

"Sure!" Chen Changqing nodded forcefully, leaving excitedly.

...

The Bai Xiaosheng, whom Chen Jiuzheng and Chen Changqing were plotting against, was at that moment, utterly bored, sprawled across the table, with a piece of A4 paper in front of him scribbled all over, looking like a meaningless scribble.

"Why haven't Song Changkong and Chen Changqing made their move yet!" Bai Xiaosheng yawned, somewhat dissatisfied.

He was still waiting, ready to retreat as an advance!

Chapter 384 Endless Trouble_1

Zhongjing Media, General Manager's Office.

Chen Changqing rushed back from his Uncle Chen Jiuzheng, diving straight into Song Changkong's office.

After that, Assistant Song received an order to act as a doorkeeper, turning away all visitors and cancelling all meetings.

In the office, Chen Changqing spoke with animated excitement while Song Changkong nodded repeatedly in agreement.

Such a vicious strategy!

And it sounded so feasible, so lethal!

Song Changkong and Chen Changqing instantly clicked and closed the door to make a detailed plan.

...

It was Bai Xiaosheng's fifth day of utter boredom.

Approaching noon, a hasty knocking sounded on the door of his office, and then, someone hurriedly burst in.

"Mr. Bai, it's bad, something terrible has happened!" the person exclaimed as soon as he entered.

"Director Gao?"

Bai Xiaosheng looked up in surprise at this person.

It was none other than Gao Dazhi.

At the moment, his face was flushed with energy, he was gasping for breath, his forehead was drenched with sweat, and his eyes were filled with panic and anger.

What had happened?!

Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback and stood up.

Gao Dazhi was an old-timer in the corporate world, and although he tended to brownnose a bit, it was out of habit, and it wasn't annoying.

Furthermore, he was very capable and always composed—qualities essential for a leader.

But why was the usually unflappable Gao Dazhi in such a state now?

"Don't panic, catch your breath first then speak!" said Bai Xiaosheng in a stern voice, getting him a glass of water.

Gao Dazhi gratefully took it and gulped it down, stabilizing his emotions and catching his breath.

A moment later, Gao Dazhi said urgently to Bai Xiaosheng, "It's bad, Mr. Bai, our department has a problem!"

"I know something's wrong, what is it, just tell me!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a mixture of irritation and amusement.

Gao Dazhi was confused; didn't he know how to report succinctly?

Gao Dazhi also realized he had spoken incorrectly and paused for a moment to organize his thoughts.

As he was about to speak and Bai Xiaosheng prepared to listen, the office door was knocked on anxiously again.

All of a sudden, it interrupted what Gao Dazhi was about to say.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at the door.

The office door swung open, and this time the person rushing in was Lin Weiwei.

The young lady, who had been in a good mood in the morning and dressed up beautifully, now had a face full of anger, her forehead sweaty and her hairdo slightly disheveled from her hasty arrival.

"Xiaosheng,..."

Lin Weiwei entered and spoke too hastily, blurting out the familiar name before realizing Gao Dazhi was also there; she quickly corrected herself, "Mr. Bai, something's gone wrong!"

After speaking, Lin Weiwei saw Bai Xiaosheng looking at her with a strange expression and then glanced at Gao Dazhi, who was equally agitated.

Lin Weiwei was taken aback and couldn't help saying to Gao Dazhi, "You too..."

Gao Dazhi nodded at her with a wry smile.

Bai Xiaosheng, who was initially eager to hear Gao Dazhi's report, now saw that Lin Weiwei was in a similar state, and he suddenly became less anxious.

"Five minutes, I'll give you both five minutes to calm down without speaking."

Bai Xiaosheng went to fetch a cup of water for Lin Weiwei as well and handed it to her, then pulled over a chair to sit down, nodding toward the sofa beside them, "Go sit over there!"

Bai Xiaosheng was uncompromising in his approach, his attitude forceful.

Gao Dazhi and Lin Weiwei obediently sat down on the sofa. Five minutes, as agonizing as they were, cooled their heads.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

If the matter they wanted to discuss was urgent, yet they could still hold it in for five minutes, it seemed it wasn't that critical after all.

Bai Xiaosheng, in fact, relaxed. In his view, as long as it wasn't an emergency that demanded immediate action, as long as one could keep their composure, there was no need for panic and disorder, which wouldn't help resolve anything.

Those five minutes were not only for Gao Dazhi and Lin Weiwei to settle down but also for himself.

During this interlude, Bai Xiaosheng made some educated guesses.

Gao Dazhi managed the Film and Television Department, and Lin Weiwei oversaw New Media; each was responsible for their department's affairs.

Those departments operated smoothly, without any issues that typically required reporting.

Today, suddenly, there were problems in both!

It seemed that Song Changkong and Chen Changqing had made their move!

Finally, it had come!

Bai Xiaosheng sneered internally.

As soon as the five minutes were up, Bai Xiaosheng looked calmly at Gao Dazhi, then at Lin Weiwei, gave a faint smile, and asked, "Which one of you will speak first?"

Bai Xiaosheng's poised and calm demeanor affected Gao and Lin, who glanced at each other.

"Director Gao arrived first, you go ahead," Lin Weiwei said.

"Alright." Gao Dazhi was indeed anxious and didn't delay.

During those five minutes, he had sorted things out in his head, unlike before when all his words jammed up at his lips, wanting to talk about one thing but thinking of another, resulting in saying nothing at all.

"Just now, the Human Resources Department decided to suspend all of Wenqing's work because his personal assessment for the last quarter was unsatisfactory, and on top of that, he had twelve administrative penalties. They've decided to suspend him based on policy and reassess whether to keep him!"

As he spoke of this, Gao Dazhi's expression was somewhat complex.

On one hand, the punishment was indeed justified. The former Wenqing was really reckless and careless, committing big mistakes as well as many minor ones—having been disciplined by HR twelve times, if it weren't for his protection, Wenqing would have been fired long ago.

On the other hand, under Bai Xiaosheng's mentoring, Wenqing had turned over a new leaf, and according to recent feedback from the team, his performance had been quite good.

The television series was about to start production, and they couldn't do without Wenqing!

The Administrative Department's punishment had come "at just the right time!"

"I can talk to the HR department about this," Bai Xiaosheng said.

"Right after HR left, the Finance Department notified me that the additional clothing and prop expenses applied for by our department had not been approved. They gave a bunch of reasons, all of which made sense, but we need those expenses soon. We're starting production at the end of the month, and we can't afford any delays!" Gao Dazhi continued.

"I can also talk to the Finance Department about this," Bai Xiaosheng frowned.

"Finance had just left when the Administrative Department informed us that we have to conduct training this month! We're so busy we're practically flying, how do we have time for training? In the past, we always got special approval to skip it, but now they won't hear of it!" Gao Dazhi went on.

"And there's the Logistics Department..."

"And the Security Section..."

Gao Dazhi listed six or seven issues in one breath. All the problems had surged at nearly the same time, as if by prior arrangement, like a long-dormant volcano suddenly erupting with ferocious force and searing magma.

"Mr. Bai, there's something fishy going on here!"

Gao Dazhi said meaningfully, his voice low.

He didn't need to spell it out.

Bai Xiaosheng's face had already darkened.

Without further thought, this was Song Changkong and Chen Changqing's doing.

"Impressive, all justified and timely; they are clearly challenging me with an open strategy!" Bai Xiaosheng mused with interest, "When did their intelligence escalate!"

Chapter 385 Restless Hearts_1

Bai Xiaosheng, having nothing pressing to do, also pondered over the problem. He had imagined many scenarios and potential responses to how Song Changkong and Chen Changqing might target him.

But what he'd never anticipated was that this time, Song Changkong and Chen Changqing wouldn't go after him directly, but rather aim their spears at the department under his charge.

What's worse, all these "troubles" were completely in compliance with the rules and regulations, so even if they were made public, they wouldn't be afraid.

On his side, one or two matters could be handled as special cases, but special treatment across the board, how would other departments within the company view and consider this!

If he did nothing, it wouldn't be acceptable!

To intervene would mean a heap of troubles!

"Interesting! You guys are really something!" Even Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but express his admiration.

In this matter, Song Changkong and Chen Changqing played a beautiful hand, actually trapping him in a dilemma.

"Weiwei, what's the situation on your end?" Bai Xiaosheng looked towards Lin Weiwei and asked.

In fact, there was no need to ask. The situation Lin Weiwei faced was probably not much different from Gao Dazhi's.

And indeed it was.

Lin Weiwei gave a bitter smile, glanced at Gao Dazhi, and told Bai Xiaosheng, "My department is not much better off than Director Gao's! Half an hour ago, I also received notices from five or six departments targeting our New Media Department, all pointed at the key points of our recent activities! The implementation of any of these notices would cause no small blow to our department, and the notices they issued are... completely reasonable!"

Lin Weiwei couldn't help but look deeply at Bai Xiaosheng with some worry.

By this point, if she couldn't see what was happening, it would be incredibly foolish.

All these penalties came at the same time, clearly a deliberate act. Their aim was to strike at the departments under Bai Xiaosheng's jurisdiction and shake his foundation under seemingly justifiable pretexts.

"Mr. Bai, if these issues aren't resolved properly, I'm afraid... they might cause immeasurable damage to the department... damage that we cannot sustain!" Gao Dazhi said with some difficulty.

He knew these matters were targeted at Bai Xiaosheng, yet he was still helpless and wanted Bai Xiaosheng to resolve them as soon as possible.

As for how Bai Xiaosheng would resolve them, even that seemed difficult to Gao Dazhi...

"They're doing it on purpose! They play their petty games, we play ours! Stand firm! After all, New Media and the Film and Television Department are pillars of the company. Any damage caused isn't just to the department, but to the entire company. If they don't back down, then let's go down together!" Lin Weiwei said fiercely.

"They," naturally referred to Song Changkong and Chen Changqing!

Lin Weiwei was never one to disregard the bigger picture or act recklessly without thinking.

But now, seeing Bai Xiaosheng being squeezed by Song Changkong and his people, she felt infuriated.

If it were up to her, for Bai Xiaosheng's sake, she might indeed go through with it...

"But we can't speak like that, Assistant Lin!"

Gao Dazhi hastily interrupted, speaking in a low voice with insufficient conviction, "There will be a way to resolve this, there has to be a way. Don't disrupt the department; don't disrupt the company..."

Gao Dazhi's voice trailed off.

His words were clearly another form of pressure, urging Bai Xiaosheng to bow his head to Song Changkong and Chen Changqing.

Only by bowing his head could the greater good be preserved, but how low should he bow to quell the situation was something even Gao Dazhi dared not contemplate...

"Director Gao, what do you mean by this, are you suggesting Mr. Bai..." Lin Weiwei exclaimed indignantly.

In her view, after Bai Xiaosheng had done so much for the Film and Television Department, it was abominable for Gao Dazhi to expect him to sacrifice his dignity.

"Enough, Weiwei!" Bai Xiaosheng said sternly.

Lin Weiwei looked at him with concern, and Gao Dazhi's face showed a hint of guilt as he too watched Bai Xiaosheng.

In their view, the other party's move was ruthless, an attack that forced Bai Xiaosheng into an impasse as soon as it was launched.

Bai Xiaosheng had only three choices.

Either to remain defiant to the end!

But taking a hard stance on so many issues, the other party will surely report directly to the group. A domineering and authoritarian vice president, the group will definitely not sit idly by!

Perhaps pick and choose one's battles, make some concessions!

But there's no telling if the other side will keep nitpicking, and their future work will be in jeopardy, always treading on thin ice and unable to act freely.

Or... bow down and submit!

But once you bow down, will the other side let you go? To what extent must you submit before the other party is satisfied? No one can say for sure!

All three paths are so difficult that Gao Dazhi and Lin Weiwei are at their wits' end.

However, Bai Xiaosheng remained calm, even a faint smile on his face, as if he felt none of the difficulty of his situation.

"Don't worry, leave this matter to me. In three days, it won't be a problem anymore," Bai Xiaosheng said confidently, his composure exerting a powerful magic that involuntarily soothed Gao Dazhi and Lin Weiwei.

Gao Dazhi and Lin Weiwei took their leave.

After closing the door, Bai Xiaosheng sauntered back to his seat, a smile spreading across his face.

"Song Changkong, Chen Changqing, I must admit, you've done well this time. It's just that you acted a bit late; I've been getting impatient!"

...

In the New Media and Film departments, anxiety is now rampant.

There are no walls that can keep secrets forever, and the news of Personnel, Administration, Finance, Logistics, Security, and several other departments causing trouble at the same time spread.

Amidst the shock, there was much discussion.

"Why is this happening at such a critical time? Why are all those departments making trouble for us at once!"

"Those issues are not just new, they've been there for a long time and they didn't speak up. Now that we're all insanely busy, they come out to stir trouble. What's the meaning of this!"

"Exactly, if they're not dealt with before, just handle them later. Interrupting us at this moment is practically deadly!"

"They never dealt with them before and it wasn't a problem, bringing them all up at once now is clearly picking on us!"

Some began discussing the "real truth."

"These things are not simple, all happening at the same time, it's not just targeting our department, but also targeting Mr. Bai."

"Are you suggesting Song... Maybe! Mr. Bai has been too prominent and offended both of them, wouldn't they look for trouble!"

"Even if it's targeting Mr. Bai, this is too much. It's completely disregarding the life or death of the department!"

"Shush, keep your voice down! Alas, this time it's clear they're going after you, and it's all within their rights; I'm afraid Mr. Bai is out of options!"

"Yeah, what can Mr. Bai do this time..."

People in the two departments were incredibly anxious and worried.

...

Besides the Film and New Media departments, other departments heard the rumors and discussed them too.

Some people, especially those in the Gaming department, even took pleasure in the misfortune of others.

"I wonder what Mr. Bai will do this time. Will he still defend his subordinates? Those problems stem from the system, if he blatantly covers for them, heh heh..."

"This time, Mr. Bai is also helpless, let's just wait and watch the joke unfold, ha ha..."

Sneers and jeers echoed from every corner.

...

In the general manager's office, Chen Changqing and Song Changkong were drinking tea together, satisfaction written all over their faces.

Within a day, they'd cornered Bai Xiaosheng into a desperate situation, how could they not be pleased!

Chapter 386: Mr. Bai, Losing Appetite for Food and Drink_1

"This time, thanks to Mr. Jiuzheng's suggestion! Bai Xiaosheng, I think even he will be at his wit's end this time," Song Changkong said with a smile as he cradled a teacup in his hands, his face beaming with pleasure.

Ever since this Bai Xiaosheng had come to Zhongjing Media, he had never given Song a moment of peace.

To this day, it had been almost three months, but in Song's eyes, it felt as though Bai had been there for ages.

Living a year within a single day, it was exactly this kind of situation!

Now, this thorn in his flesh, this pain in his eyes, had finally tasted defeat!

Between the smiles of Song Changkong, his gaze carried a hint of sharpness.

Just this once, if he could suppress Bai Xiaosheng, then let him be like a monkey trapped under Five Fingers Mountain, never to turn over a new leaf!

In the past few days, Song Changkong had put himself in Bai Xiaosheng's shoes, trying to come up with a strategy, resulting in complete lack of good tactics!

This trap was splendid.

Once in, there's no thinking of coming out!

"He's definitely at a loss. What do you think Bai Xiaosheng will choose in the end, a tough stance or to compromise? This time, how long can he hold on before making a decision?" Chen Changqing revealed a row of pearly white teeth and smiled ominously.

He was more comfortable than Song Changkong.

This Bai Xiaosheng had been a dark cloud in his heart for a long time; seeing the coming of a clear sky, how could he not be happy?

"Has that kid ever given in? Hmph, I actually hope he stays tough against us to the end. However, I think he will 'selectively toughen up'!" Song laughed coldly.

Chen Changqing nodded in agreement.

Song's judgment almost completely aligned with his.

With his understanding of Bai Xiaosheng, he was eighty percent likely to do just that.

"The next phase is already prepared. No matter how he decides to sacrifice the pawn to save the chariot, the result will be the same. We'll make him step by step lose everything!" Chen Changqing snorted coldly.

Song Changkong silently chuckled coldly.

...

For two consecutive days, Bai Xiaosheng hid in his office, ostensibly dealing with affairs.

Gao Dazhi, Lin Weiwei, and the staff from both major departments were all eagerly waiting for Mr. Bai to be as domineering as ever, or to take an unorthodox approach, to chop these problems up like cutting melons and vegetables, wiping them out completely.

However, to their disappointment, Bai Xiaosheng was indeed dealing with these troubles. But the dozen or so problems under his arranging – those that needed to be reported to the company were reported, those that needed to be appealed were appealed, were all going through the very ordinary and official channels.

Such explanations and appeals were easily blocked by the departments with a simple tactic: delaying.

For two days, it seemed Bai Xiaosheng had no solutions...

Not only did he show no effective action on these issues, but he even stopped making his usual rounds, his rare appearances showing him with an exhausted face, somewhat haggard, with greasy and unkempt hair.

All these, once heard by Song Changkong and Chen Changqing, naturally filled them with immense satisfaction.

There was also one other person who was absolutely thrilled, almost to the point of wanting to run around cheering – Lin Beichen.

This Mr. Lin, who had the title of supervisor but none of the authority, was just passing his days in the gaming department. Now, it was as if he saw a glimmer of hope, his days filled with joy.

He scurried about, spreading "rumors" in every corner of the company.

Now, the entire company was buzzing about this affair, and more than half of the inside stories were spread by him.

Of course, Song Changkong and Chen Changqing wouldn't actually disclose anything to him; much of it was Lin's own fabrication and embellishment...

However, because Lin Beichen followed Chen Changqing closely, benefitting from his proximity, people believed his inside stories...

Finally, Lin Beichen found the elevated status he had been longing for, surrounded and eagerly awaited by everyone, thus he worked even harder...

Two days later, at noon.

Bai Xiaosheng was in the office, leisurely sipping tea from a cup he held in his hands.

Lin Weiwei carefully knocked and entered, bringing him lunch in a food container.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng looking haggard, she also felt some heartache.

Rumors were flying outside that Bai Xiaosheng was about to face misfortune, causing two departments to suffer alongside him. Mockery and schadenfreude were incessant, and Lin Weiwei went from anger to a numbness of having no solution. Now, all she could do was to take good care of Bai Xiaosheng.

At the moment, much of the work in both departments had ground to a halt, and the staff were nervous and uneasy.

"Xiaosheng, today I brought your favorite roast duck, fried eggs, and grape cake. Eat up!" Lin Weiwei said with a forced smile.

These past two days, Bai Xiaosheng had seemed haggard, and he was even eating less.

"No need, I'm not hungry. I haven't even digested breakfast yet. You take it away," Bai Xiaosheng said, feigning nonchalance with a smile towards her.

Lin Weiwei looked at his weary smile, still warm, and felt a pang of sorrow.

"I'll leave it here, you must eat. Everything will get resolved!" Lin Weiwei insisted.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at her warmly and smiled.

He hadn't left the house in two days, relying entirely on Lin Weiwei to deal with the department's assorted affairs. The young girl was silently persevering, and she too had grown noticeably more wan.

Lin Weiwei set down the food container and quietly left.

She herself hardly had time to eat, making do with bread, incessantly busy with work, all so Bai Xiaosheng could rest a bit more.

"Weiwei is a good comrade indeed," Bai Xiaosheng yawned and remarked.

He looked at the food container, sniffed the aroma, and couldn't help but swallow his saliva. Ultimately, he resisted the temptation, walked over to the door to lock it from the inside, and then returned to his seat to take out a key and open his drawer.

In Mr. Bai's drawer, there weren't any confidential documents, just biscuits and cans of food.

Bai Xiaosheng, while gazing at the food container and smelling its fragrance, stuffed biscuits into his mouth vigorously, and couldn't help but bitterly laugh, "I've got to play the part thoroughly, can't eat, can't eat. Got to let them see I'm already at the point where I've lost all interest in food... Damn it, that roast duck smells so good. I'll sneak a couple bites later, just a couple!"

Bai Xiaosheng felt somewhat aggrieved.

Lin Weiwei was too kind to him, bringing so much delicious food, yet for him, it was sheer torture.

He hadn't washed his hair in the past two days and had downloaded a game at home, playing until midnight every night.

It was all to create this haggard appearance.

"Song Changkong, Chen Changqing, each one of them a slick operator. If I had gone to them right away, I would definitely have been suspected!" Bai Xiaosheng finished the biscuits and carefully rinsed his mouth.

"But now, it's about time!" Bai Xiaosheng revealed a smile, "The groundwork has been laid. It's time to go for a talk! This domineering deputy general manager of mine is about to show a submissive side before everyone for the first time!"

Actually, these past two days had not been entirely bad; there were unexpected gains as well.

Due to the difficulties caused by Song Changkong and Chen Changqing, Bai Xiaosheng, while dealing with those major troublesome matters, had actually gained quite a few points—more than five, in fact.

At the moment, he was a deputy general manager with eighty points, just twenty points shy of general manager level.

"Thanks for your help, so please help me one more time, let me level up quickly!"

After talking to himself, Bai Xiaosheng pulled open the office door, his expression serious. He straightened his clothes and, under the silent gaze of his colleagues, headed straight for the elevator to go to Song Changkong's office.

Lin Weiwei came back to Bai Xiaosheng's office, only to see the food container nearly untouched, and she couldn't help but feel upset.

"This time, he hardly touched it again. If this continues, what are we to do..."

Mr. Bai, with a complete loss of appetite.

The entire department knew it...

Chapter 387 This is my second condition_1

Zhongjing Media, outside the General Manager's Office.

Assistant Song was instructing the secretary, when suddenly he heard her say in a low voice, "Assistant Song, Mr. Bai has arrived!"

Assistant Song turned his head to look.

Sure enough, someone was walking this way from afar, it was Bai Xiaosheng.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng, Assistant Song couldn't help but feel emotional.

How spirited he had been once, yet now what had he become, his expression haggard, his hair greasy.

The only thing unchanged was his aura which lingered, his steps were still steady, and a trace of his former smile remained on his face.

Alas, such a pity for Mr. Bai...

It was all because his edges were too sharp, having offended both of his colleagues...

Assistant Song felt a pang of emotion, waved his hand to dismiss the secretary, and then took a few steps forward with a smile.

After all, Bai Xiaosheng was still a vice president, and proper etiquette was essential.

"Mr. Bai, you've arrived," Assistant Song greeted with a smile.

"Is Mr. Song in? I have something to discuss with him," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

"Oh yes, he is in," nodded Assistant Song, leading Bai Xiaosheng over and knocking on the office door for him.

Bai Xiaosheng gave him a smile, thanked him, and pushed the door open to enter.

"He's still so polite, a much better manner than that Mr. Chen... It's such a pity!" Assistant Song said with a tinge of regret.

...

Song Changkong was dealing with affairs when he heard five knocks on the office door. Judging by the rhythm, he knew it was his assistant, without giving it much thought.

But when he looked up, he was surprised to see Bai Xiaosheng walking in.

The sight of Bai Xiaosheng made him sigh.

Although he had heard the news that the proud and stubborn Mr. Bai had locked himself in his office for two days, so distraught that he lost his appetite, seeing him in person was a different matter entirely.

Song Changkong thought that even if he had been working on affairs for two days straight with no rest, he wouldn't have ended up like this.

It was definitely out of mental exhaustion!

"Mr. Song," Bai Xiaosheng managed a weak smile, greeting him.

Much more polite!

Song Changkong felt a hint of satisfaction, but his face showed utter surprise as he even got up to greet him, "Mr. Bai, how did you end up like this? Come on, have a seat!"

Song Changkong even poured a cup of tea for Bai Xiaosheng and placed it beside him, then sat down across from him, his expression full of concern, "What happened to you, this... is work weighing you down too much?"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and shook his head, "Mr. Song, I'm fine. I came to talk to you about some work matters."

Is it about those issues...

Song Changkong sneered inside, but his face showed a bit of difficulty as he mused, "Mr. Bai, if it's about those issues... you know, without rules, there is no square, and regulations are crucial for a company to enhance its core competitiveness and promote its development..."

Song Changkong started to recite company policies to Bai Xiaosheng.

If Bai Xiaosheng insisted, he was ready to mention that the whole company was undergoing strict rectification, and other departments were also facing penalties.

This was indeed true, but other departments were only facing one or two minor penalties that were neither here nor there, nothing like the intense and lethal ones the Film and New Media departments were facing.

"I'm not here to talk about the Film or New Media departments with you."

Song Changkong had only started reciting the company policy when he was stopped short by Bai Xiaosheng's comment.

"Not those two departments?" Song Changkong was taken aback.

Then why had Bai Xiaosheng come, what did he have to discuss with him.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and pulled out a stack of printed papers from the folder he had brought, handing them to Song Changkong.

"Please, have a look at this first."

Song Changkong took them with a puzzled look.

"'Intentional Job-Transfer Application System,' employee version?" Song Changkong read out in astonishment, looking at Bai Xiaosheng with surprise.

Bai Xiaosheng gestured for him to continue reading.

Song Changkong said nothing and silently read on.

After a quick glance through, he understood.

The system was a job-transfer system.

However, it wasn't up to the leadership to decide, but rather according to the employees' wishes, allowing them to transfer across departments. As long as they submitted an expression of interest and completed a set of evaluations as per process, and then passed the probation period, they would be assessed by employees, managers, and directors of the receiving department to finally make the transfer.

The entire process was meticulously detailed, perfectly thorough, almost considering every possible scenario!

As Song Changkong browsed through it, any doubts that emerged in his mind found their corresponding answers.

This impressed him greatly.

"What is this?" Song Changkong looked towards Bai Xiaosheng.

"Our company has over a dozen major departments and more than a thousand employees – a veritable treasure trove of talent. Many of them are versatile, and other departments sometimes even borrow staff," explained Bai Xiaosheng. "There are many employees who have a liking for other departments, other jobs, and who also have the ability. But, unfortunately, it's very difficult for them to transfer. If they do, it's arranged by the higher-ups, perhaps not willingly. All these cause a mental slack in our employees and also a waste of talent. Therefore, I think we can explore cross-departmental, voluntary transfers in batches to unearth talent and boost enthusiasm! The specific process is all inside; there's no need for me to elaborate further."

Song Changkong flipped through it.

Indeed, the system had even accounted for various potential problems and chaos that might arise and how to resolve them – like a manual that needed no brainstorming, just follow-through to succeed!

The inspiration for Bai Xiaosheng's system came from Yang Qian'er, a talent in acting that was inadvertently discovered by him, receiving a very high score from the system.

If there could be just ten Yang Qian'ers out of the company's thousand-plus employees, that would be enough for him!

Although Bai Xiaosheng could not constantly discover new talents by himself, the system could!

The system would continue to function, incessantly discovering new talents, and Bai Xiaosheng would accordingly keep racking up points!

At the very least during his time at Zhongjing Media, he would be able to continuously acquire points!

This was also confirmed with Red Lotus by Bai Xiaosheng.

"As I see it, this still seems a bit... mystical," Song Changkong chuckled lightly.

Bai Xiaosheng was proposing this system, which he was worried would cause chaos, and he had no wish to try it.

"Therefore, it is a trial system, with a limitation on initial numbers and preliminary screening that won't affect regular work," Bai Xiaosheng replied.

Song Changkong remained noncommittal, inwardly disdainful.

Bai Xiaosheng was like a clay Bodhisattva crossing the river – barely able to save himself, yet he still had the mind to devise these schemes.

Although he couldn't see what benefits Bai Xiaosheng stood to gain, the risks alone were enough for him not to agree. If chaos ensued, who would be responsible?

This wouldn't be Bai Xiaosheng's countermeasure against us, would it?

Song Changkong grew wary.

"Mr. Song, do you remember that before negotiating with Kelson, you agreed to two conditions with me?" Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, "This is the second condition!"

Song Changkong was startled.

How could he have forgotten about that...

Bai Xiaosheng had mentioned it at the time – so this system wasn't a recent spur-of-the-moment thought, not a temporary countermeasure.

Song Changkong hesitated.

There was a hint of a smile in the depths of Bai Xiaosheng's eyes; he hadn't insisted on this to have Song Changkong agree, it was merely meant to dispel Song Changkong's suspicions.

Next would come his, Mr. Bai, moment to perform dramatically! Bai Xiaosheng chuckled to himself inwardly.

Chapter 388: He's also a person of character, huh!_1

"Mr. Song!" Bai Xiaosheng called out in a deep voice.

His voice was filled with enthusiasm and sincerity.

Upon hearing this tone, Song Changkong was somewhat startled as he looked up. He saw Bai Xiaosheng, whose expression was utterly calm as he gazed intently at him, his eyes brimming with sincerity.

Could it be that Bai Xiaosheng was about to speak some heartfelt truths? Song Changkong thought to himself.

Indeed, that was the case.

"I, Bai Xiaosheng, was rash and impulsive in my youth, and I often acted without understanding the rules, which was bad, even wrong!" Bai Xiaosheng's demeanor was incredibly earnest, almost as if he was baring his soul, "But of all the things I have done, has there been even one thing that damaged the company's reputation, or harmed its interests?!"

"No!" Bai Xiaosheng answered his own question.

The response was forceful and resonant.

Even Song Changkong was involuntarily stirred.

"In your eyes, Mr. Song, I might just be a greenhorn, not yet married, without a family of my own. Yet I hold a high position and become the vice president of a major corporation like Zhongjing Media. I am content and grateful!"

Bai Xiaosheng looked into the distance, his eyes deep and shining with radiance.

Such words, such a look, were truly moving.

"I am not you, Mr. Song, and I don't dare to claim to have worked myself to the bone, but my heart is just like yours, Mr. Song; I wish the best for the company and want to contribute my modest efforts to it!"

Bai Xiaosheng declared passionately, pointing to the printed document on the table and asked forcefully, "You have read it, now let me ask you, is there any selfish intent in it, any bit of profiteering for Bai Xiaosheng!"

"No." Song Changkong was influenced by Bai Xiaosheng's momentum and couldn't help but answer.

"Good! I know you're afraid that this system will cause chaos, so let's do this, implement it in my name! If there's a problem, let the group blame me!" Bai Xiaosheng exclaimed as he patted his chest.

Song Changkong pondered.

This proposal wasn't bad at all!

It allowed him not to go back on his word, as well as to avoid any risks. If it turned out to be remarkably successful, the credit could still be his later on...

Moreover, Song Changkong was genuinely moved by Bai Xiaosheng's spirited speech.

With a righteous and powerful expression, and based on this alone, Song Changkong believed that those words were indeed from the heart.

"Mr. Song!" Bai Xiaosheng called out again, compelling Song Changkong to look at him involuntarily.

Bai Xiaosheng's expression had a trace of remorse, a trace of sorrow, along with a sense of determination.

"I, Bai Xiaosheng, with neither virtue nor ability, am in charge of the company's two most crucial departments. I should have been diligent but became complacent and failed to recognize and solve their problems, leading to numerous issues, for which the company has penalized me."

Was he finally approaching this topic?

Song Changkong quickly focused, prepared for how Bai Xiaosheng would handle this matter.

Whether Bai Xiaosheng pleaded for mercy or begged, he could not soften his heart.

Even if Bai Xiaosheng's words moved him, he must remain resolute, with no room for concession!

As Song Changkong was on guard, a subtle, undetectable scorn flickered deep within Bai Xiaosheng's complex gaze.

He was about to play his trump card!

"Please implement this system in my name, put it into trial for one year, I will bear the responsibility! I want to see the system benefit the company! From the day the system is implemented, I will relinquish control of the New Media Department and the Film and Television Department!" Bai Xiaosheng exclaimed fiercely.

These words were like a bolt from the blue, and Song Changkong almost jumped up!

Bai Xiaosheng was offering to give up his power voluntarily!

This was simply unthinkable!

Song Changkong couldn't help but wonder if he had misheard, as he looked at Bai Xiaosheng, who was utterly serious and firm.

It was clear—

He was not joking!

He was serious!

He would rather give up power, willing to take all the risks, just for the trial of this system, just for the good of the company!

In that moment, Song Changkong truly experienced a flood of emotions, and even felt a touch of movement.

This nearly selfless Bai Xiaosheng, made him helplessly think of himself, of the past when he had strived for the company, for his career.

People view themselves with a beautifying eye, often subconsciously elevating their own worth.

If it's particularly severe, it's called narcissism.

Ordinary people, tend to have a bit of it.

It's my belief that even saints can't avoid this human trait...

Song Changkong's sentiments from his younger days were completely ignited by Bai Xiaosheng's passionate cries.

"Good!"

Song Changkong slammed the table, emotionally looking at Bai Xiaosheng, "Mr. Bai, I've seen your sincerity! Then, I'll make an exception this time, allow you to manage your department, and try out the system for one year! If it succeeds, Mr. Bai, you will be remembered in the history of Zhongjing Media!"

Song Changkong agreed!

"Thank you! Thank you!" Bai Xiaosheng was extremely grateful, his eyes slightly moist with tears.

A man may shed tears but not in a light manner, only when truly moved! And I, it seems, am similar...

Song Changkong was also greatly moved, even with some regrets, thinking that if Bai Xiaosheng had stood with him with this attitude from the beginning, united in mind and spirit, it never would have come to this!

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes brimmed with tears, yet he couldn't help but laugh to himself.

This old fox Song Changkong might seem moved, but just listen to his words. He clearly emphasized that I must return power and also take on the risks associated with the trial period of the system.

There is no one as cunning as him in existence!

Bai Xiaosheng reflected.

Fortunately, during this time, he had been consistently using the system's third assist to analyze the micro-expressions of people around him, while he himself also continuously speculated on what kinds of emotions should produce which expressions and outbursts. This allowed him to act as if it were real; otherwise, it would not be so easy to deceive the old fox, Song Changkong.

...

"What about Mr. Chen, will he agree?"

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help asking, "I'm also very sorry to Mr. Chen; I think he is more talented than me, more suitable to lead the department."

"I have the final say on the system," Song Changkong couldn't help but slap his chest in assurance, looking at Bai Xiaosheng's haggard face with a bit of pity, "Don't worry, Mr. Bai. I heard you've lost your appetite lately, you should eat more!"

"Thank you!" Bai Xiaosheng gave a grateful smile, stood up, and took his leave.

Song Changkong, on rare occasions, escorted him all the way to the door.

Outside the door, Assistant Song stared at the two bosses shaking hands and having a friendly chat, visibly puzzled.

Since when had these two gotten along so well...

Assistant Song didn't understand.

Song Changkong watched Bai Xiaosheng leave, then turned and returned to his office.

In less than ten minutes, Chen Changqing arrived.

After listening to a detailed description from Song Changkong, Chen Changqing thought it through; the plan was feasible, and there was no risk on their side.

Although he didn't believe Bai Xiaosheng's lies, as long as Bai Xiaosheng agreed to let go of his department's jurisdiction and tried out the system, he was also in agreement!

"Alright, then it's settled!" Seeing Chen Changqing's agreement, Song Changkong immediately affirmed the decision.

After that, he added one more comment.

"This Bai Xiaosheng, he truly is a man of passion too!"

Chapter 389 Incredible News_1

Bai Xiaosheng walked back towards his office, a completely changed man.

Although his complexion was still haggard, a smile had returned to his face, carrying an air of relief.

As he greeted people along the way, there was a lightness in his step.

"What happened to Mr. Bai? Why does he seem rejuvenated?"

"Just now, I saw him take the elevator to Mr. Song's floor..."

"Mr. Bai saw Mr. Song? It looks like there's going to be a turnaround for us here!"

"Really? That's such great news!"

The staff buzzed excitedly behind the scenes.

Although the new media department sympathized with Bai Xiaosheng, harmony was prized above all, and work had to be done. If issues could be resolved peacefully, everyone was relieved.

Lin Weiwei received the news and hurried back to the office.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng again, Lin Weiwei felt the rumors were true – he had regained some of his old vigor.

"Xiaosheng, you saw Mr. Song. Is everything resolved?" Lin Weiwei couldn't help but ask.

"Weiwei, let's not talk about that now!" Bai Xiaosheng looked at her seriously, then suddenly revealed an amusing expression, "Is our lunch still there? Is the roasted duck still there? Hurry and bring it to me, I'm starving!"

Lin Weiwei was taken aback, then smiled warmly.

This was indeed the Bai Xiaosheng who had "come back"!

"I'll go heat it up right away!" Lin Weiwei called out.

These past few days, she had always saved their lunch, worried that Bai Xiaosheng might get hungry without food available.

The department had an oven and microwave, categorized separately, for heating up meals. Although the taste might be slightly off, it was still delicious!

Ten minutes later, Lin Weiwei brought over the food container.

Bai Xiaosheng, like a hungry wolf, snatched it and devoured the food, his face glistening with grease, an expression of utter bliss.

Lin Weiwei watched, a knowing smile on her face.

After eating his fill, Bai Xiaosheng finally took a deep breath and said with satisfaction, "Alive, I feel alive again!"

Lin Weiwei cleaned up the dishes and turned around to bring Bai Xiaosheng a cup of coffee and a cup of tea.

From Bai Xiaosheng returning to the department, to her heating up the food, to him finishing eating, to her cleaning up, and then to serving coffee and tea.

All this took about thirty to forty minutes.

When Lin Weiwei brought over the tea and coffee, she found Bai Xiaosheng smiling at his computer screen with focused attention.

It seemed he was reading something.

"Xiaosheng, did you go to see Mr. Song?" Lin Weiwei could not help but bring up the topic again.

"Mm," Bai Xiaosheng nodded without taking his eyes off the screen.

"Is everything sorted out?" Lin Weiwei asked again.

"Mm," Bai Xiaosheng nodded again.

"How was it resolved?" Lin Weiwei continued.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't just nod this time, instead, he looked up at her with a smile and said, "You'll find out soon enough."

Still playing coy!

Lin Weiwei, unfazed, gave him a playful glare and pouted, "Fine, I won't ask. I'm going to get back to work!"

She had been busy preparing food for Bai Xiaosheng, and in fact, she had a stack of tasks waiting for her.

"Go on," Bai Xiaosheng smiled at her.

As Lin Weiwei turned and was about to step out, Bai Xiaosheng's voice suddenly came from behind her.

"Weiwei, if you could freely choose any lateral position within the company, where would you like to go?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

Lin Weiwei paused, then smiled.

How could this be possible, the company isn't her family's property, and she still expects to go wherever she wants?

However...

Lin Weiwei turned her head, quietly looked at Bai Xiaosheng, smiled, and softly said, "To be your assistant."

...

This girl!

After Lin Weiwei had left, Bai Xiaosheng still smiled, gazing at the doorway for a moment before turning his attention back to the computer screen.

On it were two draft notifications.

Just a moment ago, Song Changkong had sent them to him, asking him to take a look.

The content was about what Bai Xiaosheng had discussed with Song Changkong not long before, that he would be returning the management rights of two departments and taking full responsibility for the new policy—"Intention Transfer Application System (Employee Version)"

The OA system emitted a beeping alert.

Song Changkong sent a message, "Mr. Bai, see if there is anything that needs adjusting, once finalized, I'll announce it today."

Song Changkong seemed rather impatient...

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, placed both hands on the keyboard, and deftly typed a line.

"Mr. Song, I've looked it over—everything is perfect! Thank you for giving me this opportunity to contribute yet again to the company!"

Between the lines, Bai Xiaosheng's genuine feelings shone through.

In reality, however, the corner of his mouth curled into a contented smile.

After hitting enter, the message sent, and Song Changkong sent back a satisfied emoji.

This matter was settled!

Meanwhile.

In the Director's office of the Administration Department.

Gao Dazhi was holding the Administration Director's feet to the fire, insisting that he revoke an administrative penalty.

"Old Zhao, I've submitted the application, explained everything that needed explaining, clarified all that needed clarifying; if you still don't understand, I can explain it to your face now, clearly and plainly. How much more do you want! Everything else can wait, but this matter really can't be delayed. I'm begging you, can you do this for me?!"

"Old Gao, just wait a little longer, huh?" The Administration Director just kept repeating this one plea.

Gao Dazhi was getting frantic.

"We've always had a good relationship! I've been talking to you for almost an hour, my throat is dry, I'm nearly smoking at the mouth! Wait... don't stall me with waiting, I can't wait anymore!" Gao Dazhi made a scene.

The Administration Director was torn between laughter and tears.

This Gao Dazhi was completely frantic, losing his senses.

Wasn't it obvious what was happening here? Was it the director himself who wanted to drag this out?

"Are you really dumb or just pretending!" Normally, the Administration Director had a good relationship with Gao Dazhi, and finally, he couldn't help himself, lowering his voice and said, "This matter, it's no use telling me! Your department is under Mr. Bai's charge, as for me personally, would I dare to make it difficult for you over such a trivial issue? That's like pulling a tiger's whiskers! Even if I had the guts, I wouldn't dare; everyone knows Mr. Bai protects his own, have I not seen what happened to Lin Beichen! Your department, and that new media department, with all its ongoing issues—you don't understand what's going on? This is from above, if you want to resolve it, go find him..."

The Administration Director pointed his finger toward the ceiling, the layer above where Song Changkong's office was located.

"Don't I know that! Do you think I dare to find him, I'd only dare to find you!" Gao Dazhi replied annoyed, "It's not that I don't understand, it's you who doesn't. By harping on for so long, I'm telling you, on the surface this doesn't conform to the rules, but there's more to it. If you knew, then without lifting a finger, you could leave a gap, just enough for us to continue—Isn't that enough..."

So that's what you were getting at!

The Administration Director was both amused and exasperated, confiding in Gao Dazhi with difficulty, "Old Gao, it's not that I don't want to help you; do you think the big boss is a fool? They'll see through your little maneuvers in a minute, and then I will be the one to get the boot! No, this is non-negotiable!"

"Hey, I really...I still have to talk to you!" Gao Dazhi gave it his all, ready to annoy him to death.

The Administration Director's computer made a beeping sound, and he went back to check, "Stop wasting my time, I have plenty of other matters to attend to. Look, Mr. Song has sent another notification..."

The Administration Director glanced at the screen and suddenly froze in shock, his eyes wide and mouth agape.

"Why have you stopped talking, playing dumb now? What notification has..." Gao Dazhi took a look, and in an instant, he too was stunned.

"Damn it!"

The two directors cursed in unison.

It really was a shocking piece of news!

Chapter 390 I Just Want to be Your Assistant_1

Lin Weiwei was in the employee area of the New Media Department, taking requests one after another and arranging work methodically.

She was Bai Xiaosheng's executive assistant. During Bai Xiaosheng's "door-closed" period, she was responsible for handling various affairs.

Now, Lin Weiwei had grown to a point where she earned the admiration of all the managers, able to come up with reasonable responses in the shortest possible time for all matters.

Even in such a period of widespread unease, many veteran managers were somewhat flustered, but she remained calm and unshaken.

Just on the strength of this composure alone, Lin Weiwei was truly worthy of being the deputy assistant!

At this time, the New Media Department was facing "difficulties" from several other departments, but Lin Weiwei was able to find alternative paths to keep things going, albeit with difficulty, yet still making progress that impressed all department staff.

As Lin Weiwei was handling a problem, she suddenly heard someone shouting recklessly, "Move aside, everyone get out of the way!"

To make such a racket in the office area was simply improper!

Especially at a time like this, when people's hearts were already in turmoil, such noise was disruptive to everyone's work!

Lin Weiwei's expression darkened, her eyes flashing with sharpness and anger.

She frowned as she looked over, and was about to scold the person, when she suddenly saw who it was.

Lin Weiwei was stunned.

The person running over like the wind, shouting loudly, was Gao Dazhi!

The dignified head of the Film and Television Department, a person who was always so steady, now looking like a madman, running and utterly disregarding his image.

What could have happened...

"There's been an accident!"

Lin Weiwei was startled and hurriedly left the crowd surrounding her, stepping forward quickly to meet him.

Gao Dazhi had run all the way here, his face filled with panic and anxiety, dripping with sweat.

From the Administrative Department to the New Media Department, except for taking the elevator, he had run all the way.

Gao Dazhi was in his fifties this year and was no longer young. Even his regular neglect of exercise due to immersing himself in work, coupled with poor physical health and high levels of cholesterol, blood pressure, and blood sugar, meant that running all this way was purely driven by sheer force of will.

Now, with Lin Weiwei intercepting him like this, Gao Dazhi's momentum faltered and he could run no more. He bent over, gasping for air, like a fish out of water, feeling as if his legs were filled with lead, trembling uncontrollably.

"Mr. Gao, what happened to you!" Lin Weiwei exclaimed, shocked, and called out to the people around her, "Water, someone get a glass of water!"

Someone immediately ran to get water and quickly brought it back. Gao Dazhi managed to even out his breathing a bit and, just as Lin Weiwei handed him the water, he took it and drank it in one gulp, feeling somewhat better.

"What's happened?!" Lin Weiwei asked, supporting him, alarmed.

Seeing how panicked Gao Dazhi was, running toward Bai Xiaosheng's office so unsteadily, Lin Weiwei couldn't help but become anxious herself.

Gao Dazhi glanced at her, then at the people around, hesitant to speak, then whispered to Lin Weiwei, "Let's go, help me to see Mr. Bai."

Lin Weiwei realized this was not the place to talk, and quickly helped Gao Dazhi, refusing other people's assistance, and hurried towards Bai Xiaosheng's office.

She knocked on the door and then pushed it open.

Upon seeing Bai Xiaosheng, Gao Dazhi seemed to come alive, agilely securing the door by locking it behind him.

This action startled Lin Weiwei.

Bai Xiaosheng was holding a teacup, his expression calm as he watched them.

"Mr. Bai, have you, have you seen the notice? What, what on earth is going on?" Turning back, Gao Dazhi asked Bai Xiaosheng in a panicky and bewildered manner.

In Gao Dazhi's eyes, Bai Xiaosheng was the one who had reformed the entire Film and Television Department with his personal ability and authority, ensuring its current success.

It could be said that Bai Xiaosheng had directed the department towards the ideals Gao Dazhi held, and even the key figures in the current hit TV series, Wenqing, Yang Qian'er, Zhao Xiaoying, Gao Ya, and even Shang Wanwan, were all unified by Bai Xiaosheng's efforts.

If Bai Xiaosheng didn't manage the Film and Television Department, he couldn't even begin to imagine what would happen!

In the Administration Department, Gao Dazhi saw two incredibly alarming notices that made him tremble with fear, unable to maintain his composure. He immediately left the Administration Director and that matter he was urgently dealing with and ran all the way here.

"I've seen the notice, and I knew about it even before it was issued," Bai Xiaosheng said with a calm smile. "Because it was I who proposed it to Mr. Song!"

"What!" Gao Dazhi exclaimed, his body swaying, nearly falling to the ground.

"What on earth is it, what notice?!" Lin Weiwei asked in shock.

She had a growing feeling that something was terribly wrong.

"Mr. Bai is going to return the management rights of the Film and Television Department and the New Media Department to the company!" Gao Dazhi said with some difficulty.

"What!" Lin Weiwei's eyes widened in disbelief.

Bai Xiaosheng was relinquishing power; this meant he was compromising with Song Changkong and Chen Changqing...

Although she was extremely reluctant to think so, the fact... seemed to be just that!

"Xiaosheng..." Lin Weiwei looked at Bai Xiaosheng in disbelief.

"Currently, these two departments are doing well, and a lot of work can't be stalled. If it stays in my hands, I'm afraid there will be even more trouble..."

Bai Xiaosheng smiled at them, "There are too many issues, and even if they could be solved, can the departments bear the delay? And in the future, will there be fewer troubles? It's for the sake of the departments and all of you that I'm returning the management rights – it's the only permanent solution!"

Bai Xiaosheng's words left Gao Dazhi and Lin Weiwei speechless.

This time, Bai Xiaosheng didn't choose to aggressively resist. He was completely doing it for everyone's sake!

A leader like him was rare!

Gao Dazhi felt his eyes moistening, overwhelmed with a sour, tearful feeling. He opened his mouth, wanted to say something, but ended up saying nothing.

In the end, Gao Dazhi bowed deeply to Bai Xiaosheng.

"Mr. Bai! On behalf of everyone, I thank you!"

Lin Weiwei's eyes reddened, and she bit her lower lip to keep herself from crying.

"Alright, alright, I'm just returning two departments, I haven't left; I'm still the vice president. You are acting as if it's a life-or-death farewell," Bai Xiaosheng laughed heartily, comforting them, "Also, Gao, you only mentioned one piece of news, what about the other? Haven't you told Weiwei?"

Lin Weiwei secretly wiped her eyes and looked at him.

"I have officially proposed a new system to the company, the Employee Requested Transfer System. Whatever position you want, at the same level, you can choose any, as long as you pass the probation and perform excellently. This is a system I created on my own, how about it, innovative, right?" Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

"Weiwei, didn't I ask you before? If you wanted to experience any position, now you can go for it—even across departments!" Bai Xiaosheng said.

"I only want to be your assistant!"

Lin Weiwei wiped her tears and showed Bai Xiaosheng a smile, "No matter whether you manage any departments or not, as long as you are here, I want to be your assistant!"

Lin Weiwei was resolute and determined.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at her quietly and suddenly smiled, "Alright!"

...

An hour later, the whole Zhongjing Media was shaken!

The reason was the release of two major notices on the internal network.

The first was that Bai Xiaosheng would return the management rights of the New Media Department and the Film and Television Department to the company!

The second was that Bai Xiaosheng would take full responsibility for a new system—the Employee Requested Transfer System!

These two pieces of news were like shocking waves and raging tsunamis, rapidly sweeping through every corner of the company, leaving people dumbstruck and in disbelief!