

Two Trillion 411

Chapter 411 Genuine Cooperation Talks_1

The welcome luncheon prepared for Wang Xincheng was orchestrated by Song Yiming.

Appetizers, cold dishes, dishes to accompany the drinks, main courses, dishes to go with the rice, soup, fruits, and desserts—all were present in full variety.

The pairing of dishes alone, by their colors and luster, stirred one's appetite, offering flavors that were fresh, sweet, sour, spicy, and aromatic.

It included both mountain delicacies and seafood, yet it did not come across as overly luxurious or vulgar.

Ordinary people often talk about "color, fragrance, and taste" when describing the appeal of dishes. But beyond "color, fragrance, and taste," there is another concept: "conception, form, and nourishment."

"Conception" refers to the artistic conception, where the dish's name echoes its ingredients and presentation; "form" is about the dish's presentation, the plating; and "nourishment," as the name suggests, is about health, with a balanced combination.

Song Yiming managed to pair the dishes rationally and comprehensively among the dozen or so dishes prepared.

This left Bai Xiaosheng secretly full of admiration.

Big affairs show one's skills. Small matters reveal one's standards.

From such a minor detail, Song Yiming indeed seemed quite remarkable.

Moreover, about the etiquette around the dining table, Song Yiming was extremely savvy, knowing exactly what to do and when, taking care of everyone with great attention to detail.

At the same time, he was also discreetly giving tips to Lin Weiwei.

Bai Xiaosheng was very satisfied with this.

It was good; had Song Yiming only been focused on showing off himself, ignoring Lin Weiwei's inadvertent mistakes as if they were nothing, Bai Xiaosheng would really have been somewhat disappointed in him.

The ability to help others was what Bai Xiaosheng appreciated the most.

The banquet proceeded, with toasts and laughter among the dishes.

Everyone ate and drank to their hearts' content, both guests and hosts alike.

Wang Xincheng was witty in conversation, sharing funny anecdotes and jokes from the workplace, which added lively interest to the gathering.

As the banquet drew to a close,

Chen Jiuzheng suddenly laughed heartily, a little tipsy, and said to Chen Changqing, "Changqing, take Mr. Bai's two assistants and the one Secretary Wang brought along out for a sit-down, maybe have a cup of tea. The three of us here have some matters to discuss."

No sooner had Chen Jiuzheng spoken than Bai Xiaosheng's eyes flickered ever so slightly.

Chen Changqing quickly got to his feet and glanced at the few attendants.

Song Yiming and Lin Weiwei, seeing Bai Xiaosheng's subtle nod, obediently excused themselves.

The young person brought by Wang Xincheng dawdled a bit, wiping their hands with a napkin and neatly folding it before finally standing up to leave.

Chen Changqing, walking last, shut the door of the private room carefully after exiting.

Now, in the private room, only Bai Xiaosheng, Wang Xincheng, and Chen Jiuzheng remained.

The soundproofing here was exceptionally good.

"Mr. Chen, you seem to have something to say, creating such mystery," Bai Xiaosheng chuckled.

A smile also spread across Chen Jiuzheng's face. The drunken haze that had been there vanished instantly, leaving him looking remarkably alert.

Wang Xincheng wasn't surprised at all. He knew Chen Jiuzheng's capacity for alcohol.

Wang Xincheng gave Bai Xiaosheng a look and joking said to Chen Jiuzheng, "Chen, just say what you want to say. After all, it's a time of good cheer at the wine table, and whatever is said, we'll listen. If it's serious, we take it seriously. If it's not meant for our ears, we just count it as drunken talk. Everyone listens, goes to sleep, and forgets about it."

Wang Xincheng was indeed slick.

Bai Xiaosheng inwardly acclaimed, true to his reputation as an old hand.

"What Secretary Wang said makes sense, Mr. Chen, feel free to speak your mind. After all, we don't have a stenographer here to jot down everything and make you sign off on it," Bai Xiaosheng half-seriously, half-jokingly said.

He had a premonition that what Chen Jiuzheng was about to say was no small matter!

"Since both of you have said as much, then I have no reservations. If I speak out of turn, just take it as drunken rambling. As for reporting up..."

Chen Jiuzheng laughed, "Since I dare to say it, we're not afraid. However, when the time comes, I will deny everything!"

With that, Chen Jiuzheng laughed heartily.

After the laughter, Chen Jiuzheng turned to Bai Xiaosheng with a look of open-hearted sincerity and earnestly said, "Mr. Bai, I'm not afraid to tell you, reaching my position as Chen Jiuzheng might seem like just one step up from the general manager, but it's a whole different ball game!

Don't think the group can just easily replace a subsidiary's general manager, but they would never easily mess with a provincial industrial head! Do you believe that!

After all, in the entire Greater China Region, there are only a few dozen people like me who are needed to hold up such a big operation!"

Chen Jiuzheng was reminding Bai Xiaosheng that he was not the same as Song Changkong; his position was very secure!

Bai Xiaosheng smiled faintly, nodding slightly while inwardly scoffing: The so-called 'hard to move' is only because no one tough enough has come along...

Wang Xincheng chuckled from the side, "Chen, I'll drop a line too. Don't treat me as just someone from the administration department at the dinner table. You can say whatever, and I guarantee it'll go in one ear and out the other, not a word will be reported. When Wang Xincheng says something, he stands by it!"

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at Wang.

"System third assistant, Micro Expression Analysis System (Intermediate) activated, starting the rapid snapshot mode of facial micro-expressions!"

...

"Analysis complete, the credibility of the counterpart's words is one hundred percent."

...

Bai Xiaosheng gave a slight smile.

Ever since the Micro Expression Analysis System upgraded, it's been much more useful. Not only can it precisely analyze a person's loyalty to oneself, but it can also snapshot a person's instant expressions and analyze them. It could produce results in no more than a second or two, which was very convenient.

In addition, the upgraded assistant could automatically adjust one's micro-expressions with precise control.

In the future, acting with others, I will definitely be master class! I must try it when I have the time, Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

There's no greater joy in an upgrade than this: having money, power, and an assistant. He felt his entire personal power level had been raised a notch.

...

"Wang, of course, I trust you. Otherwise, do you think I, Chen Jiuzheng, would dare to speak so recklessly?" Chen Jiuzheng laughed heartily.

After the laughter, Chen Jiuzheng fixed his gaze on Bai Xiaosheng and Wang.

"Gentlemen, what do you say we strive tirelessly in our careers for? What are we fighting for?" Chen Jiuzheng asked.

Bai Xiaosheng and Wang Xincheng looked at him calmly, knowing he had an answer in mind.

Sure enough—

"For career, for realizing one's own value?! For money, for identity, or is it for status?!"

Chen Jiuzheng smiled, "Regardless of what for, in the end, what ends up in your own hands is what counts. Look at Song Changkong; he worked diligently, but what does he have now! Isn't he driven out like a dog? Will the group spare him for his many years of service? No, right!"

Bai Xiaosheng and Wang Xincheng said nothing.

Chen Jiuzheng sighed, "That's why I say, the group is impersonal, and it's cruel, to put it nicely it is just, to put it harshly, it's cold-hearted. While working for the group, looking out for our own interests, without damaging the group's interests, is there anything wrong with that? Hmm? Is there?!"

At first listen, these words really do seem to have some "logic"?

But whether there is any real logic, Bai Xiaosheng truly didn't want to argue with him because it would be pointless.

Different concepts, different logics.

"Mr. Chen, be more straightforward, please. There's no need to beat around the bush," Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

"Refreshing!"

Chen Jiuzheng clapped his hands, "Then I'll take the liberty, Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, I want to discuss some cooperation with you! I wonder if you're agreeable!"

"And Secretary Wang, if possible, join us too!"

Chapter 412 What If I Disagree_1

Bai Xiaosheng and Wang Xincheng couldn't help but exchange glances.

This time, Chen Jiuzheng seemed to really open up, daring to say anything!

Even without outsiders around, he dared to speak of "planning cooperation" with a person from the affairs department, and with a head of an independent subsidiary!

Underneath Bai Xiaosheng's amazement, his heart stirred.

This Chen Jiuzheng seemed to have no fear!

He must have a stronger backing! To put it plainly, there was someone behind him!

Bai Xiaosheng was somewhat curious.

Wang Xincheng, however, was not surprised at all. He knew well the strength behind Chen Jiuzheng!

If that person were to step in, even if Chen Jiuzheng's current remarks were leaked, or if the disciplinary departments of the affairs department caught on, it wouldn't be a big deal!

...

After Chen Jiuzheng finished speaking, he looked at Bai Xiaosheng with an ambiguous smile. He mainly wanted to cooperate with Bai Xiaosheng; it all depended on whether Bai Xiaosheng would take the bait.

"Mr. Chen, how do you want to cooperate?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with a smile.

"Refreshing!" Chen Jiuzheng said with an appreciative look, smiling at Bai Xiaosheng, "Mr. Bai, the things I said just now weren't really about harming the interests of the group to line one's own pockets! I just

think that, both of us being in Anjiang, in Zhongjing, a distant relative is not as good as a near neighbor, so why not benefit each other?"

"Let me be frank!" Chen Jiuzheng said earnestly, "Becoming the Zhongjing Media General Manager is one thing, but to ascend higher from there is not easy! Do you know how many subsidiary companies there are in the Greater China Region? In one province, not to mention the small companies, there are no fewer than ten that can match Zhongjing Media's strength, and within the country, there are no less than three hundred, reaching three to four hundred across the entire Greater China Region. With so many general managers, to move up a step to my level, there are not so many positions available! Some people might just end up being general managers their whole lives, until they retire. However, there is a promotion system in the Greater China Region."

Chen Jiuzheng said this and glanced at Wang Xincheng.

Wang Xincheng nodded, adding, "The five-year performance review system!"

"This system is not simple. It examines not only the performance over five years but also all aspects of a general manager's capabilities. Only those who have been rated as excellent for five consecutive years and achieved a five-year Grand Slam can advance half a step to take a position in the affairs department. From the pool of excellent performers within the affairs department, only the top competitors will have a greater chance of becoming an industry head within a province!"

"Is that so?" Bai Xiaosheng said skeptically, "I used to know someone who bypassed all this and was promoted directly."

Bai Xiaosheng thought of Shang Wenshu, who seemed to be some provincial industry head and had been promoted very easily.

"Does Mr. Bai also know about the recent major reshuffle?" Chen Jiuzheng was not surprised and chuckled lightly, "Indeed there was a group of heads of subsidiaries who were reassigned like that not long ago, but that was due to the recommendation of the inspection group that happens once every six years, which is one year longer than the five-year major exam! Moreover, they were competing for one position against three others arranged by the affairs department within a six-month PK period, ultimately leaving only one principal and one deputy! Mr. Bai, do you think those who come up from the subsidiary companies have more of an advantage, or those who have experience in the affairs department before competing, who has more competitiveness?"

Bai Xiaosheng was speechless.

It seemed that Shang Wenshu's recent promotion was fraught with difficulties!

"It seems that the most secure path to promotion is indeed to get the excellent Grand Slam in the five-year performance reviews and move first to the affairs department!" Bai Xiaosheng said sincerely.

"These five years, you have to pass the assessments continuously. If there's a break in between, I am sorry, but you'll have to start all over again!"

Chen Jiuzheng also seemed quite emotional, "They say the college entrance exam these days is tough, but there's a chance every year. Now look at this... hehe!"

Wang Xincheng also couldn't help but sigh, nodding with emotion.

He had the most experience with it.

"Mr. Bai, if you cooperate with me, the group's industries in Anjiang Province will become a force to boost your performance. At the same time during the annual reviews, when it comes to voting, I can also pull a few votes for you. Don't underestimate these few votes; they can sway the final outcome!" Chen Jiuzheng said.

Wang Xincheng nodded, signaling that what Chen Jiuzheng said was true.

Bai Xiaosheng did not commit himself and looked at Chen Jiuzheng with a smile, "With such great benefits, I wonder if Mr. Chen has mentioned this to Song Changkong, and why he hasn't agreed?"

The greater the benefit, the greater the likely cost.

"Song Changkong is a cautious person, probably afraid of being discovered by the inspection team or the affairs department, hence he has not agreed,"

Chen Jiuzheng said, "This last year is his critical period, so he puts everything else aside. To secure the final vote, he's cooperating with Changqing, and as for you... hehe, of course, that's all in the past now."

Hardly!

Bai Xiaosheng simply didn't believe that Song Changkong refused just because he wanted to avoid any suspicion of bias.

Despite Chen Jiuzheng's control over many large and small enterprises, Zhongjing Media seemed to be the only one. However, the resources owned by Zhongjing Media were something those other companies did not have and desperately wanted!

Take advertising, for example; Chen Jiuzheng's enterprises could provide business for Zhongjing Media, but once they cooperated, there was a lot of money Zhongjing Media couldn't collect—they had to put in their own money instead.

On the other hand, by saving a large amount of money on advertising expenses, where these funds would ultimately go was something probably only Chen Jiuzheng knew.

Besides, there were other resources...

All at Chen Jiuzheng's disposal!

Especially this year, when Zhongjing Media started collaborating with Kelson in Europe, suddenly there were even more substantial resources available.

Moreover, a major IP television series was about to start filming.

A huge juicy piece of meat!

Song Changkong wasn't stupid; would he share such a great situation with others?

It probably wasn't that he dared not cooperate, but rather that old Song was extremely shrewd!

Bai Xiaosheng chuckled inwardly.

Did he look stupider than Song Changkong? If Song Changkong was reluctant to do something, would he agree?

"To put it bluntly, with our cooperation, I will make full use of resources to help you, Bai Xiaosheng, achieve five years of outstanding 'Grand Slams.' Ideally, within five years, I'll help you rise high. What you need to do is let us collaborate, which includes business and employee placement. I hope Mr. Bai, at the right time, would allow the talent I recommend to take up managerial and director positions at Zhongjing Media,"

Chen Jiuzheng laid out his plans for cooperation to Bai Xiaosheng.

A glimmer of light flickered in Bai Xiaosheng's eyes.

Not only coveting the meat of Zhongjing Media but also its bones, Chen Jiuzheng, you're formidable! You're a wolf, and I don't think it would take five years for my General Manager position to be hollowed out by your people, with Chen Changqing's support!

Bai Xiaosheng sneered inwardly.

It seemed his youthful appearance made Mr. Chen somewhat forgetful. He was the one who had even defeated Song Changkong!

Did he really think he was an easy-to-dupe youngster!

Bai Xiaosheng sighed inwardly.

The promotion and assistance offered by Chen Jiuzheng were indeed very tempting; another person might have been swayed, risking a pact with a tiger!

Bai Xiaosheng sighed inwardly again.

If it took him five years just to move up a half step, what was the point?

Chen Jiuzheng, after all, didn't know him well enough!

Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

"Mr. Bai, will you agree or not?!" Chen Jiuzheng pushed, seeing his expression.

"This proposal sounds quite appealing," Bai Xiaosheng said.

Chen Jiuzheng's face lit up with joy.

Unexpectedly, Bai Xiaosheng continued, "However, I just want to ask one thing."

"What if I don't agree?"

Chapter 413: Please Give Me Some Face!_1

Chen Jiuzheng's uninterrupted speech wasn't so spectacular it could dazzle the sky, but he also felt that this temptation, for a young person, would be hard to resist.

At least, it appeared so.

The difficulties and obstacles to promotion were indeed present.

Even Song Changkong only set his sights on becoming an Affairs Officer as his lifelong career pursuit.

Clearly, the challenges were extreme!

Chen Jiuzheng's narrative was entirely true; he wasn't afraid of Bai Xiaosheng investigating. Moreover, with Wang Xincheng nodding continuously by his side, it served as powerful corroboration, so credibility should be sufficient.

The road ahead was rough, and he offered Bai Xiaosheng a clear path for a day. Any normal person would want it, at the very least would consider it.

However, he discovered that Bai Xiaosheng, having listened, showed some emotional response, but after reflecting, acted as though he hadn't heard at all!

Even facing such an opportunity, without a second thought, he dismissed it with a laugh and said something, not as a discussion but more like a declaration—

"I don't want to cooperate!"

Chen Jiuzheng's brow furrowed in an instant, his expression becoming subtly displeased.

After wasting so much effort talking, Bai Xiaosheng didn't even consider it. What was he thinking?! Did he really believe that with Wang Xincheng's protection, he could ignore him?!

Up until now, Chen Jiuzheng still believed Bai Xiaosheng's backing was just Wang Xincheng, or at most... a senior Affairs Officer!

An Affairs Officer, he, Chen Jiuzheng, certainly couldn't compare.

But the person behind him was much more formidable than an Affairs Officer! He was by no means inferior to a senior Affairs Officer!

Chen Jiuzheng glanced at Wang Xincheng.

Wang Xincheng was also slightly surprised by Bai Xiaosheng's response.

To be honest, he naturally realized that what Chen Jiuzheng coveted was the entirety of Zhongjing Media, and there was indeed a risk that Bai Xiaosheng could be marginalized.

But with him here, as long as he was willing to speak up for Bai Xiaosheng, he believed that Chen Jiuzheng would give due respect for his sake and would not go back on his word.

But unexpectedly, without even considering it, Bai Xiaosheng was about to refuse outright?!

Wang Xincheng was surprised for a second but then grew more convinced that the person behind Bai Xiaosheng was no simple figure!

Towards Bai Xiaosheng, his eagerness to befriend him intensified.

"Mr. Bai, perhaps you have your own price," Chen Jiuzheng said half-jokingly to Bai Xiaosheng. "Why not bring it up? Since we're sitting down, let's be straightforward and have an open talk. It doesn't matter if you ask for the moon, at worst I can try to meet your demands."

He still bore the patience and displayed a willingness to talk.

Wang Xincheng also coughed and said to Bai Xiaosheng with a smile, "Mr. Bai, Mr. Chen here has said as much, showing sincere intent. In my view, regarding this matter, it won't harm the Group's interests, and you don't have to worry; we also support the subsidiaries under us to work together more. If you have any demands, just mention them. I am a few years older than you, I'll watch out for you."

Wang Xincheng thought his presence would make Bai Xiaosheng somewhat wary and promptly sought to dispel his concerns.

Chen Jiuzheng and Wang Xincheng both stared at Bai Xiaosheng, waiting for his response.

Bai Xiaosheng calmly looked at the two men, toying with a fine porcelain teacup imitating blue and white patterns, observing the tea leaves floating and sinking in the water, and said with a smile, "I won't hide it from you two, I've just taken over Zhongjing Media, and am not very familiar with many aspects of the situation. Perhaps cooperating might be too hasty."

Chen Jiuzheng furrowed his brows, then smiled, "Since Brother Bai feels that discussing cooperation immediately is too hasty, we can just talk about it in a few months' time, how does that sound?"

Chen Jiuzheng was offering the utmost goodwill.

This patience stemmed from his wariness of the mysterious and unpredictable power behind Bai Xiaosheng.

A power that was elusive upon investigation, yet undeniably real.

Whether it was handling Kevin or removing Song Changkong, that power couldn't be small!

But still, it wasn't so great as to surpass us!

Chen Jiuzheng was very confident.

After all, his family's power in the Greater China Region was only bested by the head of the Greater China Region.

Chen Jiuzheng didn't believe it. Could the person behind Bai Xiaosheng possibly be the General Manager of the Greater China Region himself? If that were true, there would be no need for Bai Xiaosheng to dawdle with Song Changkong!

It must be an Affairs Officer, and moreover, one with considerable status!

Chen Jiuzheng concluded.

Bai Xiaosheng let out a sigh.

He hadn't expected Chen Jiuzheng to be so persistent. Continuing to be vague was unproductive, and he was getting tired of being pestered by the man.

"I'll speak plainly, Mr. Chen, I have no intention of cooperating. I think the current situation is quite good!" Bai Xiaosheng made it clear.

This was an outright rejection!

Wang Xincheng looked disappointed but said nothing.

The fake smile on Chen Jiuzheng's face slowly faded.

"Bai Xiaosheng, Mr. Bai, I have been accommodating and yielding time and time again, which should sufficiently demonstrate my sincerity! I believe you've seen that! In terms of status, my position as the regional industry head is already quite condescending. Even so, it seems you're still unwilling to give me, Chen, the respect I'm due!" Chen Jiuzheng said coldly, causing even Wang Xincheng to frown slightly.

On one hand, Wang Xincheng felt that Chen Jiuzheng was being too aggressive in his presence; on the other hand, he thought Bai Xiaosheng was somewhat "naive," believing that it's always wise to leave a little room for maneuver for future dealings.

It was entirely possible to employ a stalling tactic, to negotiate slowly and properly, without tearing things apart from the get-go!

Wang Xincheng had no idea that Bai Xiaosheng had his reservations. Even if it were the General Manager of the Greater China Region, so what!

If he was unwilling, then he simply was unwilling!

The future President of Zhenbei Group needed to have such decisiveness. How else could he reach a higher level and compete with others?

"Since Mr. Chen has brought up the matter of face, fine! Then I, Bai Xiaosheng, also ask Mr. Chen to grant me this respect and not to bring up the matter of cooperation in the future! Thank you!"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled calmly, raising his glass, "Since today is all about the banquet, let's focus on drinking. Work matters are better left undiscussed!"

Bai Xiaosheng was firm in his stance, unyielding.

Chen Jiuzheng's eyes filled with indignation as he stared steadily at Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng took a sip of his drink, smiled lightly, and met his gaze.

In his eyes, calm and unafraid!

"Good, very good," Chen Jiuzheng acknowledged with a nod that seemed like admiration, but spoke in a cold voice, "I know you, Mr. Bai, have a substantial background, but you should also realize that there are always higher skies and greater people. Don't be too arrogant, lest you don't even know how you died in the end!"

Chen Jiuzheng was making an implicit threat.

"Mr. Chen! That's too much!" Wang Xincheng frowned, clinking his glass down sharply, and uttered in a low voice.

Although he was somewhat wary of the person backing Chen Jiuzheng, at this moment, he saw Bai Xiaosheng as a prospect for the future. When this prospect was threatened, he immediately spoke out. This was a gesture to show Bai Xiaosheng as well as to the leadership.

"Secretary Wang, I must excuse myself as I have other matters to attend to and cannot stay longer!"
Chen Jiuzheng stood up, gave Bai Xiaosheng a glance, snorted coldly, and strode away.

There was no point in staying seated any longer!

Bai Xiaosheng's expression remained unchanged, not even standing up, "No need to see me out!"

Such arrogance was unmatched!

Wang Xincheng silently sighed.

With a sullen face, Chen Jiuzheng left the private room, headed out on his own, and as he turned a corner, someone suddenly stopped him.

"Mr. Chen, don't hurry off, I have something to say to you."

The one who stopped him turned out to be the young secretary brought by Wang Xincheng!

Chen Jiuzheng eyed the young man skeptically, only then realizing that this young person had a penetrating gaze, profound and intense.

His heart stirred.

This young man was no simple character!

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Bai Xiaosheng took a sip of his drink, smiled lightly, and met his gaze.

In his eyes, calm and unafraid!

"Good, very good," Chen Jiuzheng acknowledged with a nod that seemed like admiration, but spoke in a cold voice, "I know you, Mr. Bai, have a substantial background, but you should also realize that there are always higher skies and greater people. Don't be too arrogant, lest you don't even know how you died in the end!"

Chen Jiuzheng was making an implicit threat.

"Mr. Chen! That's too much!" Wang Xincheng frowned, clinking his glass down sharply, and uttered in a low voice.

Although he was somewhat wary of the person backing Chen Jiuzheng, at this moment, he saw Bai Xiaosheng as a prospect for the future. When this prospect was threatened, he immediately spoke out. This was a gesture to show Bai Xiaosheng as well as to the leadership.

"Secretary Wang, I must excuse myself as I have other matters to attend to and cannot stay longer!" Chen Jiuzheng stood up, gave Bai Xiaosheng a glance, snorted coldly, and strode away.

There was no point in staying seated any longer!

Bai Xiaosheng's expression remained unchanged, not even standing up, "No need to see me out!"

Such arrogance was unmatched!

Wang Xincheng silently sighed.

With a sullen face, Chen Jiuzheng left the private room, headed out on his own, and as he turned a corner, someone suddenly stopped him.

"Mr. Chen, don't hurry off, I have something to say to you."

The one who stopped him turned out to be the young secretary brought by Wang Xincheng!

Chen Jiuzheng eyed the young man skeptically, only then realizing that this young person had a penetrating gaze, profound and intense.

His heart stirred.

This young man was no simple character!

Chapter 415: Elder Brother Chen Jiutian!_1

In the car, Chen Jiuzheng still felt anxious and irritable. Now that even the inspection team had emerged, he had no desire to go elsewhere and told the driver to head home directly.

Halfway there, he received a phone call.

The calling number surprised and delighted him.

Chen Jiuzheng hurriedly answered, his face bright with joy and his voice respectful, "Brother, how do you have the time to call me?"

Chen Jiuzheng was composed and authoritative in front of others. Taking this call, he had none of that aura.

The reason was simple. Compared to his elder brother, whether in terms of capabilities or status, he fell far short, and moreover, he greatly respected his sibling.

"I happen to be passing through Zhongjing and wanted to see you. I'm at your place right now. Come home, and let's, as brothers, catch up properly," said the voice on the phone, very gentle.

"Alright, I'm on my way. I'll be there shortly!" Chen Jiuzheng laughed.

Having hung up the phone, Chen Jiuzheng repeatedly urged the driver to go faster.

He had too much on his plate recently, especially concerning Bai Xiaosheng, which was driving him to distraction.

Chen Jiuzheng was also thinking of discussing things with his elder brother and listening to his advice.

Rushing back to his villa, he got out of the car and almost jogged from the garage to the living room.

Upon entering, he instantly saw the familiar figure with slicked-back hair and a slightly plump build.

Hearing the noise behind him, the person also slowly turned around, still with a smile in his eyes.

"Brother!" Chen Jiuzheng said with emotion.

"Jiuzheng!" The other's gaze held a certain serenity.

The Chen brothers had been very close since childhood, but as middle age approached, they saw each other less and less.

Upon reuniting, their affection was evident and genuine, with brotherly love and respect for one another.

If Bai Xiaosheng were to see Chen Jiuzheng's elder brother, he would certainly be astonished.

It was none other than Chen Jiutian!

General Manager of the Greater China Region, East China District!

His son, Chen Feng, had been terribly duped by Bai Xiaosheng in Lu Yun's separate villa estate and almost had his appearance ruined...

Speaking of which, it really was bad luck how the Chen brothers kept running into Bai Xiaosheng, the jinx...

At the moment, Chen Jiuzheng looked at Chen Jiutian, who appeared much leaner and with a faint weariness between his brows.

It seems my brother has been busy lately!

Chen Jiuzheng mused, quickly inviting Chen Jiutian to sit down. He personally brewed a fresh pot of good tea, ready to have a meaningful catch-up with his brother.

Recently, Chen Jiutian had indeed been incredibly busy.

His trusted confidant in Tiannan, Wang Ye, had not only gotten himself into legal trouble but had also attracted the attention of higher-ups.

Although Chen Jiutian held a powerful position, he couldn't afford to be careless. He was busy clearing away everyone and everything related to Wang Ye, not sparing even the slightest connection to himself!

Beyond that, the fact that Wang Ye had deceived even him made Chen Jiutian vigilant!

Chen Jiutian's trips across several provinces—ostensibly to inspect local industries—were actually to sift through his confidants one by one, not daring to be negligent in the slightest.

"A cautious approach ensures lasting safety," was Chen Jiutian's motto. Although he seemed cheerful all the time, there were truly few things that made him smile genuinely.

Now, upon seeing his own brother, Chen Jiutian could smile sincerely from his heart.

The brothers sat opposite each other and couldn't stop chatting.

They talked about everything from amusing childhood tales to the trivial matters of family and life.

"Brother, why didn't Xiaofeng come with you?" Chen Jiuzheng felt somewhat longing for his nephew.

"He went abroad to clear his mind," Chen Jiutian said.

Chen Feng has been in a rather poor mood these past few months; a change of scenery would do him good.

"Which country did he go to? His aunt and brothers are in the UK, and I have a little ranch over there. When he has the time, I should ask my dear nephew to relax there. The new batch of wine will be ready soon too," Chen Jiuzheng said with a smile.

It was all fine until the wine was mentioned, and at that, Chen Jiutian became irritable and let out a sigh.

This change in expression didn't escape Chen Jiuzheng's notice, prompting his surprise, "What's wrong, brother?"

"Your dear nephew was bullied by some brat in Tiannan, got nearly disfigured. These past few months, he hasn't stopped drinking, almost drowned himself in the cup, hmph, useless!" Chen Jiutian snorted coldly.

"Who dares to bully my nephew! This can't be tolerated!" Chen Jiuzheng's eyes sharpened, but then he smiled, "Surely, that kid must have met a miserable fate."

Chen Jiuzheng was certain of it.

His elder brother had only one precious son, leaving all his vast fortune for the next generation. If Chen Feng so much as lost a single hair, anyone who dared offend him would never have it easy!

As he thought this, he noticed Chen Jiutian's face darkening, a look of brooding settling on his features.

"Miserable? He damn well made me miserable!" Chen Jiutian gritted his teeth in anger.

Wang Ye, the poor bastard, clearly couldn't escape blame for his demise in prison, but the one who brought everything to light, sending Wang Ye away, was Bai Xiaosheng! He also managed to disgust me thoroughly in the process, keeping me busy for months. So many of my trusted people, more than a quarter, gone!

Afterward, he discovered that Bai Xiaosheng had vanished, as if he had disappeared into thin air.

Chen Jiutian had never been at such a loss, swindled by someone and then unable to find them for revenge.

If it weren't for Bai Xiaosheng's high-profile ways, I'd truly think the kid was from the inspection team...

Chen Jiutian's eyes hardened.

If that kid really is from the inspection team, and I run into him again, I'll make sure he won't get away easily, I'll peel off his skin!

Chen Jiutian was fierce, his usually smiling demeanor growing increasingly ferocious.

Chen Jiuzheng, watching him, was taken aback.

"Who made you so miserable?" Chen Jiuzheng asked incredulously, quickly adding, "What kind of background do they have?"

"Someone from within the group," Chen Jiutian snorted.

Chen Jiuzheng was even more incredulous, his eyes widening, "In East China, within the group, were they from the Affairs Department, or the inspection team... To leave you, my elder brother, in such straits, could it be a high-ranking Affairs Officer? Or perhaps someone from the first echelon of the inspection team!"

Mentioning these figures, Chen Jiuzheng couldn't help but adopt a serious demeanor, as if facing a formidable enemy.

Chen Jiutian was the greatest pillar of support for the Chen Family!

As for Chen Jiuzheng, merely a regional industry head, he held a high position and vast authority, with thousands dependent on his favor. As the regional manager of the East China District overseeing eight

provinces and cities, his real power was second only to one within the Greater China Region, even high-ranking Affairs Officers couldn't match him in terms of actual authority.

Who could put him in such a predicament!

The ones who could were certainly not insignificant figures, Chen Jiuzheng couldn't help but feel alarmed.

"Hmph, don't look at me like that." Chen Jiutian, annoyed, snorted, "He's just a little leech, not worth the bother to squash! If it weren't for some concerns, I wouldn't have been so restrained. It appears the ancients were right, even when a lion hunts a rabbit, it must use all its strength. Otherwise, a small ditch can capsize a large vessel!"

Chen Jiutian said this, leaving Chen Jiuzheng momentarily stunned.

What kind of insignificant person could make his own brother suffer such a setback!

"But you're right, some seemingly insignificant flies might turn out to be venomous ones!" Thinking of Bai Xiaosheng, Chen Jiuzheng agreed, unable to resist asking, "What's the kid's name?"

"You wouldn't know him if I told you," Chen Jiutian said coldly, "Some little bastard named Bai Xiaosheng, now vanished without a trace! Probably can't find him anymore!"

After Chen Jiutian finished speaking, he suddenly saw his brother looking as if thunderstruck, staring at him in disbelief.

"You mean Bai Xiaosheng?!"

Chapter 416: Absolutely Cannot Let Him Off Lightly_1

"Brother, say that again!" Chen Jiuzheng's expression was as if he had seen a ghost.

"What's wrong with you?" Chen Jiutian was startled by his own brother's reaction.

"The name you just mentioned, say it again!" Chen Jiuzheng urged.

"Bai Xiaosheng?" Chen Jiutian said in astonishment.

"Bai Xiaosheng!" Chen Jiuzheng exclaimed, "Is it 'Bai' as in black and white, 'Xiao' as in little ghost, and 'Sheng' as in promotion? A young man at first glance plain and unremarkable, but with deep and bright eyes, and always wearing that annoying faint smile? Is that the person!"

"That's him!"

As soon as Chen Jiutian heard this, his own eyes widened in surprise, "You've met him?!"

"Met him? This bastard has made my life miserable!" Chen Jiuzheng said through gritted teeth.

If it hadn't been for Bai Xiaosheng, how would his inappropriate remarks have been overheard by the corporate inspection team!

And to receive a warning!

Being warned by the inspection team, this could be a big deal or a minor issue!

From today onwards, he, Chen Jiuzheng, would inevitably have to lie low for a while and not make waves.

Even in the future, he'd have to be extra cautious and vigilant!

It was all this guy's fault!

"What exactly happened, tell me quickly!" Chen Jiutian, upon hearing news of Bai Xiaosheng, his eyes gleaming coldly, immediately perked up!

So, this kid hadn't disappeared but had actually run off to Zhongjing!

This cursed star!

Chen Jiutian couldn't help but want to burst into curses, especially hearing that his own brother seemed to have suffered at his hands, too.

Chen Jiutian was even more furious!

Bai Xiaosheng, after duping his son and himself, was now aiming to dupe his brother!

It seemed like he was targeting the entire Chen Family!

How can someone bully others like this!

Bai Xiaosheng, I will never let this go!

Chen Jiutian resolved fiercely in his heart.

Pressed urgently by his own brother, Chen Jiuzheng immediately started from the beginning.

Bai Xiaosheng had sabotaged his plan to recruit Ron Team, insulted the Chen Family's talent Chen Changqing, inexplicably become the general manager of Zhongjing Media, rejected his kind-hearted offer for collaboration, and not only did he lose face, but he was also overheard by the corporate inspection team and warned on the spot!

These incidents, one by one, Chen Jiuzheng recounted, seething with anger.

"Brother, this guy is a goddamn jinx! Nothing but bad luck comes from dealing with him, and always the worst kind!" Chen Jiuzheng summarized harshly.

This conclusion was eerily consistent with his brother's opinion...

"This Bai Xiaosheng!"

After listening to Chen Jiuzheng's description, Chen Jiutian calmed down considerably, stroked his chin, and said with a glint in his eyes, "Hearing you say this, the background behind him is not simple at all!"

"I think so too, and it could very well be one of the high-ups from the Greater China Region!" Chen Jiuzheng promptly shared his suspicions with Chen Jiutian.

"It can't be someone at the level of the general manager of the Greater China Region or above. If it were, his actions would be straightforward; everything would be done in a word. He wouldn't need to make all this trouble, to act so recklessly!" Chen Jiutian analyzed calmly, "Below the general manager of the Greater China Region, anyone who can influence the appointment and dismissal of a subsidiary's head must be at least a regional general manager or a senior Affairs Officer. An ordinary Affairs Officer wouldn't suffice!"

Chen Jiuzheng nodded, indicating his agreement, "However, this is Zhongjing, the territory of your East China regional general manager. Other regional general managers shouldn't have such a long reach, right?!"

It's not that the regional general managers don't have conflicts with each other, rather, from the bigger picture, if Bai Xiaosheng is a pawn tossed over the boundary by one of them, it would be a miscalculation, which might backfire and offer their opponents ammunition—a loss not worth the gain.

It wasn't exactly a brilliant move...

"A mere pawn crossing the river to check the car!"

Chen Jiutian's eyes flickered uncertainly, and he said coldly, "You're underestimating him. Haven't we suffered enough from our losses? This Bai Xiaosheng is a troublemaker!"

Hearing Chen Jiutian curse Bai Xiaosheng as a troublemaker, Chen Jiuzheng couldn't help but cough.

Chen Jiutian also realized at once.

He was really furious, but cursing Bai Xiaosheng like that, what did that make them...

"A regional general manager is a possibility, but it's more likely to be a high-ranking Affairs Officer!"

Chen Jiutian's eyes were dark and gloomy, and he sneered, "I know that over the years, some people have been eyeing my position with envy, and have even made some small moves. If this time Bai Xiaosheng is their man, then I cannot let this kid off!"

"Could it be someone from the inspection team?" Chen Jiuzheng suddenly suggested but then shook his head, dismissing his own thought, "People from the inspection team wouldn't be so high-profile, so ostentatious, to the point of having others from the inspection team warn me... Bai Xiaosheng might have caught the eye of the inspection team, and he's currently under observation!"

"That's possible!" Chen Jiutian nodded and then furrowed his brow, "If it's just someone from the high-ranking Affairs Officer, even if I, Chen Jiutian, have to pay a price, I would kill the chicken to warn the monkey. However, once the inspection team gets involved... that gets a bit tricky!"

"Should we let Bai Xiaosheng off?" Chen Jiuzheng asked.

As he said this, he was very reluctant.

"Let him off?" Chen Jiutian glanced at Chen Jiuzheng and snorted coldly, "That's impossible. Even for Xiaofeng's sake, I won't let him off!"

The brothers were similar in temperament, never tolerating slights, and especially after gaining high positions, they were of the type who could take advantage but never bear a loss...

"However, we also can't act rashly! After all, behind Bai Xiaosheng, there's a very good chance that it's a high-ranking Affairs Officer, and what's more important is the connection with the inspection team!"

Chen Jiutian stood up with a frown and started pacing beside.

His gaze was distant, as if deep in thought.

Chen Jiuzheng quietly watched him, not interrupting.

After a while, Chen Jiutian stopped and a sinister, inscrutable smile appeared on his lips.

"Bai Xiaosheng just became general manager, huh? Well, let's let him enjoy a couple of good days. Once this period is over..."

Chen Jiutian walked over to Chen Jiuzheng, bent down, and whispered into his ear.

Chen Jiuzheng's eyes brightened tremendously as he listened, nodding incessantly, with a vicious smile also emerging on his face.

"What do you think?" Chen Jiutian asked.

"Not bad!" Chen Jiuzheng nodded, saying admiringly, "As long as it's done cleanly, I believe even the inspection team won't notice!"

Chen Jiutian coldly smiled, his gaze piercing the void like a knife, seeming to probe into Bai Xiaosheng's very flesh...

"Bai Xiaosheng, to be my enemy, Chen Jiutian, even if you are one of the Affairs Officer's people, you must die!" Chen Jiutian steeled his heart.

Now, having a plan to deal with Bai Xiaosheng, Chen Jiuzheng felt greatly uplifted.

"Brother, don't rush off. Have dinner at my place tonight; I have a servant who makes an exceptional fish soup!" Chen Jiuzheng laughed.

Seeing his brother's enthusiasm, Chen Jiutian was also in good spirits.

After all, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't run away. Dealing with him could wait and need not be rushed.

"Alright, I won't leave tonight!" Chen Jiutian laughed, "Let's the two of us brothers have a proper drink!"

Here, the brothers spoke with gusto.

There, Bai Xiaosheng and Wang Xincheng were deep in their cups, cheerfully linking arms and reveling.

Chapter 417 Leave an Opponent for Yourself_1

Bai Xiaosheng didn't care when Chen Jiuzheng left, nor did Wang Xincheng. With the situation changing from three parties to two, the two of them actually had a lot more to talk about.

Finally, they had a good meal and drink.

Bai Xiaosheng warmly insisted that Wang Xincheng stay for a few days.

Wang Xincheng reluctantly refused, expressing regret and promising to come and bother him again next time.

After going through the motions of politeness, Bai Xiaosheng didn't insist further, taking Chen Changqing, Lin Weiwei, and Song Yiming to see Wang Xincheng off.

Until the very end, neither Bai Xiaosheng nor Wang Xincheng noticed anything unusual about Chen Xi, nor were they aware that Chen Xi had warned Chen Jiuzheng.

After the "guest" had left, Bai Xiaosheng led everyone back to Zhongjing Media.

On the way, Bai Xiaosheng called Song Yiming over.

"I know you used to be Assistant Song Changkong, and you might be worried whether I suspect you, but I can tell you clearly that I don't mind. A leader should not doubt the people he uses, and shouldn't keep around the people he doubts. Since I've decided to keep you, you should perform just as you did before! Also, I want Weiwei to learn how to handle matters from you!"

Song Yiming nodded repeatedly, showing no signs of anything amiss.

"Micro Expression Analysis System, activate..."

"Initiate precise calculation mode, which can only be used once per hour, targeting one person, to comprehensively calculate their loyalty and trust in you, as well as simulate their potential language..."

The voice of Red Lotus echoed in Bai Xiaosheng's mind.

This mode was initiated by Bai Xiaosheng himself.

Ever since his promotion to General Manager, he had not made full use of his rewards. With nothing pressing at the moment, Bai Xiaosheng suddenly became interested...

"Target's loyalty decreased by five percent, trust decreased by five percent, emotional state is anxious and worried..."

Listening to the system's report, Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

He was now using the aid merely as a teaching tool, not only to hone his own analytical skills but also to verify his judgments.

Sure enough, as soon as he mentioned letting Song Yiming mentor Lin Weiwei, Song Yiming did have feelings of resistance and fear. He was afraid of teaching Lin Weiwei then being dismissed, scared that this was a trap set for him.

A common human reaction!

Bai Xiaosheng understood.

"While mentoring Weiwei, Song Yiming, you cannot slack off. You will learn from Weiwei how to follow up with the job rotation system, how to identify and document issues, and come up with solutions for me. This system is my brainchild and cannot afford failures! Furthermore, from today onwards, you're likely to oversee more tasks. I hope the company's departments can integrate into a whole in the future, sharing resources and promoting mutual growth! You must help me with this!"

Bai Xiaosheng unapologetically loaded up Song Yiming with responsibilities!

Song Yiming's eyes lit up.

"Target's loyalty increased by eight percent, trust increased by nine percent, currently in an excited state..."

Red Lotus continued her report.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

To make someone like Song Yiming feel at ease wasn't about talking or persuading, but through increasing his workload!

Handing over significant responsibilities!

This was the best method to alleviate his anxiety and encourage his loyalty.

Bai Xiaosheng knew he was too young and severely lacking in workplace experience. Especially after suddenly becoming a general manager of a large company, with heavy responsibilities and myriad tasks, he was bound to feel overwhelmed.

This was unacceptable!

Bai Xiaosheng held himself to a higher standard, never intending to stop here, with no time to slowly gain experience.

Therefore, he began utilizing his aid to maximally refine himself!

He had Red Lotus permanently imprint the best management strategies in his mind, then practiced accordingly. In interpersonal matters, he used the Micro Expression Analysis System as a verification tool to check the correctness of those methods!

The recent conversation with Song Yiming was one such instance.

However, Bai Xiaosheng was not using Song Yiming, he truly believed Song Yiming was not bad!

At the moment, through the Micro Expression Analysis System, he learned that Song Yiming's loyalty and trustworthiness had surpassed fifty percent, and he was secretly pleased.

As long as he treats him with sincerity, this Song Yiming may very well become like Lin Weiwei.

...

Chen Changqing followed behind, and at first, when he saw Bai Xiaosheng letting Song Yiming take Lin Weiwei, a flicker of mockery passed through the depths of his eyes.

Chen Changqing thought Bai Xiaosheng was using Song Yiming, having him train up Lin Weiwei, only to discard her like a worn-out shoe eventually.

However, when he heard Bai Xiaosheng increase Song Yiming's workload, Chen Changqing was taken aback, a hint of surprise in his eyes.

Bai Xiaosheng was indeed planning to make heavy use of Song Yiming; he wasn't even afraid that this Assistant Song's heart belonged to Song Changkong!

In employing people, Chen Changqing was clearly more conservative.

...

"Weiwei, you go back to the company with Yiming first. Whether it's learning from each other or giving guidance, both of you need to give it your all. I, as the general manager, will be relying on you two in the future," Bai Xiaosheng joked.

Song Yiming's eyes shone with gratitude; Lin Weiwei gave a sweet smile, and the two of them left first.

After they left, only Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changqing remained on the road.

Chen Changqing suddenly felt somewhat awkward.

Bai Xiaosheng slowed his pace, looking at Chen Changqing with a half-smile.

"My Mr. Chen," Bai Xiaosheng remarked, "you and Song Changkong and I have truly become acquainted through conflict! In dealing with me, I feel that, at the very least, Song Changkong has used eight parts of cunning!"

Was that how Bai Xiaosheng saw it?

Chen Changqing, surprised, felt a moment of relief.

No wonder Bai Xiaosheng hadn't blamed him; he thought all the fault lay with Song Changkong. That was good, that was good...

"And you have used ninety-two parts!" Bai Xiaosheng snorted coldly.

So it was a percentage system after all!

Chen Changqing's just-relaxed heart turned ice-cold in an instant!

Bai Xiaosheng had been clear all along! He indeed was not easy to fool!

Chen Changqing's expression turned bitter.

If Bai Xiaosheng had been easy to deal with, he wouldn't have been made to suffer, to the point that his own prideful confidence seemed to disappear whenever he faced him.

"Mr. Bai, is that what you think? So what do you want to do with me!" Chen Changqing felt his throat go dry as he spoke.

His words not only lacked force, but also seemed a bit panicked.

"I don't want to do anything! Naturally, I want to keep you as my good deputy general manager," Bai Xiaosheng said with a light laugh, then turned and strode away without further ado.

Chen Changqing was dumbstruck.

Bai Xiaosheng had made his point clear, then neither threatened nor spoke harsh words... and just left. What did this mean?!

Chen Changqing was confused and at a loss.

He felt his brain throbbing, as if it couldn't quite keep up with Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng walked towards the company building with a hint of a smile on his lips.

He was, of course, going to keep Chen Changqing and would be as lenient as possible in the future.

Otherwise, who would provide him with pressure, urging him to remain vigilant and to keep striving!

"Chen Changqing, you are an opponent I've reserved for myself, constantly reminding me not to relax! I hope you work hard and live up to my expectations," he mused.

Chapter 418 Shang Wanwan Returns_1

Before one knew it, Bai Xiaosheng had been in control of Zhongjing Media for almost half a month.

In this period, the changes in Zhongjing Media could be compared to those of the past year or so.

Almost every day brought new developments.

Upon taking office, Bai Xiaosheng acted decisively, pursuing innovation and change.

He dissected the eleven major departments into segments, each piloting a new system, with five new systems advancing at the same time.

These pertained to new work methods and practices, involved employee benefits, rewards and punishments, and related to the cooperation between departments...

The variety was dizzying.

At the outset of these changes, many shook their heads in secrecy.

"It's said that a new official lights three fires upon his arrival, but Mr. Bai's fire is too fierce! He has set the entire Zhongjing Media ablaze! Isn't this a rash move? It will throw everything into chaos..."

"Yes, we are aware that the company has many issues, but this seems like a weak person, overwhelmed with potent medicine from the get-go; a hefty dose meant to fortify, but what if it proves too much to handle, destabilizing the company..."

"We thought that Mr. Bai taking office and seeking innovation was a good thing, but now it seems, this, this..."

Many started to worry.

However, after half a month, not only did Zhongjing Media not encounter any problems, but it also began to move forward with a vigorous pace.

Everyone found it incredible, and when they looked at Bai Xiaosheng again, their gazes were filled with admiration and deep trust.

If anyone was concerned, Lin Weiwei and now Song Yiming were the most worried.

Lin Weiwei was anxious about the work and about Bai Xiaosheng.

Song Yiming was more concerned about the job; having just pledged loyalty to a new boss, he didn't wish to face the company's collapse or unemployment risks right after.

However, their profound worries only bore witness to the miracle that was Bai Xiaosheng.

Even they were left speechless in shock.

In fact, Bai Xiaosheng didn't want, nor intend to plunge the company into chaos.

Of these five policies, two had already been verified in practice; one was the job rotation system, and the other had been trialed in the New Media department.

As for the other three systems, although they seemed to be thrown out all at once, each one had been thoroughly deduced, as precisely as if stitched by fine needles.

Others might not be able to achieve this, but Bai Xiaosheng could!

These systems were originally identified through Red Lotus as the most optimal choices for Zhongjing Media, and further refined with detailed data simulations and precise analysis through Red Lotus.

At the same time, Bai Xiaosheng had prepared contingency plans for each policy.

If any issues arose, he was immediately ready to plug the holes!

After half a month of evaluation, none of the systems showed any flaws, and each department performed remarkably.

Suddenly, the entire company was invigorated!

With good policies and regulations, came a more efficient work experience, saved time, and a significant reduction in overtime rates—how could anyone not be happy with that!

As department profits increased and the policies allowed for sizable bonus commissions, who wouldn't be pleased!

Employees' enthusiasm and initiative were mobilized in no time.

Managers and directors of various departments were now giving 120% effort, using all their capabilities to work hard.

With an issue at hand, they dared not shirk responsibility or slack off; instead, they all actively sought solutions or convened to brainstorm...

Earning more and sharing in the dividends naturally made them happy...

And more importantly, this Mr. Bai was not like Song Changkong—he had no qualms about showing favoritism, and he was truly bold enough to fire people...

Even when he was a vice president, he had demoted directors and kicked out managers. Now, in charge, he had even fewer reservations!

At this point, anyone slacking off was truly signing their own death warrant!

Plus, there were rumors that Mr. Bai would soon implement a competitive job system—merit-based promotions and demotions. The staff under their charge, like a pack of eager wolf cubs, had bright eyes fixed on their own positions, eagerly awaiting the system's rollout...

With middle and upper management trembling with fear, how could they not work their hardest, while also treating those below them all the better...

The grassroots level was motivated, the middle management was striving, and the upper echelons felt the pressure.

Under the influence of three powers, the entirety of Zhongjing Media was revitalized from the inside out.

It was like a pile of kindling that Bai Xiaosheng had ignited, with flames surging upwards.

...

During this period, Chen Changqing returned the jurisdiction of the game department and volunteered to work on repairing the corporate culture.

Bai Xiaosheng agreed.

He had handed over authority before, and now it was Chen Changqing's turn.

Chen Changqing became a lot more low-key and a lot more sincere.

Could he really stay low-key for long?

Bai Xiaosheng didn't believe it!

However, busy with restructuring, Bai Xiaosheng did not immediately "support" this rival he had reserved for himself.

After all, there would be plenty of opportunities in the future.

The day Chen Changqing moved out of the game department, some laughed, some cried.

The one laughing was Wang Hui, the director of the game department, who finally took back his own department.

However, because the department had often bad-mouthed Bai Xiaosheng behind his back, they were now working desperately hard, showing much more diligence than other departments...

The one crying was Lin Beichen.

Chen Changqing had proactively suggested to the company to fire him, and Bai Xiaosheng agreed.

In the end, Chen Changqing used Lin Beichen as a final show of his influence, setting an example for all by declaring that those who were incompetent and inactive deserved such an outcome.

When Bai Xiaosheng learned of it, he smiled without saying a word.

It is said that at the moment Lin Beichen learned of his dismissal, he, a grown man, wept bitterly, his wails heartbreakingly pitiful.

Of course, what pained him was the loss of his title as a supervisor at Zhongjing Media and the substantial salary that came with it.

...

Half a month later, Shang Wanwan arrived.

She also brought with her a large team.

Of course, this team was secretly arranged by Shang Wanwan's boss, with personnel ranging from shooting and production to distribution. Every member of the team was an elite, including three well-known directors.

Shang Wanwan assured Bai Xiaosheng that her people were all in secondary positions, with Zhongjing Media's staff taking the lead.

She seemed to be afraid of offending them.

How could Bai Xiaosheng be anything but pleased? With this group on board, the TV drama production and distribution were practically guaranteed.

On the day of Shang Wanwan's arrival, Bai Xiaosheng personally led the team to welcome them.

When Shang Wanwan saw Bai Xiaosheng, she was exceptionally affectionate, her eyes conveying warmth; if Lin Weiwei hadn't been there, they might have exchanged tender glances.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and, pretending not to notice, arranged for Shang Wanwan's team to rest at the Zhongjing Wanhe Building.

Then, Bai Xiaosheng took Shang Wanwan and headed straight for the office in the elevator.

Shang Wanwan thought Bai Xiaosheng was taking her to meet Song Changkong and had no suspicions otherwise.

When they reached the former office door of Song Changkong, Shang Wanwan said with a light laugh, "I know, knock five times, that's the rule of your General Manager. Let me do it..."

Before she could finish, Bai Xiaosheng pushed the door open and entered.

Shang Wanwan was stunned.

Lin Weiwei calmly smiled at Shang Wanwan and made a welcoming gesture.

"The rules have changed, Miss Shang. Mr. Bai is now the General Manager, we don't follow those anymore."

Bai Xiaosheng, now, the General Manager!

Shang Wanwan was left dumbfounded.

How much time had passed!

Chapter 419: It's Ridiculously Fast_1

Shang Wanwan entered the office, and her eyes immediately lit up.

She had visited when Song Changkong took over, finding the decor too heavy and outdated, especially his dark, antique-style desk with carved flowers.

And there were the dark red filing cabinets, made of precious wood, but somehow they felt eerie, like relics unearthed from an ancient mansion—working overtime at night, with the lights on, they were quite unnerving!

Perhaps Song Changkong thought it all looked expensive, but Shang Wanwan couldn't agree.

Now, the entire office had changed in style.

The bookshelves, desk, and sofa, everything had been replaced, and the walls were adorned with new wallpaper and fresh landscape paintings.

The whole style was fresh and simple, making the space look brighter.

Shang Wanwan couldn't help but nod in approval.

"This was redesigned and renovated by Weiwei. She even hired two well-known companies to take turns removing formaldehyde, and the plants are taken care of by her as well," Bai Xiaosheng, sitting in the general manager's seat, said to Shang Wanwan with a smile.

"It really stands out, so much more comfortable!" Shang Wanwan couldn't help but genuinely compliment, as she sat opposite Bai Xiaosheng.

Then turning her attention back to Bai Xiaosheng, Shang Wanwan took a good long look at him.

Her beautiful eyes examined Bai Xiaosheng as if he were a dazzling jewel, leaving him somewhat puzzled.

"Do I have something on my face?" Bai Xiaosheng said with a chuckle.

"Prettier than flowers," Shang Wanwan couldn't resist teasing, before her gaze turned complex and she exclaimed, "You really did it! Climbing up the ranks faster than a rocket! I remember you were deputy general manager for only a short while, and then you suddenly became the general manager. This speed is truly unprecedented!"

Shang Wanwan said, still immensely shocked.

Even if Bai Xiaosheng had strong connections like Wei Tianhou, Zhongjing Media wasn't part of the Wei Family's business empire but another behemoth—the Zhenbei Group system.

The Wei Family might be formidable, but compared to Zhenbei Group, they were still a notch below. They were on par with Lu Yun's Lu Family, though.

Bai Xiaosheng's relationship with Wei Tianhou shouldn't be of use inside Zhongjing Media.

So, how did he make such a leap after only three months in office? Even if Song Changkong was transferred, it didn't seem like it would be Bai Xiaosheng's turn based on seniority...

Shang Wanwan was utterly perplexed and couldn't help but think:

Could it be that he knows some heiress of the Zhenbei Group...

Shang Wanwan then immediately dismissed her unrealistic thought—it was practically impossible...

"Am I promoted that fast? Maybe..." Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile to her.

Not just fast, it was freakishly fast.

Shang Wanwan gave him a deep look.

Bai Xiaosheng scratched his face, and having this conversation made him think so too.

In just over three months, he had gone from deputy manager of a direct subsidiary company to the general manager. He might not feel it was a big deal, since he had watched his points accumulate and prepared mentally for promotion and didn't find it too extraordinary, but it had to be astonishing for others.

Suddenly, Bai Xiaosheng was looking forward to something.

The day he would become the head of provincial industry, would those people be stunned...

Chen Jiuzheng made a special trip to elaborate on the difficulties of getting further promoted, mentioning something about a five-year assessment, needing outstanding and complete success, and something about accumulating experience in the affairs department first. Little did he know that Bai Xiaosheng didn't need any of it.

What kind of expression would Chen Jiuzheng have at that time...

"Miss Wanwan, it's quite a coincidence you came today. Just a day or two earlier, and I'm afraid I wouldn't have had the leisure to sit down and chat with you," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, "Moreover, you're like a lucky star who has come to bring good news."

"Really? Then I should come more often!" Shang Wanwan smiled sweetly.

She took it to mean that Bai Xiaosheng was praising her for bringing an entire team over.

Little did she know, Bai Xiaosheng meant something else.

As Shang Wanwan took her seat, a cascade of prompt tones echoed in Bai Xiaosheng's mind.

Days of hard work had finally paid off. Red Lotus was tallying his score.

"Identified administrative talent Zhao Youde, adding 0.5 points... Identified logistics management personnel Wang Bin, adding 0.5 points... Identified HR department talent Chen Ke, adding 1 point..."

The third batch of transferred employees ultimately added five points to Bai Xiaosheng's score.

Initially, Bai Xiaosheng had chosen to take office immediately, which halved the score from this system, but he had no regrets.

With the third batch's transfer, almost everyone who could be transferred from the non-profit departments had been reviewed.

Next were the large profit-generating departments. Bai Xiaosheng still planned to follow the official system procedure for these departments, with cycles of over a month. With this system adding scores, it was inevitably slower.

"Currently, the total score is at the General Manager level of ten points, with ninety points left before promotion to Regional Industry Head!"

"Internal trial system in the company has made substantial achievements in three aspects, adding scores as follows: two points, three points, two points. A total of seven points."

"Currently, the total score is at the General Manager level of seventeen points, with eighty-three points left before promotion to Regional Industry Head!"

On the day Shang Wanwan arrived, Bai Xiaosheng gained twelve points, which is why he praised her for being a herald of good fortune.

Shang Wanwan took it differently, and naturally, Bai Xiaosheng didn't elaborate further.

"In any case, welcome back, Miss Wanwan. You and the team you've brought should rest up. The start-up ceremony is approaching." Bai Xiaosheng smiled. "You'll probably be busy when that time comes. With a filming cycle of six to eight months, but with the elites you've brought, it may not take that long."

The two chatted idly for a while as Lin Weiwei busied herself with serving tea.

At the moment, she was the duly appointed Chief Assistant and Secretary to the Zhongjing Media General Manager, yet she still kept busy with these tasks.

Perhaps it was just habit. Neither Bai Xiaosheng nor Lin Weiwei felt there was anything amiss.

After some more small talk with Shang Wanwan, Bai Xiaosheng had Lin Weiwei escort her to rest at the Zhongjing Wanhe Building.

After seeing off Shang Wanwan, Bai Xiaosheng flipped through various reports.

In this period, Bai Xiaosheng's attention was not only on the systems but also on the people.

Eleven directors and over a hundred managers.

Among them were talented individuals, as well as those merely warming their seats.

Bai Xiaosheng was sifting through them.

First, he used utterly trustworthy people like Gao Dazhi and Shi Yu to find trusted directors, forming a small assessment team to preliminarily evaluate each director and manager.

Afterward, he utilized this method to organize an assessment team for managers and then for staff, conducting three rounds of selection.

In the end, he obtained a preliminary list of who should be promoted and who should be dismissed.

That wasn't all. During this time, Bai Xiaosheng also arranged for people to secretly observe and record the most disgraceful individuals, compiling a succinct report of their recent actions for his eyes only.

The people Bai Xiaosheng had assigned to make these recordings were even unaware of each other, not knowing that others were doing the same thing.

Bai Xiaosheng was keen to observe the unvarnished truth from different perspectives.

Right then, Bai Xiaosheng was reading these textual reports.

"It seems that a personnel adjustment is necessary," Bai Xiaosheng mused, keeping his composure.

As he was engrossed in reading, someone knocked on his office door, followed by Lin Weiwei's entrance.

"You sent Shang Wanwan over that quickly?" Bai Xiaosheng said without looking up, his voice gentle. "Weiwei, you've also been quite tired these days. How about I give you a few days off to rest?"

Instead of the crisp affirmative he expected, there was silence.

Bai Xiaosheng lifted his head and saw Lin Weiwei's cheeks slightly flushed, looking at him with a rare hint of shyness.

"Xiaosheng, I... may I ask you for a favor?"

Chapter 420 I Agreed to This!_1

"What's the matter, Weiwei? Why do you look like this?" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but laugh.

He had witnessed the gentle and charming Lin Weiwei, he had witnessed the overbearing Lin Weiwei, but he had never seen Lin Weiwei like this. Part shy, part embarrassed, hesitating to speak, and awkwardly coy.

"I, I..." Lin Weiwei mustered up her courage several times, but her voice still choked in her throat.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't rush or console her, but touched his chin with interest, enjoying her young lady-like demeanor.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng's attitude, Lin Weiwei took several deep breaths in annoyance, and finally managed to speak.

"I want to ask you for a favor!"

"Go ahead, I'm listening," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

Lin Weiwei clasped her hands together, "To say it outright, I... I can't.

"Otherwise, let me first talk about something related to this matter—listen to me first," Lin Weiwei suggested.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, stood up to pour her a cup of hot water, handed it over, and then gestured to the sofa.

"Come, sit here. Take your time, I'm in no rush," Bai Xiaosheng said.

Lin Weiwei nodded, cupping the warm water in her hands as she made her way to the sofa and sat down.

Bai Xiaosheng sat opposite her.

Lin Weiwei lowered her head, took a couple of sips of hot water, and felt her emotions stabilize considerably.

"I had escorted Miss Shang, and on my way back, I received a call from my aunt," Lin Weiwei said as she put down the cup, looking at Bai Xiaosheng.

Finally, her expression regained some of its usual calm, and her voice was no longer stammering.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded, watching her calmly.

"Our home is in a remote suburb of Zhongjing, in the countryside. Both my parents are honest farmers." Lin Weiwei's topic seemed to be veering off course.

But Bai Xiaosheng didn't urge her on, instead listening with utmost patience.

"As a child, my family was quite poor, and I was particularly sickly, always falling ill," Lin Weiwei recalled her past with a bitter smile, "Back then, many relatives were distant, unwilling to interact with us for fear of lending money. The only one willing to visit us and lend money was my aunt Lin Lu, so throughout the years, my father taught me to treat my aunt... No, that I should treat her even better than them!"

Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

It seemed that Lin Weiwei hadn't had an easy childhood. Starting to shoulder responsibilities at a young age likely shaped her into someone tough and resilient, unafraid to bow down to hardships. And having a grateful father who led by example, she naturally valued gratitude and loyalty highly.

Bai Xiaosheng also remembered how Lin Weiwei, with a heroism like that of a swordswoman, had fiercely rebuked Song Changkong and Chen Changqing in front of the company's senior management and in front of Wang Xincheng, earning his silent applause!

"Since I was little, my aunt has been especially good to our family and to me, and I've always respected her," Lin Weiwei said with a slight sigh, "However, my uncle has always looked down on our family. Even back then, he was cold and disdainful towards me, an innocent little girl. So, since childhood, I've disliked him. And my cousin, influenced by her father, also held us in contempt... When I stayed with them to go to school, I performed better than her, but that never stopped her from bullying me. And the classmates and friends, led by her, used to mock me, shunned me."

As she spoke, a trace of resentment showed in Lin Weiwei's eyes.

Bai Xiaosheng noticed, and it touched him.

Weiwei was not one to hold grudges; speaking out like this meant the contempt she faced from that father and daughter must have been significant for a young girl.

Bai Xiaosheng frowned slightly.

He could dismiss Lin Weiwei's cousin's actions as childish ignorance, but for her uncle to act similarly was unacceptable!

Lin Weiwei was likely a sensible child, not the type to repulse people like some today. The attitude they showed towards such a young girl angered Bai Xiaosheng.

"In my family, there are also such people!" Bai Xiaosheng sighed.

As a child, he too faced disdain and scorn from wealthy relatives to his face. He could imagine what Lin Weiwei's cousin-in-law must be like.

So-called human nature...

"This time, I received a phone call from my aunt. She said that tomorrow, my cousin-in-law is having a birthday, in the evening, my cousin Meng Bing will bring her boyfriend home, and there will be a party. My aunt wants me to go," Lin Weiwei sighed, "To tell you the truth, it has been a long time since I last visited her."

Bai Xiaosheng nodded and smiled, "If that's the case, then go."

"But, but..." Lin Weiwei's face turned red again, and her voice stuttered.

"But what?" Bai Xiaosheng wondered.

He didn't understand what Lin Weiwei was so conflicted about.

"But, my aunt, she insists that I, that I bring a boyfriend home!" Lin Weiwei lowered her head, her cheeks flushed with shyness, adding a touch of allure.

"I've always focused on work, before and even now, how could I possibly have a boyfriend..." Lin Weiwei mumbled softly, "But then, my aunt also said that if I don't have one, she will find someone for me. I don't want to go on blind dates, don't want her to call me over every week. So, so..."

Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback, suddenly understanding Lin Weiwei's dilemma.

"So, Xiaosheng, could you be my boyfriend for just one day!"

Lin Weiwei finally blurted out.

The moment she spoke out, she felt a weight lifted but also bowed her head deeply again.

She didn't even dare to look up, to see Bai Xiaosheng's expression.

Her slender hands trembled slightly, fearing that she would hear Bai Xiaosheng's rejection.

In the brief silence, Lin Weiwei felt as though an entire century had passed.

Would Xiaosheng agree, or refuse...

Was her request too much...

Qian'er was Xiaosheng's matchmaking candidate, what if she found out, what then...

Would Xiaosheng find someone else to pretend to be my boyfriend...

How could I be so shameless, to make such an impolite request to him...

...

Lin Weiwei was in complete disarray, with countless thoughts racing into her mind, bringing her anticipation, worry, embarrassment, and panic...

Even in the face of Song Changkong, Wang Xincheng, Chen Changqing, facing over a hundred company executives, she never felt the slightest bit of timidity. But now, she felt flustered, she was scared.

"About this matter..." Bai Xiaosheng finally spoke up.

Each word, like the tolling of a great bell, struck her heart, making it tremble.

"I agree," Bai Xiaosheng said calmly.

With that phrase, Lin Weiwei felt like she had heard the sound of Heaven's Melody, and her body went soft with relief.

He had agreed!