

Two Trillion 421

Chapter 421: Before Departure_1

"Really?" Lin Weiwei exclaimed in surprise, still somewhat in disbelief.

"Yes, really," Bai Xiaosheng replied with a gentle smile.

Ever since Lin Weiwei became his assistant, the two of them had shared joys and sorrows, weathering storms together.

Lin Weiwei was tireless in her work and gave him meticulous care in life.

When Bai Xiaosheng faced criticism from Song Changkong and Chen Changqing, she was the first to stand up, vocally defend him in front of the company's senior executives, and confront the top management, regardless of her own future!

For her, Bai Xiaosheng always had a protective feeling.

Just now, hearing her recount her childhood experiences, Bai Xiaosheng felt even more compassion.

"I'll help you with this," Bai Xiaosheng confirmed with a nod and a smile, gently adding, "Now, take a break, and go get some good rest. You've been so busy these last few days, you've even developed bags under your eyes."

"Ah, really?"

Bai Xiaosheng's half-joking tease immediately caused Lin Weiwei's face to lose its color, and she couldn't help but touch her own cheek; she actually felt like her skin had gotten worse.

In her fluster, she seemed especially adorable.

Bai Xiaosheng struggled to keep from laughing.

"Can I really go?" Lin Weiwei asked, still not reassured.

"Of course, I said so earlier," Bai Xiaosheng replied with a smile.

"But if you want tea..." Lin Weiwei asked.

"I'll have Song Yiming arrange for someone to bring it," Bai Xiaosheng replied patiently.

"And if you get hungry..." Lin Weiwei asked again.

"I'll have Song Yiming arrange for someone to prepare something," Bai Xiaosheng replied with patience.

"And if you..." Lin Weiwei continued to ask.

"Weiwei," Bai Xiaosheng interrupted her, saying seriously, "I think, why don't you go and explain to Song Yiming?"

That was a good suggestion, and Lin Weiwei nodded earnestly, "Okay, I'll go right now!"

Lin Weiwei hurried off.

Bai Xiaosheng shook his head with a smile, sat down, and continued to look over the reports.

Not long after, there was a knock at the door of his office. Bai Xiaosheng looked up to see Song Yiming entering.

"What is it?" Bai Xiaosheng asked curiously upon seeing Song Yiming's somewhat odd expression.

"Mr. Bai, is Assistant Lin not coming in for the next few days?" Song Yiming didn't answer, instead asking a question.

"Yes," Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

Lin Weiwei must have spoken to Song Yiming, perhaps to delegate some work, and that was why Song Yiming had specially come to mention it.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng's confused face, Song Yiming lifted his hand with a wry smile.

He was holding a piece of A4 paper, covered with neat writing.

"These are the instructions Assistant Lin left for me. I glanced over it briefly—there must be about forty items, including what tea you prefer with different moods, what snacks you like to eat..." Song Yiming seemed both amused and helpless.

...

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but laugh wryly.

...

In the afternoon, Bai Xiaosheng made a special trip to the Zhongjing Wanhe Building. He got a haircut and bought a suit of suitable clothes. After all, he had to present a strong front for Lin Weiwei this time; he couldn't be careless, even though Bai Xiaosheng still preferred wearing his casual outfits.

Within the Wanhe Building in Zhongjing were beauty salons and branded clothing stores.

As soon as Bai Xiaosheng arrived, he was immediately recognized.

After all, he was now the man in charge of Zhongjing Media.

Brand merchants within the Zhongjing Wanhe Building almost all organized their employees to learn to recognize his face as soon as possible.

So, whether getting a haircut or buying clothes, as soon as Bai Xiaosheng entered a store, within moments, the manager would personally attend to him, arranging the best stylist or fashion designer in the shop to serve him.

Moreover, Bai Xiaosheng didn't have to pay for any of this; the company settled the accounts with the merchants. This was also one of the general manager's perks.

This benefit felt quite good to Bai Xiaosheng!

...

The next day, Bai Xiaosheng, having changed his hairstyle and put on new clothes, stepped into the company and immediately stirred up quite a commotion.

With a decent base to work from, Bai Xiaosheng looked strikingly handsome after being styled by a top hairdresser.

His business-style, trendy attire brought out an impressive aura.

Just by walking by, he made group after group of young girls stare with wide-eyed awe!

"Mr. Bai is so handsome; I never noticed it before. Ah, he looked so handsome just now!"

"Yes, especially the way he walks, so majestic! Oh no, I'm mesmerized!"

"Such a young general manager, handsome and wealthy, and usually so gentle! Ah, I can't take it, from today on, I'm a fan!"

...

A group of women excitedly chattered away, the buzz of their discussions never-ending.

In the morning, when Bai Xiaosheng felt worn out from work and went for a walk in the corridor, he was surprised to find that today, there were particularly many people on this floor, and they were all young and beautiful women. When they greeted him, their gazes were either shy or fiery, their flirtatious looks abounded...

"Are there a lot of things happening in the company today?" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but ask, a bit curious, turning to Song Yiming at his side.

"Personally, I think it's because there's not much going on in the company today. They're probably just idle," Song Yiming answered somewhat beside the point, smiling, "Mr. Bai, you should go down to the departments more often in the future. Maybe it would greatly boost work enthusiasm."

What a bunch of nonsense...

Bai Xiaosheng cast a perplexed glance at Song Yiming, completely unable to understand his irrelevant reply, and turned back to his own office.

Halfway there, Bai Xiaosheng slapped his forehead and turned back to Song Yiming saying, "Yiming, I have another task for you."

"Yes, sir!" Song Yiming replied.

"Go to the Zhongjing Wanhe Building and buy a gift for me; I want to give it to someone," Bai Xiaosheng said.

As Lin Weiwei's "boyfriend," attending her uncle's birthday party, it was only proper to bring a gift!

"Weiwei has always been looked down upon by her uncle and cousin, so I want to help her regain her dignity this time," Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

...

Meanwhile.

Lin Weiwei was in a mid-to-high-end men's clothing store, picking out a jacket for her uncle.

The price tag read five thousand, which made Lin Weiwei hesitate.

She had never bought such an expensive piece of clothing for her own father!

"Miss, you have good taste. This is our latest model, very prestigious as a gift!" Seeing Lin Weiwei interested, the sales assistant didn't miss the opportunity to make a pitch.

"Is that so." After much internal debate, Lin Weiwei finally made up her mind, "Wrap it up for me!"

"Sure." The assistant immediately took the clothes with enthusiasm and began packaging them.

"Xiaosheng is going with me this time. I can't have the gift I prepared be too shabby, lest others laugh at me. It doesn't matter if they mock me, but not him!" Lin Weiwei thought to herself.

After paying the money and picking up the packaged clothes, Lin Weiwei walked down the street for a while and took out her phone to call Xiaosheng to arrange a meeting time and place.

Just as she took out her phone, Lin Weiwei heard someone call out.

"Yo, isn't this Lin Weiwei?"

Shocked, Lin Weiwei lifted her head and saw a glamorous face looking at her casually and contemptuously, then glanced at the nearby clothing store.

"You're buying clothes here!"

Chapter 422 Yu Xiaoxiao_1

"Who are you?" Lin Weiwei squinted her eyes, looking at the face with confusion—it was vaguely familiar, yet strangely unfamiliar.

The other person had European-style double eyelids, a towering nose bridge, a V-shaped small face, and delicate makeup that felt very artificial, a clear sign of plastic surgery. If it weren't for the mocking in the corners of her eyes and brows that made Lin Weiwei feel somewhat familiar, she wouldn't have dared to recognize her.

"Who am I? I'm Yu Xiaoxiao!" The owner of the face looked at Lin Weiwei with a hint of dissatisfaction.

Lin Weiwei suddenly realized.

Yu Xiaoxiao!

Her cousin Meng Bing's best friend! Also her former classmate!

But back then, Yu Xiaoxiao and Meng Bing never ceased to humiliate her, insulting her as a country bumpkin and a freeloader.

Lin Weiwei had endured in every way possible back then and had even been publicly beaten by the two over trivial matters. Eventually, she fought back in anger, and because she accidentally made Meng Bing's nose bleed, she was scolded by her uncle Meng Haishan for half an hour at home.

That incident had always been hard for Lin Weiwei to put behind her.

Now, seeing Yu Xiaoxiao again, Lin Weiwei, out of politeness, still offered her a lukewarm smile.

"Long time no see."

"Isn't that the truth! It's been so many years!" Yu Xiaoxiao's eyes roamed over Lin Weiwei, sizing her up from top to bottom.

Weiwei was dressed very simply and elegantly, exuding a pure beauty without heavy makeup, and her clothes were not all designer labels like Yu Xiaoxiao's.

"I heard you joined Zhongjing Media, so, the large corporation looks... the treatment doesn't seem very good, huh?" In Yu Xiaoxiao's eyes, there was a hint of disdain and a mocking smile on her lips.

She had always looked down on Lin Weiwei, both in the past and now.

"It's fine. When you can join, you'll know what the treatment in a large corporation is like," Lin Weiwei replied with a dismissive smile, very calmly.

Having such a peaceful mindset surprised even Lin Weiwei herself.

It seems I've been with Xiaosheng for so long that even my style of speaking and handling things is very much like his, Lin Weiwei sighed inwardly.

Not to mention Bai Xiaosheng—if he didn't speak, all was well, but once he did, his words could choke a person; if he didn't act, all was well, but once he did, he left the opponent with no chance to fight back...

Nowadays, Lin Weiwei was quite fond of this approach...

"You!" Yu Xiaoxiao was really taken aback, but then she laughed, "Yo, you really can talk now that you've been in a big corporation. There's a party at Bingbing's place tonight, you coming? Did you also buy a gift?"

Yu Xiaoxiao glanced at the bag in Lin Weiwei's hand and then at the roadside shop nearby that also sold so-called name brands, with paper signs hanging out front, filled with brand names.

Yu Xiaoxiao couldn't help but sneer, "You bought it from this store, right? Look, the logo on the bag is quite convincingly made!"

"This is genuine," Lin Weiwei corrected.

"Genuine, genuinely costing four or five thousand, right?" Yu Xiaoxiao smiled maliciously, looking over Lin Weiwei's clothes, "If it's real, you must be willing to spend. But this price, it's about the same as my bag's, unfortunately. The things on me are only a bit lower in price."

Lin Weiwei remained expressionless.

Yu Xiaoxiao was still the same as before, incredibly ostentatious. Even now, after plastic surgery changed her face and her way of speaking took on a coquettish tone, her nature seemed too deeply ingrained to change even the slightest bit.

Lin Weiwei didn't want to waste more words with her here; no matter what she said, the other party would think she had a fake.

"Excuse me, I have other things to attend to. I won't accompany you," Lin Weiwei said, shaking her cellphone, ready to leave.

"How can you be like this, we are old classmates after all. You're leaving without barely exchanging a few words! How cold-hearted and unkind!" Yu Xiaoxiao picked a quarrel.

Lin Weiwei particularly disliked her tone and decided on the spot to be tougher.

"Xiaoxiao!"

Suddenly someone called out.

Lin Weiwei looked over to see a BMW 7 Series parked in the distance, and beside it stood a handsome and bright-looking man, gesturing their way.

"Darling!" Without regard for the onlookers, Yu Xiaoxiao responded cheerfully with a wave. Then she quickly said to Lin Weiwei, "That's my boyfriend, a senior executive in a big company. He just got a car worth over a million. Want me to have him give you a ride?"

"I think it's better not to," Lin Weiwei decisively refused.

"Then you can take a cab yourself, I'll leave first," Yu Xiaoxiao chuckled lightly, swinging her long legs and clicking her high heels as she dashed toward her handsome guy's BMW.

Just two minutes ago, after talking about how heartless and ungrateful Lin Weiwei was, Yu Xiaoxiao already... displayed such behavior.

Lin Weiwei, however, was not at all surprised; she didn't even glance at Yu Xiaoxiao, and just turned and walked away...

Such an interlude was, in Lin Weiwei's view, simply not worth bothering with.

...

Yu Xiaoxiao ran to her handsome guy and threw herself into his arms like a good little girl, pouting cutely, and doing it all under the watchful eyes of the public.

The man enjoyed it indeed, but when he looked up at the retreating figure of Lin Weiwei, his eyes couldn't help but flash with longing.

"Is that beauty your friend?"

"No, just some country bumpkin," Yu Xiaoxiao disdainfully glanced at Lin Weiwei's retreating figure.

Immediately after, her eyes slightly shifted, "This bumpkin actually bought a fake item to show off. It's truly shameless. I must expose her in public!"

That's definitely going to be fun!

Yu Xiaoxiao's eyes sparkled.

...

Zhongjing Media.

A day's work passed quickly.

Just before leaving work, Bai Xiaosheng received a call from Lin Weiwei.

On the phone, Lin Weiwei arranged to meet Bai Xiaosheng two stops away from the company.

The distance was not short.

"How about, I ask Feng to drive us there?" Bai Xiaosheng suggested on the phone.

His Maybach S-Class was still gathering dust in the garage.

"Still, let's not!" On the phone, Lin Weiwei declined Bai Xiaosheng's offer and insisted, "I think it's better not to let others know. If people from the company found out, it wouldn't be good for you!"

"It's okay, I don't mind," Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

"No, no! I do mind!" Lin Weiwei insisted.

Eventually, Bai Xiaosheng compromised.

After finishing work, Bai Xiaosheng lingered for a while, waited until it got dark outside, and the street lights were lit. Then he packed up his things, left the office, and hailed a taxi downstairs from the company.

Fortunately, there was no traffic jam at that time, and Bai Xiaosheng reached the designated place smoothly in the taxi.

As soon as the car stopped, and he rolled down the window, Bai Xiaosheng heard someone calling him. He looked over, and saw a girl in a long dress standing under the street light some dozens of meters away. Bathed in the gentle light, she looked pure as water, demure and otherworldly.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng with a smiling face, looking extraordinarily handsome, Lin Weiwei's face flushed as she approached.

"I kept you waiting," Bai Xiaosheng opened the door and shifted inside, making room for her.

Lin Weiwei, with her cheeks slightly red, sat down next to him and gave the driver the address.

On the way, the two of them didn't talk much.

Instead, it was the driver who made some comments, then looked at the two through the rearview mirror, expressing his sincere admiration, "The gentleman is handsome, and the lady is beautiful. You two are really a perfect match!"

Lin Weiwei turned beet red.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and unapologetically let Weiwei hook her arm through his, shamelessly saying, "Naturally!"

Chapter 423: Is Someone Definitely a Good Person Just Because They Drive a Nice Car?_1

Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei took a taxi to visit Lin Weiwei's aunt's house.

Half an hour later, the taxi slowly came to a stop.

The driver turned his head around with a helpless look and said, "I'm sorry, young lady, but this is a high-end neighborhood, and my car can't go in. I'll stop here; you can walk the rest of the way, okay?"

"That's fine." Lin Weiwei quickly nodded, handing over the change she had prepared.

The driver took the money, not forgetting to give Bai Xiaosheng a glance; it seemed he felt that this big guy, with such a pretty girlfriend, couldn't even bring himself to pay for such a small amount of money, dressed so sharply for nothing.

Bai Xiaosheng felt despised and only then realized his own slowness.

He couldn't help but bitter-smile; he indeed hadn't had that intention before.

After being in a leadership position for a few months, he had grown accustomed to letting Lin Weiwei handle the trivial matters around him, completely forgetting that this was not an official trip, but a private one...

Bai Xiaosheng felt embarrassed, while Lin Weiwei didn't think there was anything to it, cheerfully got out of the car, and waited for Bai Xiaosheng to come down before latching onto his arm like a girl deeply in love.

Bai Xiaosheng saw her carrying something and reached out to take it from her.

Lin Weiwei gave a sweet smile.

The taxi drove away.

"Let's go in!" Lin Weiwei said to Bai Xiaosheng with a smile, moving to walk inside.

Beep-beep, the sound of a car horn honked twice.

A 7 Series BMW stopped next to them, and then, the window on the passenger side rolled down.

Yu Xiaoxiao took off her sunglasses, her lips curling into a light smile. She glanced at Lin Weiwei, then her gaze landed on Bai Xiaosheng, lingering a moment longer.

"What a coincidence, Weiwei, we meet again. What, did you two come by taxi?" Yu Xiaoxiao exclaimed with a look of disdain, as if taking a taxi was a rather demeaning act.

Bai Xiaosheng gave Yu Xiaoxiao a suspicious look, then glanced at Lin Weiwei.

An acquaintance, or a friend?

That expression was anything but polite.

"Taxis are convenient," Lin Weiwei responded indifferently, her face expressionless.

Yu Xiaoxiao's boyfriend stuck his head out, his smile warm as he waved at Lin Weiwei. His enthusiastic gaze lingered on Lin Weiwei, "Beauty, get in the car, and we'll take you a bit of the way."

Lin Weiwei's natural beauty far surpassed that of the surgically enhanced Yu Xiaoxiao, and her untouched and pure appearance was enough to move a man's heart at first sight.

Yu Xiaoxiao's face looked slightly displeased, forcing a chuckle, "Yes, Weiwei, come on in. The million-dollar BMW is quite an experience, much more comfortable than any taxi."

Lin Weiwei frowned, looking a bit displeased, not for her own sake, but because she felt that Yu Xiaoxiao's condescension was also making Bai Xiaosheng lose face along with her.

A car worth only a million and Yu Xiaoxiao was so smug about it.

An ant may not discuss ice! Bai Xiaosheng had intended to bring his own Maybach S-Class, but she had refused.

After Bai Xiaosheng was promoted to General Manager, according to company policy, he should have been given a car worth at least three million yuan to start with, but Bai Xiaosheng hadn't agreed to it.

"It's just a short walk; we'll go on foot," Bai Xiaosheng said, smiling faintly.

This woman was probably attending the gathering as well, and Bai Xiaosheng, out of consideration for Lin Weiwei, chose not to argue over such things and did not want to cause Weiwei any discomfort over such petty matters.

Yu Xiaoxiao's eyes shimmered, giving Bai Xiaosheng a smile before saying to Lin Weiwei, "See you later, then!"

With that, the passenger side window rolled up, and the 7 Series BMW honked its way into the neighborhood.

Bai Xiaosheng watched as it entered the neighborhood without any obstacles.

"Xiaosheng, I'm sorry for embarrassing you by bringing you along," Lin Weiwei said softly, feeling apologetic.

"Silly girl, what are you talking about?" Bai Xiaosheng laughed heartily and reached out to ruffle Lin Weiwei's head as he stepped inside.

Seeing that he wasn't angry, Lin Weiwei felt relieved and quickly caught up, linking her arm with his.

It's easy for a luxury car to enter the residential area, but since they were walking, they had to fill out entry and exit forms.

This made Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but recall a line from a movie, "Does driving a nice car really make you a good person!"

It took a little time, but eventually, the two of them entered the residential area.

This upscale neighborhood was truly different. The ground was so clean that not a single leaf was in sight, the trees and flowers meticulously pruned, with each house being a garden villa.

Considering the location, it wasn't cheap indeed. It seemed that Lin Weiwei's aunt's family was doing quite well! No wonder they looked down on poor relatives!

Bai Xiaosheng mused.

He had Red Lotus check the price of this neighborhood, and a full set was around eight to ten million!

I currently have fifty million in my account, should I buy two... Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but jest to himself.

Of course, that was just a joke.

"My uncle by marriage is an executive at a big company with a high salary, and my aunt works for the district government. They managed to buy a place here because they got early news and had connections, with the lowest discount," Lin Weiwei explained.

Even so, the initial price was still two to three million, which Lin Weiwei found quite astonishing even now.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded, offering no comment.

The two walked for about fifteen minutes along the road before arriving in front of a villa.

Lin Weiwei led Bai Xiaosheng through the courtyard to the front door.

A very energetic middle-aged woman was just coming out the door and was immediately surprised with joy upon seeing Lin Weiwei, "Weiwei, you're here!"

Bai Xiaosheng thought this was Lin Weiwei's aunt and was about to greet her when he heard Lin Weiwei call out, "Nanny Zhang!"

It turned out to be a nanny.

Bai Xiaosheng instantly felt embarrassed, but in a moment, he regained his composure and greeted Nanny Zhang with a polite smile, "Hello, Nanny Zhang."

"Hello, hello, you are... Weiwei's boyfriend! Great!" Nanny Zhang sized up Bai Xiaosheng with bright eyes and couldn't help but wink and give a thumbs-up to Lin Weiwei.

Bai Xiaosheng, having changed his hairstyle and outfit, looked handsome and refreshed. Even a woman like Yu Xiaoxiao couldn't help but take a few extra glances, which was quite telling.

In addition, whether a man is in power or not, different status and identity naturally exude particular temperaments.

Having started out as the vice-president of Zhongjing Media and having taken the manager's position in just over three months, he was greeted with respect by over a thousand people wherever he went. The temperament fostered in such an atmosphere was naturally incomparable to the average person.

Lin Weiwei blushed at Nanny Zhang's gestures but was also very happy about them.

"Come on in, your aunt was just talking about you!" Nanny Zhang laughed as she opened the door.

Lin Weiwei smiled sweetly and walked inside, arm in arm with Bai Xiaosheng.

"Such a well-matched couple!" Nanny Zhang murmured with emotion from behind.

The living room in Lin Lu's house, Lin Weiwei's aunt, was spacious, lavishly decorated, and clearly well arranged.

There were already small groups of people in the living room, adding up to a dozen or so.

The moment Lin Weiwei and Bai Xiaosheng came in, they immediately drew everyone's attention.

"Weiwei!" A surprised and joyful voice called out, and a dignified middle-aged woman with a loving smile approached.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't dare to call out blindly and looked over at Weiwei first.

Lin Weiwei untangled herself from Bai Xiaosheng and, like a butterfly, joyfully flew into the woman's arms, "Auntie!"

Chapter 424 My Boyfriend is a Director!_1

Lin Weiwei's aunt, Lin Lu, first pulled Lin Weiwei in excitement, her face filled with joy as she looked at her nonstop. But then her expression darkened slightly, and she feigned anger, "You little rascal, do you even remember you have an aunt like me!"

"What's wrong?" Lin Weiwei, uncharacteristically, blinked her eyes and asked in a somewhat coquettish manner.

Bai Xiaosheng watched with amusement.

This girl was neither the demure and graceful type nor the overtly domineering one, but she finally displayed some of the naivety expected of her age.

"What's wrong!" Lin Lu huffed, "You work in the city, just half an hour's distance from our home. Don't you ever think to visit your aunt more often! This time, I even had to call you personally, Lin Weiwei, you sure are something, huh! Have your wings grown strong now?"

Lin Lu scolded her.

However, Bai Xiaosheng could tell that she truly cherished her niece.

No wonder Lin Weiwei didn't want to come yet insisted on doing so. Bai Xiaosheng reflected.

"I've been pretty busy recently," Lin Weiwei muttered.

"Too busy to have even a weekend free, too busy to even remember your aunt," Lin Lu snorted.

Lin Weiwei was about to say something when suddenly, a voice came from the side.

"You really don't understand, do you? She works at Zhongjing Media, a renowned corporation in Zhongjing. Could she possibly be as idle as us?"

The voice was languid and sickly sweet, laced with a hint of scorn.

Bai Xiaosheng furrowed his brows and looked over.

A woman with golden curly hair, wearing an off-the-shoulder dress, and with delicate features approached. She was about the same age as Lin Weiwei.

Her face was pretty, but her lips were thin, and her eyes had an arrogant air, the epitome of a haughty princess.

Several people accompanied her, among them, Yu Xiaoxiao was clearly present.

This must be Meng Bing, Lin Weiwei's cousin whom she'd talked about.

Bai Xiaosheng mused to himself.

He was right. It was Meng Bing.

No sooner had Meng Bing finished speaking than Yu Xiaoxiao next to her sneered and chuckled, "I guess she's been busy attending meetings, right? After all, she's now a senior conference attendant at a big corporation."

"What's that?" someone couldn't help but ask.

"It means to serve tea and water to the leaders during meetings," Yu Xiaoxiao covered her mouth and giggled.

The crowd laughed uproariously.

This news was relayed to Yu Xiaoxiao by Meng Bing, who in turn had casually heard it from her mother Lin Lu.

At that time, Lin Weiwei indeed worked at Zhongjing Media as a humble conference officer with little to say or weight to her.

Yet, as the saying goes, 'One should view changes over three days with fresh eyes,' and even more so since Lin Weiwei hadn't been around for over three months. She had rapidly risen from a lowly conference attendant to the chief assistant of the General Manager at Zhongjing Media! She had even publicly scolded the former General Manager Chen Jiuzheng and the current Deputy General Manager Chen Changqing, and now she had a resounding reputation in the company!

Even the directors would greet her with utmost politeness.

...

Meng Bing and others burst into malicious laughter.

Little did they know, the joke was on them. Weiwei had already proven her worth through her abilities.

After the pay raise next month, Weiwei's salary would rival that of a director.

To earn tens of thousands a month through one's effort in Zhongjing, could these women even compare?

Bai Xiaosheng inwardly lamented.

They were truly the most laughable ones!

...

Upon seeing Meng Bing, Lin Weiwei's smile became much more restrained. She didn't respond to the ridicule and gossip but just nodded politely at Meng Bing, "Cousin Meng Bing."

This "cousin" greeting was polite yet distant.

"Weiwei, my little cousin," Meng Bing lazily responded, lifting her chin.

Lin Lu looked from one to the other and sighed.

Just now, Yu Xiaoxiao's words had also made her quietly frown.

However, as an outsider, it was not her place to reprimand them outright.

Still, these sisters shouldn't have come to this, not really!

Even though they hadn't gotten along since they were children, they were both grown up now, yet nothing had changed.

Lin Lu took Lin Weiwei's hand and said to both her and Meng Bing, "You sisters should try to be closer to each other in the future, so that later on, you can look after one another..."

Since the aunt had spoken, Lin Weiwei naturally nodded.

Meng Bing, on the other hand, snorted coldly and said, "As the older cousin, I have to take more care of an underachieving one like her. How about this, when Brother Yin arrives, I'll ask him to look after her, seeing as he's with Zhongjing Media! Though, of course, he's not on the same level as my little cousin; he's a Director, prestigious and powerful! I think, with just a few words from him, it would outvalue half a year of my little cousin's hard work. After all, no matter how hard an employee works, if the leadership doesn't see it, it's all in vain!"

"That's right!" Yu Xiaoxiao exclaimed with a laugh, unable to hide her envy, "Meng Bing, your new boyfriend is really impressive, being a Director at Zhongjing Media, his prospects are boundless!"

"Naturally, the boyfriends I, Meng Bing, choose are among the best of the best!" Meng Bing said with unmatched pride, and cast a glance at Bai Xiaosheng.

She had noticed earlier that Lin Weiwei had brought a man with her who appeared to be Lin Weiwei's boyfriend.

To be honest, Bai Xiaosheng was quite handsome and imposing; Meng Bing felt a tinge of jealousy because he was even taller and more dashing than her own boyfriend.

Meng Bing was unsure about Bai Xiaosheng's background; after all, he seemed to radiate an air of authority.

Yu Xiaoxiao's eyes darted around before she leaned in and whispered something to Meng Bing.

Meng Bing's eyes brightened slightly, and a cold smirk curved up the corners of her mouth.

He actually arrived in a taxi!

Can't even afford his own car?

What use is it to be tall or handsome? In today's society, if a man has no career or money, all that counts for nothing!

At that moment, Bai Xiaosheng was deep in thought.

Meng Bing mentioned her new boyfriend was a Director at Zhongjing Media, with the surname Yin.

Among the eleven Directors, one with the surname Yin...

Yin Dongfeng!

Bai Xiaosheng remembered.

Though Yin Dongfeng looked to be in his thirties, he wasn't actually young at all!

Meng Bing wanted someone like that?

Listening to the words and the tone, these days many women were gold-diggers; it seemed that even Lin Weiwei, his cousin, was no exception...

And besides, Yin Dongfeng!

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes flickered slightly; he had seen that name often in reports!

"Your boyfriend is a General Manager at Zhongjing Media!" Lin Weiwei exclaimed in shock, hastily returning to Bai Xiaosheng's side.

To Meng Bing and the others, this scene only merited a disdainful glance. They thought Lin Weiwei was just a naive country girl who panicked at the mention of a Director's arrival.

Lin Lu also shook her head quietly in dismay.

But Lin Weiwei didn't care at all and anxiously whispered in Bai Xiaosheng's ear, "What shall we do, Xiaosheng? I didn't expect Director Yin to come, won't you be exposed?"

Lin Weiwei was frightened, but her reason for fear was different from what Meng Bing and the others understood...

"What's there to panic about? Let him come," Bai Xiaosheng said with an indifferent smile.

However, once Yin Dongfeng arrived and saw him with Lin Weiwei, that would indeed be something to watch...

Chapter 425: A Good Show to Watch!_1

Yin Dongfeng. Bai Xiaosheng reflected carefully, Gao Dazhi, Shi Yu, and others had all mentioned this man, either implicitly or directly.

This person had an extremely bad reputation!

Moreover, from the reports he had read, the most memorable impression Bai Xiaosheng had was of him!

It could be said that Bai Xiaosheng had already made up his mind, the next director he intended to take down was exactly this Yin Dongfeng.

Unexpectedly, he turned out to be Lin Weiwei's older cousin Meng Bing's boyfriend!

Bai Xiaosheng felt a bit emotional and also somewhat hesitant—this really wasn't the right time to come. If he went back and fired Yin Dongfeng, and if Meng Bing and the others found out, would it make things difficult for Lin Weiwei...

However, he soon stopped dwelling on these thoughts.

Keeping a troublemaker like Yin Dongfeng around was useless, and he believed Weiwei would understand.

...

"The Director named Yin, isn't that Yin Dongfeng?" After the silence, Lin Weiwei blurted out in shock.

As Bai Xiaosheng's first assistant, naturally, she had also read the reports. Although she had only seen a part of them due to her vacation, in that part, Yin Dongfeng's reputation was really at rock bottom!

Moreover, while she was at the reception desk during the meeting, she had heard the employees discussing this man.

As a director, he was incredibly flirtatious, discarding one partner after growing tired and moving on to the next, exceedingly harsh with employees, and extremely manipulative with his peers...

Such a person, unsurprisingly, was exactly who Bai Xiaosheng was planning to take down next!

Lin Weiwei couldn't help but sigh inwardly.

"How can you call your leader by his name like that!" Meng Bing was very displeased with Lin Weiwei's outburst, "Cousin, you're so insensitive, I can't help you with that! From now on, you should call him Brother Yin, you know that!"

"Yes, Brother Yin is the benefactor who will boost your career, how can you be so disrespectful, lacking any sense of gratitude!" Yu Xiaoxiao called out from the side.

Then, she grabbed Meng Bing's hand, speaking with excitement, "Don't bother with her! Hey, Bingbing, what does your boyfriend supervise? My boyfriend's family owns a printing factory. Do you think you could bridge a connection for them to collaborate?"

"No problem!" Meng Bing replied with an expression that said 'easy peasy'.

She seemed as if she could make all the decisions.

"That's great then, let's go over there and talk about it! Look, that's my boyfriend!" Yu Xiaoxiao, full of excitement, pulled Meng Bing along and walked away.

Meng Bing glanced at Lin Weiwei, didn't even bother to greet her, and walked away with her company.

Lin Weiwei's expression was calm.

If Meng Bing had been more polite, she might indeed have found an opportunity to tell her about Yin Dongfeng's matter.

However, seeing Meng Bing's attitude, she feared that even if she spoke up, they might not be willing to believe her.

"Weiwei, don't take it to heart, Bingbing, she didn't mean any harm," Lin Lu sighed and came over, taking Lin Weiwei's hand and said.

Indeed, a mother's instinct, Bai Xiaosheng commented silently.

If her own daughter had turned out like this and it was still considered harmless, then what would be considered harmful? Framing and sabotage, murder and arson?

Looking at Lin Lu now, Bai Xiaosheng no longer felt as favorable as he did before...

"This is your boyfriend, the young man looks very decent!" Lin Lu said with a smile, looking at Bai Xiaosheng, and greeted him.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled faintly and greeted her, "Hello, Mrs. Lin."

"Good, good! Come, sit down!" Lin Lu gestured the two of them inside.

Lin Weiwei hesitated a little, stole a glance at Bai Xiaosheng, and finally couldn't resist. She pulled Lin Lu aside and whispered, "Auntie, you should tell my older cousin to be careful, that Mr. Yin... he's not a good person!"

Even if not for Meng Bing, for her own auntie's sake, Lin Weiwei still brought up the subject.

Foolish girl! Bai Xiaosheng shook his head inwardly.

You're only asking for trouble by saying this now...

Sure enough, Lin Lu's smile took on a slight dip, and she looked at Lin Weiwei with complex eyes,

"Weiwei, your cousin has a sharp tongue but a soft heart. She even wanted Yin to help you get a promotion and a raise. How could you speak ill of Yin behind his back!"

"It's not that, I..."

"Enough!" Lin Lu tersely cut off Lin Weiwei's words, "I'm still very happy that you could come today. Let's not talk about that anymore. I've met Yin! He is a bit older, yes, but he keeps up his appearance, and besides, he is successful, comes from a very good family background, is kind to Bing Bing, and is a rare good man!"

Lin Weiwei opened her mouth but ultimately didn't speak another word upon hearing Lin Lu say this.

Even if she did speak, it wouldn't make any difference.

"I have other things to take care of. Your uncle is upstairs; go see him," Lin Lu shook her head and turned to leave.

Lin Weiwei stood still, watching her aunt's receding figure with a very complex expression on her face.

Bai Xiaosheng walked up beside her and gently patted her shoulder, whispering, "Don't think too much. Sometimes, your kindness is not necessarily seen as good by others."

Lin Weiwei forced a smile, looked at Bai Xiaosheng, and nodded.

"Let's go see your uncle. I see you've also prepared a gift," Bai Xiaosheng said.

In fact, he had also brought one, although much smaller and tucked into his pocket.

"Okay," Lin Weiwei nodded and led Bai Xiaosheng upstairs.

...

In a corner, Yu Xiaoxiao was chatting animatedly with her boyfriend and Meng Bing.

To cooperate with a big company like Zhongjing Media was like a pie falling from the sky. Not to mention the profits, just being able to say "Zhongjing Media prints stuff at our place" was enough to crush the competition.

Having such a connection made Yu Xiaoxiao's boyfriend ecstatic.

Yu Xiaoxiao, responsible for making this happen, was quite proud of herself.

Seeing them like this, Meng Bing felt very prestigious as well.

Suddenly, she looked into the distance.

Following her gaze, Yu Xiaoxiao saw Lin Weiwei leading Bai Xiaosheng upstairs, with Bai Xiaosheng carrying a bag in his hand.

"They must be bringing a gift for your dad," Yu Xiaoxiao said.

Meng Bing nodded and was about to continue listening when Yu Xiaoxiao's eyes lit up, as if she just thought of something.

"Hey! Bing Bing, aren't you going to check it out?" Yu Xiaoxiao said.

"What's so interesting about them giving a gift." Meng Bing said dismissively, "They couldn't possibly bring anything worthwhile."

Even now, she still looked down on Lin Weiwei, thinking that a gift from a minor employee was worth nothing more than a sneer.

"You're mistaken this time, it's from a big brand, Langying Apparel, and it's the latest fashion model, costing five thousand yuan a piece," Yu Xiaoxiao whispered conspiratorially.

Meng Bing was taken aback, then scoffed, "I guess she has a bit of conscience after all."

"But let me tell you, that's a fake from a small shop, I saw her buy it with my own eyes!" Yu Xiaoxiao said with great importance.

"Fake!" Meng Bing's brow furrowed immediately.

"Think about it. Your uncle is a top executive at a big company. If he wore such a piece of clothing to work and someone recognized it, how embarrassing that would be..." Yu Xiaoxiao didn't finish her sentence before she saw Meng Bing storming off.

"This is going to be good!" Yu Xiaoxiao excitedly pulled her boyfriend to follow.

Chapter 426 Best Son-in-law_1

Meng Family, second floor.

In a study with the door wide open.

A mix of men and women were all smiles, surrounding a middle-aged man with slightly frosted hair tips, very spirited, admiring the calligraphy he had just written.

This middle-aged man was none other than Meng Bing's father, Lin Weiwei's uncle by marriage—Meng Haishan.

The gathering today was primarily to celebrate Meng Haishan's birthday. Meng Haishan was an executive in a large mixed-ownership enterprise and had previously held a stable government job, even serving as a leader in name for a while, so he had quite a distinguished air about him.

The men and women in this room were all subordinates of Meng Haishan.

In between chatting with them, an itch to exhibit his skill overcame Meng Haishan, and he decided to showcase the calligraphy he had been refining for years.

It appeared that his writing was quite authentic, with a touch of ancient elegance, drawing rounds of cheers from those around him.

One said, "Leader's inkwork is on par with the scholars and literati of the ancient times!"

Another remarked, "Mr. Meng has reached the level of a modern artist; perhaps this piece of calligraphy could even win an award and fetch a high price if it were sold!"

And some kept asking for a character or two.

After several rounds of praise, Meng Haishan laughed heartily, enjoying himself immensely.

...

As the topic of the endless compliments began to wane, someone decisively initiated a new topic:

"Hey, did you all know? I just heard downstairs that Mr. Meng's daughter, Meng Bing, has found a great suitor for herself!"

"Oh? To be called a great suitor in Mr. Meng's eyes, what kind of person must he be?" someone inquired further.

"Well, the man, of course, goes without saying, he must be handsome and talented! Otherwise, how could he be worthy of our Miss Meng Bing!" said the speaker.

Meng Haishan, hearing this, beamed with delight; putting down his brush, he sat down and turned his attention to the speaker.

The person, noticing the approving and encouraging look in the leader's eyes, was suddenly energized.

The others, seeing Meng Haishan's expression, silently kicked themselves for not bringing up the subject sooner, regretting the missed opportunity.

Knowing that Meng Haishan had only this one daughter, whom he cherished like a treasure, it should have been mentioned earlier; to not utilize such a great topic was a waste.

Although they couldn't stir up the same topic again, the others weren't fools and quickly followed with questions of their own.

"Isn't that obvious? With Miss Bing Bing's natural beauty, those like us who fall short in that regard shouldn't even harbor thoughts about it—it's like a toad lusting after a swan's meat. What I want to ask, though, is about the young man's qualifications and family background," someone else asked.

Excellent question!

Meng Haishan couldn't help but give an appreciative glance, as he too was thinking of taking the opportunity to talk about the young man he viewed as a prospective son-in-law. Although the man wasn't exactly young, as soon as family background came into the conversation, he was sure to overshadow everyone else!

"All I heard is that he is a director at Zhongjing Media," the speaker revealed.

Zhongjing Media, a director!

These words made everyone surrounding them click their tongues in astonishment.

Their company, like Zhongjing Media, was also considered a large enterprise, but large enterprises have their hierarchies, with some feasting on meat and others merely sipping soup.

Zhongjing Media was among those feasting on meat.

It was said that even a mid-level manager at that company could earn tens of thousands a month, and directors' earnings were jaw-dropping, reaching thirty to forty thousand a month. Even though Zhongjing was not a top-tier city, such income was definitely considered upper-middle class even in the biggest cities!

Of course, being able to get into Zhongjing Media and secure a director's position was no small feat; it was akin to being a dragon amongst men!

"Impressive, truly impressive!" someone couldn't help but give a thumbs-up.

"To have such capability at such a young age, I am convinced!" another exclaimed admiringly.

"When we meet him later, I must get closer and chat about some career experience—that's stuff money can't buy, invaluable indeed!" yet another person commented.

"Ahem!" Meng Haishan coughed.

Everyone immediately quieted down a bit.

"Where's Yin? He's quite a bit older than Bingbing, about the same as Wang," Meng Haishan said.

The people who had just been buzzing about the young talents suddenly looked at each other in dismay.

Wang?

Wang is almost forty years old, so it turns out Mr. Meng's daughter Meng Bing found herself an old man!

This was somewhat awkward.

"However, Yin's family background is still quite impressive," Meng Haishan added bureaucratically, pausing for a moment, "His father is Yin Haoran."

Yin Haoran? The crowd was stunned.

Then someone exclaimed in surprise, "The boss of Zhongjing Haoran Real Estate Development Co., Ltd.!"

When it came to Yin Haoran in Zhongjing, he was definitely famous for one thing: wealth!

During the boom in real estate, he made a fortune and spent lavishly, as if money meant nothing to him. It's said that for his own father's birthday celebration, he booked the ten largest restaurants in Zhongjing at once, hosting banquets for ten days straight. Anyone who came to celebrate could just walk in and join in the feast of exotic delicacies.

At that time, it sparked a craze.

There were even rumors that the Yin Family's real estate ventures had unearthed Shen Wansan's legendary treasure basin.

Of course, those were just street rumors, but their wealth was real.

It was said that both sons of the Yin Family didn't work in their father's company but were placed elsewhere.

To everyone's surprise, one of them was actually at Zhongjing Media!

In light of this, the director's salary they had just been gasping over might seem like mere pocket change to him.

Everyone was filled with wonder and shock.

"Wow, amazing! Our Mr. Meng is going to be in-laws with Yin Haoran!"

"My god, after that, why would Mr. Meng even need to work, he could just enjoy his life!"

"Tsk tsk, the Yin Family of Zhongjing, tsk tsk!"

Amid the numerous exclamations, Meng Haishan had a smug smile on his face; this was what he wanted to hear.

His daughter Meng Bing might have found an older man, but he was from a grand household others couldn't hold a candle to!

Outside the study, Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei happened to come by and overheard the conversation inside.

Lin Weiwei couldn't help but be shocked, her mouth agape.

"Is Director Yin Dongfeng's family really that impressive?" Lin Weiwei whispered to Bai Xiaosheng, but her eyes betrayed a hint of skepticism.

Because at this stage, with Bai Xiaosheng focusing on work, that Director Yin didn't act arrogantly or presumptuously, and kept a low profile like everyone else.

He really didn't look like the son of a real estate tycoon.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't immediately respond to Lin Weiwei's comment.

"Red Lotus, retrieve for me all news regarding Zhongjing Haoran Real Estate Co., Ltd., including their recent performance trends, and analyze..."

"Yes, Master... Searching... Search complete... Data analysis in progress... Here are the results..."

With just a thought from Bai Xiaosheng, Red Lotus provided the results.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

"Zhongjing Haoran, two years ago, indeed had a skyrocketing reputation, even able to talk business with Song Changkong," Bai Xiaosheng remarked with a sigh, "Unfortunately, in these past two years, they've been reduced to nothing but a shell."

"Ah, what do you mean?" Lin Weiwei asked in surprise.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled without a word, "Let's go, we're off to meet your uncle by marriage!"

Chapter 427: Giving Gifts_1

Lin Weiwei led the way into the study, with Bai Xiaosheng following behind.

At this moment, Meng Haishan was in an exceptionally good mood.

The surrounding flattery and envy filled him with immense satisfaction.

Looking up, Meng Haishan saw Lin Weiwei.

Following behind Lin Weiwei was a young man carrying something, who looked quite handsome.

"Uncle-in-law, happy birthday!" Lin Weiwei said with a brimming smile as she walked over.

"You're here, Weiwei." Meng Haishan straightened his back without getting up and called out.

People around looked over, their eyes brightening.

What a perfect golden boy and jade girl!

"Uncle-in-law, hello, I'm Weiwei's boyfriend, my name is Bai Xiaosheng." Bai Xiaosheng introduced himself with a smile.

Meng Haishan nodded slightly and glanced at Bai Xiaosheng, "Good."

Those surrounding Meng Haishan began to whisper among themselves.

"That must be Mr. Meng's niece, she's really pretty, looks about the same age as Meng Bing!"

"She's not only beautiful but also well-mannered. You can tell she comes from a good family, well-educated indeed!"

"That young man looks quite decent as well, handsome and polite, even walks with an air of grandeur, much better than our kid at home!"

...

Endless words of praise filled the room, making Lin Weiwei smile bashfully.

Meng Haishan's face remained expressionless, but there was a hint of displeasure hidden deep within his eyes.

They hadn't praised his own daughter so enthusiastically just a moment ago.

This Lin Weiwei, a country bumpkin, was stealing the spotlight today, even compromising Meng Bing's own radiance!

"Weiwei, how are your parents doing?" Meng Haishan asked, appearing to be concerned, but then continued, "Tell them not to work too hard. Now that their daughter can earn money, they shouldn't be up at the crack of dawn toiling in the fields. Digging in the earth for food doesn't bring in much money these days."

Meng Haishan bluntly revealed Lin Weiwei's background.

The surrounding murmuring voices came to an abrupt halt.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but frown slightly, yet he said nothing.

Lin Weiwei seemed accustomed to it, her expression unchanged, smilingly replied, "Yes, I will tell them."

"Uncle-in-law, it's your birthday today, Weiwei bought you a jacket, but we're not sure if it fits." Lin Weiwei took the bag from Bai Xiaosheng and handed it over.

Meng Haishan nodded slightly, and a middle-aged woman standing beside him took it, exclaiming in surprise, "Wow, it's from Lanying, isn't this their latest model? It must be around four or five thousand!"

A round of surprise ensued.

"Four or five thousand?"

"That's right, my old man has been eyeing this model for a while, but he couldn't bring himself to buy it!"

"How wonderful! This child doesn't hesitate to spend money!"

"Indeed, Mr. Meng's niece is very filial."

...

The admiration continued all around.

Meng Haishan became slightly impatient and huffed, "Weiwei, how come you still can't kick this habit of wasting money? I'm not lacking in clothes. Your cousin Meng Bing brought me back a jacket from abroad just the other day, an England-Tanu, cost almost ten thousand, and I've already given it away. Remember, 'be frugal when you're affluent, as if you were poor,' maintain simplicity in abundance and avoid extravagance even in wealth."

Meng Haishan's remarks once again surprised everyone.

"Over ten thousand, and that's from his own daughter, really willing to spend money!"

"Yeah, wow, no wonder Mr. Meng isn't impressed with this jacket, there's a difference in class!"

"Our Mr. Meng must wear only the best..."

...

The various voices of discussion cooled the atmosphere for Lin Weiwei.

Bai Xiaosheng's face was covered with a layer of chill.

Lin Weiwei saw this and felt a bit worried, quietly tugging at Bai Xiaosheng's sleeve, afraid he might be upset, and even more that he might storm off.

Her uncle-in-law was just that kind of person, and she was helpless to change it...

Bai Xiaosheng looked at Lin Weiwei and gave her a reassuring smile, indicating that he didn't mind.

In his heart, Bai Xiaosheng could only sigh.

Meng Haishan, being a corporate executive and a high-level intellectual, was absolutely dreadful in speech and action!

Seeing is believing, and Bai Xiaosheng had indeed broadened his horizons.

However, since he was Lin Weiwei's uncle by marriage and their family's benefactor, his own ability to come was essentially giving face to Weiwei, so he endured it.

Bai Xiaosheng stepped forward, took out a small, exquisite gift box from his pocket, and handed it over.

"Uncle, I hope Cousin Meng Bing hasn't given you a watch. It's a small token, please don't take it as anything more," Bai Xiaosheng said.

Lin Weiwei looked on in surprise.

She hadn't expected Bai Xiaosheng to prepare a gift.

At that moment, Lin Weiwei was genuinely touched, even happier than if she had received a gift herself.

But, what exactly had Xiaosheng given?

Lin Weiwei was also curious.

Meng Haishan took the box, opened it, and inside lay a wristwatch, beautifully luxurious, its shimmering luster betraying its exceptionality.

Beside him, several men couldn't take their eyes off it!

Men naturally love these kinds of things!

This watch was obviously quite valuable!

"An Omega Seamaster, that watch must be worth fifty or sixty thousand!" someone exclaimed in a hushed voice.

To come up with a wristwatch worth fifty or sixty thousand as a gift, what generosity! And that young man still called it a small token...

The people around were speechless, looking at Bai Xiaosheng with different eyes now.

Meng Haishan's eyes went a bit slack, and he couldn't help but swallow.

Despite living in a house worth over eight million, presenting a life of luxury, that house was mortgaged. When they'd bought it five or six years ago, it had only been worth a little over two million. It was merely a question of doubling in value over a few years, fortuitously catching up in value!

Still paying off the home loan, he couldn't even dream of buying a watch worth fifty or sixty thousand, let alone one costing just a few thousand.

He certainly wasn't counting on his daughter...

It was good enough that Meng Bing wasn't asking him for money...

"Hm, good, not bad!" Meng Haishan could only utter his admiration, unable to say anything else.

Lin Weiwei looked at Bai Xiaosheng, and then her gaze softened, moved.

"Thank you," Lin Weiwei found a moment to whisper quietly.

"Don't mention it, I'm your boyfriend after all, it's only natural," Bai Xiaosheng whispered back with a chuckle.

Lin Weiwei tightened her grip on Bai Xiaosheng's arm.

"Seeing that you've put so much thought into this, okay, I'll accept it!" Meng Haishan's mouth was so wide with joy he could barely close it.

Underneath Bai Xiaosheng's smile, there was a faint hint of disdain in his eyes that was not easy to detect.

So, Meng Haishan wasn't pretending anymore?

If he really had the nerve, he should go on and say his daughter had given him a watch worth a hundred thousand that he'd given away.

If he said that, he reckoned no one would believe it...

"Weiwei, why don't you take your boyfriend downstairs to have fun? You're all young people; you can enjoy yourselves more," said a cheerful Meng Haishan, his tone now completely different.

"Okay," Lin Weiwei smiled sweetly, ready to lead Bai Xiaosheng away.

"Wait a minute!"

Suddenly, a sharp cry!

Meng Bing stepped in the door, her face frosty and extremely unhappy, glowering at Lin Weiwei.

"My dear daughter, what's wrong?" Meng Haishan quickly stood up.

"I'm fine. I just came to see the gift my cousin gave you!" Meng Bing glared coldly at Lin Weiwei, catching her off guard.

Behind Meng Bing, two figures appeared, Yu Xiaoxiao and her boyfriend.

Yu Xiaoxiao, looking smug, glanced at Lin Weiwei.

"Gifts, what about the gifts?" Meng Haishan asked curiously, "This gift is very nice! And expensive too!"

"It's fake! And you're acting so grateful to her!" Meng Bing said angrily.

Fake? Meng Haishan's face changed!

For a brief moment, there was silence, followed by an uproar.

Chapter 428: Keep it for yourself to play with!_1

"Fake? No way, it looks pretty real to me!"

"Exactly, can counterfeits even reach this level nowadays?"

"If it's really a fake, I'd like to buy one too..."

"But giving a fake gift to an elder, that's just too rude!"

...

Around Meng Haishan, voices of shock rose continuously; no one could believe it.

Meng Haishan's expression immediately darkened, a look of "I knew it" on his face.

He snapped the watch box shut with a "snap" and tossed it onto the table nearby.

"This isn't fake!"

Lin Weiwei regained her senses from the astonishment and hurriedly defended herself.

"Really, can you afford it? You, a little waitress who serves tea and runs errands at Zhongjing Media—frankly speaking, what's the difference between you and a maid!" Meng Bing spat out the words, not giving her any face at all.

She hated Lin Weiwei; she had hated her since they were children!

This country bumpkin lived in their house, ate their food, was obedient and did well in studies.

Whether at school or at home, the phrase Meng Bing heard the most was, "Learn from Weiwei. Look at what she does, why can't you be more like..."

Year after year, in Meng Bing's eyes, Lin Weiwei was her personal hell!

Back then, the boy Meng Bing fancied, when she was so infatuated she would have given anything, was reported by this very Lin Weiwei, leading to the end of her first love.

Meng Bing loathed Lin Weiwei to the core, taking any chance to humiliate her.

Over the years, Lin Weiwei's forbearance only made such treatment natural for Meng Bing.

The situation was the same now.

"This really is genuine!" Lin Weiwei insisted urgently.

"I saw it myself; you came out of a small store by the roadside! How can it not be fake!" Yu Xiaoxiao shouted from behind Meng Bing, craning her neck.

She sneered and curled her lip, her expression one of disdain, even spitting in contempt, "If you don't have money, then don't pretend; it's just humiliating!"

When Yu Xiaoxiao was in school, just like Meng Bing, she looked down on Lin Weiwei, this rural girl, always thinking of bullying her.

Yet Lin Weiwei was always submissive to Meng Bing, but she never took it lying down with her, having had several fights in their youth, almost disfiguring her.

Yu Xiaoxiao felt she would remember these events for a lifetime.

Now was the perfect opportunity to put this country girl in her place.

"You're talking nonsense!" Lin Weiwei was naturally unwilling to be slandered.

"Enough!" Suddenly a loud shout rang out.

Meng Haishan's face darkened, he coldly glanced at Lin Weiwei, let out a sigh, and said in a meaningful tone, "Weiwei, in life, the most important thing is to act uprightly and conduct oneself honorably! You could have come empty-handed, and I wouldn't have said anything, but this... I'm very disappointed!"

Meng Haishan passed judgment on Lin Weiwei.

The people around him exchanged glances; since Mr. Meng had said so, everyone else ought to show some reaction...

"Mr. Meng is right, young lady, giving your uncle a fake gift, where's your conscience?"

"Exactly, not being honest at all, you're on the path to ruin!"

"And that young man, looking rather decent with an imposing aura, how can he engage in such underhanded tactics!"

"Ah, the youth of today, they're degenerating..."

Countless voices, either contemptuous or sympathetic.

"It's not..." Lin Weiwei was eager to argue her point; she could deal with being misunderstood, but these comments were now directed at Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng had come with good intentions and even prepared a watch worth tens of thousands as a gift, only to face such accusations and insults!

Lin Weiwei found this absolutely intolerable.

Unfortunately, as soon as her voice emerged, it was drowned out by everyone else's.

"Folks, don't you think you're being a bit harsh?" Bai Xiaosheng stepped forward, his voice cold.

"Harsh? Kid, do you talk to your elders like that in public!" Meng Haishan glared and slammed his hand on the table.

He had taken an instant disliking to Bai Xiaosheng!

If it weren't for the face of the gift, he would have never tolerated him until now!

The reason for the dislike was simple: Bai Xiaosheng was young and handsome, with elegant and measured manners, overshadowing his potential future son-in-law. When others arrived, they would see the difference, and even if they didn't say anything, they would make comparisons!

So, Meng Haishan harbored an aversion to Bai Xiaosheng from the depths of his heart!

"As an elder, one should be fair," Bai Xiaosheng said calmly looking at Meng Haishan, "Claiming the gift is a fake, we could easily call the official store to verify it!"

"There's no need for that!" Meng Haishan snatched the box from the table and threw it; Bai Xiaosheng caught it in his hand.

"Keep this fake trash to yourself!" Meng Haishan huffed.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at the box in his hand and let out a wry laugh.

If that was the case, he had nothing more to say, and casually stuffed it into his pocket.

This Meng Haishan, impervious to reason, I hope he doesn't regret it when he finds out it's the real deal...

"Isn't it just clothes? What did my dad throw at him, and are there other gifts?" Meng Bing was momentarily stunned, but didn't take it too seriously.

People murmured and pointed.

Meng Haishan went on with another life lesson.

Bai Xiaosheng acted as if he hadn't heard.

It wasn't that he could endure; it was simply not the moment nor the person to lash out at. Just now, he had expressed his discontent as forcefully as he could.

As for what would happen next, it all depended on Lin Weiwei...

Lin Weiwei's face looked embarrassed, her snow-white teeth biting her lower lip.

Bai Xiaosheng sighed softly.

He walked up to Lin Weiwei, leaned slightly towards her, and whispered in her ear, "These are ultimately your relatives, as well as your emotional burden. If you choose to endure, I'm here with you; if you no longer wish to endure, I'll stand up for you this time."

Lin Weiwei gave him a look, feeling an inexplicable sense of grievance, with her eyes brimming with humiliation and tears.

Her hands clenched into fists.

Bai Xiaosheng's smile was gentle, filled with encouragement.

Finally, Lin Weiwei mustered the courage to resist!

"What's going on? Why are you all standing here?" At the door, Lin Weiwei's aunt Lin Lu appeared with a smile, but upon seeing the scene, she was momentarily taken aback.

"What happened?" Lin Lu asked anxiously.

"Mom, Lin Weiwei brought a fake designer item, claiming it was worth thousands. We caught her red-handed," Meng Bing asserted loudly.

Lin Lu gave a complex look towards Lin Weiwei and couldn't help but scold both her and Meng Haishan, "What are you two playing at? Meng, you too—are you behaving like a child? Genuine or fake, doesn't it wear just the same? Besides, it's the thought that counts from the children."

Lin Lu was trying to smooth things over.

She approached Lin Weiwei, scolding her, "Stop crying! Girl, why do you cry at the drop of a hat! We're here to celebrate today, and everyone should be happy. Let's forget about all this nonsense!"

In the Meng Family, the real person in charge was still Lin Lu.

With her intervention, neither Meng Haishan nor Meng Bing made another peep. The guests naturally didn't say much either.

"The Yin Family has arrived!" someone suddenly shouted from downstairs.

Meng Bing was thrilled and hurried away.

Yu Xiaoxiao and her boyfriend quickly followed.

"Has my son-in-law arrived!" Meng Haishan's face beamed with joy as he strode out.

The crowd exchanged glances and followed closely behind.

Lin Lu patted Lin Weiwei on the shoulder and also left.

That pat extinguished the emotions Lin Weiwei was on the verge of releasing.

"I'm sorry, Xiaosheng," Lin Weiwei wept, "I can't do it!"

Seeing her aunt, Lin Weiwei's courage drained away.

"It's okay, it's okay, Weiwei!" Bai Xiaosheng smiled gently, "Come on, let's go have a look. We'll stay a bit longer, and then we'll leave, alright?"

"Alright."

With the comfort of Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Weiwei managed a tearful smile.

But inside, Bai Xiaosheng sighed deeply.

If Weiwei has no heart to fight, even with all my willingness, what can I do!

He just hoped the embarrassment of the day would end there, his eyes cold with frost.

His patience was never high to begin with!

Chapter 429 Yin Donglei_1

Everyone bustled downstairs and only when they reached the lobby did they realize that the visitors were indeed from the Yin Family, but it wasn't Meng Bing's boyfriend, Yin Dongfeng; it was his younger brother, Yin Donglei.

A man in his thirties with an average build, looking four parts lazy and six parts slick, was being surrounded by a crowd. He had two tall and burly servants following him, holding gifts in their arms.

This young man was Yin Donglei.

"Donglei, you're here," Meng Haishan greeted with a beaming smile, walking up to him.

The second young master of the Yin Family, that was certainly something to boast about.

"Oh my, Uncle Meng, why are you coming out to meet someone like me? I'm truly overwhelmed by your kindness!" Yin Donglei said with a grin, quickening his pace with an air of modesty.

Yin Donglei had been to the Meng Family residence before and naturally recognized Meng Haishan.

Speaking of the two sons of the Yin Family, each had his own personality.

The elder, Yin Dongfeng, was arrogant and unruly.

The younger, Yin Donglei, was slick and sweet-talking, a good conversationalist, which was very much to Meng Haishan's liking.

"Only you could charm Uncle Meng like this," laughed Meng Haishan heartily. "How's your father doing?"

"Our old man even told me to send his regards to you!" Yin Donglei chuckled.

"Good, good!" beamed Meng Haishan.

This exchange was intended for the ears of those around them.

Listen, Yin Haoran of the Yin Family in Zhongjing himself sent his regards through his son; what an honor for Meng Haishan!

"That's Yin Haoran's second son from the Zhongjing Yin Family!"

"Yes! The son of a big tycoon from Zhongjing. Listen, Yin Haoran even asked after Mr. Meng!"

"Impressive, what a match this marriage is, such fortune must've taken years to cultivate!"

...

Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei descended amidst the lively discussion of those around them.

"The Yin Family, such grandeur!" Bai Xiaosheng remarked.

People always adore the glamorous side of things, yet they don't realize that the Yin Family, this leviathan, existed in name only!

Lin Weiwei's gaze was complex; unlike Bai Xiaosheng, she didn't have Red Lotus for querying numerous data and insider information, so she wasn't aware that the Yin Family was merely a shell.

All she knew was that Yin Dongfeng's behavior was erratic, and his romantic life promiscuous; he wasn't a good match.

But who could she tell? Even her aunt didn't trust her in this matter.

Lin Weiwei genuinely felt a sense of powerlessness.

On the other side,

Lin Lu said to Yin Donglei with a smile brimming across her face, "Little Lei, don't just stand there; come inside and let's talk!"

"Ah, of course, Mrs. Lin! Mrs. Lin, you're getting more and more beautiful, I must say. My mom asked me to bring you a set of Chanel from France. Once you wear it, you'll certainly dazzle everyone and might just leave countless men enamored. Then, Uncle Meng might have to watch out!" Yin Donglei said jocularly.

"Look at you, always so charming," Lin Lu beamed, unable to conceal her smile.

"Little Lei, where's your brother?" Meng Bing asked with a smile.

"My brother will come later; the company has been extremely busy recently!" Yin Donglei appraised Meng Bing and complimented playfully, "The future sister-in-law is looking truly beautiful today; I'm afraid my brother won't be able to take his eyes off you when he arrives!"

"Can't you ever be serious!" Meng Bing retorted with a smile, clearly enjoying the flattery.

Yin Donglei handed over the gifts, and Lin Lu supervised the servants in receiving them.

Yin Donglei's gaze swept across the faces of the female guests, lighting up at a few particularly attractive ones.

Many girls who heard he was the second young master of the Yin Family even started casting covert glances his way.

Suddenly, Yin Donglei's attention settled on a woman standing in a corner.

She was not only breathtakingly beautiful but also possessed an aura of purity, which combined with an aloofness that seemed otherworldly, was enough to set hearts racing.

Unfortunately, by her side stood a man who appeared to be quite handsome.

What's the use of being handsome when I'm the second young master of the Yin Family!

Yin Donglei was brimming with confidence.

Finding an opportunity, he pulled Meng Bing aside and quietly asked, "Sister Bing Bing, do you know her?!"

"Who?" Meng Bing smiled as she looked over, but then her smile turned sour.

The person Yin Donglei was referring to was actually Lin Weiwei!

"Why are you asking about her? That woman already has a boyfriend," Meng Bing scoffed coldly.

"It doesn't matter, even if the flower has an owner, I can still loosen the soil a bit, fair competition and all that," Yin Donglei joked.

"Donglei, you two really aren't a good match!" Meng Bing said seriously.

"Suitable or not, I want to get to know her first," Yin Donglei insisted.

"I think you better forget about it!" Meng Bing still disagreed.

Yin Donglei's smile faltered slightly, his face showing a touch of discontent, "Sister Bing Bing, what's this all about? Are you trying to stop me from finding a match? I'll have you know..."

Yin Donglei lowered his voice and confided to Meng Bing, "About you and my brother, our parents haven't given their final approval yet. Don't you see, all those gifts were bought by us brothers and sent in their names!"

His words immediately changed Meng Bing's complexion, her eyes revealing a shade of unease.

Just now, she had been puzzled.

She hadn't formally met Yin Dongfeng's parents yet; how could Yin Haoran and his wife have sent gifts to her parents? It turned out to be the Yin brothers' idea!

If the Yin Family didn't agree, wouldn't her plans to marry into a wealthy family fall through...

Meng Bing's expression turned bitter.

She had already bragged about it in public; if it fell through, how could she, Meng Bing, show her face again.

"Sister Bing Bing, I see you're quite familiar with that beauty. So, if you help me set things up with her, I promise to do everything in my power, by any means necessary, to work with my brother and get our parents to accept you!" Yin Donglei said playfully upon seeing Meng Bing's expression.

"Really?!" Meng Bing's eyes widened as she asked.

"We are the sons dearest to our old man. If the two of us persuade them together, I guarantee it won't be a problem!" Yin Donglei spoke confidently, with complete assurance.

After a moment of contemplation, Meng Bing finally bit the bullet, "Alright! Then I, your sister, will play matchmaker just this once! This woman is called Lin Weiwei; she's my cousin. But give it some thought, she's from the country, really not a good match for you!"

"If she's not a good match, I can just play around," Yin Donglei said teasingly.

Meng Bing looked at Lin Weiwei and couldn't help sneering to herself. It was okay to play around for now. Once she got into the Yin Family, she would never let this match happen!

"Fine, leave it to me," Meng Bing agreed, "But you better remember your words, you have to help me too!"

"Done deal, thanks sister," Yin Donglei said cheerfully, watching Meng Bing leave.

A hint of mockery flickered in the depths of his gaze.

This Meng Bing really thinks she can become part of their family!

Keep dreaming!

She was just a toy for his brother, who had come here knowing there was a gathering, in search of a romantic adventure.

To his surprise, this time he had found quite the jewel!

Yin Donglei couldn't help but lick his lips surreptitiously as he stared at Lin Weiwei.

She was indeed a beauty!

He had to make his move quickly, otherwise, if his brother saw her first, it would ruin his plans.

...

From a distance, Bai Xiaosheng gave Yin Donglei a cold glance, noting his expression. His own face suddenly darkened.

However, before he could warn Lin Weiwei,

suddenly a woman rushed over, excitedly shouting at Lin Weiwei, "Weiwei, is that really you!"

"Jiajia, you're here too!" Lin Weiwei exclaimed with delight upon seeing the person.

Chapter 430: More than absurd!_1

The girl who came to greet Lin Weiwei, with evenly cut bangs, long hair over her shoulders, curved eyes, a petite nose, and a delicate mouth, was not strikingly beautiful, but she was very pleasing to the eye.

Bai Xiaosheng could tell that Lin Weiwei was truly happy to see her—genuinely overjoyed.

The happiness radiated from within, sprouting from the depths of her heart.

It seems that this was a real friend of hers, Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

The two girls huddled together, chatting excitedly.

"I really didn't expect you to come, Song Jiajia!"

"I was hoping to see you here, that's why I came!"

"We haven't seen each other for three years, have we?"

"To be exact, three years and one month! I went abroad to study and then had an internship after coming back. I just returned to Zhongjing a while ago!"

"You're not leaving this time, right?"

"Not leaving. I'm going to develop my career here in Zhongjing!"

The two close friends were chatting joyfully, with Bai Xiaosheng standing beside them with a smile, quietly watching them.

He saw in them a reflection of himself and Zheng Pangzi.

This world, it's not just filled with ugliness, it also has beauty.

Not just the dark side of family relations, but also the pure friendship that can withstand the test of time, growing ever stronger.

"I heard you're at Zhongjing Media, and I want to try my luck there too, to see if we can become colleagues!" Song Jiajia said with a chuckle.

"You want to join Zhongjing Media?" Lin Weiwei was surprised, a bit caught off guard, but more than that, she was delighted, "Sure, sure, you, an Oversea Scholar, are indeed a rare talent. Come on, I welcome you!"

"I'm planning to tell the interviewer that I have connections at Zhongjing Media! You better hire me, or you'll see what happens!" Song Jiajia laughed heartily.

Lin Weiwei responded with laughter but no comment.

Song Jiajia noticed Bai Xiaosheng standing beside and looking at her, and she stuck out her tongue a little, feeling somewhat embarrassed.

"Who's this guy, pretty handsome, huh!" Song Jiajia whispered to Lin Weiwei.

"He is... my boyfriend!" Lin Weiwei glanced at Bai Xiaosheng and said with a shy smile.

"Aw, look at you getting all shy!" teased Song Jiajia. Then she scrutinized Bai Xiaosheng, whispering to Lin Weiwei, "So handsome. You managed to snag such a good-looking guy, I'm so envious... Tell me honestly, how far have you two gone!"

Lin Weiwei was startled, her face turned crimson, and she couldn't help but hit Song Jiajia, "How come you've become so shameless after going away for a while, saying whatever you want?"

"What did I say..." Song Jiajia giggled and laughed.

Bai Xiaosheng stood by, being examined and teased, scratching his face with a wry smile. This Song Jiajia was clearly a female version of Zhengdong Province, thank goodness she wasn't as fat as that dead Pangzi...

However, Bai Xiaosheng did appreciate her straightforward personality.

"From what they say, this Song Jiajia is an oversea returnee. I wonder what her specialization is and what her actual capabilities are. If she's talented, it would indeed be a good idea to recruit her into the company," Bai Xiaosheng mused internally.

Song Jiajia could probably never dream that, even before she had gone for the Zhongjing Media interview, she had already been noticed by the company's key person...

She could never imagine that all it would take for her once best friend to open backdoors for her was as easy as flipping a hand, a matter of a simple, delicate sentence...

At this moment.

In a corner of the hall, Meng Bing was arguing with her parents.

To be precise, it was her pleading with her dad, persuading her mom.

Persuading her mom to act as a matchmaker for Yin Donglei and Lin Weiwei.

Actually, Meng Bing had first brought up this matter to her dad, Meng Haishan.

When he heard that the Yin Family hadn't completely agreed to the arrangement between Yin Dongfeng and Meng Bing, Meng Haishan's face turned extremely ugly.

Words had been spoken, boasts had been made, but the deal was still unreliable. This girl, following him...

Meng Haishan intended to reprimand Meng Bing, but in the end, he let it be. He couldn't bear to.

They say a doting mother often spoils her children, but a father indulging his daughter is even worse...

When he heard Yin Donglei's offer to help Meng Bing, Meng Haishan's eyes lit up. He clearly thought that Mr. Yin, like himself, had boundless affection for their children and that it would surely be effective if one of them disagreed and two others pleaded.

For the sake of his daughter's future, he almost didn't hesitate to think that matchmaking Yin Donglei and Lin Weiwei was a good idea.

"Whether it works out or not, Lin Weiwei dating Mr. Yin... would she be at a disadvantage?" That was what Meng Haishan had in mind at the time. Now, he was saying it to Lin Lu.

"This is sheer nonsense, nonsense! Old Meng, it's bad enough that the girl doesn't know better, but how can you follow in her folly!" Lin Lu vehemently opposed when she first heard, "Weiwei came with her boyfriend to wish you a happy birthday, out of kindness, and look at you, you want to break them up as soon as you arrive. You, you..."

Lin Lu found it more than just foolish; it was absurd.

If it weren't for all the people around, she would definitely have made a scene.

"Ah, mom, don't you care about my happiness at all!" Meng Bing stamped her foot, looking pitiful.

"Your happiness, you should strive for that yourself! You don't need to drag your cousin into it!" Lin Lu huffed.

"Lu, just calm down for a moment, let's not get excited. There are too many prying eyes around, making a scene wouldn't look good!" Meng Haishan was genuinely a bit afraid of his wife, a problem that decades had not cured.

"Think about it this way," Meng Haishan said, "Lin Weiwei is your dear niece, who you have watched grow up since she was little, closer to you than your own children, you also hope for her well-being, right. The child has been accustomed to hardship from a young age, and now that she has finally grown up, you should wish for her to marry well and live well, shouldn't you? Your brother is still farming in the countryside, and they deserve to enjoy their lives too. Life is built on the necessities such as firewood, rice, oil, and salt, not just on emotions alone, which are neither edible nor drinkable! You have no objections to this, right? The Yin Family, they are nobility, and it's rare that Mr. Yin has taken a liking to Lin Weiwei. What's wrong if you play matchmaker? If it works out, won't it be a perfect match? And if it doesn't... we can talk quietly, it won't affect Weiwei's relationship with Bai Xiaosheng. Don't you think?"

Meng Haishan mentioned Lin Weiwei's past hardships, and how her parents still worked the fields in the countryside, leaving Lin Lu somewhat silent.

"How do you know that her current boyfriend's circumstances are not good..." Lin Lu couldn't help murmuring.

There's a chance!

She was softening!

Meng Haishan's eyes brightened as he continued, "Can't tell if it's good or not, but who goes to street stalls to buy gifts if they're well-off? Pretending to be rich?"

Meng Bing nodded vigorously beside him.

"Anyway, just call Lin Weiwei over, let us start by asking, get a feel for Bai Xiaosheng's background, then you can bring up something else later. That should be okay, right?" Meng Haishan said, "Just ask her to come alone, to the guest room on the first floor, let's just have a few of us talk, okay?"

"Mom..." Meng Bing pitifully shook Lin Lu's arm.

Lin Lu looked at them with conflicted eyes and finally nodded, "Alright then, for Weiwei's sake, I'll ask her to come over and chat... but you can't pressure her!"