

Two Trillion 481

Chapter 481 The Street Foodies_1

Under the watchful eyes of the crowd, Bai Xiaosheng strode away. Even his retreating figure was enough to draw countless gazes for a prolonged time.

Zhongjing Media General Manager, currently the hottest and most mysterious figure sweeping through the circles!

At last, they had seen him!

The female guests present were all visibly thrilled, many of them itching to follow him and keep his company. The male guests were equally excited; this young powerhouse had, with a single sentence, caused Zhang Shucheng of the Zhang Family to undergo a drastic change in temperament and bow respectfully.

A man should be like this!

With a casual flip of the hand, he could control the clouds and rain; when he spoke, people submitted!

After today, the legends about Bai Xiaosheng would likely multiply manifold within the circles.

Zhang Shucheng silently watched Bai Xiaosheng leave and couldn't help but heave a sigh of relief.

Yin Haoran had already thrown the wine bottle to the ground, wiping the sweat off incessantly while murmuring, "That was close, that was close!"

At least Zhang Shucheng wasn't foolish enough to truly anger Mr. Bai; otherwise, Zhongjing would have been inescapably headed towards a storm of blood and violence!

Zhang Xuan glowered fiercely towards the door.

Even without seeing the person, his resentment lingered.

Mo Xin still gazed out, her attention not retracting for a long time.

She couldn't help but redden her cheeks a shade.

This prominent figure of Zhongjing also possessed a skill set comparable to that of a Senior Bartender Technician; how could it not set her heart aflutter?

"'Encounter,' huh." Mo Xin's beautiful eyes shifted as she looked at the glass in her hand and smiled.

There indeed was a kind of heart-fluttering feeling...

Unbeknownst to others, Bai Xiaosheng was completely unaware of their thoughts.

He left the Zhang Family and walked towards the place he had arranged to meet Lin Weiwei.

Upon leaving the Zhang Family's estate hotel, the sky had darkened. Walking on the road, Bai Xiaosheng felt the pangs of hunger.

He was hungry.

He had thought there would be food and drink at the wine party, but ended up having only a bit of wine.

"I can't let my stomach down; I need to find a place to eat something first," Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself, speaking to Red Lotus in his mind, "Red Lotus, find me a nearby place to eat."

"Yes, Master," Red Lotus responded crisply.

"A gourmet street has been located, five minutes away from here by foot."

"Good, let's go there!" Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

Zhongjing's snacks, famous in Anjiang, are much more delicious than any dish in the grand hotels!

Following Red Lotus's directions, five minutes later, Bai Xiaosheng stood at the entrance of the gourmet street.

Looking down the street from the entrance, the whole place was ablaze with lights and bustling with activity, very lively indeed. It somewhat resembled the large markets of his childhood, creating a special atmosphere!

The fragrance wafted over, and Bai Xiaosheng took a whiff, his face immediately showing a hint of intoxication.

There were local specialties, as well as offerings from both the North and the South.

Roast goose, shrimp dumplings, wonton noodles, Peking duck, pancakes, grilled cold noodles...

Bai Xiaosheng's face broke into a smile, hinting at a craving expression; he couldn't wait any longer and was eager to feast.

Just as he was about to enter, his phone rang.

It was Lin Weiwei calling; they had arrived.

Not only was Lin Weiwei there, but also the driver Feng and Lei Ying.

Bai Xiaosheng had only asked for a pickup; there was no need for so many people to come, and Lei Ying's presence suggested something more.

Lei Ying used to be a bodyguard and enforcer for Brother Hao, accustomed to roaming through gray and even darker realms.

He often came across as rough in speech, and when speaking with others, his eyes were wolfish and frightening.

Lin placed him in the department, and within a day, a heap of complaints had been lodged.

Lei Ying talked to people with no sense of how to be polite or nuanced, his brute forthrightness even made his thanks seem threatening with a flash of fierceness in his eyes.

He even scared a delicate girl to tears.

Lin Weiwei pressed her forehead, speechless, and instantly decided that when Bai Xiaosheng needed an assistant, she would bring Lei Ying along and guide him herself, so that he could quickly transform.

To this, Lei Ying agreed.

In fact, he too was trying hard to change, but having practiced martial arts, worked as a mercenary, and hung out with lenders like Hao, some habits were hard to break and would slip out if he wasn't careful.

Bai Xiaosheng knew this as well and just smiled in silence, not blaming him at all, saying there was no rush and telling him to take his time to adapt.

Now, Lei Ying had also followed along.

"Weiwei, have Feng park the car, and you guys come over. I'm at the north entrance of a food street, just near where you're parking, easy to find. Today, I'll treat you guys to a nice meal," Bai Xiaosheng said cheerfully over the phone.

"Okay!" Weiwei replied with excitement on the phone.

After hanging up, Bai Xiaosheng eagerly watched the street, smelling the drifting fragrance, and couldn't help but swallow his saliva, still patiently waiting.

Every minute felt unbearably long.

Finally, Lin Weiwei, Lei Ying, and Feng arrived.

"None of you have eaten, right? Whoever has—too bad for them, now follow me—charge!" Bai Xiaosheng called out and rushed into the street.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying shared a smile.

They knew Bai Xiaosheng very well and understood that privately, Bai Xiaosheng also had a childish, even goofy side, which was a stark contrast to the decisive and swift businessman they saw in the workplace.

In the face of such a Bai Xiaosheng, there was no need to be formal; they could simply treat him as a friend.

The two of them followed suit.

On the other hand, Feng was a bit flabbergasted. The Mr. Bai he had seen and heard of... wasn't like this...

Where had that imposing and stern president, or the approachable and kindly Mr. Bai, gone?

If he told anyone at the company about this, chances are, no one would believe it...

Feng, with endless shock and curiosity, also chased after them.

An hour later.

The group of four had made their way from the head to the tail of the street.

From their initial reserve, letting loose only after Bai Xiaosheng's encouragement, Lin Weiwei and the others underwent a "transformation," shedding their professional personas to become street foodies.

By the end of it, everyone was stuffed to the brim.

Lin Weiwei held a half-eaten roasted corn cob in her left hand and a paper bag containing crispy-skinned roast goose in her right.

Lei Ying carried a beer in one hand and a variety of roasted skewers—meat, tendons, and kidneys—in the other.

Feng was also looking rather rosy, greasy-mouthed, carrying a bag of leftover shrimp dumplings in one hand and a bowl of roasted cold noodles in the other.

They were all incredibly satisfied.

Bai Xiaosheng wasn't idle either; he held a small bowl of exquisitely aromatic wonton noodles, strolling and eating, feeling utterly content.

"I'm telling you, if we're talking about tasty food, nothing beats street snacks. Big hotels just can't replicate this flavor," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile as he slurped his noodles from the paper bowl.

Lin Weiwei and the others wholeheartedly agreed.

Having eaten his noodles, Bai Xiaosheng also wanted soup; it was slightly chilly that evening, and the warm broth was comforting to his stomach.

But just as he raised the paper bowl to his lips to drink, someone darted out from the side and bumped right into him.

Bai Xiaosheng, caught off guard, splashed the entire bowl of soup out!

"Who!" Bai Xiaosheng instantly got angry, and upon seeing the woman who bumped into him, who looked vaguely familiar, he said,

"You are..."

"You're the general manager of Zhongjing Media!" The woman suddenly cried out with overjoyed eyes, and then urgently begged, "Please, save Mo Xin!"

This woman was none other than Sun Xiaoqiao—responsible for collecting donations at the Zhang family's gala!

Chapter 482: Mr. Bai, Please Be Gentle..._1

Seeing Sun Xiaoqiao in such a sorry state, Bai Xiaosheng was momentarily stunned.

Her words only added to Bai Xiaosheng's confusion.

Rescue Mo Xin?

What happened to Mo Xin? Wasn't she doing just fine at the Zhang Family home?

In Bai Xiaosheng's mind, Mo Xin, the ethereal and stunning goddess-level bartender, was the epitome of elegance and glory that garnered the admiration of all the male guests and the respect of the female guests, not to mention Zhang Xuan's undisguised affection.

She was supposed to be the center of attention, so why would she need rescuing?

Bai Xiaosheng didn't understand.

Sun Xiaoqiao, seeing his confusion, was anxious, with a thousand words in her heart, yet she found them stuck in her throat, uncertain of where to start.

Their expressions made Lin Weiwei extremely suspicious. She looked at Bai Xiaosheng, her eyes full of questions.

Lin Weiwei knew that Bai Xiaosheng was attending the social event; she had just asked why it ended so soon.

The answer Bai Xiaosheng gave was perplexing.

He said that if he stayed any longer, he might as well tear down someone's home...

Lin Weiwei didn't know the exact situation yet.

And now, suddenly, this woman appeared, seemingly acquainted with Xiaosheng from the social event, and she was quite attractive. Moreover, who was this Mo Xin she mentioned? Why did Xiaosheng look so peculiar...

Lin Weiwei mused.

Feng was watching with immense curiosity.

Lei Ying also looked on with a hint of curiosity.

"Mo Xin, she..." Sun Xiaoqiao finally sorted out her thoughts and was about to speak.

"Here she is!"

A sudden shout interrupted her.

Sun Xiaoqiao's face instantly changed; like a startled cat, she darted out and hid behind Bai Xiaosheng, anxiously peering towards them.

Over a dozen people stormed over, their presence menacing, and the leader resembled half a Hei Ta, his face twisted in ferocity.

They seemed intent on capturing Sun Xiaoqiao.

Bai Xiaosheng frowned slightly.

It wasn't anything else—this man leading the group, this half Hei Ta, he seemed familiar...

Zhang Xuan's servant!

Bai Xiaosheng remembered now.

Standing silently behind Zhang Xuan at the entrance of the hall, this guy caught his eye, and he couldn't help but take another look.

Unexpectedly, they met again.

But why would he be here to capture Sun Xiaoqiao?

The half Hei Ta was just as surprised to see Bai Xiaosheng.

Zhongjing Media General Manager Bai Xiaosheng!

In the banquet hall, he had left the entire crowd speechless.

He had forced the Family Head Zhang Shucheng to lay hands on his own wife and child, all to avoid offending him!

With this man here, trouble arose!

However...

The half Hei Ta, upon seeing Sun Xiaoqiao, had his eyebrows knotted in a dilemma. This woman, equally important, had to be brought back, or the Zhang Family would be in significant trouble; his master Zhang Shucheng certainly wouldn't spare him either!

After weighing his options, the half Hei Ta felt an unbearable headache.

"Mr. Bai, it turns out to be you!" the half Hei Ta said, attempting a forced smile toward Bai Xiaosheng, "What a coincidence."

Bai Xiaosheng remained calm and nodded slightly.

"This woman, she... she stole something important from the Zhang Family, and I need to take her back. Please, Mr. Bai, can you make things easier for us?" the half Hei Ta asked with utmost politeness.

She stole something from you?

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but let out a wry smile.

Did this black-skinned man really think he would fall for such a tall tale?

Hei Ta cracked a smile at Bai Xiaosheng, his expression somewhat embarrassed.

The reason was indeed far-fetched, after all, Sun Xiaoqiao was with Mo Xin the entire way and was an important guest of the Zhang Family, always present in the lobby. There was no chance for, nor possibility of committing theft.

Yet, Hei Ta couldn't think of a better excuse on the spur of the moment. He had no choice but to brazen it out with an explanation everyone knew was false, treating it as if it were the truth.

Next to Hei Ta stood more than a dozen men, creating quite a scene. The restaurant guests on the street looked over, chattering among themselves. It's possible someone had already called the police, and if they arrived, things would get even more complicated.

Hei Ta started feeling uneasy.

"You know who I am. Since that's the case, leave the person with me. I'll give the Zhang Family an explanation later," Bai Xiaosheng said with an expressionless face, rejecting the black man's request.

Beads of sweat formed on Hei Ta's nose.

Whether someone called the police, and they showed up, or Sun Xiaoqiao told Bai Xiaosheng the truth, the Zhang Family would face a major crisis.

On the other hand, if he took the person by force, as long as those with the surname Bai didn't retaliate, even if he offended them, it wouldn't be too severe.

"Then we have no choice but to offend you, Mr. Bai!" Hei Ta gestured to the men beside him, and immediately, four or five of them moved in.

"Separate Mr. Bai and that woman, and be polite to Mr. Bai. If he hits you, absolutely do not hit back. Do you hear me?" Hei Ta barked with a stern voice.

This was turning them into human punching bags!

Those subordinates had awkward expressions and bitter faces, but they reluctantly stepped forward with forced smiles, muttering, "Sorry, Mr. Bai, we have no choice. Please, go easy when you hit."

What was this all about?

Bai Xiaosheng didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

Lin Weiwei and Feng beside him were dumbfounded, and even Lei Ying could barely hold back a laugh.

It really was quite absurd.

But those dozen or so burly men didn't look the slightest bit funny!

As for Hei Ta himself, he was a genuinely tough character, his muscles bulging under his clothes, making even Feng feel a sense of dread, almost trembling with fear.

Lin Weiwei, by contrast, was much calmer than Feng.

Having been through similar situations before, she knew these people were no match for Bai Xiaosheng, especially with Lei Ying there.

"Have you had your fill? It's time to get moving," Bai Xiaosheng said to Feng with a smile.

"Ah, me? This, this..." Feng looked over, seeing that the leader was speaking to him, and his expression immediately turned bitter.

On one hand, he dared not disobey, but on the other hand, he was nowhere near a match for those dozen burly men. They might be wary of Bai Xiaosheng, but they wouldn't have any qualms about him. Even a sneaky punch could be enough to land him in trouble.

Feng was nearly in tears.

But if he disobeyed the big boss's order, how could he continue at the company? Having his status raised because of driving for the General Manager, he was loath to lose it all at once!

With gritted teeth, Feng decided to take a leap of faith.

Now was the time to show what he was made of, even if it meant risking his life!

Just as he was ready to make a last stand, a jacket was draped over his shoulder, a skewer of mutton was thrust into his hand, and a bottle of beer was stuffed into his arms.

"Hold onto these, I'll want them back after," Lei Ying said indifferently.

Then, Feng watched as four men approaching Bai Xiaosheng took flight in the blink of an eye.

Lei Ying stood there, without a visible move.

"Good heavens, a martial arts master!" Feng was stunned.

"They're no good, maybe you'd be better. Your steps are strong, arms steady, you must practice boxing, right?" Lei Ying said with a chuckle, moving towards Hei Ta, "Fancy a go?"

Three minutes.

More than a dozen burly men lay moaning on the ground in haphazard positions, while Hei Ta was gripped by the neck by Lei Ying, his face streaked with tears, snot, and blood, half-kneeling on the ground.

Feng was dumbstruck.

Lei Ying, the assistant, was an absurdly ferocious fighting machine, fiercer than the heroes in movies and TV dramas.

Sun Xiaoqiao was also dumbfounded.

She would have never believed it if someone had told her in the past.

One person really could defeat over ten without getting a speck of dust on him!

"You still need practice," Lei Ying earnestly advised Hei Ta, releasing his grip, and the big man instantly fell backward, eyes rolling back.

"Let's go!"

Seeing the growing crowd around them, Bai Xiaosheng said, then turned to Sun Xiaoqiao, "What exactly happened? Tell us about it!"

Chapter 483 Hypocrisy_1

Inside a high-end residential apartment, in the living room.

Mo Xin was tied to a chair with her hands behind her back, a snow-white towel stuffed in her mouth. Her beautiful eyes, cold and defiant, glared at the person sitting on the sofa beside her.

"Miss Mo Xin, why put yourself through this? It would be so much better if you just cooperated nicely. Why insist on playing dirty tricks with me, Zhang Shucheng? Do you think you're my match?"

The person on the sofa sneered, and it was none other than Zhang Shucheng from the Zhang Family!

Next to him stood his cherished son, Zhang Xuan.

Zhang Xuan looked at Mo Xin somewhat pityingly, as if she were a delicate beauty made of tofu, the ropes squeezing her and the white towel, threatening to split her tender lips.

Zhang Shucheng talked to no avail for a long while, growing bored without a response, and seeing his own son standing anxiously scratching his cheek, he suddenly huffed and gestured with his mouth.

"Take the towel out of her mouth!"

"Yes, yes!" Zhang Xuan quickly nodded and hurried over.

At the banquet hall, that slap from his father had nearly knocked out half of his teeth, causing his cheek to swell up painfully. Speaking now hurt.

Zhang Xuan had thought that with his mother's support, his status would be restored.

His mother had cried to his grandfather on the phone, wailing tears and snot. Initially, his grandfather was furious and wanted to punish his father.

However, when he found out whom his mother and sister had offended—the general manager of Zhongjing Media—after a moment of silence, he not only severely scolded them but also personally called his father.

In approval, his grandfather told his father not to be polite and to strictly discipline them both.

This time, Zhang Xuan completely chickened out, not daring to be presumptuous with his father anymore.

Now that Zhang Shucheng had given the nod, Zhang Xuan dared to move forward and remove the towel from Mo Xin's mouth.

Once the towel was removed, Mo Xin worked her jaw, took a deep breath, and cast a cold glance at Zhang Shucheng.

Zhang Xuan couldn't help but reach out, wanting to touch her soft, fair face.

"Don't touch me, get lost!" Mo Xin shouted angrily.

Zhang Xuan retracted his hand in fright, "Okay, okay, I won't touch you!"

"Useless fool," Zhang Shucheng said, looking at his son with unavoidable disappointment in his eyes.

This son was too useless. It seemed that, in the future, he would need to be toughened up.

"Let's continue our previous conversation, Miss Mo Xin. Tell me, who instructed you to come after me, Zhang Shucheng?" Zhang Shucheng said with a sneer.

Mo Xin let out a cold laugh.

"Zhang Shucheng, not only do you have a reputation in Zhongjing for being henpecked, you are also known as a famous philanthropist, fond of hosting charity galas—on average, two to three a month. The wealthy families and businesses in Zhongjing, each rich person taking turns every six months, never the same ones. So for everyone, they don't donate often. It's a shame no one knows that your so-called fundraising is nothing but a show—the money is donated, but in the end, it goes into your own pocket," Mo Xin spit out contemptuously, "Reputation and profit both! With just this operation, you earn as if you had a major company added to your assets. You can blend charity with various activities, keeping those people entertained so they donate happily. I have to admire that!"

At the gala, why was Zhang Xuan the first to donate, spontaneously giving several hundred thousand with Zhang Shucheng following second.

Is it because they have too much money to burn? Of course not!

It's nothing more than a scheme to lead by throwing money and attract onlookers into the trap!

They don't mind spending the money because they know it will eventually come back into their own pockets—and even bring them fame while encouraging others to join in with donations. It's all gain with no loss!

"Your compliments honor me," Zhang Shucheng said with a slight nod, his eyes growing dark.

"But what I admire most is you! Just now, I checked—the intermediary 'Cup' who introduced you has run off, nowhere to be found. You were not here to cooperate as he said; you came to deceive me. Your assistant Sun Xiaoqiao also came equipped with a pinhole camera! You really are too much! Also, where is my money? The money transferred out from that computer—where is it?"

A total of more than two million!

If it weren't for Bai Xiaosheng from Zhongjing Media meddling, they might have ended up with three or four million!

It's no small sum.

If he couldn't recover it, Zhang Shucheng would be in agony.

"Weren't you eager to do good deeds? So I helped you do them!" Mo Xin sneered. "What I said at the gala wasn't a lie. Many children in this world go hungry and cold; they need your money!"

He really fucking thinks he can use my money for charity! Zhang Shucheng trembled with anger.

"I'm warning you, let me go. Xiaoqiao will go to the police with evidence. The only thing you can do is turn yourselves in. Kidnapping me is a serious crime!" Mo Xin threatened.

Fraud, multiple instances of fraud, massive fraud, that's also a serious crime!

Zhang Shucheng as a man, actually, when you get down to it, isn't that skilled. Even with his father-in-law's help, he accomplishes nothing.

That's why he resorts to these tactics.

"Haha, you're threatening me! Do you think I'll be afraid?!" Zhang Shucheng laughed loudly, "As for your female assistant, let's see if she can even escape! I bet by now, she's been brought back here!"

"Yeah, Hei and his crew have already chased after her. Your assistant won't be able to escape," Zhang Xuan said to Mo Xin with a smile.

Mo Xin didn't say a word. However, a flicker of unease could be seen in the depths of her eyes; she didn't have much confidence that Sun Xiaoqiao could escape.

In fact, Sun Xiaoqiao's escape from the Zhang Family Manor was a stroke of incredible luck.

When you think about it, everything actually went very smoothly.

After Bai Xiaosheng left, Yin Haoran also took his leave. The party ended awkwardly, and the guests said their goodbyes one after another.

They had a private discussion with Zhang Shucheng, secured evidence, and planned to slip away under the guise of going to the restroom.

Everything was going according to plan, but damn that Zhang Xuan—he wouldn't stop pestering them, and by accident he bumped into Sun Xiaoqiao, causing the device to fall out.

That was when they were exposed!

She tried her best to cover, allowing Sun Xiaoqiao to escape.

But with more than a dozen men in pursuit, whether Sun Xiaoqiao could really get away was uncertain!

"I'm asking one more time, who sent you! Don't push me to get rough; my son really likes you!" Zhang Shucheng shouted.

Meanwhile, Zhang Xuan watched her, swallowing hard.

A woman, such a beautiful woman!

Pure as a goddess, the pinnacle of her profession!

If she were handed over to him, he would definitely cherish and savor her!

In the depths of Mo Xin's eyes, a trace of fear emerged. She was just a woman after all, not a warrior resigned to death.

Delaying time as much as possible, she hoped that Sun Xiaoqiao could escape, could alert the police! Mo Xin thought secretly.

"You really want to know, fine, I can have a talk with you," Mo Xin finally said.

Zhang Shucheng sneered, sat down on the sofa, and gestured for her to speak.

...

In a corner of the gourmet snack street, Sun Xiaoqiao recounted what had happened to Bai Xiaosheng.

This Bai Xiaosheng, full of integrity, was willing to antagonize the Zhang Family for a stranger like her.

Sun Xiaoqiao trusted him.

People like them, they are very accurate judges of character.

"Now, Mr. Bai, I beg you, please save Mo Xin," Sun Xiaoqiao pleaded.

"Of course!" Lin Weiwei comforted her, looking at Bai Xiaosheng, "The key is how to save her. Maybe we should call the police!"

"Going through the process will take time, and there's no time to waste! Plus, it would make them desperate!" Bai Xiaosheng said.

"Then what do we do!" Sun Xiaoqiao was on the verge of tears.

"Don't worry, leave it to me," Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

Chapter 484 Finding Mo Xin_1

Executing a rescue and calling the police could be done simultaneously, but Bai Xiaosheng didn't have Lin Weiwei take Sun Xiaoqiao to raise the alarm separately. With the Zhang Family's considerable influence, local police clearly wouldn't carry enough weight; waiting for reports to go up the chain would be too late for anything.

For now, he planned to rescue the person first.

"There are a lot of people in the Zhang Family Manor, are we just going to barge in?" Lin Weiwei was troubled.

Lei Ying was indeed a capable fighter, but everyone has their limits, including physical ones. He might take on ten or twenty, but with at least several dozens in the Zhang Family Manor, if they swarm him...

Could Lei Ying really fight that many people!

Moreover, all the homeowners had to do was make a direct call to the police, claiming they were trespassing in a private residence and inflicting harm upon others, and they'd be the ones in a passive position.

"Besides, the Zhang Family might not necessarily be holding Mo Xin in the manor. I've heard there are many properties nearby owned by their family. If she's been moved to another location, what... how are we supposed to handle this, how do we search?" Sun Xiaoqiao also expressed her concern.

Originally, they could have forced the semi-conscious members of Hei Ta to lead the way, but Lei Ying, worried they would go back and report in time—putting them at a disadvantage—had not held back. He struck with severity, leaving them mostly unconscious or with severe fractures.

"Those who are knocked out cold, they're not seriously harmed, but they'll definitely be out for a few hours. Even a doctor couldn't wake them up since I'm equally knowledgeable about human anatomy," Lei Ying said with confidence, yet a wry smile crossed his face.

This time, his good intentions might have led to a bad outcome.

"Don't worry, I've said it before, leave it to me, and you won't have to think about it," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, turning to Sun Xiaoqiao, "Do you have any of Miss Mo Xin's belongings? Lend me one."

After patting himself down, Sun Xiaoqiao suddenly slapped his forehead and handed over a small bag he was carrying, "This belongs to Mo Xin!"

A petite ladies' handbag, Chanel.

"Okay, I'll borrow this for a moment," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile as he took it.

"Also, Weiwei, Feng, Lei Ying, head over to the snack street now and buy some food, the more the better, until you can't carry anymore. You have five minutes, move fast!" Bai Xiaosheng instructed.

"Huh?" Lin Weiwei and the others were taken aback.

However, in the end, they followed Bai Xiaosheng's instructions and carried the food to a gloomy alley next to the snack street. Then, at Bai Xiaosheng's request, they all waited at the entrance of the alley.

In the meantime, Lei Ying actually left behind the skewered meat he was eating—he seemed to still be hungry...

Of course, Bai Xiaosheng didn't pay it much mind.

As the group waited outside the alley, they heard a faint commotion of cats and dogs from within, a hive of activity.

Afterwards, Bai Xiaosheng emerged and returned the Chanel handbag to Sun Xiaoqiao.

"It's done, follow me to rescue her," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

"Huh?" Lin Weiwei and the others were once again surprised.

What had been done, what had Bai Xiaosheng accomplished? What had he done inside?

The group was bewildered and clueless.

Of course, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't explain it to them.

In fact, this time, he had originally planned to summon stray cats and dogs for another extensive search.

But unexpectedly, it turned out not to be so troublesome this time.

A skinny Springer Spaniel, within a high-end residential complex, caught the scent emanating from a slowly passing vehicle.

Regarding such a dog, Bai Xiaosheng was well aware that their sense of smell is exceptional among dogs and is widely used in drug detection, explosive searches, quarantine, smuggling interception, and recovery operations in various fields.

As for this dog, it had a reason for entering the upscale residential area, as its home was there. Its master was an elderly professor, who never came back after being taken away due to an illness. That home remained locked.

The Spaniel loitered nearby, found enough food to avoid starvation, and would return to wait, day after day, for its old master.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but sigh.

The old professor used to train the Spaniel to recognize letters and numbers, so it remembered the number of that car.

It was a stroke of luck! And certainly fortuitous for Mo Xin!

"I've found the most suitable guide," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

From the alley, a dog dashed out, ears hanging down, long-haired, with brown-and-white patches. Running a few meters, it turned its head back and barked twice at Bai Xiaosheng.

"Let's go," Bai Xiaosheng said, striding forward.

"Huh?" Lin Weiwei and the others expressed their surprise once more.

Bai Xiaosheng's guide turned out to be a dog?

He took Ms. Mo's bag to let the dog track the scent?

For real?

Tracking dogs must undergo rigorous training to succeed, it's not something an ordinary dog can do.

Everyone was skeptical.

Five minutes later, Bai Xiaosheng and his companions arrived at an upscale residential area. Lin Weiwei took some time to complete the formalities, and then the group entered. The dog, accustomed to coming and going, didn't surprise the security guards.

With the help of Binge, Bai Xiaosheng and the others found the car, a Mercedes-Benz R-Class MPV.

"Thank you, I'll have someone contact your previous owner's son, he's actually looking for you too!" Bai Xiaosheng smiled, crouched down, and patted the head of Binge.

This was a good dog, and he hoped it would find a good home.

"I've found it, this is the parking spot for Unit 601," Lin Weiwei hurried back and informed Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and stood up.

...

Unit 601 was actually a 200-square-meter duplex residence, just one of the many properties owned by the Zhang Family, exquisitely decorated and regularly maintained by professionals.

At that moment, Zhang Shucheng was frowning at Mo Xin, who had already been speaking for over half an hour.

Zhang Shucheng finally realized—this woman was playing him!

However, her words weren't entirely nonsense; at the very least, he learned that Mo Xin and her associates had stumbled upon his intermediary by chance and got wind of the matter through independent action.

"Fine, you've wasted so much of my time, happy now?" Zhang Shucheng finally snorted coldly.

"Mr. Zhang, it seems your men haven't returned!" Mo Xin smiled.

"So what!" he retorted.

"At the same time, they haven't reported back to you!" Mo Xin added with another smile.

Zhang Shucheng frowned, "What exactly are you trying to say?"

"Unfortunately, they didn't catch Sun Xiaoqiao. She will go to the police with the evidence! You have no choice now, let me go immediately!" Mo Xin raised her voice.

Zhang Shucheng looked at her with a cold laugh and leisurely stood up.

"Little girl, you're quite cunning, but what a pity, you're too foolish in this matter. Did you really think that with such a piece of secret filming, you could bring down my Zhang Family and my wife's maternal family, the Wang Family? Keep dreaming!" Zhang Shucheng's expression darkened, sneering, "This matter has put me on the back foot, but you think the Zhang Family has been operating in Zhongjing for so many years for nothing. I want to see just how big a splash you will make in the end."

"Xuan, didn't you want this woman? Now, she's yours!" Zhang Shucheng said with a cold laugh, "Make sure you take good care of her!"

"Hey! Good, good!" Zhang Xuan rubbed his hands excitedly, his eyes practically drooling as he gazed at Mo Xin.

"What are you doing?!" Mo Xin exclaimed in panic.

She saw the raging desire in Zhang Xuan's eyes and truly panicked!

"Stop it, you... Zhang Shucheng, I won't let you get away with this!"

Zhang Shucheng, with his men in tow, headed straight for the door, the sounds from behind eliciting a cold laugh.

"Just a few minutes, and I'll see if you can still shout."

Zhang Shucheng laughed coldly as he pulled open the door.

As the door opened, Zhang Shucheng's smiling eyes reflected an object.

Such a big... fist!

Zhang Shucheng saw it clearly.

"Bang!" And then there was a sound.

Zhang Xuan was about to tear apart Mo Xin's clothes when he was startled and turned to look, glimpsing a scene he would never forget—

his father, flying!

Chapter 485 Thorough Solution_1

Zhang Shucheng flew out like a cannonball, knocking over two of his servants behind him in the process. He stuck to the wall facing the door like a painting, slowly sliding down to the ground where he passed out on the spot.

A punch upon opening the door, followed by a kick.

The strength it took to send someone flying—how immense must it be!

Luckily, the Zhang Family was wealthy, and the walls were padded. Otherwise, that single collision would have turned Zhang Shucheng into an idiot.

"Hey, you're really putting some muscle into it. Are you trying to kill the guy?" Bai Xiaosheng frowned and chided Lei Ying while smacking his lips.

"I got a little excited when the door opened," mumbled Lei Ying.

He didn't look the least bit excited; it was an excuse.

In fact, the guy was still clutching a skewer of meat, seemingly unable to finish it but too embarrassed to throw it away...

Shaking his head in resignation, Bai Xiaosheng squeezed through and took a look—it was good that they hadn't hit the wrong person; it was indeed Zhang Shucheng.

However, seeing that he had fainted, he probably had a mild concussion...

The two servants were petrified.

Being able to send someone flying was unheard of; even Hei from Hei Ta couldn't do it!

But these two weren't dumb; they quickly got to their feet and started backing away, their eyes filled with fear as they looked at Lei Ying behind Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng stepped into the room and turned his head. He couldn't help but laugh.

Zhang Xuan stood there gaping, his hand frozen mid-air as he reached toward Mo Xin.

Mo Xin's beautiful eyes were wide with astonishment as she stared back at him.

The timing couldn't have been more perfect—if they had been any later, something bad might have happened!

Behind Bai Xiaosheng, Sun Xiaoqiao, Lei Ying, Lin Weiwei, and Feng filed into the room.

Seeing Mo Xin, Sun Xiaoqiao was overjoyed, "Xin Xin, we've come to rescue you!"

That shout woke Mo Xin and also Zhang Xuan.

The former was ecstatic; the latter was terrified.

Seeing who had come, it was Bai Xiaosheng, the Zhongjing Media General Manager himself!

Zhang Xuan panicked, not knowing what to do.

The two servants gathered by his side, and two more ran out from within the house. These four servants were nervously on edge.

Because another group had entered, and they were outnumbered. Not to mention, there was one particularly terrifying big man among them!

"Young Master, what should we do?" someone asked for instructions.

"What to do, what to do? How the hell should I know what to do!" In a fit of panic and upon seeing Mo Xin, Zhang Xuan suddenly grabbed a fruit knife from the table beside him and pressed it against Mo Xin's neck, shouting, "Don't move or I won't be polite!"

The four servants looked at their young master oddly.

This idiotic master must have watched too many movies, now playing the hostage-taker...

Bai Xiaosheng also paused, then couldn't help but laugh and cry at the same time.

"Come on, what's the point of this? Are you looking for trouble?" Bai Xiaosheng tried to persuade him.

Before he could finish his sentence, Lei Ying, who was behind him, charged out, flinging his hands and sending a flurry of sharp projectiles.

In an instant, the deed was done with speed, ferocity, and precision.

With a clatter, the fruit knife fell to the floor. Zhang Xuan cried out in pain, clutching his wrist where a skewer had stuck... a lamb skewer!

A bamboo stick pierced into his flesh, looking painfully sore.

Not just him, the servants also got hit and screamed miserably.

Suddenly, the room fell silent, except for the screams of Zhang Xuan and his people.

Everyone was dumbstruck.

"You're amazing!" Bai Xiaosheng mumbled.

He had originally wanted to calm Zhang Xuan down, then figure out a plan, but Lei Ying had swiftly resolved the situation with a single move.

"At least it wasn't a waste," Lei Ying seemed quite content.

"All the limelight has been stolen by you," Bai Xiaosheng joked.

Unexpectedly, Lei Ying shifted to the side, bowed slightly, and extended his hand in a welcoming gesture, as if to say, "Please, boss, after you."

Lei Ying's former boss, Hao, was also someone who loved showing off despite lacking real competence.

Lei Ying was quite accustomed to ceding the spotlight.

Bai Xiaosheng was startled and couldn't help but laugh and shake his head as he walked past.

Ultimately, Mo Xin was rescued.

The people from the Zhang Family were taken into custody.

After entering the bedroom and closing the door, Bai Xiaosheng immediately called Ji Mingyang.

"How are things, Sheng, having fun?" Ji Mingyang laughed over the phone. "I'm not as lucky as you. I'm still working overtime. Recently, there's a lot going on. Several counties have insufficient education funds, and I'm busy raising money."

Upon hearing this, Bai Xiaosheng immediately laughed.

"Mayor Ji, I'm here to bring you money."

"Forget it, fundraising is more suited for the community effort. Though you have a significant title as General Manager, you don't have that much money yourself. I can't have you footing the bill, what would that make me?" Ji Mingyang laughed heartily.

"Mayor Ji, this time I really have found money for you." Bai Xiaosheng laughed and proceeded to tell Ji Mingyang about what he had learned from Sun Xiaoqiao.

"What! That's actually happening?"

On the other end of the line, Ji Mingyang suddenly became very serious. "Alright, I'll immediately send Chief Donglai from the city bureau to lead the team personally. You guys come along too; I want to hear about it!"

After the call with Ji Mingyang, Bai Xiaosheng came out of the room and smiled at everyone, "It's settled; we'll wait here."

"Thank you!"

Mo Xin, holding a cup of hot water and looking much calmer, smiled sweetly at Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng returned the smile.

About ten minutes later, police cars arrived with sirens wailing.

Before long, the police came in and took away the Zhang father and son. The officer leading the team was a square-faced man with a crew cut and a sharp look—a top-ranking police supervisor named Li Donglai.

The Chief of the City Bureau came personally and exchanged pleasantries with Bai Xiaosheng as if they were equals.

Sun Xiaoqiao and Feng were so shocked they couldn't close their mouths, and even Mo Xin stared with wide eyes, quite surprised.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, however, didn't show much of a reaction.

Everyone followed the police convoy back to the city, where Sun Xiaoqiao handed over the evidence and Chief Donglai conducted a surprise interrogation overnight.

Bai Xiaosheng and company went straight to the city government to report to Ji Mingyang.

The Zhang Family was suspected of a massive fraud, with a staggering amount involved and devious methods employed.

Ji Mingyang was extremely concerned.

The fact that Bai Xiaosheng could report directly to the mayor astonished both Mo Xin and Sun Xiaoqiao.

No wonder Bai Xiaosheng was not afraid of the Zhang Family; considering the level of people he was in contact with, how could the Zhang Family overpower the mayor?

With this reassurance, the ladies felt at ease.

The next day, the Zhang Family's assets were seized by the police, and a group of people including Wang Lianyun were taken away. Many in the Wang Family were also apprehended.

Various versions of the story immediately started spreading wildly throughout the Zhongjing circles.

Those in high society naturally had ways to find out the truth. When they learned about the Zhang Family's charity fraud scheme, they were furious, and they promptly turned whistle-blowers, contributing to punishing the villains.

Upon learning of the events, Yin Haoran couldn't help but smile bitterly. "This Bai Xiaosheng is truly a jinx! I must steer clear of him in the future!"

For those not well-connected enough to know the truth, but who had attended the banquet, their curiosity led them to speculate.

Rumors about Zhongjing Media General Manager Bai Xiaosheng attending the banquet and parting on bad terms with the Zhang Family, followed by the family's downfall that same evening, spread, elevating Bai Xiaosheng's fearsome reputation to a whole new level as he became thoroughly demonized.

Of course, none of this was known to Bai Xiaosheng.

Three days after the incident, Mo Xin and Sun Xiaoqiao left Zhongjing. Mo Xin was anxious to report the new cocktail to the association.

However, before leaving, she made a phone call to Bai Xiaosheng.

"Bai Xiaosheng, it was a pleasure meeting you. Hopefully, we'll see each other again someday!"

To this, Bai Xiaosheng simply smiled and replied on the phone, "Miss Mo Xin, until next time."

Chapter 486 The Gentleman is Open and Aboveboard, Unfortunately, It's Not Me_1

Ten days later.

Bai Xiaosheng had meticulously reviewed the application materials several times to ensure they were beyond doubt before he handed them to Mayor Ji Mingyang.

When Mayor Ji Mingyang learned of Bai Xiaosheng's arrival, he postponed an important meeting specifically to receive him.

This was a special treatment others wouldn't even dare to dream of, so much so that Chief Secretary Zhang Meng looked at Bai Xiaosheng with very different eyes.

In the mayor's office.

Holding the materials Bai Xiaosheng had brought, Mayor Ji Mingyang put on his reading glasses for mild presbyopia and went through them word by word, spending a good half an hour on them before he lightly slapped the table and took off his glasses with a smile.

"It's settled!"

That was all Mayor Ji Mingyang said.

Bai Xiaosheng also let out a sigh of relief and smiled.

Mayor Ji Mingyang's mind was exceptionally meticulous, and his logical thinking capacity was beyond ordinary. When it came to work, he was scrupulous and intolerant of even the slightest error.

Bai Xiaosheng had learned that although Zhongjing used to be the provincial capital, it ranked middle to lower in economic levels among the thirteen prefecture-level cities. It had undergone earth-shaking changes only after Ji Mingyang had become the mayor.

"Zhongjing, changing every day!"

This city slogan, seen everywhere in streets and alleyways, wasn't just spoken, but was truly happening.

With such a person deeming it settled, the materials must be near perfect!

"So, Sheng, get ready. The day after tomorrow—no, tomorrow you will go with me to the province!"

Zhongjing was a provincial capital city, but this year, the provincial government moved to Tianhe City in Lin City.

This didn't mean that Zhongjing's status had declined, it just meant that the city's positioning had changed. Zhongjing's future positioning was to be a central city with economic construction as the focus.

The relocation of the provincial government was to alleviate urban functions, slow down the urban diseases, and also to drive regional development.

Therefore, this year, the Anjiang Province government officially moved to the neighboring Tianhe City.

The two cities were actually not far apart, with the high-speed train taking less than an hour.

"Okay, I'll go back and arrange things, and then follow you there tomorrow," Bai Xiaosheng quickly agreed.

Afterward, Bai Xiaosheng took his leave.

Going back to the company from the city government, he was busy preparing all day long.

The next day, as soon as Bai Xiaosheng arrived at the company, he received a phone call from Zhang Meng.

Zhang Meng told Bai Xiaosheng to get ready because in a quarter of an hour, Mayor Ji Mingyang's car would arrive. He was instructed to go to the nearby intersection and simply get into the car when it arrived.

"Besides carrying the necessary documents and materials, you don't need anything else, and there's no need to arrange for a welcoming party this time, as the mayor will not be staying long," Zhang Meng added emphatically.

"Got it, I understand," Bai Xiaosheng agreed.

Hanging up the phone, Bai Xiaosheng called over Lin Weiwei and Song Yiming to make arrangements, and then went downstairs with all his belongings to the agreed intersection.

Moments later, an Audi A6L stopped in front of him and honked.

This nondescript car worth a mere three hundred thousand or so was none other than Mayor Ji Mingyang's official car.

The driver was none other than Chief Secretary Zhang Meng.

Mayor Ji Mingyang motioned, and Bai Xiaosheng opened the rear car door and sat down beside the mayor.

"Sheng, you're quite the big shot, huh? I, as the mayor, have to personally come and pick you up," Mayor Ji Mingyang joked.

"If you're willing, next time I'll wait for you at the city hall," Bai Xiaosheng laughed. "I'll drive you over."

"Forget it, riding in your luxury car would violate regulations," Mayor Ji Mingyang chuckled.

Zhang Meng couldn't help but chuckle, seeing this as nothing out of the ordinary.

Inside the car, there weren't any outsiders, so there was no need for so much formality, and the atmosphere was relaxed and friendly.

A two-hour drive.

On the road, Mayor Ji Mingyang and Bai Xiaosheng reviewed the content for the upcoming phase of the audit once again.

Both of them were detail-oriented and didn't mind the tediousness.

After discussing work, Mayor Ji Mingyang changed the subject and said with a smile to Bai Xiaosheng, "The incident with the Zhang Family a while ago really spread your fame far and wide."

Bai Xiaosheng set aside the documents and said with a look of astonishment, "The Zhang Family... Zhang Shucheng's fraud? That matter, didn't we follow your instructions for the press release after the fact, reporting the truth objectively and impartially while trying to calm things down and not draw too much attention? Was there a problem?"

"The Mayor wasn't talking about the press release," Zhang Meng said from the rearview mirror, glancing at Bai Xiaosheng and unable to resist saying, "Do you know how some people in Zhongjing's circles refer to you now? They say that you, the General Manager of Zhongjing Media, can dictate life and death with a single word, the Yin Family is one example, the Zhang Family too, and now you've been demonized."

"Oh."

Bai Xiaosheng responded indifferently, carefully straightened up the documents he had just taken out, and put them back into the document bag.

He didn't elaborate on that any further.

"Sheng, don't you have anything to say to me?" Mayor Ji Mingyang asked with a smile.

Zhang Meng also couldn't help but look at Bai Xiaosheng from the rearview mirror.

"What, what do I have to say?" Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, "Do you want me to explain it to you? I really don't know how to explain! The innocent clear themselves, the more I try to explain, the more it seems as though I really did something. Actually, you're fully aware that those people's crises are all self-inflicted, a result of persistent injustice! Without Bai Xiaosheng, there would still be Zhang Xiaosheng or Wang Xiaosheng, as long as they continue doing what they do, these outcomes are inevitable! Since Zhongjing Media holds the sword of public opinion, we should dare to wield it! Moreover, we are the voice of the public opinion, why should we fear it? If I conduct myself uprightly and act rightly, I'm not afraid of their discussions!"

Bai Xiaosheng spoke with forceful and candid words.

Zhang Meng nodded involuntarily.

"A qualified media person should speak out for justice, punish the evil and promote the good, and should not fear some voices. As you, Bai Xiaosheng, act within the confines of law and reason, I, Mayor Ji Mingyang, will naturally support you," Mayor Ji Mingyang said with a smile.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded in agreement, smiling, "Thank you!"

Zhang Meng was moved—Mayor Ji had never made such a promise to anyone over any matter before.

He truly saw Bai Xiaosheng in a different light!

Bai Xiaosheng had a frank expression yet felt ashamed inside, "The gentleman is open and forthright, but alas, I am no gentleman..."

When dealing with the Yin Family, he had indeed used some tactics within a controllable range.

Not doing so would merely have been scratching the itch through the boot for the Yin Family, who even had a complete online crisis public relations system and a large number of negative news cleaners; ordinary methods wouldn't hurt them.

"Sometimes, it is permissible to be flexible within the rules allowed by law and reason, but we must be mindful of limits," Mayor Ji Mingyang added casually.

Bai Xiaosheng immediately became solemn.

If Mayor Ji Mingyang could become mayor and govern Zhongjing so well, how could he possibly be unaware of Bai Xiaosheng's machinations?

Bai Xiaosheng earnestly said, "I will remember your words!"

Mayor Ji Mingyang nodded in approval.

Smart people get the hint right away.

That topic was now put aside.

Mayor Ji Mingyang, in high spirits, inquired about the progress of the second phase from Bai Xiaosheng, and was very pleased to hear that it was going well.

"It concerns my score; of course, I have to take it seriously!" Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself as he reported.

Suddenly, Bai Xiaosheng's eyes blazed with a touch of fighting spirit.

This time, he would have a head-to-head competition with Mu Beichen from Tianzheng Media in Langbei City.

"Mu Beichen, here I come!"

Chapter 487: Very Successful! Any Bad News?_1

Two hours later, Bai Xiaosheng and his colleagues arrived at their destination for this trip—the provincial party committee office building.

Bai Xiaosheng looked out the car window and immediately held his breath in concentration.

The newly constructed office building was fifty meters high with ten floors. Its appearance was simple, solemn, and dignified, with an aura that came over in waves, inspiring awe.

The vehicle entered and went straight to the garage, and then the three took the elevator directly to the ninth floor.

As the elevator doors opened, there stood outside a serious-looking middle-aged man, seemingly waiting for the elevator.

"Mr. Ji?" said the person outside upon seeing Ji Mingyang.

"Minister Fan!" Ji Mingyang stepped out of the elevator with a smile, "What a coincidence. If you're not in a hurry, don't rush to leave just yet. I'm about to make a report as the secretary, concerning the

business recommended by our city for the benchmark enterprise recognition. As the head of the inspection committee, you really should listen in."

Since the provincial government used to be in Zhongjing, Ji Mingyang was quite acquainted with these leaders and spoke more freely.

A slight smile appeared on Minister Fan's face, "Alright, since you, Ji, have asked, I will join you first before leaving."

"Oh, right, this is the general manager of the benchmark enterprise recommended by our city—Zhongjing Media's Bai Xiaosheng," Ji Mingyang introduced Bai Xiaosheng who was behind him to the other party.

"Bai Xiaosheng, this is Minister Fan from the provincial party committee's organization department, and also the person in charge of this inspection committee," Ji Mingyang introduced.

"Hello, Minister Fan!" Bai Xiaosheng greeted humbly and appropriately with great decorum.

"Hello!" Minister Fan sized up Bai Xiaosheng, and couldn't help but nod in appreciation, extending his hand.

Bai Xiaosheng shook hands with Minister Fan.

"Mr. Ji, this general manager from your city is indeed promising and young! He might be the youngest I've seen, yet he is very steady. Very good!" Minister Fan did not skimp on his praise.

Ji Mingyang beamed with pleasure.

"Chen, you take them to the meeting room. Mayor Ji and I will be over shortly," Minister Fan said to his secretary.

The secretary then led Bai Xiaosheng and Zhang Meng away.

Ji Mingyang went with Minister Fan in another direction.

Bai Xiaosheng and Zhang Meng were led to a large conference room. The two secretaries, already acquainted, exchanged pleasantries. Minister Fan's secretary had someone bring over two cups of tea, then left.

Zhang Meng and Bai Xiaosheng waited in the meeting room. After about an hour, the office door opened, and Minister Fan's secretary returned with a smile, "The leaders have scheduled a report for the afternoon, asking me to take you two to lunch first, to try the cafeteria food here."

Zhang Meng and Bai Xiaosheng followed the secretary to the agency's cafeteria, which was clean, tidy, and orderly. The vast cafeteria was quiet, with people conversing softly amongst themselves.

After finishing their meal, Bai Xiaosheng and Zhang Meng headed back to the office.

At one-thirty in the afternoon, the meeting room door opened, and the leaders arrived.

The two of them promptly stood up to greet them. Minister Fan, Ji Mingyang, and a dozen or so other leaders entered one after another, taking their seats in turn.

Under Ji Mingyang's lead, Bai Xiaosheng greeted all the leaders.

This time Ji Mingyang was here to report, and as the main character, Bai Xiaosheng sat beside him.

The ranks of these leaders were all very high, showing the provincial government's emphasis on the recognition of benchmark enterprises, and the atmosphere on site was solemn. When they learned that Bai Xiaosheng was the person in charge of the enterprise applying this time, their eyes revealed not only surprise but also a bit of scrutiny.

So young, not even thirty!

If a general manager of other enterprises is over forty, they could be considered young and promising, but being under thirty is an anomaly among anomalies.

Ji Mingyang himself was unavoidably nervous.

This matter was also a big deal for Zhongjing City.

Zhongjing is now called the Anjiang Economic Center City. Last year, its GDP climbed to the top among thirteen prefecture-level cities, slightly edging out Langbei City by half, with the entire city undergoing urban renewal, transformation, and upgrading.

The policy support to be received by the provincial-level benchmark enterprise was secondary. The key was the honor, which couldn't be missing! Especially, it couldn't be surpassed by Langbei City, which was only second to Zhongjing!

As things came to a head, Ji Mingyang was also concerned, afraid that Bai Xiaosheng would be nervous.

Bai Xiaosheng had prepared everything, took a deep breath in secret, and slowly exhaled.

Throughout his career, he had faced many challenges, but today was probably the highest-level event yet!

Every pair of watching eyes carried an imposing pressure, making him feel a profound burden.

"In the future, I will become the ruler of Zhenbei Group, a world-class financial conglomerate. By then, I'm afraid everyone present will be heads of state! It will be a higher-profile event than this one, and I will be someone who converses with heads of state! So, I can't afford to lose my nerve!"

Bai Xiaosheng began to construct his imagination, picturing conversations with higher beings.

This method of alleviating tension was very effective for him.

Bai Xiaosheng gradually relaxed.

The materials were printed and delivered to the hands of the leaders by Bai Xiaosheng and Zhang Meng. Someone was in charge of the projection equipment, and when Bai Xiaosheng passed the USB flash drive with the electronic materials, it was played without issue.

After everything was in order, Bai Xiaosheng's mood had also adjusted quite well.

He started to speak fluently.

A report.

Bai Xiaosheng spoke neither hastily nor slowly, his words crystal clear, with no pause or halt whatsoever.

Initially, Ji Mingyang was worried that Bai Xiaosheng might get stage fright and was always ready to come to his rescue, afraid he would get too nervous to speak completely, always ready to add what was needed.

But as Bai Xiaosheng's presentation continued, Ji Mingyang couldn't help but be amazed.

This young man was truly a natural talent! To think he faced such a grand array without a hint of stage fright!

His words were incredibly organized!

Impressive! Indeed, he is the one my teacher praised highly!

Ji Mingyang's gaze towards Bai Xiaosheng was full of approval.

The leaders present all nodded in agreement, looking at Bai Xiaosheng with considerable appreciation.

This young man truly had something special, even more composed than some corporate leaders in their forties or fifties!

Minister Fan kept nodding, and even a smile appeared on his stern face. When Ji Mingyang exaggerated about this Bai Xiaosheng, he had been somewhat skeptical, but now he saw that the young man was indeed excellent. Such potential, if not in business, would definitely make a remarkable figure in the civil service!

Behind Ji Mingyang, Zhang Meng also admired him secretly.

No wonder the Mayor favored him. Truly remarkable! Even I would be nervous in this situation, yet he seemed completely undisturbed! Zhang Meng was somewhat convinced.

An hour later, Bai Xiaosheng finished his presentation.

All the content included written documents, big data, and video materials.

This presentation alone was done better than what 80% of the other competing businesses had offered!

In the following question-and-answer session, it seemed the leaders deliberately tested Bai Xiaosheng with many questions.

They asked to such an extent that Ji Mingyang couldn't help but feel the urge to step in for Bai Xiaosheng.

However, Bai Xiaosheng did not miss a beat, responding appropriately, instantly pleasing the leaders present.

After the question-and-answer session ended, the leaders nodded in satisfaction.

The first phase of the scrutiny for Zhongjing Media had essentially passed.

Next, the committee would send someone to make a visit, and if there were no major issues, preparations for the next stage could begin.

The review meeting drew to a close, and the leaders left one after another. Ji Mingyang asked Zhang Meng to take Bai Xiaosheng ahead, while he stayed to chat with Minister Fan.

Zhang Meng and Bai Xiaosheng waited in the elevator area.

Half an hour later, Ji Mingyang returned.

On the way down to the parking garage by elevator, it wasn't until they got in the car that Ji Mingyang said to Bai Xiaosheng.

"Today was very successful, but there is both good news and bad news! Which one would you like to hear first?"

Very successful, yet there's bad news?

Bai Xiaosheng was momentarily stunned.

Chapter 488: Must Overtake Them!_1

The report was all very successful, how could there still be bad news?

Ji Mingyang looked at Bai Xiaosheng, also giving a helpless smile.

"I'll start with the good news," he began, "the good news is... it was very successful, and the leaders were all very satisfied. Especially Minister Fan, he was very impressed with you! Just now, he praised you for quite a while."

Ji Mingyang was also very pleased with Bai Xiaosheng's performance today.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

"The bad news..." Ji Mingyang sighed slowly, "Just now, Minister Fan brought up that Mayor Su Shu of Langbei City has already submitted their schedule for the second phase of review, which is at the end of this month, less than three weeks away!"

Tianzheng Media had already fixed the date for submitting the content for the second phase of the review!

Bai Xiaosheng nodded, "Their first-phase submission was about ten days ahead of us, so the second phase in three weeks isn't too surprising, is it?"

Then, Bai Xiaosheng looked puzzled, "Is this what you mean by bad news?"

It doesn't sound all that terrible.

"The problem is, the nature of the enterprises in both of our cities overlaps, both are media companies! In principle, the province wants to set up only one benchmark in each industry, so what does this result in? If the other prefecture-level cities pick nine different industries for benchmark enterprises and both of our overlapping businesses pass the review, how do we determine who is the benchmark?" Ji Mingyang retorted.

This hypothesis assumes that the enterprises submitted for review by the other cities don't overlap at all!

It's an extreme scenario, but it's also a possibility.

"Well then, just look at which one generates more profit and tax." Zhang Meng, who had driven out of the underground parking lot and was leaving the provincial committee, couldn't help but interject.

"If it's just based on profit and tax, then I think both companies can be included in the top ten benchmarks, and we can simply kick out the other lower-performing ones, right?" Ji Mingyang sighed,

"It's not that simple! Profit and tax is just one factor, innovation ability, growth, and influence on the industry are all things the leaders value just as much as profit and tax!"

"First come, first served!" Bai Xiaosheng, who had been silent and contemplative, suddenly spoke up.

Zhang Meng, surprised, glanced at Bai Xiaosheng through the rearview mirror.

Ji Mingyang gave a wry smile, "Not exactly the same words, but the meaning is pretty close. Minister Fan told me that this is also what the province intends. Between the two companies, whichever completes the entire review process first will be ranked higher. If there's an issue with quotas, the one who passes the final review first will come out on top."

"Unexpected, what unexpected?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

"Unless out of the thirteen prefecture-level cities, three completely fail to meet the standards, leaving only ten, they would allow two media companies to be included in the top ten benchmarks together. But what do you think the chances of that happening are?" Ji Mingyang sighed.

Bai Xiaosheng remained silent.

"To be on the safe side, we must catch up, no, we must surpass Langbei City Tianzheng Group in completing our submission!" Bai Xiaosheng said firmly.

"The key question is, can we outdo them? They're at least ten days ahead of us, and as for the second phase... Sheng, how confident are you?" Ji Mingyang's eyes sparkled as he looked at Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng did not immediately promise anything, instead, he fell into deep thought.

"Mr. Ji, please allow me to plan this thoroughly!" Bai Xiaosheng said gravely, "Actually, I've thought about the issue of progress, too. If we proceed by the book, we can only follow behind Tianzheng Media. You've mentioned that the first submission might come with impression points, but I think if we keep trailing them, the gap in impression points will widen even more! Also, you talked about homogenous

enterprises; the province's intention is to avoid this as far as possible. I was thinking then that what we lack won't just be impression points, but quite possibly the quota itself!"

Bai Xiaosheng had already considered this?

These words made Ji Mingyang nod, watching Bai Xiaosheng with a face full of relief, "Alright, I'm relieved to leave this matter in your hands!"

"Sheng, I've always had ninety percent confidence in you, but there's still that one percent of worry. You're quite young and your experiences might be a little lacking. I've worried whether you'd get nervous or anxious when facing leadership, or if you'd fall short in your consideration of issues. But today, seeing how you conducted yourself before the leaders, seeing your thought process regarding this matter, I'm reassured. You're fully capable of handling this responsibility!" Mayor Ji Mingyang said candidly.

Zhang Meng also smiled. After this briefing, his admiration for Bai Xiaosheng was boundless. As the mayor's chief secretary, he seldom admired anyone, especially young people of Bai Xiaosheng's age.

Bai Xiaosheng responded with a modest smile.

"You flatter me, but I said I would secure this spot, and I will definitely do so!"

Bai Xiaosheng's expression was resolute.

All along the way, Bai Xiaosheng was deep in thought, and Ji Mingyang did not interrupt him.

By the time they returned to Zhongjing, it had grown dark. Ji Mingyang had Zhang Meng drive, taking Bai Xiaosheng all the way back to his residence.

Having a mayor personally drop him off at home was a great honor, but Bai Xiaosheng seemed to have an idea in his mind, he hastily bade farewell to Ji Mingyang without even the courtesy of inviting him in for a while and left on his own.

"This guy, he's such a workaholic. In his rush, he even overlooked you," Zhang Meng couldn't help but chide, though in reality, he was making excuses for Bai Xiaosheng, worried that Ji Mingyang might be upset.

"Actually, I was thinking of inviting him for dinner. Well, that's a saving now. Let's go, back to the city government," Ji Mingyang joked. He obviously wouldn't make a fuss over such a trivial matter.

Bai Xiaosheng hurried back home and went straight to his computer desk. He turned on his computer, switched off the main light and turned on the desk lamp, putting himself in a calm state.

Facing the document, Bai Xiaosheng typed away, capturing all the fragmented thoughts he had on the way in his writing.

When he came back to his senses, two hours had passed, and the document was filled with thousands of words.

Bai Xiaosheng slowly combed through the text, deleting and refining, extracting the essence, and carefully organizing his thoughts with numbers.

If he wanted to outpace Tianzheng Media, he couldn't resort to common methods; he needed to be unconventional and surprising!

Some ideas were impractical, some difficult to implement, some simple, but their effects seemed unlikely to be significant.

He had not only to choose, but to choose the best of the best.

Moreover, this wasn't merely a competition between two enterprises.

It was also a clash between two prefecture-level cities!

Langbei City, in terms of both its total economic volume and other aspects, was no less than Zhongjing.

In fact, for the past few years, Langbei had always been ahead of Zhongjing.

"Once we play our cards, I believe Mayor Su Shu won't sit idly by! Langbei City will follow up immediately, so some measures we take must be so striking that Mayor Ji Mingyang will announce them to the province, securing a favorable impression right away," Bai Xiaosheng muttered to himself.

Finally, when everything seemed to be in good order, Bai Xiaosheng let out a sigh of relief, simultaneously feeling ravenous.

After all, it was already very late!

Bai Xiaosheng ordered a takeout, and while waiting, his phone rang.

At first, he thought the delivery person had arrived, but upon answering, it was a familiar yet unfamiliar voice.

"Is this Bai Xiaosheng? It's me, Ariel!"

Chapter 489 Kelson's Dilemma_1

Ariel? Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback.

Mr. Kelson's sister, Ariel, the dame who spoke Chinese so fluently she could even spit out proverbs left and right?

Her image surfaced again in Bai Xiaosheng's mind.

Tall and slender, with skin white as snow, she had long, golden-brown hair and a graceful neck, like that of a noble swan. With a magnificent bust and a wasp waist, her delicate and captivating cheeks could rival those of Western celebrities.

Why would she be calling him?

No wonder, this number looked odd.

"Miss Ariel, long time no see," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile on the phone.

It's been a while since Mr. Kevin and his team left.

The time wasn't long, but for Zhongjing Media, the changes had been earth-shaking, and he, Bai Xiaosheng, had become the General Manager of Zhongjing Media.

That former General Manager, Song Changkong, was now out of contact, probably reassigned elsewhere by the group, a move Bai Xiaosheng wasn't concerned with.

"It has been quite some time, we heard you've become the General Manager of Zhongjing Media, congratulations!" Ariel's voice was very pleasant.

"Yes, next time you come, I will host you properly," Bai Xiaosheng replied with a laugh.

Between them, they were now important business partners.

Bai Xiaosheng had always been attentive to the European market, never letting his guard down, even during the company's major restructuring or currently focusing on the competition for provincial benchmark enterprises.

He would personally inquire every few days and even had Song Yiming specifically keep an eye on it.

So far, the situation there was very good. The initial market expansion was not only smooth sailing but had even accelerated. In a few months, they expected to move on to the second phase, which would involve an investment of several hundred million. However, given the prospects, their gains would be enormous.

The thought of this put Bai Xiaosheng in a very good mood.

"Sure, I'll definitely make a visit when I have the time," Ariel laughed on the phone.

Whenever she thought of the East and that incredible, young and handsome man, Ariel couldn't help but feel a sense of anticipation.

Bai Xiaosheng was not only extraordinarily skillful but also possessed a strong presence, along with extraordinary courage and wisdom.

When her brother Kevin learned that he was appointed the General Manager of Zhongjing Media, he was stunned for a good while, with a look of astonishment, repeatedly saying, "Incredible, this man is incredible!"

Remembering that moment, Ariel couldn't help but want to laugh.

Her brother had never held anyone in such high esteem, especially someone from the distant East who was younger than himself.

"Ariel, what's the reason for your call?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

Ariel, a gentle and virtuous lady, seen by Kevin as a think tank wouldn't have failed to realize that it was almost eleven at night over there.

This late call was somewhat an intrusion.

Additionally, Bai Xiaosheng had been training with the Micro Expression Analysis System to enhance his observation skills and judgment, expanding it further to learn how to discern emotions from voices.

Speaking of which, he owed Shang Wanwan a debt of gratitude; her large sunglasses had once halved the data collection capabilities of the Micro Expression Analysis System.

It made Bai Xiaosheng think; expressions could be concealed, but the voice, including the speed of speech, the pauses on certain words, and the pitch, all conveyed different messages.

This was something the Micro-Expression System might cover less, so Bai Xiaosheng had Red Lotus search for more professional knowledge and permanently embedded it in his memory.

Listen to the words, hear the voice.

He sensed that Ariel had something to discuss, and it was unlikely to be trivial.

"Go ahead, Miss Ariel. As partners, if there's an issue you're facing, I'll naturally help out where I can!" Bai Xiaosheng laughed, "And remember, we are also friends!"

The last sentence made Ariel respond with a deep "Hmm," which, by the tone of her voice, suggested she was quite moved.

"I'm seeking you out because there is indeed something I need, and I'd like to ask for your help!" said Ariel.

Bai Xiaosheng laughed, "Let's hear it."

Then, Ariel detailed the situation to him.

It turned out that Kelson Corporation was targeting not only the domestic market while expanding in the Greater China Region, but also UH Country, and had started negotiations with a major company there.

Recently, the UH Country company suddenly contacted another European company, initiating a bidding war. That European company was an old-school business, a true family enterprise that had endured for a century, though it had declined in recent years, it was stronger than Kelson.

The title of Kelson being "one of the top in Europe" actually came with a caveat: it was one of the top new media companies.

By the end of the 17th century, as England began to engage in large-scale commercial activities, the term "advertising" became widely used. Since the dawn of the advertising industry back then, countless businesses and family businesses have been born.

The foundation of a century-old business was naturally very powerful, strongly competitive.

It looked like Kelson had met its match.

However, in the field of new media, Kelson might not fall too far behind, especially since the competitors were a declining enterprise.

"The current problem is not with the old brand business, but with the UH Country company. They've contacted us privately, demanding domestic market data, key market analysis reports, and dynamic analysis models from us. They claim that the old brand company has already won favor with the top brass. If we can't deliver the goods, they'll consider cooperating with them," Ariel explained with a sigh. "Our own team's offerings aren't satisfying them, and indeed, based on the feedback, they do fall short of the old brand."

So that's how it is!

Bai Xiaosheng understood.

The UH Country company was shrewd and cunning, setting a trap for Kelson. The terms they offered must have been very generous, pie in the sky, or else Kelson wouldn't be so keen on the cooperation; neither Ariel nor Kevin was a fool, in fact, they were among the sharpest, yet even they could not resist the temptation, which suggested the prize must be substantial.

But at the same time, Bai Xiaosheng didn't believe that Ariel and her team would really give away their core assets without any reservations.

The world of business is full of deceit; no one can claim to be smarter than others—only outcomes decide who the heroes are.

"I understand, you want me, no, you want the Ron Team to help you," Bai Xiaosheng said.

When it comes to databases and market analysis reports, the Ron Team was the strongest in Europe, something that even Lu Qingfeng coveted and pleaded persistently to collaborate with!

"Exactly, Bai Xiaosheng, I need the help of the Ron Team. It's a request as a friend, but since this is ultimately about the company, I can't expect you to contribute for nothing. Kelson is willing to pay ten million euros to the Ron Team!"

Ten million euros, nearly eighty million Chinese yuan!

This was surely enough to buy the data!

However, there were old grievances between Kelson and the Ron Team, and money might not do the trick.

Therefore, Ariel approached Bai Xiaosheng first.

"Alright, I agree!" Bai Xiaosheng nodded in agreement.

After talking a little longer, they ended the call, and Bai Xiaosheng immediately phoned Ron.

Soon, the call connected, and Bai Xiaosheng heard Ron shouting in stiff Mandarin from the other side, "Gan le, gan le, bie yang yu!"

It was this late and they were still having a blast!

"What are you doing?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

"Spicy crayfish!" Ron responded in his rigid Mandarin, then burst out laughing and spoke in German, "Boss, what are you calling me for?"

"Oh, I... have got you a big order."

Chapter 490 I Don't Want to Take This Big Order! _1

"You got me... a big deal?"

On the phone, Ron repeated, puzzled, "Boss, wait a minute for me, I might have had one too many, I'm hallucinating. Don't hang up, let me find a quiet place, and we can talk again!"

The guy still couldn't believe it.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and waited patiently.

During this time, Bai Xiaosheng also called Ron to check on operational issues, and upon hearing everything was going smoothly, he didn't ask further.

It could be said that Bai Xiaosheng never interfered with specific affairs.

The new company wasn't short of business either, mainly coordinating with Tengyun Group and starting to make a profit. The profits were then reinvested to expand the team, recruiting some top-level and reliable talent to strengthen the company's growth.

The global market database was also being developed without any faltering.

Ron was currently engaged in "team building"—drinking, eating spicy crayfish.

Bai Xiaosheng heard sounds of water and face washing over the phone; it seemed Ron was sobering up.

"My boss, how come you're running a side hustle? Are you that bored?" Finally, Ron's voice came through, full of teasing.

The two were friends, and Bai Xiaosheng didn't like Ron being all too serious about really treating him as a boss.

After several instances, Ron got used to speaking this way.

Moreover, it was after working hours.

So, Ron was even less inclined to be formal.

Of course, his loyalty to Bai Xiaosheng was beyond question.

"I'm serious," Bai Xiaosheng said.

"Alright, you're serious," Ron stopped being contrary, "So, what kind of big deal did you bring me, bigger than Tengyun? Or are you thinking of making us cooperate with Zhongjing Media? Let me tell you, even if this company is yours and you are the Zhongjing Media General Manager, I won't deduct a penny of the money we're owed! After all, I have to be responsible to my boss, and even if he's generous, I can't let him be recklessly generous. Okay, go ahead!"

Even with a bit of alcohol in him, Ron's eloquence hadn't diminished; his words were slick and roundabout.

It left Bai Xiaosheng laughing and crying at the same time.

Bai Xiaosheng's promotion to Zhongjing Media General Manager was something Ron knew about; he even used that as an excuse to celebrate with spicy crayfish.

Bai Xiaosheng wasn't in a hurry to reply. He paused, allowing Ron on the other end to settle down too, and then spoke softly, "It's Kelson."

These few words seemed magical.

On the other end, silence fell.

When Ron left Zhongjing, he knew that Bai Xiaosheng had represented the company in signing a cooperation with Kelson, and he had been very magnanimous about it.

However, Ron's understanding of what Kelson did to Kaisen didn't mean he could cooperate with Kelson without any reservations.

"Kelson! No, I don't want to work with them!" Ron's voice came again over the phone, predictably much colder.

"Sheng, I'm not a qualified businessman, never have been. I can let go of hating them, but I also don't want to work with them. After all, they personally destroyed my Kaisen," Ron's voice was calm.

But beneath that calm was a clear resistance.

As expected!

Bai Xiaosheng inwardly sighed.

Actually, he had anticipated this. He believed Ariel and the others must have expected it as well, otherwise they wouldn't have offered ten million euros. They wanted to show goodwill.

Kelson was demonstrating their utmost sincerity in this way.

After all, on the business field, apologies and good intentions are ephemeral; only real cash truly shows sincerity.

Of course, as friends with Ariel, and with Zhongjing Media being partners with Kelson, it was only right for Bai Xiaosheng to lend a hand, regardless of the perspective.

"They are willing to spend ten million euros to purchase some key market data about UH Country, as well as analysis reports," Bai Xiaosheng said, "Ariel is also my friend."

There was silence on the other end.

"But at the same time, I don't want to make things difficult for you either," Bai Xiaosheng sighed.

On the phone, there was a long silence.

Finally, Ron sighed, "Sheng, let me think about this! In fact, I know what Kelson did in the past was not wrong, but something in my heart... If it hadn't been for meeting you, my dreams, our dreams, might have been destroyed by them. I am human too; I have emotions, and I hold grudges! In business wars, there's no right or wrong side, but human hearts have their warmth and cold!"

These words also made Bai Xiaosheng reflective. He spoke in a very sincere tone, "Okay, I'll give you time to consider. If it really doesn't work out, I'll think of another way!"

"Thank you!" Ron's voice carried a hint of emotion. Bai Xiaosheng was not only his friend and his boss but also showed him such respect.

This moved Ron.

There was another moment of silence before Ron said, "Actually, what I said earlier was said in the heat of the moment. From a work standpoint, my personal feelings will absolutely not affect this big deal! If I can't get past it, then I will step down temporarily and let my deputy take over and complete the job! But... I worry that members of my team may have objections! I need the time you've given me to communicate with them!"

"Alright!" Bai Xiaosheng naturally understood.

After all, it was the whole team that Kelson had hurt initially.

After hanging up the phone, Bai Xiaosheng remained silent.

To be fair, both parties were his friends. Although there were degrees of closeness and distance, having less confrontation and more goodwill between each other was always a good thing.

After all, cooperation was inevitable in the long run.

"More things to deal with?" Bai Xiaosheng gave a wry smile and shook his head. Now he had to consider the matters of Zhongjing Media's reporting, as well as helping Ariel and Kelson solve their database issues, and also needed to pay attention to the team building of all his companies.

"I am indeed a bit busy," Bai Xiaosheng reflected, "It seems I'll have to poach Weiwei to my own company. With her involvement, I would have much less trouble!"

Bai Xiaosheng was already contemplating the idea of poaching talent.

"The Future Group is also mine, what's mine is even more so mine, so does that count as poaching from myself?" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but joke to himself.

He stood up and poured himself a cup of hot tea.

Just then, there was a knock at the door.

Bai Xiaosheng went to open it and found that it was the takeout he had ordered.

It was almost 10:40 now, not really dinner time, but more of a late-night snack.

Bai Xiaosheng took the takeout.

After closing the door, he carried it back to his desk and began to eat.

Being well-fed and content was truly a great happiness; it even improved his mood significantly.

As he was eating, an idea suddenly struck Bai Xiaosheng.

Ron Team had almost had their livelihoods destroyed by Kelson, their dreams were at stake, and with the team members' families lacking security, it was natural for them to harbor resentment.

This resentment was the heart of the problem!

Bai Xiaosheng put down his chopsticks, picked up his phone, and called Ariel directly.

"Hello?" came Ariel's voice from the other end.

"Ariel, regarding the partnership, Ron Team seems to have a resistant attitude," Bai Xiaosheng said.

"Is that so." Ariel's voice sounded somewhat disheartened.

"However, I've thought of a way to resolve the conflict between you!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.