

## Two Trillion 51

Chapter 51 The Struggle Between Managers\_1 News of Wu Qiuyan's resignation had spread throughout the project before the end of the workday.

Reasons for her resignation were speculated by Wang, Song, and Yezi, but they remained unsolved.

Bai Xiaosheng sat at his desk, not participating in the discussion.

This unusual behavior made Yezi highly suspicious, convinced that Bai Xiaosheng knew something insider.

Unfortunately, under the relentless questioning of this young lady, he remained tight-lipped.

Before leaving work, Bai Xiaosheng received a package.

Upon opening it, he found a coffee mug, a VIP gift from Island Coffee's anniversary celebration.

Besides that, there was also a scenic postcard in the package.

Only a few delicate words were written, "Thank you, goodbye!"

It seemed that Wu Qiuyan had probably left the city.

Bai Xiaosheng looked over the postcard and smiled knowingly.

"A mug, a postcard, what era is this?"

People are still giving these," Yezi glanced over and muttered as she packed up to leave work.

Bai Xiaosheng set the mug in a prominent position, perfectly upright.

He stood up and headed home.

At this moment, a storm was brewing in the project department.

With Wu Qiuyan gone, it was just more gossip among the employees.

But for the complex situation of the project team, it meant the balance of power was disrupted.

Additionally, with the opening event imminent, the promotion department couldn't be without a head, and work could not be delayed.

After work, leaders above the manager level at the Teleis Square Project Department were called to the meeting room.

It was time to select a head for the promotion department.

The arguments began.

"I think newcomer Bai Xiaosheng is more than capable of taking on this role.

Everyone witnessed his performance that day," Chen Daya said excitedly as he put forth the nomination.

Honestly, Wu Qiuyan's departure had shocked him.

That woman was Li Mingtong's right-hand person, and her relationship with Li Mingtong was muddled at best.

For Chen Daya, she was a thorn in his side.

A thorn that couldn't be moved, could not be pulled out!

Yet now, this thorn had left on her own!

Chen Daya didn't know what to say.

Curious and itching to know more, he asked persistently, but Bai Xiaosheng didn't utter a word, leaving him with no choice.

Chen Daya reported to Shang Wenshu, and Shang's reaction was inscrutable, almost as if he thought it was normal.

This made Chen Daya think that even Mr.

Shang was involved.

However, this was definitely an opportunity!

Chen Daya, of course, was not going to let it slip by.

"I disagree!" Li Mingtong's face darkened as he opposed on the spot, "That kid's only been here for a few days.

What qualification does he have to be a manager?

Who here doesn't have more experience than him?

We can't just let him be manager because he was brought by Mr.

Shang!”

The managers from various departments started to whisper amongst themselves.

“Mr.

Li, since when do we look at seniority for selecting a manager on our project?

If we talk about seniority, old Wang the gatekeeper has been here longer than you and me; can he be the project manager or even deputy manager?” Chen Daya wouldn’t back down this time, retorting sharply, “It’s not about being brought in by leadership, it’s about Bai Xiaosheng having the capability, which everyone has seen!”

Li Mingtong sneered, “Did he come up with and execute those ideas himself?

I think that’s the hard work of the entire promotion department.

I believe it’s the former manager Wu Qiuyan and Wang who deserve the credit, not Bai Xiaosheng who merely followed instructions.

What’s so praiseworthy about that?”

“If you can find another person who can, just like Bai Xiaosheng did that day with the project, even parrot back the overall promotional strategy, then I would agree to consider it,” Chen Daya said calmly but firmly, adding with a smile, “But don’t just randomly assign someone.

This position requires professionalism!”

Li Mingtong was at a loss for words, but he was still not agreeable, “Even so, there are other issues!”

The meeting lasted a full hour, and Chen Daya found Li Mingtong’s ability to find fault incredible.

But he also stood his ground.

The situation suddenly became tense, and even the managers couldn't get a word in.

It had been a long time since Chen and Li had faced off like this, and why did Wu Qiuyan resign?

Managers who had heard some rumors began to murmur among themselves.

They were not clear about the outcome of the meeting, but each had inexplicably reached a consensus—

At all costs, they must not provoke Bai Xiaosheng from the Marketing Department!

He was sent by Mr.

Shang, not to mention that.

It was said that Wu Qiuyan tried to make things difficult for him, and in just a few days, she inexplicably left, not even Li Mingtong or Wang Ye could protect her?

And now, because of him, the top two were about to come to blows!

So, if it's nothing, don't bother this person.

If there's something though, it's better to push it onto the leaders!

Bai Xiaosheng could never have imagined that he had inexplicably become the third most intimidating person in the project, right after Chen Daya and Li Mingtong!

The meeting was noisy for quite a while, with Chen Daya and Li Mingtong each stepping out to take a call.

When they came back, both of their attitudes had suddenly changed.

“Since Mr.

Li insists on questioning Bai Xiaosheng, I can reserve my opinion.

You can choose someone from the Marketing Department, and we can discuss it again,” Chen Daya conceded.

In the Marketing Department, the one who has the ability and seniority is Wang.

Wang is neutral and can be promoted.

Chen Daya had reported that Mr.

Shang’s intention was that the position doesn’t matter; it’s merely a formality.

However, once Bai Xiaosheng makes any requests, Chen Daya must fully cooperate and support him!

After this call, Chen Daya began to recognize Bai Xiaosheng’s status even more highly.

“Actually, it’s not that we can’t use Bai Xiaosheng.

I’m only thinking of what’s best for the project!”

Surprisingly, Li Mingtong’s attitude took a complete 180-degree turn.

This turn was so abrupt that it caught a group of managers off guard, almost leaving them in the dust.

“Then, shall we let Bai Xiaosheng act as a temporary manager?” Chen Daya tentatively put forward the proposal.

This was a compromise.

“No need for ‘temporary’—making him a manager is enough.

Adding ‘temporary’ seems like we don’t trust him, which could hurt his work enthusiasm,” Li Mingtong compromised quickly and thoroughly.

Even Chen Daya was stunned.

“Since Vice Manager Li says so...” Chen Daya looked around, and no one else objected.

“The HR department will issue a notice tomorrow.

Bai Xiaosheng is promoted to Manager of the Marketing Department!”

The meeting ended.

Li Mingtong quickly packed up his stuff.

Without greeting anyone, he hurried back to his office.

Arriving at his office, Li Mingtong threw his things down and sat heavily in his chair, lost in thought.

Indeed, Vice General Manager Wang Ye had called him.

Wang Ye, somehow informed, told him not to act rashly, especially regarding Bai Xiaosheng!

To be cautious, even more cautious!

Restrained, even more restrained!

Why would such a domineering vice general manager appear so wary of a green youth?

Li Mingtong didn't understand.

But he had his own considerations!

"Bai Xiaosheng, oh, Bai Xiaosheng.

Even Mrs.

Wang has ordered not to touch you, but the resentment in my gut isn't going away!" Li Mingtong revealed a cold smirk, talking to himself, "Old grudges and new, I was almost driven mad by anger.

If you weren't the manager of the marketing department..."

"How would I deal with you then!"

Chapter 52: Succeeding as Supervisor\_1 Bai Xiaosheng became the new head of the promotion department!

This news spread like wildfire, and early in the morning, it was being heatedly discussed by employees from various departments.

A newcomer who had only been there for a few days was going to take over Wu Qiuyan's position as the supervisor—this Bai Xiaosheng must have some strong connections!

"I heard this is someone Mr.

Shang personally brought in, what kind of background do you think that is!"

"Mr.

Shang's person?

Vice General Manager Wang Ye doesn't object, and Vice Manager Li didn't oppose it?!"

"I heard that yesterday, Managers Chen and Li, along with the supervisors, had a meeting that went very late, and it was quite a heated argument!"

"So what happened after that, how did they come to an agreement?"

...

All kinds of discussions were endless.

The topic of Bai Xiaosheng that had previously stirred up hadn't cooled down yet, and this new topic pushed his notoriety to a new height.

Now, even the cleaning ladies were asking who Bai Xiaosheng was.

When Bai Xiaosheng hurried to the project in the morning, he felt something was off on his way to the promotion department.

All around, nearly everyone was pointing and making remarks about him, even the cleaning aunties were sneaking peeks at him.

Bai Xiaosheng was full of suspicion.

It wasn't until he passed by a department and overheard the relatively clear discussions inside that he finally figured it out.

It turned out he had been promoted!

"Red Lotus, it seems there is no 'supervisor' level in your job promotion system, right?" Bai Xiaosheng asked curiously.

"You currently have fifty-five points, which is between the employee level and the manager level," Red Lotus replied.

"In the company's hierarchy, a supervisor is above an employee but below a manager.

It exists only in specific sectors like the real estate project department, hotels, etc., and is not a universal level across all subsidiaries.

Hence, it is not included in my job promotion system."

So that was it.

Bai Xiaosheng silently nodded his head.

But being a supervisor for now didn't seem too bad—it was like preparing in advance for the experience needed to become a manager.

Bai Xiaosheng knew that if he were truly promoted to manager level, he'd probably be on the same level as Chen Daya.

That would require another forty-five points!

"It's quite a pity Wu Qiuyan left!

If she had given me some more challenging work, I wonder how many more points I could have earned!" Bai Xiaosheng felt a bit regretful, but after a moment, he cheered up on his own.

"I'm going to be the supervisor now, right?

I wonder if giving myself challenging tasks would count?"

"No!"

Red Lotus cut him off firmly, "Only tasks issued within a confirmed superior-subordinate relationship can be entered into the evaluation."

It's well thought out, not giving me any chance to cheat, Bai Xiaosheng thought, taking it in stride with a laugh.

"However, even if I don't find trouble for myself, I'm afraid Li Mingtong won't let me have an easy time."

Promotion work was under Li Mingtong's jurisdiction; Bai Xiaosheng had a new grudge on top of an old one against him.

For anyone else, this job would be more than just difficult—it would be unbearable!

But Bai Xiaosheng was different.

As long as the difficulties were work-related, he practically awaited them with eager anticipation!

“Otherwise, I might go provoke him a bit more.

He better not disappoint me!” Bai Xiaosheng said with a masochistic fervor in his eyes.

“Li Mingtong, please don’t fail my trust in you!” Bai Xiaosheng couldn’t help but mutter to himself.

When Bai Xiaosheng got back to the promotion department, he found that Wang was the only one who had arrived so far.

As soon as Wang saw it was Bai Xiaosheng, he quickly stood up and closed the door, “Bai, you’re the new head of promotion, do you know about this?”

“Just found out.” Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

“This position isn’t easy to sit in!” Wang said, a bit worried, staring at Bai Xiaosheng.

“You...

you’re one of Mr.

Shang’s people, right?”

“Hmm,” Bai Xiaosheng responded vaguely.

He couldn’t deny it even if he wanted to; Shang Wenshu’s actions on the first day had clearly pulled him onto a shaky boat.

“Ah, this is what I’m worried about,” Wang sighed heavily, his eyebrows knotted in concern, “The marketing department reports directly to Li Mingtong, and you have a personal conflict with him.

You...

just be careful!”

Wang spoke earnestly and sincerely.

A warmth filled Bai Xiaosheng’s heart.

This older brother, as cold as he seemed, truly cared for those he took to heart.

Song was also greatly influenced by Wang in his interactions with people.

Bai Xiaosheng, in turn, treated such a person with all his heart and sincerity.

“In fact, this position of manager should have been yours; it was I who took your job,” Bai Xiaosheng said apologetically.

Unexpectedly, Wang burst into laughter, not minding at all.

“I’m not the type who likes being a leader.

I hate meetings, and I don’t want to shoulder the responsibilities.

I just want to be a carefree employee,” Wang admitted openly.

This too was a state of being that Bai Xiaosheng admired.

As they were speaking, the door to the marketing department was suddenly and vigorously pushed open.

Yezi and Song entered one after the other.

“Brother Bai, I heard you’re going to be our department manager.

Is that true?!” Yezi looked very excited, her beautiful eyes fixed on Bai Xiaosheng.

Song was also very concerned about this matter.

“So far, it seems to be the case, but it’s only been discussed verbally.

The HR and administration department hasn’t sent me any official notice yet,” Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

“Then it’s almost a done deal!” Yezi clapped and laughed excitedly, “I’ve been dreaming of the day when the entire office is ‘one of us.’ It’s finally coming!”

Bai Xiaosheng smiled wryly, while Wang and Song exchanged glances and smiled.

Who knew what that girl was thinking about all day long.

An hour later, a clerk from the HR and administration department delivered a stamped notification.

Bai Xiaosheng was officially appointed as the manager of the marketing department!

Wang, Song, and Yezi all pitched in to help Bai Xiaosheng move his things to where Wu Qiuyan used to sit.

“Leave those books and decorations there.”

Yezi was about to throw away Wu Qiuyan’s items when Bai Xiaosheng stopped her.

He and Wu Qiuyan had crossed paths and become friends, and it was nice to keep some reminders.

The marketing department was full of jubilant atmosphere, but in Li Mingtong’s office, the scene was quite different.

Chen Daya sat facing Li Mingtong, each with a cup of steaming tea before them.

Chen Daya certainly wasn’t there to leisurely enjoy tea with Li Mingtong.

He had come with business to discuss.

“The opening is imminent, we can’t afford mistakes in the marketing work.

I want to take charge of the marketing department personally,” Chen Daya spoke gently, discussing it with Li Mingtong, “What do you think?”

“Manager Chen, you don’t trust me then,” Li Mingtong said, grinning without humor, “I have experience in marketing and I’ve never slipped up.

So, you can absolutely rest assured with me handling it.”

“Li, I’m worried it might be too taxing for you,” Chen Daya said.

“Not taxing at all, not in the slightest!” Li Mingtong said flatly, smiling, “If you’re worried about me being overworked, you can take over any other department, logistics, engineering, any of them, but not the marketing department!”

If you want me out, Mr.

Chen, you’ll have to ask Mrs.

Wang, Vice General Manager Wang Ye!”

Chen Daya’s brows knit slightly.

The conversation had reached a point where there was no room for maneuvering.

Li Mingtong leaned forward, his face twisted into a pseudo-smile tinged with a hint of mocking contempt, as he said something to Chen Daya.

“We can discuss anything else.

But this matter—”

“Is not up for discussion!”

Chapter 53 We’re Taking This Job!\_1 Chen Daya looked at Li Mingtong with some surprise.

For a long time, the two had an almost tacit understanding, fighting without breaking.

Although there were sometimes disputes at work, they were both very careful not to go too far in private.

Now, Li Mingtong not only flat-out refused his request but also darkened his face.

Chen Daya believed that pursuing the conversation would definitely lead to a breakdown.

It seemed that Li Mingtong was determined to clamp down on the Promotion Department!

“Think about it again, this matter isn’t urgent at this moment,” Chen Daya left these words behind and stood up to leave.

Li Mingtong’s face softened a bit, escorting Chen Daya to the door as a symbolic gesture.

Returning to his own office, Chen Daya closed the door and immediately called Shang Wenshu.

He always felt that Li Mingtong was going to make a move against Bai Xiaosheng.

“Chen Daya, what’s the matter now?” Shang Wenshu asked.

They had just spoken on the phone not long ago.

“Mr.

Shang, here’s the thing.” Chen Daya lowered his voice, “I just went to see Li Mingtong...”

Chen Daya briefly reported the situation to Shang Wenshu, who listened in silence on the other end.

“Mr.

Shang, I think, if Li Mingtong continues to be in charge of the Promotion Department, Bai Xiaosheng might be in danger,” Chen Daya warned.

"I'm aware of the issue," Shang Wenshu's voice came through, calm as if Bai Xiaosheng had absolutely nothing to do with him.

Was his description not clear enough?

Why wasn't Mr.

Shang worried at all?

Chen Daya thought for a moment, ready to rephrase his words.

"I understand your concerns," Shang Wenshu interrupted Chen Daya's intention to repeat himself, "Don't worry about this matter.

Let Li Mingtong continue to manage the Promotion Department.

As for Bai Xiaosheng..."

Shang Wenshu paused, speaking with certainty, "Unless he asks you for help, even if there's a huge commotion, you should neither hear nor ask!"

Shang Wenshu's attitude left Chen Daya bewildered.

Was he letting Li Mingtong and Bai Xiaosheng fight it out?

But how could Bai Xiaosheng, a mere employee, possibly win against his direct superior!

"Remember my words, unless Bai Xiaosheng asks you for help, no matter what happens, even if the Promotion Department blows up, you shouldn't intervene!" Shang Wenshu emphasized again.

"I understand!" Chen Daya could only agree.

At this moment, in Li Mingtong's office.

Li Mingtong rhythmically tapped his office desk with two fingers, his eyes shifting around.

"Vice General Manager Wang Ye, if you won't let me deal with Bai Xiaosheng, then I can't just use brute force.

I still have to employ some tactics, making sure not to finish him off all at once.

This way, even if Mrs.

Wang finds out, she can't fault me!"

His wife was in prison, but Li Mingtong was not only not sad but also a bit happy.

The plump woman used to lord over him every day; it was her turn to suffer!

With Wu Qiuyan gone, Li Mingtong was more annoyed for he had lost a loyal helper!

Li Mingtong's hatred for Bai Xiaosheng was mainly because this trivial employee had damaged his interests and his pride!

Moreover, Bai Xiaosheng even dared to lay hands on him!

That was something he could not tolerate!

After mulling it over for a while, Li Mingtong's mouth slowly curved up in a sinister smile; he had thought of a way to deal with someone!

Standing up and heading to the office door, Li Mingtong caught an employee passing by, “Go and call Bai Xiaosheng from the Promotion Department over here.

Tell him to come and report to me!”

“Alright.” The employee hurried away.

In the Promotion Department, word had spread that Li Mingtong had summoned someone.

Bai Xiaosheng looked nonchalant, but Wang, Song, and Yezi were both worried and anxious.

“Don’t rush off; let’s think this through carefully!” Wang said with a serious face.

Song and Yezi nodded in agreement.

“No need to worry, Li Mingtong isn’t a man-eating beast, can he swallow me whole?” Bai Xiaosheng chuckled, looking relaxed as he headed out the door.

Wang and the others felt frustrated, Bai Xiaosheng was too stubborn to take advice, but there was nothing they could do—they couldn’t just drag their own supervisor back.

On the way to Li Mingtong’s office, Bai Xiaosheng’s thoughts were racing.

“This so-called job performance review is probably setting me up for a fall, possibly creating a big problem for me at work.” Bai Xiaosheng couldn’t help but feel a bit excited.

He had been looking forward to this and hoped Li Mingtong wouldn’t disappoint him!

The greater the difficulty, the higher the score!

The position of manager was within reach!

When he arrived at Li Mingtong's office, Bai Xiaosheng knocked on the door very politely.

They had clashed before, but they were all adults.

That was then, this is now.

Stabbing each other in the back and smiling in each other's faces!

The adult world isn't about fighting and feuding like in martial arts tales; unless you can utterly destroy your opponent in one fell swoop, no one is foolish enough to keep butting heads.

Besides, Bai Xiaosheng was counting on earning points from Li Mingtong!

"Oh, Supervisor Bai, here you are, come in and make yourself comfortable," said Li Mingtong with a half smile, gesturing for Bai Xiaosheng to enter.

It was as if their previous confrontation had never happened.

Bai Xiaosheng was also quite composed.

Both sat down.

"Mr.

Li, what are your instructions?" Bai Xiaosheng smiled and asked.

His smile was eager.

This made Li Mingtong feel slightly uneasy.

“Supervisor Bai, I’m directly in charge of the promotion work, and the promotion department is accountable to me, so I do have the right to schedule the progress of the promotional work,” Li Mingtong began by clarifying this point to Bai Xiaosheng.

This guy, as restless as a young wolf, Li Mingtong didn’t want to provoke him unnecessarily.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded, indicating that he understood.

“I feel that during Manager Wu Qiuyan’s tenure, the pace of promotional work was far too slow.

Since Supervisor Bai has taken charge, you need to show some results, as the saying goes, ‘a new official needs to show their authority with three fires!’”

Li Mingtong said with a smile, “This week, your promotion department should produce the brochures and leaflets needed for the project opening event.

By Thursday, I want to see the final draft!

What do you think?”

It was Monday morning, and Li Mingtong was only giving them three to four days to produce a full set of brochures!

To anyone else, this would seem impossible!

The brochures they had to make were extremely numerous and the workload was huge—it would not be too much to take two weeks to complete!

Now, Li Mingtong was giving them less than half the time!

This was clearly making things difficult.

“If you complete this, I will give your department an extra half month’s salary as a bonus!

But if you cannot complete it...

as the person in charge, I will have to discipline with a light hand for a serious offense, taking away your department’s position allowances and also deducting one-third of the performance wages!” Li Mingtong said, watching for Bai Xiaosheng’s reaction.

If Bai Xiaosheng did not agree, he could lower the standard.

There was only one principle, to shackle the promotion department as much as possible without making Bai Xiaosheng lose his temper.

As long as you take on this task, I’ll spread the word that it was your own initiative, and the others in the promotion department will curse you to death!

Disunity and dissent will arise, and by then, I won’t even need to lift a finger; the people around you will be your own hell!

Li Mingtong was secretly delighted with his malevolent plan, but on the surface, he asked with concern, “Do you foresee any difficulties?

If so, we can...”

“By Thursday?” Bai Xiaosheng, who had been pondering, looked up and suddenly flashed a smile.

“We’ll take the job!”

Chapter 54 Our Department Does Not Work Overtime\_1 “I’m talking about this Thursday.

I need a finished draft, ready for the printer!”

Li Mingtong couldn’t help but remind Bai Xiaosheng.

He truly wondered if he hadn’t made himself clear, otherwise why would Bai Xiaosheng have that expression on his face.

Excited, what’s there to be excited about!

“This Thursday, a draft ready for the printer.

I understand!” Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

Arrogant, way too arrogant!

Do you really think I wouldn’t dare touch you if you don’t complete it?!

Li Mingtong mistakenly thought that Bai Xiaosheng was fearless, relying on the backing of Shang Wenshu to be so bold.

A cold laugh surfaced in his heart.

This time, you’ve guessed wrong!

“Good, Manager Bai is truly a capable man!” Li Mingtong maintained his composure and smiled, “In a moment, I’ll have the admin issue an assignment sheet to you all.

Of course, it's just a formality.

You just have to sign it casually, and it's done."

It was anything but a formality!

The assignment sheet was an ironclad military order!

It was a new measure recently introduced by Chen Daya.

If you don't complete the task, you accept the penalty, and pleading makes no difference!

"Chen Daya, this trap, is now snug around Bai Xiaosheng's neck, with so many eyes watching.

I'll see what you do when the time comes!" Li Mingtong sneered to himself.

Black on white, even if Shang Wenshu comes, Bai Xiaosheng won't be able to escape!

With this thought, Li Mingtong's mood improved considerably.

"If there's nothing else, I'll be going." Bai Xiaosheng stood up to take his leave.

He felt very content inside and was even eager to get back to start working.

The managerial position, here I come!

"I won't see you out."

Li Mingtong and Bai Xiaosheng, each harboring their own thoughts, exchanged a contented smile.

After Bai Xiaosheng left, Li Mingtong immediately phoned the admin department to issue the assignment sheet!

It was best to seal the deal quickly to avoid any potential complications that might arise with delay!

In the marketing department.

Wang, Song, and Yezi were all anxiously waiting, analyzing all the possibilities.

The project gossip had spread everywhere, with various rumors about how Bai Xiaosheng got rid of Wu Qiuyan—none knowing if they were true or false.

Beyond shock, Wang and the others were filled with concern.

First, there was a clash of interests, and now personal grievances were involved.

How could things possibly end well!

It wasn't just about Bai Xiaosheng; the marketing department could also be implicated.

Wang and the others weren't concerned about implications per se; they were mainly worried about Bai Xiaosheng.

They had all become sincere friends after a few gatherings, and their affection for one another grew stronger every day—they truly saw each other as friends!

Just as they were anxious like ants on a hot pan, Bai Xiaosheng returned.

A smile was on his face, and there was even a hint of excitement.

Wang, Song, and Yezi were somewhat relieved.

It seemed that Bai Xiaosheng hadn't faced any particular difficulties.

Maybe Li Mingtong wanted to avoid disputes at this time, or perhaps he didn't want to fall out too badly with Chen Daya and the others.

In any case, as long as there was no trouble, it was good!

"Brother Bai, what did you talk about in Mr.

Li's office?" Yezi asked bluntly, unable to contain her curiosity.

"He gave us some tasks." Bai Xiaosheng smiled nonchalantly, "The admin department will send over the assignment sheet in a little while."

On the way back, Bai Xiaosheng had almost planned out how to tackle the work.

Li Mingtong had assigned work and issued an assignment sheet?

Wang and the others tensed up.

However, seeing Bai Xiaosheng's expression, they relaxed again.

Even with the assignment sheet, it couldn't be that difficult a task.

"If you ask me, we should take the initiative instead of being passive.

Strike first!" Yezi suddenly said.

"What do you mean by 'taking the initiative'?" Song adjusted his glasses, asking curiously.

"It means working overtime," Wang said, catching on to Yezi's idea.

"Exactly!" Yezi clapped her hands proudly, "Take the initiative to work overtime."

So, taking the initiative was working overtime, huh?

Song thought about it and agreed.

The marketing department had had a lot of free time lately, causing complaints from other departments.

Volunteering for overtime can be a good gesture!

As several people were talking, the door to the promotion department was knocked on.

Then, the junior receptionist walked in, holding two task sheets in her hands.

"Manager Bai, please sign these," the receptionist handed the task sheets to Bai Xiaosheng, waiting, as she needed to take one back for filing.

Bai Xiaosheng took them, glanced at them, and swiftly signed his name.

The receptionist looked at Bai Xiaosheng with admiration in her eyes.

After retrieving the task sheet, she looked at Wang and the others, with a hint of sympathy in her eyes.

“You guys need to take care of yourselves these next few days, don’t work yourselves sick,” the receptionist said with sincere advice before she left.

Take care of yourselves, don’t work yourselves sick?

Wang, Song, and the others exchanged baffled glances, not understanding what she meant.

Yezi walked over and picked up the copy of the task sheet left on Bai Xiaosheng’s desk.

“Ah, it’s for compiling books, and there’s folding to be done,” Yezi read, “Next Thursday?

Hm, the timing is pretty tight.”

Wang and Song nodded slightly, less than two weeks seemed reasonable.

“It’s not next week, it’s this week,” Bai Xiaosheng reminded them.

“This Thursday?!”

The three of them were stunned.

Yezi’s eyes widened as she scrutinized the task sheet closely.

“It really is this Thursday!” she exclaimed.

Ignoring the folding.

A book to compile in three or four days?

“Just to get a rough draft would take five days!” Wang said in disbelief.

“It’s not a rough draft, it’s the final product, ready for the printers,” Bai Xiaosheng reminded again.

Final product, ready for the printers?

Wang and the others looked bewildered, still watching the calm and composed Bai Xiaosheng.

This was the...

assignment given to them by Li Mingtong!

This was like putting a noose around their necks, a death sentence!

“Bai, you agreed to this?” Wang asked incredulously, feeling his question was redundant after asking.

The task sheet was already signed!

Wang took the task sheet and instantly noticed the details of the rewards and punishments.

The reward was huge, but the punishment was even greater!

This was an unequal contract!

How could Bai Xiaosheng, a man of his cleverness, agree to this?

“Did he threaten you with our whole department!” Song blurted out, his speculation resonating strongly with Wang and Yezi.

Bai Xiaosheng's character was inflexible; if it were just himself, Li Mingtong wouldn't have been able to threaten him!

Unless, Bai Xiaosheng compromised because of them!

Wang and the others unanimously came to this conclusion.

"Don't overthink it, I took the assignment, and I'm confident about completing it.

In the unlikely event that I don't, I have plenty of money to cover the fines, no need for you guys to chip in," Bai Xiaosheng said.

He was aiming for extra credit but would never let his people suffer a loss!

That was Bai Xiaosheng's principle.

With that said, Wang and the others were even more convinced of their guess.

"No way!

I'm going to speak to Mr.

Chen, why should Li Mingtong push people around like this!" Yezi said, filled with righteous indignation.

"The task sheet's already signed, it's no use!" Song reminded.

"Let's do overtime!" Wang said through gritted teeth, and upon hearing Wang, Song and Yezi, with serious expressions, nodded in agreement.

At this point, they could only give their all!

“Overtime?” Bai Xiaosheng looked at the three of them and laughed.

“You guys did remind me, I, as the manager, shouldn’t start my role too quietly, I need to set some rules.

The first rule is—”

“From today on, our department will not do any overtime!”

Chapter 55: These are all fractions!\_1 No overtime?

How is that possible!

Just these few days of continuous all-nighters, to what extent they can complete the task is still unknown!

Wang, Song, and Yezi, all three were filled with worry.

“Don’t worry, I have a plan,” Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile to reassure everyone.

Relaxed in demeanor, his eyes exuded confidence like sunshine, melting much of the worries in Wang and the others’ hearts.

“But for the work ahead, I’ll need everyone’s cooperation,” Bai Xiaosheng looked at Wang and the others, speaking earnestly, “which means, in the next few days, I need you to work according to the rhythm I set.”

That’s no problem!

Wang and the others looked at Bai Xiaosheng, nodding in succession.

“We are one department, one entity, following orders and directions is our duty,” Wang took the lead in declaring, “Also, even if we don’t finish the work in the end and face penalties, let them take it out on our marketing department!”

I don’t believe that Li Mingtong would dare to fire us all before the opening event!”

“Right, exactly!”

Yezi and Song also expressed their stance resolutely.

In it together, sharing glory and loss!

This might be the most united the marketing department had ever been.

Even a steady person like Wang couldn’t help but feel a bit bold.

“I want to thank everyone in advance!” Bai Xiaosheng felt warmth in his heart, “But rest assured, I won’t let any of you be punished.

What awaits us is nothing but bonuses!”

This was his, Bai Xiaosheng’s, promise!

“Come on, everyone, gather round and sit.

Let’s discuss our next steps in the work ahead,” Bai Xiaosheng called everyone over.

The three gathered around and sat down.

“If we were to follow the usual process, to make a brochure, we would first need to plan the overall concept.

We’ve already got that!” Bai Xiaosheng said.

Indeed, the idea for the brochure, Bai Xiaosheng had gone into detail about it not too long ago at a large meeting.

And even Wang was very impressed with the content.

“So the next task is the copywriting part, which is Song’s job.

During this stage, everyone else has to wait for him,” Bai Xiaosheng looked toward Song.

Song nodded.

Copywriting, in fact, wasn’t easy; the text had to be understandable yet impressive, catchy enough to make people take notice.

Sometimes, a single good phrase could take a whole day to refine.

The key issue was that they were short on time now, and the pressure in Song’s heart was immense.

“After Song, it’s the design phase, Yezi’s task.

Again, the others can only wait,” Bai Xiaosheng turned to Yezi.

Yezi sighed somewhat helplessly.

Design wasn't just about layout; it involved finding materials, adding creativity, all of which required time.

And time was precisely what they lacked the most!

"So, we're not going to do it this way!" Bai Xiaosheng declared decisively.

If not this way, then how else?

Wang and the others were taken aback.

"Time is short, the task is heavy.

We can't pull more time out of thin air, but we can double the workforce working at the same time!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

Double the workforce working at the same time?

Are we getting outside help, or outsourcing?

Would Li Mingtong agree to it?

Everyone looked puzzled.

Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

"We don't need others.

It's just us; by 'doubling the workforce,' I mean we will all be working at the same time."

What difference does that make?

The three exchanged glances.

“Wang, I’ve seen the plans you’ve worked on; there are many brilliant phrases.

Your writing is strong, so in the time to come, you’re not going to plan, you’re going to write copy!” Bai Xiaosheng gazed intently at Wang.

Me, write copy?

Wang’s eyes lit up.

“Yeah, I’ve been working with Wang for so many years; oftentimes, I’d have him vet many of my words and sentences!” Song couldn’t help but say.

“Great, now we have two copywriters.

And I, actually, am a designer.

Do you believe that?” Bai Xiaosheng smiled at Yezi.

“Really?” Yezi was skeptical, and Wang and Song were also a bit incredulous.

Bai Xiaosheng was already an impressive planner.

He could design as well?

That's just too versatile!

On this matter, Bai Xiaosheng indeed lied.

He naturally couldn't tell Wang and the others about the existence of Red Lotus, the artificial intelligence.

With the assistance of Red Lotus, designing isn't hard!

"Two copies, two designs, that way we've doubled the number of people working at the same time!" Bai Xiaosheng said.

So that's how it is!

Everyone nodded, beginning to feel a bit excited.

Thinking like this, they really could complete it!

"However, if two groups are working on the same brochure, won't there be a problem with consistency in style?" Wang worriedly asked.

His concern wasn't without reason, even with the same requirements, different copywriters and designers would produce different results.

Merging is a big challenge!

Bai Xiaosheng wasn't worried about that; on the contrary, he had a plan, "We can think of the brochure as making a film, where every frame of the book is like a scene, and the pictures and text are the actors!

I am the director, as well as post-production, so no matter what stage it's at, I will edit everything together in the end!"

Thinking of brochure design like making a movie?

Wang, Song, and Yezi heard this kind of analogy for the first time, and apart from finding it fresh, they also found it quite interesting.

How did Bai Xiaosheng's magical brain come up with such a quirky method?

It was quite admirable.

Yezi was already full of admiration, while Wang and Song were convinced.

Suddenly, the voice of Red Lotus echoed in Bai Xiaosheng's mind.

"Effectively providing a work methodology, add five points, the current total score is sixty points!"

Just five points?

Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback.

Such a difficult task, and only this many points?

No, that's not right!

Bai Xiaosheng had a realization, could it be that the points added for an employee level were related to hands-on work?

The more he did, the more points he would earn!

It seems that the person who needs to work overtime the most is me!

Bai Xiaosheng reflected.

“Let’s split up now, Wang and Yezi in one group, Song and I in another.

Shall we give it a try?” Bai Xiaosheng suggested with a smile.

“Let’s try it!” the trio of Wang said, nodding in agreement.

Four people, two groups.

In the time that followed, everyone was high-spirited.

Wang and Song focused on speed without seeking flair on the condition of ensuring content accuracy; if there were no good expressions, they’d use ordinary text as a placeholder to maintain pace.

They drafted the copy and handed it to Bai Xiaosheng, who, like a “director,” quickly adjusted anything that didn’t fit but didn’t fine-tune, while collaborating with Yezi on the design work.

In the meantime, Wang and Song went back to work simultaneously, refining the copy according to the revised style.

Not a single person was idle!

Everyone was busy at the same time.

When Bai Xiaosheng was doing the design work, Yezi was initially worried.

However, once she saw how Bai Xiaosheng worked, Yezi decided to copy him!

Bai Xiaosheng's page layout was as grand and minimalist as internationally renowned magazines, exceedingly beautiful.

Some of the technical handling of images was even more skillful than Yezi, who was a professional.

In reality, Bai Xiaosheng was relying on Red Lotus's assistance to continuously "copy" the best work.

Yezi picked up on it extremely quickly; for a professional designer, all it took was seeing a model to easily replicate it.

Everything was going very smoothly for everyone, their enthusiasm was high, and they didn't even want to stop for a break.

So much so that every so often, Bai Xiaosheng would forcibly "roust" everyone to get them moving around, balancing work with relaxation.

When quitting time came around, Bai Xiaosheng pushed away the keyboard with both hands, stood up, and shoed everyone off, "Gather all the work on my desk, everyone off work!"

Thinking of working overtime?

No way!

Wang and the others felt a bit reluctant to leave.

After Bai Xiaosheng copied all the material, he sneaked it into his pocket like a thief and went home.

"Tonight, I have to work overtime!

These are all points, after all!”

Chapter 56 Second Plan\_1 For dinner, Bai Xiaosheng just had a quick bite, eating anything within reach before he impatiently sat down in front of the computer.

Looking at today’s work achievements, Bai Xiaosheng felt quite satisfied.

“Wang and Song, true veterans, indeed.

The copy they wrote is really good!

And with a similarity of at least seventy percent, it’s almost impossible to tell it’s from the hands of two people, it might even not need any revision!” Bai Xiaosheng couldn’t help but exclaim in admiration repeatedly.

But as he said this, how could he not make changes?

Bai Xiaosheng was still counting on it to earn points.

“I have to seek perfection, at the very least, I must make Li Mingtong unable to play tricks, and not find a single fault!” Bai Xiaosheng cracked his knuckles, filled with determination.

The copy of the building brochure, in essence, is an extension of the planning strategy, and the planning strategy for the brochure was Bai Xiaosheng’s own.

So, he could easily spot the imperfections.

“Red Lotus, take this sentence and express it using an idiom.” Bai Xiaosheng pointed at a sentence that could barely be considered verbose.

“Okay, Master.” The voice of Red Lotus was light and nimble, instantly retrieving the corresponding idiom.

Bai Xiaosheng replaced the text, looked it over from the left and right, but still felt unsatisfied.

“Find me all idioms with similar meanings,” Bai Xiaosheng thought for a moment, “and also, find me classical poetry, modern poetry, and song lyrics that express this meaning.”

“Okay, Master,” as Red Lotus affirmed, over a dozen options appeared in Bai Xiaosheng’s mind.

Bai Xiaosheng compared them one by one and finally his face lit up.

He took a line from a song, trimmed the beginning and end, and placed it above; the effect was indeed strikingly different!

Bai Xiaosheng was very pleased and continued searching for the next place worth revising.

With Red Lotus as an efficient search tool, all he had to do was identify problems and let Red Lotus search for the appropriate language and vocabulary, then he would just pick the most suitable one.

It was as easy as a primary school student doing multiple-choice questions.

In less than half an hour, Bai Xiaosheng had reviewed all the text.

After the revision, even he himself felt very satisfied.

“Revision completed, work quality improved, plus two points.

Current total score is sixty-two points, thirty-eight points away from being upgraded to a manager level!” Red Lotus’s voice announced.

Just two points?

Bai Xiaosheng frowned.

“But, that’s right!

This kind of revision work, though difficult for others, is just like a multiple-choice question for me, indeed not worth many points.”

“Really annoying!” Bai Xiaosheng felt a bit frustrated, “Do I have to increase the difficulty for myself?”

Forget it, let’s first finish up these on hand, then think of a solution.

Bai Xiaosheng made up his mind and started to adjust the design draft.

For the design draft, Bai Xiaosheng’s part was plagiarized from an international publication, while Yezi based hers on his work.

However, after a comparison, Bai Xiaosheng quickly found that Yezi’s adjustments in detail made it seem more dynamic!

“This girl, she really has a knack for design!” Bai Xiaosheng couldn’t help but praise her as he started revising his own work, learning from Yezi.

With image editing skills, Bai Xiaosheng only needed a thought, and Red Lotus would imprint the detailed steps into his mind, making everything fall into place in his hands.

After some tweaks, in less than an hour, it was all done.

“Revision completed, work quality improved, plus three points.

Current total score is sixty-five points, thirty-five points away from being upgraded to a manager level!” Red Lotus’s voice announced.

Not that many points either!

Bai Xiaosheng smacked his lips and got up to pour himself a glass of water.

After sitting for over an hour straight, he genuinely felt a bit tired.

“How can I make things more challenging for myself to get the score up?” Bai Xiaosheng held a cup of water, frowning at the computer screen.

He found it difficult to find issues with these things now.

“I sure can’t just delete and redo everything...” Bai Xiaosheng muttered.

Yet the thought stirred something within him.

Why should I delete it, I can just make another one!

I’ll do it alone!

The more Bai Xiaosheng thought about it, the more excited he became.

Suddenly his waist didn’t ache and his neck didn’t hurt any longer.

He immediately put down the Cup and sat down.

The brochure he was working on today was initially just one of Bai Xiaosheng’s ideas, but he had more concepts in mind!

“Forget the business style, change it!

This time...

use a warm and sentimental style!”

Tap-tap-tap, the sound of Bai Xiaosheng typing on the keyboard flowed smoothly like clouds and water, uninterrupted like his thoughts.

This feeling was just too great!

Bai Xiaosheng forgot everything and threw himself into his work.

Writing copy and designing, he finally finished the second proposal, which was on par with the first!

Bai Xiaosheng took a deep breath, blinked his sore eyes, and glanced at the time.

Unknowingly, three hours had passed.

“That’s about right!” Bai Xiaosheng contently looked over his work again.

He personally preferred the second set a little more than the first.

“But after all, the first version is the result of everyone’s work.

Let’s use that, and this can be a backup.”

Bai Xiaosheng was quite open-minded about it.

“Completion of original work content, rating: excellent, add eight points, current score: seventy-three points,” announced the notification from Red Lotus.

Eight points in one go!

Not bad, not bad!

Bai Xiaosheng was quite satisfied.

If he finished the entire brochure, could he possibly be promoted directly from an employee to a manager level?

Manager level, it was just around the corner!

Just as Bai Xiaosheng was happy for a few seconds, Red Lotus’s voice rang out again.

“Your progression for this phase has surpassed 70%, system notification: during the remaining 30% of the employee stage, the difficulty coefficient in obtaining points will double.

This status will continue until the start of the next phase!”

Bai Xiaosheng’s smile had barely formed before it vanished.

What kind of crappy rule is this!

“Red Lotus, are you messing with me!” Bai Xiaosheng couldn’t help but shout.

“Command not executable!” responded Red Lotus.

Bai Xiaosheng felt a wave of discouragement and shut down the computer.

“Time to sleep!”

The next day.

Bai Xiaosheng went to work as usual.

When he arrived at the promotion department, he was surprised to find that Wang and the others had arrived earlier than him and had already started working and even allocated workloads.

If they had completed a third of the entire brochure the day before, then today they had allocated half of the entire content, and even more!

“There’s also a flyer to be made, and although it seems simple, we can’t slack off.

Plus, we need to make major revisions to our draft.

The style, content, everything needs to change, to be unified, and that’s a huge project!” Wang told Bai Xiaosheng.

“But I’ve already finished the revisions,” Bai Xiaosheng said, taking out a USB flash drive.

“Finished!”

Wang’s eyes widened in astonishment.

“You mean you’ve revised everything from yesterday!” Song said, disbelieving.

“Hurry up and show us!” Yezi urged eagerly.

Bai Xiaosheng opened the revised content.

Wang and the others craned their necks together, heads touching, eyes wide open, meticulously reviewing every part until, in the end, everyone's expression was one of utter disbelief.

"You did all this by yourself in one night?"

How is that possible!"

Chapter 57 Being Excluded\_1 Wang, Song, and Yezi looked at Bai Xiaosheng as if they were seeing an alien, their faces filled with shock.

They were all strong figures in their respective fields; otherwise, they wouldn't have been brought onto such an important project.

They had high standards and strong appreciation abilities.

But this time, Bai Xiaosheng had truly amazed them.

If what they created yesterday could be considered a superior product, then what Bai Xiaosheng had revised could even be deemed a masterpiece!

Sometimes, just changing a little detail can make a huge difference.

The three of them carefully reviewed it again, and the more they looked, the more astonished they became.

The text was elegant and the design was grand, not to mention the meticulous attention paid to the details.

Without any exaggeration, this design draft could now be submitted to a competition and win an award.

As for sending it off to the printers, there wasn't a single issue!

"Honestly, did you stay up all night yesterday?" Wang couldn't help but ask, feeling somewhat moved.

This young man in front of them didn't let everyone work overtime, choosing instead to stay up late by himself!

He was the epitome of an ideal leader!

To have such a leader was their great fortune!

Although Bai Xiaosheng didn't seem tired, his eyelids were swollen, and Wang was convinced that he must have sacrificed a lot of personal time.

Otherwise, how could he have produced something so perfect!

Not just Wang and Song, but Yezi too was moved beyond their shock.

"From now on, we'll handle it!"

Brother Bai, you go rest for a while!" Yezi even brought over their own cartoon pillow and forcefully gave it to Bai Xiaosheng.

"I actually went to bed quite early yesterday, I'm not tired," Bai Xiaosheng said, his enthusiasm leaving him somewhat between laughter and tears.

Counting the second version of the draft, he had gone to bed at eleven o'clock, so he really had enough sleep.

His swollen eyelids were due to drinking too much water before bed.

“Anyway, we’ll handle it.

You just get some good rest this morning,” Song said, assertively for a change.

These three people really don’t listen to explanations!

Bai Xiaosheng couldn’t really go and explain because of the existence of the Red Lotus intelligent system.

He simply couldn’t clarify.

This morning, Wang and the other two were like chickens injected with vigor, filled with enthusiasm and their work efficiency increased by at least fifty percent.

Bai Xiaosheng wanted to check out their work, but he couldn’t.

This time, he was collectively “excluded” by the group.

Bai Xiaosheng was quite helpless and had no choice but to tinker with the “Warmth Style” draft he had worked on the night before.

A shopping center designed in a warmth style was somewhat ahead of its time in Tiannan.

The predominant style at the moment was still commercial.

However, Bai Xiaosheng had read the materials; the project’s designer was Master Song Kai, a visiting professor at Tiannan University and a senior fellow at the China Institute of Architectural Design, whose concept emphasized the integration of commerce and humanities.

Bai Xiaosheng's new design should fit very well with Master Song Kai's concept.

Bai Xiaosheng learned that Master Song Kai had even visited the project last month.

The marketing department had even kept Song Kai's email on hand.

The master's level of commitment to his work had truly reached an exceptional state.

The more Bai Xiaosheng looked at his own design draft, the more satisfied he felt.

It would be a pity if this version, merely a reserve copy, couldn't be shared with others.

Perhaps, I could show it to Master Song Kai!

Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

Since Song Kai was a designer and he advocated for the concept where commerce merges with humanities, he might offer me some different insights.

Bai Xiaosheng immediately compressed the document, labeled it as the design draft for Treles Square brochure, and sent it to Master Song Kai's email.

However, he didn't expect Master Song Kai to respond immediately.

After all, someone of his status was very busy; he might not see it for ten days or even half a month.

Bai Xiaosheng was in no hurry.

At this moment, inside an elegant villa in Tiannan, in a “peculiar” study room.

The walls were not adorned with traditional landscapes or calligraphy paintings but instead with sketches of architectural designs and conceptual drawings of landscapes.

An old man dressed in a white traditional Chinese jacket and black trousers was fiddling with a tablet, browsing through image after image.

“Rigid, commercial!”

The old man shook his head in boredom, extremely disillusioned as he talked to himself, “These people, all obsessed with money, having lost sight of the fact that architecture ultimately serves humanity!

Humanization, comfort, culture are what last.

Are they blind, unable to see the trend?

So conservative, not even I, an old man, am like that!”

This old man was none other than Master Song Kai.

The advertisement he was looking at came from another city, promoting another one of his architectural design works.

After looking at these, Master Song Kai was very displeased.

Those businessmen were only after his reputation, using it to promote their projects.

When it really came down to promotion and later operations, who would care about his concepts?

They disregarded whether it was humane or harmonious.

“Change everything, I’m not satisfied.

If you dare to publish it, wait for a letter from my lawyer.

If the lawyer’s letter doesn’t work, this old man has some say in both the business and political arenas!”  
Song Kai sent a voice message directly to the other party.

As soon as he sent it, he received an email.

“They replied so quickly?” Master Song Kai was also greatly surprised.

Modern technology is truly extraordinary, so fast!

The old man clicked on the email, only to discover that it was not about that project, but instead about this city’s.

Teles Square?

“Hmm, they are busy promoting too...

Is this a floor book?” Song Kai muttered as he unzipped the file, “I hope it doesn’t make me too angry.

My old heart can’t take it.”

Master Song Kai had visited Teles Square and didn’t have a good impression of it.

His architectural design poured into it, and generally, it met his standards.

But there were details that were subpar, and he was very angry at the time, particularly when he saw the construction barriers plastered with slogans like “A Legacy for Three Generations,” “Digging for a Gold Mine,” and “Leaders of Wealth.”

In Song Kai’s view, these were unbearably tacky and reeked of commercialism!

That was why he had thrown a fit back then!

Shang Wenshu had personally assured him that things would change.

But who knew if it was just lip service.

Song Kai languidly opened the unzipped file.

“Eh?” The old man took only one glance before sitting upright, suddenly invigorated.

“This style, quite interesting!” Song Kai held the tablet with both hands, flipping through image after image with keen interest.

At first, he flipped through them quickly but then slowed down, meticulously reading the text and inspecting each detail, sometimes flipping back to review.

The old man’s eyes sparkled brighter and brighter.

“Interesting, tasteful, good, I like it!” Master Song Kai lavished praise repeatedly, scrolling through the images several times.

“But this is it?

This isn't a complete floor book, is it!" Song Kai smacked his lips.

Still wanting more!

Who designed this?

I need to have a chat with them!

Master Song Kai thought for a moment before directly sending an email, even attaching his WeChat ID, which he rarely gave out.

Teles Square, promotional department.

Bai Xiaosheng, bored out of his mind, received an email.

The sender was, to his astonishment, Master Song Kai?

It hadn't even been an hour since then, and Master Song Kai had replied?

Bai Xiaosheng was also taken aback.

He opened the email.

The email was very simple, just one line, "Add WeChat, Song Kai!"

Chapter 58 Master Song Kai\_1 Bai Xiaosheng meticulously compared the email address several times before confirming that it was indeed from Master Song Kai and not a scammer.

It's said that the old gentleman is approaching his sixties this year, and it's indeed rare to see someone of that age adept at WeChat!

Amidst his admiration, Bai Xiaosheng added the WeChat contact, only to see that the name on the other side was “Small Regular Script Calligraphy Collection.”

A dark line crossed Bai Xiaosheng’s forehead.

As expected of a master...

when they get trendy...

it’s really not an ordinary person’s affair!

Bai Xiaosheng verified his name and position, and within a minute, he had added Master Song Kai.

Master Song Kai was also quick-tempered; he started with just one sentence.

“Who did this!”

There were three exclamation marks just for that!

“Master Song, this is an alternative plan I personally created.

Our first set of plans still has more of a business style,” Bai Xiaosheng replied very tactfully.

“Business style, what is that!

I like this set, this one is good!” Master Song Kai responded, quite directly.

The master approved!

Bai Xiaosheng breathed a sigh of relief and perked up.

“Master Song, actually, I have some other ideas, but I’m not sure if it’s appropriate to incorporate them?” Bai Xiaosheng ventured.

“Send them over quickly; let’s discuss them!”

The old gentleman replied almost instantly, and through the text, one could feel his keen interest.

Bai Xiaosheng’s heart warmed as well.

After all, he had put a lot of effort into this set, and receiving recognition from a master was an immense honor and encouragement.

Bai Xiaosheng immediately sent over the rest of his ideas.

Some were more practical, some were more imaginative and divergent.

Bai Xiaosheng, didn’t dare to use them all.

“Hmm, this idea is good!”

“This one is not bad either!”

“Hiss...

this one’s a bit too artistic.

Although we need to focus on cultural care, we can’t completely disregard business.”

Master Song Kai, immersed in the commercial real estate industry for nearly thirty years, had a wealth of experience and a keen grasp of the market.

Every piece of advice he offered was extremely valuable.

Bai Xiaosheng benefited enormously.

This knowledge was not something that could be searched through Red Lotus; it was wisdom that couldn't be found on paper.

No wonder the old gentleman was a master!

Admiring him, Bai Xiaosheng took note of the old man's opinions and kept coming up with fresh ideas.

"This young man is not bad at all!

Quick-thinking and able to extrapolate from one thing to another, quite rare, indeed rare!"

On the other end, Master Song Kai was having a very pleasant conversation, holding great respect for people and things.

In this manner, the two of them, separated by screens, talked about projects and ideas, eventually moving on to cover anything and everything.

In the blink of an eye, over two hours had passed!

Meanwhile, Wang, Little Song, Yezi, and the others were really busy and didn't notice the clattering of Bai Xiaosheng's keyboard nor the flush on his face.

“Master Song.”

At Master Song Kai’s end, a knock sounded at the door of the study, followed by a gentle push.

The assistant peeked inside and immediately got a shock.

The distinguished Master Song Kai was now sitting cross-legged on a desk, clutching a tablet in both hands, with a face of rapture, glowing red.

My goodness, are you going crazy!

If you fall off, what would we do!

The assistant was quite frightened and hurried into the room, calling out several times, each louder than the last, nearly shouting.

Only then did Master Song Kai come out of his engrossment, and upon seeing the assistant, he frowned.

“Why don’t you knock when you come in, or at least say something!”

“...”

The assistant was at a loss for words.

“What’s up?” Song Kai’s eyes were still fixed on the tablet as he casually asked.

“You have a lunch meeting at noon, you need to go,” the assistant hurriedly reminded him.

“No, no, I’m not going, just cancel it!” Song Kai said directly.

The old man looked at the tablet, the corners of his mouth curling into a smile as he poked at it with a finger, typing out words using pinyin.

Cancel it?!

The assistant looked conflicted.

“But it’s the deputy mayor who’s inviting you, it wouldn’t be good to turn it down.”

The deputy mayor?

Song Kai scratched his thinning hair reluctantly; it seemed that indeed it wouldn’t be good to cancel.

“Young man, I’m a bit tied up here, another day, another day I’ll seek you out and we’ll have a good chat!” Master Song Kai sent a message to Bai Xiaosheng.

On the other end, Bai Xiaosheng also breathed a sigh of relief.

Tired!

The Song master opposite him had such energy.

Now that a stage had finally concluded, Bai Xiaosheng was also relieved.

Through this exchange with the master, Bai Xiaosheng had gained a clear understanding of the design work ahead, and he believed that going forward, the work would be done in less time and with better quality!

He was extremely satisfied with this.

But alongside his satisfaction, Bai Xiaosheng felt not so satisfied.

The reason was simple: he had been so devoted and worked so hard for his job, couldn't Red Lotus give him an extra ten or eight points?

"The upgrade progress for this stage has exceeded 70%.

System alert: No substantial results, additional points will not be granted!" Red Lotus crisply shattered Bai Xiaosheng's unrealistic fantasies with a single blow.

You're ruthless!

Bai Xiaosheng had no words.

Approaching noon, Bai Xiaosheng ordered Wang and the others to take a break.

These three had been working so intensely they had forgotten to eat or sleep—it was as if they were possessed, even running to the restroom and drinking less water.

This won't do!

Bai Xiaosheng had to stop their madness.

As a result, the three of them started to become concerned about him.

"Xiao Bai, what do you want for lunch?

Don't go out, I'll bring something back for you."

“Do you want a cup of coffee?”

“I’ll go get one for you.”

“What coffee!”

“You haven’t rested all morning, take a good nap at noon.”

These three were overwhelmingly caring.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at one, then the other, and suddenly regretted pulling them out of their frenzied work state.

The crazy work atmosphere of the Promotion Department had also been noticed by other departments, as they all worked in one big environment and could catch a glimpse here and there.

All the other departments were taken aback and buzzed with discussions.

What kind of fire was Supervisor Bai stoking with his three-stage act of inauguration that the Promotion Department had become a nest of workaholics?!

The employees were curious, and the managers were even more so!

This Bai Xiaosheng really had some tricks; it seemed necessary to learn from him.

If one could manage people like this, wouldn’t everyone be getting promotions and raises?

Some were surprised, some were shocked, and some were envious.

And some were uneasy.

Like Li Mingtong.

“You’re saying the Promotion Department is working like mad, and their spirit is high?” Li Mingtong frowned and asked the person who was reporting.

It seemed their work was progressing very smoothly; that could be the only reason for their high spirits...

Could it be that they really might complete the task...

Originally confident, Li Mingtong suddenly felt less sure of himself.

When it came to Bai Xiaosheng, many impossibilities seemed possible.

“No, I must come up with a plan; I can’t let them keep working so easily!” Li Mingtong’s fingers tapped on the desk, his eyebrows knotted.

After a moment, a cold smile appeared on the corner of his mouth.

As a supervisor, with such significant authority, how could he not make use of it.

“Someone, go notify Bai Xiaosheng.” Li Mingtong smirked, “There will be a meeting this afternoon!”

Chapter 59 Garbage Conference\_1 Bai Xiaosheng’s personal ability, Li Mingtong had witnessed!

In the presence of Shang Wenshu and Wang Ye, two senior executives, as well as a room full of directors, he could speak eloquently, maintaining a clear and agile mind.

This kid is no ordinary character!

Although up until now, Li Mingtong still didn't believe that those things were done by Bai Xiaosheng alone, the ability to speak to such extent, with such familiarity with an abundance of data, was definitely extraordinary!

In Li Mingtong's view, Bai Xiaosheng alone was at least equivalent to two or three elites!

As for Wang and his group of people, although they were also capable elites, their temperament was slack and they would never band together in such a way.

It must be some kind of maneuver by Bai Xiaosheng!

Whether it's personal ability or organizational ability, Bai Xiaosheng was the key!

Therefore, Li Mingtong decided that he had to get Bai Xiaosheng "out" of the promotion department, to strip them of their core!

Meeting!

Li Mingtong's order was issued.

When Bai Xiaosheng received this notice, he was not surprised.

If Li Mingtong didn't make a move or pull some stunt, would he still be himself?

Such a huge workload in just a few days, and he still felt insecure?

Bai Xiaosheng, upon receiving the notice, had no intention of going at all.

Wang and the others had already been busy all morning, and if he wasn't there in the afternoon, it would be too unfair to them.

Bai Xiaosheng decided to be tough this time!

Wang sensed Bai Xiaosheng's intention right away.

"Bai, hurry up and go to the meeting, we're here!" Wang stood up and urged, "We've achieved great results this morning, missing one you won't make any difference!"

Bai Xiaosheng shook his head.

"All this, at the end of the day, started because of me.

Li Mingtong wouldn't have troubled the promotion department if it wasn't to deal with me.

It's because of me that you are all so busy and tired.

What can he do to me if I don't go!" Bai Xiaosheng's attitude was very firm.

"Nonsense, we're working here, what's this about dragging you down or not!" Wang laughed and scolded.

Song and Yezi also sensed Bai Xiaosheng's intention to be assertive, and urged him along with Wang.

"Come on, just go, we're really fine!"

"If you don't go, and Li Mingtong finds another excuse to blow up the situation, it's not just you who'll be in trouble, our work might be all for nothing!"

Bai Xiaosheng still did not budge.

“Come on, get him out!”

Wang made a move, and Song and Yezi also helped.

Bai Xiaosheng could fight, but could he fight his own people?

As a new director, he was actually pushed out of the door.

Soon after, the door was locked from the inside.

“Hurry up to the meeting!” Wang shouted through the door.

With all the commotion, the staff passing by in the hallway all curiously looked over.

Bai Xiaosheng, finding this both amusing and embarrassing, could only head to the meeting room.

In the large conference room, Li Mingtong had indeed called all the directors, and had even brought along Chen Daya.

The meeting theme, “Current Work Report and Discussion on the Next Stage of Work Development.”

Such a high-class pretext.

Recently, Chen Daya conducted a bombardment of meetings.

Now, with Li Mingtong using the same tactic, it was all within reason, leaving no room for objection, not even from Chen Daya himself.

Li Mingtong’s group of directors all held their notebooks, sitting upright and serious, obviously prepared.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at Chen Daya, who gave a wry smile and shook his head slightly.

He knew that Li Mingtong was making it difficult for Bai Xiaosheng, but Mr.

Shang had said that unless Bai Xiaosheng asked for help himself, he would not interfere.

As of now, even if Chen Daya wanted to help, he couldn't.

The curtain rose on the most tedious and boring meeting in the history of the Teles Square Project Department.

The meeting alone took up a full three hours.

Li Mingtong and his team of managers were incessant, reporting on every minor and major matter in excessive detail.

After they finished, Chen Daya gave brief comments, and then Li Mingtong began issuing instructions non-stop.

Anyone with a weaker mind would go insane from this meeting.

It was a rubbish meeting with absolutely no substance.

Bai Xiaosheng's report was brief, just something to be heard.

But he wasn't just sitting there, listening to the nonsense; he was immersed in the content he had discussed with Master Song Kai, striving to perfect the second edition of the brochure in every way possible.

When the meeting finally ended, and it was time to disperse, Chen Daya led the way, with many others practically fleeing the scene.

Bai Xiaosheng was also about to leave when Li Mingtong suddenly coughed.

“The logistics, commercializing, and promotion departments, the heads should stay behind for a small meeting,” he said.

Another meeting?

Bai Xiaosheng frowned, miffed that Li Mingtong was going to such lengths just to hold him back.

“The commercializing department hasn’t been performing well enough, and you all heard the improvement suggestions from the commercializing manager just now,” Li Mingtong said, his voice a bit hoarse, but it didn’t dampen his spirited mood, especially when he looked at Bai Xiaosheng.

“The commercializing department needs to do an image campaign, logistics provides material support, and the promotion department can offer suggestions.

We’ll host an event, and commercializing will provide the personnel, but we need to discuss the details together.”

That sounded both reasonable and logical.

Li Mingtong was an old hand at the office politics game and always managed to take the moral high ground, leaving you unable to object.

Bai Xiaosheng remained expressionless.

By now, he wasn’t in a rush anymore.

With just over two hours left until the end of the workday, have your meeting if you must.

Bai thought to himself that no matter how well Wang and the others did, he would sort everything out perfectly that evening.

This way, the more Li Mingtong tried to thwart him, the more points he would score!

The second small meeting was even more tedious than the first large one, often going off-topic.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't care.

You thought you were wasting my time, but I was refining my thoughts, Bai Xiaosheng was delighted to meticulously ponder the brochure proposal in his mind.

The meeting went on until the end of the workday, until even Li Mingtong had no idea what else to say.

When the words "meeting adjourned" were finally spoken, the logistics and commercializing managers seemed relieved, and even Li Mingtong felt a sense of exhaustion.

Those two managers nearly bolted, afraid Li Mingtong would come up with something else.

"Bai Xiaosheng, wait a moment," Li Mingtong called out to him again.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at him calmly.

"I heard you guys are making good progress.

How far along are you?" Li Mingtong asked smilingly.

"We should be able to send it to the press by Thursday," Bai Xiaosheng smiled back.

“Mr.

Li, you should prepare the bonus.

Our department is looking forward to it.”

“Good!

I’m waiting to give you the bonus!” Li Mingtong said, his voice hoarse.

“I thank you on behalf of my department,” Bai Xiaosheng paused, then said with a smile, “Mr.

Li, you should drink more water for that throat of yours.

Don’t ruin it.

Do we have another meeting tomorrow?

I’ll be waiting!”

Having said that, Bai Xiaosheng leisurely walked away.

Li Mingtong suddenly felt quite annoyed.

“Just keep talking big!”

As he said this, Li Mingtong felt a painful scratch in his throat, hoarseness.

It was extremely uncomfortable!

Chapter 60 Tempting Night\_1 When Bai Xiaosheng returned to the Promotion Department, Wang, Song, and Yezi hadn't left yet; they were still working.

The moment Bai Xiaosheng saw them, he was startled.

After just half a day of not seeing them, all three looked haggard!

Their faces were pale, and their eyes were bloodshot.

Wang had smoked who knows how many cigarettes; the moment you got close, you could smell the pungent scent of tobacco.

Song's eyes were dry from constant blinking, and even Yezi's hair was in a tousled mess.

Bai Xiaosheng felt a stir of emotions looking at them.

He was fighting to earn points, to sprint towards the future position of president.

But what about them?

Why were they grinding away at this task that seemed impossible to complete?

It was because they considered him a friend and treated him sincerely!

These people were truly genuine!

As soon as Bai Xiaosheng appeared, Wang and the others perked up and gathered around.

“You’ve been in meetings all day, you must be tired!”

“Did Li Mingtong give you a hard time?”

“On our side, work is going smoothly!”

All three wore expressions of concern.

Moved, Bai Xiaosheng smiled at them.

“Me, with my quick wit, and Mr.

Shang as my solid backing, who could trouble me!”

Only then did the three let out a sigh of relief.

Wang couldn’t help feeling a bit proud and revealed a child-like grin, “Even though you weren’t here, we did a lot of work.

Although we didn’t meet our expectations, we came close!”

Song and Yezi also wore proud smiles.

People don’t know their own potential until they’re pushed!

What seemed impossible ended up being possible!

“Copy the work over to me, then everyone go get some good rest.

You don't have to come in so early tomorrow; I've authorized it!" Bai Xiaosheng said authoritatively.

He really had the air of a leader!

Wang and the others laughed, and this time they didn't insist, but packed up and left work.

They were truly exhausted.

If they continued to overwork, their efficiency would undoubtedly decrease significantly, and it would affect the next day's work.

As Bai Xiaosheng copied the team's results, the moment he held the USB drive in his hand, he felt a surge of power within him.

A power that stemmed from the team, from his friends.

When Bai Xiaosheng left, he passed by Li Mingtong's office and gave it a deep, penetrating look, his gaze icy.

On the way home, Bai Xiaosheng quickly ate something and then sat down in front of the computer.

He quickly looked over the finished drafts.

Although they weren't half of the expected volume, they were close, and the quality wasn't low.

It was hard to imagine, with one less person, how hard Wang and the others must have worked to get to this point!

Bai Xiaosheng learned that in his absence as the "designer," it was Wang who took up the reins personally.

Wang was indeed an all-around employee, capable of planning, copywriting, and even dabbling in design.

But Wang wasn't young anymore, he must have been exhausted.

"Now, it's up to me!" Looking at these hard-earned results, Bai Xiaosheng pressed his fingers together.

With the assistance of Red Lotus, Bai Xiaosheng focused intently and rapidly made fine-tuned adjustments to all the drafts.

Wang and the others had already mastered the stylistic approach, and many details were even better than yesterday.

Bai Xiaosheng found few places that needed modifications.

When Bai Xiaosheng was satisfied with everything, he closed the drafts and began to work on his second set of documents.

Thanks to Master Song Kai's teachings, and the relentless deduction during the half-day "trash" meeting, Bai Xiaosheng had a lucid train of thought and his fingers flew across the keyboard with astonishing speed, experiencing a kind of "flying" exhilaration.

When I think about it, I ought to thank Li Mingtong!

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but feel a wave of emotion inside.

After a while, he closed the document contentedly.

"Revision work completed, original work completed, score calculation in process.

This phase's upgrade progress has exceeded 70%, proceeding with score reduction!" Red Lotus's voice sounded.

You're really a stingy landlady!

Bai Xiaosheng grumbled.

Not only did you not add any rewards, you even reduced the points.

"Five points added, your current score is seventy-eight, twenty-two points away from the manager level!" Red Lotus replied.

Bai Xiaosheng wasn't in the mood for Red Lotus's fussiness.

After thinking it over, he sent a portion of the newly completed draft to Master Song Kai's email.

This time, Master Kai did not reply immediately, after all, it was quite late, and the old man needed his rest.

Having finished all this, Bai Xiaosheng turned off the computer and got up to stretch his body.

Unknowingly, several hours had passed, and it was almost eleven o'clock.

Feeling a bit hungry, Bai Xiaosheng grabbed a bag of milk and went out to the balcony to breathe some fresh air and sip the milk.

The evening breeze was slightly cool, which was quite comfortable.

As Bai Xiaosheng turned his head, he saw a graceful figure standing on the next balcony, holding a thick book in her hands.

Wei Xuelian!

Bai Xiaosheng saw she was wearing a silk, snow-white nightgown, her hair hanging down, the strands fluttering in the night wind, making her seem as serene as a blooming Xuelian.

Perhaps too immersed in her reading, Wei Xuelian hadn't noticed him and was intently focused on her book.

What book is she reading?

Bai Xiaosheng craned his neck curiously, trying to glimpse the title.

"Still haven't found it," Wei Xuelian muttered to herself in frustration, dropping her arms and setting the book aside.

When she turned her head, she caught sight of a pair of "lecherous" eyes, fixed on her chest.

Wei Xuelian's and Bai Xiaosheng's faces changed color simultaneously.

"What are you looking at!" Wei Xuelian clutched the book close to her chest.

"If I say I wanted to see the title of your book, would you...

believe me?" Bai Xiaosheng said somewhat awkwardly.

Even he thought that excuse sounded phony, but it was the truth!

Wei Xuelian raised the book, which was thicker than a brick, like the Statue of Liberty, except she wasn't calling for freedom but looking to smash Bai Xiaosheng.

“Don’t be impulsive; please, don’t be impulsive!” Bai Xiaosheng yelled in fright, “I really am a good guy.

Right, you mentioned you couldn’t find something – I can help you find it!”

“You?” Wei Xuelian huffed, but she retracted the book; she had only wanted to scare Bai Xiaosheng a bit.

“Sure, our training institute has started a graduate preparatory class, and I’m preparing the lessons.

I came across a problem in my materials, the answer to which was written as ‘omitted.’ If you help me solve it, we’ll call it even,” Wei Xuelian said with a charming smile.

“Can’t solve it, I’ll call Shuying!”

“Why would you call her?” Bai Xiaosheng wondered.

“She’s particularly good at ‘hands-on’ activities!”

Bai Xiaosheng forced a smile.

“What problem is it, politics, history, geography...” Bai Xiaosheng took a sip of milk.

“Management, probability theory and mathematical statistics,” Wei Xuelian replied.

Spurt, Bai Xiaosheng spluttered out the milk.

Probability theory, mathematical statistics?

He was an arts student!

Wei Xuelian narrowed her eyes, Bai Xiaosheng's reaction made her suspicious!

"Do you really understand it?"

"No problem, otherwise, we can make a bet," Bai Xiaosheng said, drinking milk and quickly summoning Red Lotus in his mind.

"Fine, if you solve it for me, I'll treat you to breakfast for a week!" Wei Xuelian declared, "If you can't, you're as good as dead!"

"No problem!" Bai Xiaosheng agreed.

With Red Lotus by his side, what was there to fear!