

Two Trillion 511

Chapter 511: What on Earth Have They Done!_1

What did Minister Fan say to Bai Xiaosheng?

He still wasn't satisfied?!

Ji Mingyang's eyes widened in disbelief.

Wang Yu and Zhang Meng were both stunned.

Mayor Su Shu's face was filled with astonishment.

Even Mu Beichen was frozen in place.

What on earth did Bai Xiaosheng say to the minister!

"Well done, the work you of Zhongjing have done is impressive!" Minister Fan turned his head to see Ji Mingyang and couldn't help but raise his thumb in admiration, "Also, Zhongjing's land is truly remarkable and it brings forth such talents like Bai Xiaosheng, who is young and promising! It's a pity, today I only arranged two hours for the report, it seems next time, I must prepare a bit more time!"

The words of Minister Fan were indeed heartfelt.

It was clear, he really hadn't had enough!

It was not just an affirmation of Bai Xiaosheng, it was high praise, elevating him to an incredibly high status.

Wang Yu's mouth formed an 'O' shape, and his gaze towards Bai Xiaosheng changed.

He had said before, Minister Fan was more impetuous than Minister Wang but also more picky. It could be said that, for the same thing, Minister Wang might be satisfied whereas Minister Fan might not be quite content.

In the comparison between Bai Xiaosheng and Mu Beichen, it seemed somewhat unfair, and Mu Beichen appeared to have an implicit advantage.

But unexpectedly, Bai Xiaosheng was able to satisfy Minister Fan to such an extent that even this leader, who was so punctual, was willing to eat into the time for the next meeting, expressing his unsated interest, and even saying that next time he would need to allocate more time...to listen to Bai Xiaosheng's report!

Unprecedented, truly unprecedented!

The look in Wang Yu's eyes towards Bai Xiaosheng was practically one of worship!

Beforehand, his view of Mu Beichen's success was merely one of appreciation.

"Minister, you flatter us. Next time, we will definitely bring better results and fulfill your expectations of us in Zhongjing, of Bai Xiaosheng!" Ji Mingyang's face was filled with ecstasy, he was overjoyed.

He had been annoyed by Mayor Su Shu for over two hours, watching Mu Beichen succeed and Minister Wang give his approval, thinking that this time they were truly in jeopardy.

Unexpectedly, there came a dramatic turnaround at the last minute!

Bai Xiaosheng, you're impressive!

Ji Mingyang also couldn't help but silently cheer in his heart.

Even Minister Fan, who was so hard to please, was publically sparing no praise; it was clear just how impressive Bai Xiaosheng was!

Mayor Su Shu stood by, unable to recover.

She, of course, knew about the personality differences between Minister Fan and Minister Wang; if Minister Fan praised Bai Xiaosheng so highly, there was even less need to mention Minister Wang, who was famously good-natured.

The relationship between the two ministers was said to be harmonious, and their differences in opinion were more often found with Minister Fan rather than Minister Wang.

In that case, this time they were truly the ones who were behind!

Does Zhongjing Media have the advantage?

How could that be possible!

Bai Xiaosheng, despite being younger and less experienced than Mu Beichen, and Zhongjing Media, being hastily put together to catch up with Tianzheng Media, how could they possibly outdo them?!

Mayor Su Shu couldn't fathom it!

"Mayor Su, has your side passed the approval as well?" Minister Fan asked Su Shu.

"Yes, indeed, Minister Wang even praised Beichen," replied Su Shu, her voice lacking conviction.

"Minister Wang is good at giving approval, while I," said Minister Fan with a smile, "am better at criticism. Regardless, congratulations to you too, and I hope you'll go a step further. But this time, having sent for simultaneous approval and passing at the same time, you don't have the upper hand, because you had more time to prepare and should have done so faster and better."

Minister Fan, candid and outspoken, spoke his mind, and although it was not exactly criticism, it indeed reflected a bit of dissatisfaction with Langbei Tianzheng Group.

"I also have high expectations for you all, so you must work harder," Minister Fan added casually, yet pointedly.

These words were clearly expressing disappointment.

It seems that in terms of creating an impression, Zhongjing Media has already surpassed Tianzheng Media!

Mayor Su Shu's smile turned sour.

Mu Beichen nodded silently, his gaze falling on Bai Xiaosheng's face, his eyes revealing a subtle hint of combativeness.

In fact, he was a very proud man, having done everything exceptionally well, yet he still lost to the hastily catching-up Bai Xiaosheng. While he was confused, he was also extremely reluctant to accept defeat!

Bai Xiaosheng looked back, giving him a smile.

However, there was a hint of provocation in his eyes.

Mu Beichen, do you want to compete with me for the title of the provincial benchmark enterprise? If only one can advance, it will be me, not you!

With just one exchange of glances, they shifted their gaze away from each other.

Neither of them were the type to confront each other face to face, but neither were they kind; Mu Beichen was domineering, Bai Xiaosheng was cunning.

Domineering versus cunning, once a whimsical thought.

Now, it was about to become a reality!

"Alright, I still have to attend the next meeting, so I need to hurry over," Minister Fan said. "By the way, Ji Mingyang and Su Shu, you two need to stay. There's an event this evening at the province level, and since you're here, you might as well join in."

"Okay," Ji Mingyang and Su Shu nodded.

Minister Fan smiled again at Bai Xiaosheng before leaving while Wang Yu hurriedly followed.

In the first meeting room, the other leaders had already come out and were standing by the side, waiting for Minister Fan to leave so they could also depart.

However, each of them couldn't help but say something as they passed by Ji.

"Ji, you guys really did a great job this time!"

"Impressive, it could even serve as a template!"

"The performance of General Manager Bai Xiaosheng is truly noteworthy!"

...

Nearly all of the six leaders were full of praise, complimenting Zhongjing and Bai Xiaosheng.

Ji Mingyang felt as if he had drunk two shots of liquor, his face flushed with excitement, unable to stop smiling, "You flatter us, you flatter us! We just conducted a small trial! Bai Xiaosheng wasn't in his best state today, his performance was just average..."

Ji Mingyang continually downplayed the praise, but when it came to Bai Xiaosheng, it was apparent that he was modestly boasting.

Mayor Su Shu, standing at the side, couldn't help but let out a cold hum, truly finding it irritating.

After all the leaders had left, Mayor Su Shu couldn't resist coming over, suppressing her curiosity and lowering her voice to ask Ji Mingyang, "What exactly did you do?!"

The way she saw it, the stir a single company made couldn't warrant such a reaction, could it?

To leave the minister longing for more, to leave all the leaders full of nothing but praise!

In Su Shu's eyes, there was endless curiosity.

Even Mu Beichen, who was nearby, couldn't help but perk up his ears to listen, though it seemed he had thought of something, his brow furrowing slightly. Lately, he too had received some information.

But he had ignored it!

After all, he had been busy ensuring that all reported projects were improved upon; he didn't have the time to pay more attention.

This Bai Xiaosheng, truly as that person said, one cannot relax their vigilance for even a moment, or else the tables might be turned!

Mu Beichen took a mental note of this.

It was a profound lesson.

While Ji Mingyang was joking around with Mayor Su Shu, Wang Yu suddenly ran over, very seriously telling Ji Mingyang and Bai Xiaosheng, "Minister Fan emphasized again to me, to make sure you guys compile that set of materials; he wants to see it!"

Was there really a need to remind them again?

Su Shu was genuinely shocked, looking at Ji Mingyang.

What on earth had they done!

Chapter 512 Mu Beichen's Calculations_1

Wang Yu finished giving instructions to Ji Mingyang and Bai Xiaosheng, then told the two mayors to return to Minister Fan's office to wait later on.

After arranging all of this, Wang Yu almost jogged away.

It wasn't for any other reason than that Minister Fan, because of listening to Bai Xiaosheng's report, "dragged the meeting on" for twenty minutes! It seemed like a short amount of time, but for a minister, those twenty minutes could equate to a meet-and-greet, a small event.

The day's schedule was packed, and if time was consumed here, then trouble was bound to follow one after another.

Wang Yu was rushing back to report to the secretary and to modify the schedule.

Ji Mingyang and Su Shu understood.

"What a curse, because of you guys, you've created so much work for others," Su Shu muttered.

Her voice was just loud enough for their small group to hear.

"Hey, what kind of talk is that!" Ji Mingyang immediately became unhappy, "The minister enjoyed listening, and we couldn't help it!"

Yet the expression on his face was one of great satisfaction.

Su Shu huffed and, accompanied by Mu Beichen, left.

Before leaving, Mu Beichen first politely nodded to Ji Mingyang, then when he looked at Bai Xiaosheng, his gaze lingered for an extra second.

Bai Xiaosheng remained silent, meeting his gaze without flinching.

If looks could speak, they would surely say:

"Next time, you won't be so lucky!"

"The one who laughs last will be me!"

An exchange of glances, and after that, no further communication.

Ji Mingyang glanced at Su Shu's retreating figure, then called Bai Xiaosheng to another location; he also had words of caution to give.

Meanwhile.

Su Shu and Mu Beichen walked along while discussing in low voices.

"This time, your preparation was already good enough, and I've always held you in high regard. Just now, Minister Wang also fully acknowledged you," Su Shu began with a few reassuring words.

Mu Beichen smiled, appearing unaffected, though the depth in his eyes seemed to carry a slightly heavier shadow.

"If we're inferior in skill, there's nothing to be said. Mayor Su, Beichen will continue striving, not giving them another chance to turn things around!" Mu Beichen said gravely.

Su Shu nodded.

She trusted Mu Beichen; he never made easy promises. With such a declaration, it was certain he would put forth a thousandfold effort, and it was foreseeable that the work in the next phase would be even more robust and outstanding.

"I have confidence in you," Su Shu said with firm certainty, then her delicate eyebrows knitted slightly, "But regarding the other side, I always feel a bit uneasy. Ji Mingyang is known for his daring thoughts and actions. Could he have other plans, some unexpected strategy? Also this time, it seems there's been some movement from Zhongjing, but I've been too busy to attend to it. After you go back, try to find out more about it."

Mu Beichen nodded, "Mayor Ji indeed is pioneering and has great foresight. And that Bai Xiaosheng... I think you haven't been giving him enough attention all this time!"

Mu Beichen emphasized his statement.

"Bai Xiaosheng?" Su Shu was taken aback, looking at Mu Beichen and smiling, "Beichen, it seems you've always been quite concerned about him. The last time, when we went to Zhongjing, you were the one who first told me about him, and it seemed you valued him highly. Back then, I had no idea he had replaced Song Changkong. However, afterwards, I thought about it and it seemed like you already knew that he had become the Zhongjing Media General Manager."

Su Shu was somewhat puzzled.

If you were to say that Mu Beichen and Bai Xiaosheng were acquaintances, it didn't seem like it, yet the level of his knowledge about Bai Xiaosheng was not ordinary.

Mu Beichen smiled and offered no explanation.

"It's right to take our opponents seriously, but I still don't believe he can be better than you. This time, I think the problem is still Ji Mingyang," Su Shu said, her beautiful eyes concentrating, "He knows me too well, and naturally understands the kind of people I appreciate. He's targeted this report accordingly."

Mayor Su Shu was still standing by her own views.

Mu Beichen didn't respond, but after pondering for a moment, suddenly said, "Mayor Su, regarding the upcoming review, I think we should do it like this..."

He lowered his voice and spoke to Su Shu, who at first was startled, then her eyes gradually widened with a look of surprise in between.

Mu Beichen, this man, truly dares to think and act. Can it really be done this way!

Su Shu pondered, a hint of hesitation on her face.

Fair to say, compared to Ji Mingyang, she was a leader who prioritized caution above all else.

"Mayor Su, Mayor Ji knows your style very well, and he's been consistently strategizing against us. You need to take him by surprise this time, and use an unorthodox approach," Mu Beichen said with a smile, encouraging her.

Just now, he did not refute Mayor Su Shu's biased views on Bai Xiaosheng; he was saving it for now, to persuade her.

"Alright then."

Su Shu finally nodded, "Beichen, let's proceed with this plan! As for Minister Fan and Minister Wang, I will talk to them, and moreover, I'll request both ministers to keep it confidential!"

After speaking, Su Shu sneered to herself, "Ji Mingyang, oh, Ji Mingyang, this time, I will surprise you as well!"

Mu Beichen watched the expression of Mayor Su Shu, also smiling, his gaze shifted away as he thought to himself, "Bai Xiaosheng, they all say you are cunning and sly, adept at trickery, warning me to be very careful. This time, I have learned from it, next time, are you ready!"

Afterward, Mu Beichen's eyes narrowed slightly, "This time, what exactly are they up to in Zhongjing, when I return, I still need to investigate thoroughly! Make sure there's a backup plan!"

Elsewhere.

In a relatively quiet place, Ji Mingyang's face was filled with a smile as he lavished praise on Bai Xiaosheng.

"Sheng, you did a good job this time! You really sapped their energy, brought glory to us; I have to thank you for that."

Joy bloomed across Mayor Ji Mingyang's face.

The extent of his happiness was a bit exaggerated.

"You have no idea, how anxious we were waiting outside!" Zhang Meng remarked with emotion on the side, "Especially when Mu Beichen came out, and Minister Wang, who was responsible for their review, heaped praise on them, Mayor Su was very proud, we were all panicked, only Mayor Ji was still confident you wouldn't lose..."

"Ahem," Ji Mingyang coughed.

Such talk was fruitless, only adding unnecessary pressure to Bai Xiaosheng.

Zhang Meng quickly shut up.

Bai Xiaosheng, hearing this, felt a warmth in his heart.

"Now, we are officially on the same starting line with them, it's a small victory, but we still can't be complacent. Mu Beichen is no ordinary opponent, Sheng, you have to be careful!" Ji Mingyang cautioned.

Mu Beichen had made a deep impression on him for being able to remain calm and steady even when he seemed on the verge of winning.

"Don't worry, Mr. Ji, regarding the work ahead, I've already got some ideas!" Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

Ji Mingyang nodded in satisfaction.

"By the way, Minister Fan mentioned there's an event in the province later, so I'm afraid I can't return to Zhongjing; let Zhang Meng take you to the station," Ji Mingyang said.

"No need, I can just take the high-speed rail back; it's very convenient," Bai Xiaosheng replied with a smile.

Ji Mingyang did not insist but simply said to Zhang Meng, "Then you take Bai Xiaosheng to the station, and get the tickets from my quota!"

"Yes," Zhang Meng immediately nodded.

That kind of treatment, ordinary people didn't have!

Chapter 513 How is it you again?! _1

Tianhe City high-speed train station.

Zhang Meng drove Bai Xiaosheng there, asked him to wait in the car, and personally went to the ticket hall to fetch the tickets from the staff, and gave them to Bai Xiaosheng.

"Thanks for the trouble, Secretary Zhang." Bai Xiaosheng took the tickets and said with a smile.

"You're being too formal! You're a hero of Zhongjing this time, and rightfully, I should have escorted you myself." Zhang Meng smiled at Bai Xiaosheng. "Making you take the high-speed train back is practically a disservice!"

"You're exaggerating." Sheng shook hands with Zhang Meng, laughing, "Well, I'm off then."

"Alright, take care on the road."

After getting out of the car, Bai Xiaosheng walked towards the high-speed train station.

As one of the two poles of Anjiang Province, Tianhe City had undergone planning quite early, and its buildings looked very grand and imposing. The same was true for this high-speed train station, which, arguably, was not inferior to those in first-tier cities.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at his ticket: first class, departing in ten minutes.

He couldn't help but laugh wryly to himself.

According to the relevant regulations, this was the treatment Ji Mingyang received; it seemed that Mr. Ji had given special instructions, which was an indicator of his esteem.

With the ticket in his hand, Bai Xiaosheng felt a warmth in his heart.

There were quite a few people inside the station.

After all, Tianhe City was considered the second provincial capital of Anjiang Province, with countless individuals flooding into the city to look for job opportunities. Moreover, Tianhe was adjacent to Zhongjing, and the high-speed train journey only took dozens of minutes, so there were many people commuting between the two cities.

Bai Xiaosheng queued up in order and went through the security check.

He had few belongings, just a black briefcase for documents and files; quite simple.

When it was his turn, Bai Xiaosheng placed the document bag in the security machine, walked through the detector, and then picked up his bag to proceed further inside.

"Hey, wait a moment!" Suddenly, a shout came from behind him.

Bai Xiaosheng looked back in confusion.

A not-so-tall person with a simple and honest face, frowning and looking furious, was rushing towards him.

Was he calling me?

Bai Xiaosheng was startled; he scrutinized the man carefully and was sure that he didn't know him.

"What's the matter?" Bai Xiaosheng asked curiously.

"What's wrong with you, randomly grabbing other people's things!" The man said angrily.

As he spoke, he reached straight for the briefcase in Bai Xiaosheng's hand.

I'm randomly taking other people's things?

Or are you trying to steal from me?

Bai Xiaosheng's brows twisted; he flicked his wrist, and the briefcase flew out, spun in the air in front of him, and was then neatly caught by his left hand.

The man grasped at nothing.

Bai Xiaosheng's right hand shot out to grab the man's wrist firmly.

Up until today, Bai Xiaosheng had been no stranger to confrontations, so he had Red Lotus permanently imprint some fine moves in his mind.

To onlookers, he simply caught the man's wrist, but his thumb was already pressing down on the man's pulse, causing the entire arm to become numb and weak with a slight exertion of force.

"Ouch!" The man cried out in pain, and half-knelt down.

"Who are you? Attacking right away, are you trying to rob me?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with a frown.

"Nonsense, it's you who took someone else's things recklessly, and now you're the one in the right!" The man grimaced in pain, still stubborn and unyielding.

A crowd began to gather, starting to point and talk.

"What's going on? What are you doing?" The duty officer of the high-speed train station noticed the commotion and hurried over.

"Officer, he took my things and then assaulted me!"

Before Bai Xiaosheng could speak, the blockhead complained first.

"Let him go first," the officer advised.

Bai Xiaosheng released his grip, and the simpleton leaped back, rubbing his wrist.

"Don't leave, there's been a misunderstanding!" A cry came from the crowd; a woman carrying several items stumbled over, her hair tips sweaty.

She was fashionably dressed, in stiletto heels, and appeared to be in her thirties, quite attractive, looking like a senior female executive.

"Luran, did you even look before you chased after him? Your bag is right here!" The woman scolded the rash man angrily, throwing a briefcase down in front of him.

Bai Xiaosheng took one look and was immediately stunned.

It was indeed exactly like his, even the brand was the same.

Luran was also stunned for a moment, hurriedly picked up the bag, quickly opened it and looked inside, and then let out a long breath, smiling with his lips curled, "It really is my bag, thank you, Jiang Lu."

The woman named Jiang Lu ignored Luran, repeatedly apologizing to the police officer, "You see, this was a misunderstanding! Everything is fine now, thank you for your effort."

The police officer glanced at Bai Xiaosheng.

Jiang Lu also looked at him, with a hint of pleading in her eyes.

"It was my mistake," Luran apologized to Bai Xiaosheng.

"This was a misunderstanding, I'm sorry to have made you come all this way for nothing," Bai Xiaosheng told the police officer.

The police officer nodded, turned his head, and with an emphatic tone forewarned the man named Luran, "Be careful, don't be so reckless next time. You're wasting everyone's time. Alright, disperse now."

Onlookers then scattered.

The police officer also turned to leave.

"Thank you, Jiang Lu," Luran thanked her again with a grateful smile.

"I should be thanking you for not causing me trouble!" Jiang Lu's face was frosty as she threw the things in her hand at Luran's feet, "I really don't know what I did wrong to deserve a penalty from the boss, to have run here with you!"

"Sorry, sorry!" Luran was exceedingly apologetic and also gave Bai Xiaosheng a remorseful smile.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded and turned to leave.

Behind him, Jiang Lu's angry voice could still be heard, "If you weren't so clumsy at interacting with people, I wouldn't have had to drag myself along with you. I beg you, use your brain a bit, do you tech guys turn into big babies without a computer!"

"Lu, I..."

"Don't call me that! We've barely interacted, and now you won't have the chance to become the Technical Director anyway. We have no relationship, OK? Never call me that again. If a colleague hears it, I can't afford to lose face like that..."

Bai Xiaosheng walked away, and after a while, he could no longer hear the conversation.

He couldn't help but shake his head.

The relationship seemed quite complicated.

Once on the high-speed train, Bai Xiaosheng started toying with his phone, scrolling through the news.

Soon, someone stood beside him, without a word, began stuffing their luggage into the overhead compartment and loudly announced, "This is it, no mistake!"

The voice sounded somewhat familiar.

"Excuse me, you're in our seats, please move aside," the other person said to Bai Xiaosheng.

Your seats? Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback and looked up.

The other person saw him and was also startled.

"It's you?!"

The two said almost in unison.

It was Luran again!

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but feel a headache coming on, wondering what bad luck he had walked into that he couldn't shake off this guy!

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng, Luran immediately gave an apologetic smile, but then asserted seriously, "You're in our seats!"

"Impossible, you must have looked at it wrong," Bai Xiaosheng said.

He had checked carefully.

"What's the problem, just finding a seat and you can't manage it!" Jiang Lu came over, annoyed with Luran.

The train had already started moving.

"He says it's us who got it wrong," Luran pointed at Bai Xiaosheng, somewhat awkwardly.

"Impossible, I was the one leading the way this time, how could I be wrong!" Jiang Lu snorted coldly, glanced at Bai Xiaosheng, took out her ticket impatiently to show Bai Xiaosheng, "See? This is our seat, hurry up and move!"

Bai Xiaosheng was dumbfounded as he took the ticket, looked it over carefully, then half-smiling, showed it to Jiang Lu.

"What time is your train?"

"Eleven-thirty!"

"What time is it now?"

"Eleven... quarter past." Jiang Lu exclaimed, "Ah, we got on the wrong train!"

Afterward, Jiang Lu glared at Luran, "It's all your fault, making me feel dizzy and foggy. I don't care, you need to take responsibility and find me a seat!"

Chapter 514: This Person, I Want Them!_1

"We got on the wrong train? This... Where can I find you a seat!" Luran frowned miserably, looking quite troubled.

This train car seemed to be full everywhere else.

"I don't care! I finally get to sit in first class on a business trip, and it's all because you mistook someone else's bag and had a big argument, which made me anxious and read the time wrong. Anyway, you can't let me stand!" Jiang Lu stamped her foot.

"Inside there, that seat has been empty, no one came, and now that the train has started, it must be unoccupied, you can come in and sit." Bai Xiaosheng said.

He didn't have much of an opinion about Jiang Lu, just felt that this Luran seemed a bit pitiful.

Looked like she was supposed to be his company-assigned partner, but now she was acting like she was the boss.

Poor guy, still managing to put up with it.

"Thank you, thank you so much!" Luran expressed his gratitude profoundly.

Jiang Lu nodded at Bai Xiaosheng casually and walked in to take a seat.

Bai Xiaosheng, not wanting to get involved, kept his head down and continued to play with his phone.

"Hey, what do you do?" Jiang Lu glanced at Bai Xiaosheng, noting his nice clothes and extraordinary bearing, she couldn't resist striking up a conversation.

"Working." Bai Xiaosheng replied indifferently; he didn't have much of a liking for her.

At this stage, he was indeed working, perhaps for his future self, but in any case, it wasn't wrong to say so.

Working, and quite a haughty tone at that!

Jiang Lu couldn't help but curl her lip; she had her own pride, too. Seeing Bai Xiaosheng's somewhat indifferent response, she suddenly felt annoyed, gave him a cold look and took out her phone to play.

Luran stood there, bored to death, feeling it was a waste of time to just stand. He opened his mouth several times as if he had something to say to Bai Xiaosheng, but seemed a bit too embarrassed to speak.

"Do you need something?" Bai Xiaosheng glanced at him.

"Could I use your little tray? I just need to put my laptop on it for five minutes, I've got an idea I want to type out," Luran asked timidly.

"Don't give it to him!" Jiang Lu said without lifting her head.

Are you really colleagues? Why so indifferent to each other.

Bai Xiaosheng frowned silently.

"I really do need it urgently, I've got this new idea in my head and want to record it right away," Luran pleaded earnestly.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded, "Go ahead, use it."

He had agreed.

For one, he found Jiang Lu rather obnoxious; secondly, he admired someone who could get into work mode at any time.

"Thank you, thank you!" Luran hurriedly said.

He propped up Bai Xiaosheng's tray and pulled out a sleek laptop from his bag.

While waiting for the computer to boot up, Luran gave Bai Xiaosheng a smile, extremely polite.

Once the laptop was on, Luran hunched over like a shrimp. That posture was terribly uncomfortable to look at, but he was completely unaware, eyes fixated on the screen, practically shining. His hands danced over the small keyboard and the continuous clicking sounded like relentless raindrops on banana leaves.

Bai Xiaosheng looked surprised.

Luran's typing speed could match that of the time Bai Xiaosheng worked at Century Construction, with the aid of Red Lotus's enhancement speed.

Faster than usual shorthand, can a normal person without a system even achieve this level?!

And crucially, Luran was programming.

He was utterly engrossed, oblivious to everything else.

"Luran, I want to step out, can you make some room for me." Jiang Lu suddenly said.

"Wait a minute, wait a minute, soon, I, this should go here, right right, it should be like this..." Luran mumbled dreamily, hands never stopping.

"See what I mean? Once you let him get into the zone, don't even think about stopping him. I was just looking out for you before," Jiang Lu snorted coldly to Bai Xiaosheng.

If someone had been as cold to her as she had been earlier, she wouldn't have bothered with them again. But this man was different, his clothes, one could tell from the style and material that they were expensive, and his demeanor, composed and serene, was no ordinary person!

Jiang Lu was also an assistant at a big company and had seen many bosses, priding herself on being a good judge of character.

This man must be somebody special!

So, she tried to strike up a conversation again.

"Mr. Luran is someone who takes his work seriously," Bai Xiaosheng nodded to Luran, glanced at Jiang Lu, and gave a detached smile, "But as for Miss Jiang, I heard your conversation. Since he's your colleague and it seems you're coordinating with him on this trip, you should prioritize his work. Like now, shouldn't you offer him your seat? It's not about gender, but rather about letting him focus on his work."

Jiang Lu's expression changed, and she rolled her eyes at Bai Xiaosheng, murmuring under her breath, "Crazy!"

Having said that, she turned her head to one side, took out earphones to wear, and also pulled out a hooded jacket from her bag, putting it on and pulling the hood up.

Her attempt at socializing had failed, but she still maintained her pride.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

He had spoken deliberately.

On one hand, he couldn't stand what he was seeing; on the other, he was actually quite curious about what Luran was doing.

Snooping is shameful, but if someone extends their screen right under your nose, they probably don't mind, right?

If neither of them noticed, a quick glance wouldn't hurt anyone.

Bai Xiaosheng took a quick look.

Indeed, he was programming.

"What is being written here?" Bai Xiaosheng didn't quite understand.

However, as soon as the question arose in his mind, Red Lotus swiftly intercepted some information and began analyzing it.

"Based on the content available, this is the creation of a method to control ad playing programs on mobile devices, which is not yet registered in patents," Red Lotus said.

Information technology related to media?!

A new patent!

Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback.

At this stage, what they were lacking most was precisely this kind of talent; he had even planned to recruit aggressively upon returning, to make a push for patents, and also to encourage the company internally to explore other areas for patentable inventions, for registration purposes. He hadn't expected to find a talent right before his eyes.

Red Lotus was indeed powerful, but she had not reached the stage of developing technology herself. This was the realm of innovation, the human realm.

"Red Lotus, can you tell me what this person's technical level is?" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but ask.

He wasn't very familiar with technology and didn't know how to determine levels.

"Based on the speed of his coding, the programs he's using, and the data logic, this individual is a top-level technician, a System Analyst," Red Lotus said.

A top-level technician?

This Luran?

That's impressive!

Bai Xiaosheng was very surprised.

Appearances can indeed be deceiving—a seemingly absent-minded individual, a man who let a female colleague berate him all the way without talking back.

And yet, he was genuine gold!

Bai Xiaosheng observed him for a long moment, still finding it somewhat hard to believe.

A rare talent indeed!

Bai Xiaosheng suddenly felt his blood boiling with excitement.

Originally, the plan had been to recruit a group of high-level technicians from outside, but creating technical inventions, especially those that can reach the level of patents, is no simple matter and certainly not something that happens overnight.

Therefore, Bai Xiaosheng also wanted to stimulate in-house staff to innovate in multiple fields, to see if they could come up with something advanced enough to apply for patents.

But he couldn't guarantee the end results.

And now, here was someone capable of inventing patents!

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but stand up, pointing eagerly to his own seat, and said enthusiastically, "Luran, please take my seat!"

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes were ablaze.

This man, I must poach him!

Chapter 515 Luran's Rejection_1

Bai Xiaosheng called out several times before Luran finally shifted his gaze from the screen, blankly looking at Bai Xiaosheng for a moment before realizing the other was offering his seat to him.

"Ah, no need, no need, I'm fine like this," Luran said with an honest smile.

Next to them, Jiang Lu turned her head, staring at Bai Xiaosheng in amazement. In her eyes, Bai Xiaosheng was simply insane. Giving up his own seat to someone else? And it wasn't as if the other person was the elderly, infirm, or disabled, but a perfectly capable man!

"Come on, sit!" Bai Xiaosheng insisted.

"This doesn't feel right," Luran said, feeling embarrassed.

However, in Luran's eyes, there was an additional measure of gratitude for Bai Xiaosheng.

Clearly, his fondness for Bai Xiaosheng was growing.

Worth it!

Bai Xiaosheng noticed this and was delighted in his heart.

This was an emotional investment. Once he eventually revealed his identity, as a magnanimous boss respecting the talented, this card of emotional connection might prove to be extraordinarily effective.

"Either you come sit here, or I'll put the small desk away. You choose!" Bai Xiaosheng said seriously to Luran.

"Oh, then, thank you!" With no other choice, Luran gratefully smiled, picked up his computer, and swapped places with Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

The first step was successful.

Now, it was time for the second step.

Bai Xiaosheng always felt as if he was calculating against an honest man, and he felt a bit guilty about it.

But once he poached him and offered a high salary with the best treatment, that feeling would disappear.

After Luran sat down and set up his small computer, Bai Xiaosheng casually mentioned, "Sorry, just now I accidentally glanced at your screen. There's something not quite right with the third line of your code. If you adjust the conditional statements a bit, it'll be better. Of course, it's just a suggestion."

Luran was startled, his eyes widening as he eagerly looked over.

For someone like him, nothing was more attractive than those strings of characters.

"It really is!"

After carefully reviewing it several times, Luran couldn't help but say.

Bai Xiaosheng subtly smiled.

Although Luran was a high-level tech talent, he was still a bit off compared to Red Lotus in finding problems in the code; after all, Red Lotus was a program and could simulate operations to quickly identify any issues!

"So how do you think it should be improved?" Luran couldn't help but ask.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled faintly; Red Lotus had already prepared the answer for him.

Bai Xiaosheng read it out directly, not necessarily understanding it himself.

Luran almost stuck his face to the computer, hurriedly typing in what Bai Xiaosheng told him to confirm it.

In the end, his face showed an expression of disbelief, and the way he looked at Bai Xiaosheng had changed.

"Amazing, incredibly amazing!" Luran's gaze was fervent.

Bai Xiaosheng's second step had been successful.

To be precise, he had even begun the third step.

Just a moment ago, Bai Xiaosheng had Red Lotus find out how to gain the trust of a technical talent for him.

Such talents usually have a straightforward mind and are fixated on a single thought. The usual "carrots and sticks" tactics might not be effective on them, especially when meeting for the first time.

Thus, Red Lotus gave him a set of methods—

The first step was to give the other person full respect, even if it was just planting a seed of respect.

The second step was to find common ground on matters that the other person cared about the most.

The third step was to let the other person see your strength and thus develop a sense of admiration.

...

Bai Xiaosheng did just that.

"Well, take a look at these and tell me what you think... Oh, sorry, I can't show you everything, as this involves business secrets," Luran apologized.

Despite his obsession, he knew there was a line.

As he spoke, he glanced at Jiang Lu, who seemed annoyed by their conversation, pressed her earphones, fumbled with her mobile phone, and played music.

Luran sighed with relief and gestured for Bai Xiaosheng to look at a part.

"Let me take a look, and I'll just say whatever comes to mind. If there's anything incorrect, please forgive me," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

"Good, good, we're just exchanging ideas, go ahead," Luran urged impatiently.

The follow-up exchange between Bai Xiaosheng and him lasted for twenty minutes, during which Luran sometimes gladly accepted Bai Xiaosheng's suggestions and other times disagreed.

But facts spoke louder than words.

After trying, Luran found that Bai Xiaosheng's adjustments were indeed better than his own, and what was even more incredible was that they not only echoed each other locally but were also remarkably harmonious overall.

"It's unbelievable, you just glanced at it, and you, you... You're like a human-shaped computer!" Luran exclaimed in excitement, almost worshipping Bai Xiaosheng.

"You flatter me, I just know a little. Compared to innovative talents like you, I lack your creativity," Bai Xiaosheng said modestly, while starting to fish for information, "With your capabilities, shouldn't you come up with two patents a month?"

Receiving praise from such a formidable figure made Luran feel both elated and proud.

"Nowadays, the media industry is developing rapidly. Sometimes I can come up with two new gadgets in a week, although they're all very small!" Luran boasted modestly yet somewhat embarrassed.

He then expressed some regret, "Sadly, many can only be shelved; the boss doesn't plan to invest. I won't lie to you, I have too many reserves here, too many minor patents; the storage is almost bursting."

That admission from Luran nearly made Bai Xiaosheng cry out.

My God, this isn't just talent; this is a walking patent vault!

Which company, which idiot boss, doesn't want to invest?

I do!

Bai Xiaosheng looked at Luran, his eyes nearly glowing.

This person, I must poach at any cost!

Even if it means using Mayor Ji Mingyang, I must bring him to Zhongjing Media!

Bai Xiaosheng made up his mind.

"Oh, please, have a seat!" Luran suddenly remembered something and hurriedly stood up, offering his seat to Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng, of course, was reluctant to do so.

A massive mobile patent warehouse – what's a mere seat in comparison?

However, Luran insisted that Bai Xiaosheng take the seat.

"You've helped me solve my technical problems, and this environment isn't right for further development!" Luran said with a smile, "Besides, technically speaking, you're better than me! You're so modest, so polite, I really feel uneasy sitting here. If you think highly of me, let's be friends, you sit!"

Luran wouldn't take no for an answer, so Bai Xiaosheng had to sit down and watch him pack away his laptop, watch him smile at him with genuine kindness.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled back and continued to chat idly, digging for more information bit by bit.

"Keep your voice down, and mind your manners," Jiang Lu suddenly mumbled, shooting a cold glance at Luran before continuing to doze off in her seat.

Luran gave an embarrassed smile.

"Why do you put up with her?" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but ask in a faint voice.

"When I chased after her, she didn't reject me," Luran chuckled, but then grimaced, "Still, she didn't accept either. She said I needed to become a technical director before I'd be eligible to chase her. Unfortunately, I never made it."

Just a technical director?

I'll provide!

Bai Xiaosheng nearly blurted out.

A director at Zhongjing Media can be as good as the boss of a small company!

With the prestige that it holds, I bet if Jiang Lu knew, she'd throw herself at him.

"If a better company were to headhunt you, would you go?" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but ask.

"A better company?" Luran thought for a moment, "No, I wouldn't."

Chapter 516: Talent Has An Owner, I Go To Loosen The Soil_1

Bai Xiaosheng was intent on headhunting, but when he tentatively asked, he didn't expect Luran to decisively refuse.

"You're not willing?" Bai Xiaosheng was surprised, then he also laughed.

Just now, he had been too excited and blurted out his proposal abruptly.

He hadn't even identified himself, how would anyone know what company it was, whether it was good or not, and why would they be willing.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at Jiang Lu, who had been wearing headphones and a hood over her head the whole time, hunkered down in her seat, not knowing whether she had heard or not.

"I was just casually chatting with you..." Bai Xiaosheng chuckled, "Can you tell me, if there really were a better place, why wouldn't you go?"

"I'm doing just fine here, why would I want to switch?" Luran, on the other hand, looked bewildered as he gazed at Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng was speechless for a moment.

Why change jobs?

Isn't it all about better salary, more dignity? Aren't these things everyone strives for, why so many questions?

Luran's character was indeed a bit odd and straightforward, quite the rare breed.

"I see you're accompanied by an assistant when you're out, you must be very valued by your boss in your company," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, fishing for information.

"Yeah! My boss, he pays me more than eight thousand a month, considering various commissions, I can take home nine thousand, which is several hundred more than others! He gave me the keys to the office, I can go and work any time I want, outside of office hours! Plus, he's stocked up a lot of delicious food in the company fridge, of course, everyone can eat it. Besides, he often has Jiang Lu come to help me."

As Luran spoke, his face radiated satisfaction.

Are these the reasons he doesn't want to leave?

Bai Xiaosheng was dumbfounded by the whole account.

Just... these reasons?

Just these had bound a "walking patent library"!

My goodness!

Bai Xiaosheng really wanted to earnestly tell Luran, I'll pay you triple your salary, give you a private office of a hundred square meters, provide you with ten R&D staff, and even two female assistants for your personal needs if you'll come to Zhongjing Media!

Of course, in the end, he held back and did not say this.

After all, imagine, on the way back to the company after a business trip, if someone came up to you and said, "Young man, I'm the general manager of a big company, I see that you are exceptional, uniquely talented, really impressive, I'm hiring you, offering a high salary, a luxury car, beautiful women, would you come..."

Most likely, one would be regarded as either a swindler or a lunatic!

Bai Xiaosheng didn't want to ruin the first impression he'd made with such an excellent employee.

Moreover, high-tech employees like Luran often have some quirks and a strong sense of self-esteem.

Throwing terms directly at them would seem very disrespectful!

What if it backfired when his stubborn side kicked in?

Clearly, Luran didn't pursue money that eagerly.

"Otherwise, I might as well go to their company and talk to his boss!" Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself, "For a company in Zhongjing, wouldn't Zhongjing Media be able to make a satisfactory offer to poach such a talent?"

And, it would be best if his boss could help persuade him at that time, to prevent any resistance from Luran.

Bai Xiaosheng mused internally.

"So your benefits are that good, which company do you work for?" Bai Xiaosheng continued to probe.

"Ziyu New Science and Technology," Luran answered truthfully.

"Ziyu New Science and Technology?!" Bai Xiaosheng's eyes suddenly lit up.

Not for any other reason, but Ziyu New Science and Technology was one of the ten data and R&D companies Ji Mingyang had talked about, although they ranked last in terms of strength.

But he had never expected they could have hidden such a gem!

"Oh, you know about our company?" Seeing Bai Xiaosheng's expression, Luran suddenly asked with curiosity.

"Of course! I'm even friends with your boss, talk about coincidence! This time, I'll go with you to see him, to catch up," Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

Although he was just the chairman of the Zhongjing Media Industry Alliance, he had close ties with twelve corporations and ten data and scientific research institutions.

Poaching someone shouldn't be a problem, right?

Let's set some conditions and have a good talk...

Of course, if you really don't agree...

it's not up to them!

Bai Xiaosheng looked at Luran as if he were a treasure and decided to spare no expense to dig him out.

"You and our boss... are friends!" Luran's face was a picture of shock, "What a coincidence!"

Bai Xiaosheng spoke with such conviction that he almost believed him.

"Luran, you fool!"

Suddenly, someone next to them snorted coldly.

Jiang Lu, who had been silent all this time, sat up, her face steely as she pulled down her hood and took off her headphones. She hadn't been listening to music or sleeping at all.

She had overheard most of their conversation and couldn't stand it anymore.

She looked at Luran with a pitiful gaze.

This foolish simpleton, the boss said he was a technology genius, but she just felt he was a big idiot.

She could no longer listen and turned her cold eyes to Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng had ignored her earlier, which had irked her, and now she was waiting for an opportunity to get back at him!

"You say you're friends with our boss; where's the proof! And you want to go back with us? How do I know you're not a swindler!" Jiang Lu said with a cold laugh.

"Once I meet with your boss, you'll know whether I'm a swindler or not," Bai Xiaosheng said calmly with a smile, "Your boss's name is Jiang Xinhe, right?"

Of course, Bai Xiaosheng remembered the names of those ten company bosses.

"Yes, yes, you really are a friend of our boss," Luran laughed.

Jiang Lu snorted coldly.

"So what if you can name our boss! Our Ziyu New Science and Technology is very famous in Zhongjing, and we were even selected by the municipal government as one of the top ten in technology research and development," Jiang Lu said, looking at Bai Xiaosheng with pride and a hint of disdain, "You may not be a swindler, but maybe you're in sales! Your endless probing with Luran didn't escape me. You're trying to use this as a chance to meet our boss and then pitch your sales!"

Me, seizing the chance, selling.

Bai Xiaosheng was stupefied and couldn't help but be amused.

If Lin Weiwei and the others knew about this, they'd die laughing.

"See, I guessed right," Jiang Lu said with a sneer as she saw the expression on Bai Xiaosheng's face.

"You're in sales? No way!" Luran looked at Bai Xiaosheng incredulously.

"If a salesman can understand such intricate programming, may I ask Miss Jiang: who could afford to hire me!" Bai Xiaosheng stated unhurriedly and with emphasis.

"Right, right, Jiang Lu, didn't you see? His coding is amazing; he can even give me pointers," Luran earnestly said.

Really? Jiang Lu frowned.

With that said, she was not so sure anymore.

"As I said, everything will naturally become clear when we meet. At most if I really am a salesman, then when the time comes, you can just have security throw me out," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

Well, when he puts it that way, it makes sense.

Luran nodded repeatedly, and Jiang Lu had nothing to say. She glared fiercely at Bai Xiaosheng, then returned to her original position, gazing out of the window.

This girl was either choked by Bai Xiaosheng's replies or left speechless, never getting the upper hand.

Then, the announcement came over the loudspeaker.

Zhongjing, we have arrived.

"Come with us!" Luran said.

There was a touch of eagerness in his eyes; Bai Xiaosheng was a technical expert, and Luran felt a sense of kinship.

Heading back to the company, they could discuss a few issues together! Luran was thrilled.

"Of course!" Bai Xiaosheng laughed; he was also eager.

To go and poach in front of their boss himself!

Chapter 517 Ride-hailing Maybach_1

From stepping off the high-speed train to exiting the station and then standing by the roadside...

Jiang Lu kept a stern face and didn't give Bai Xiaosheng a warm welcome, but she also stopped finding faults with him.

She discovered that although this guy seemed gentle and polite, he was actually a master at arguing—calm and unruffled, able to leave others speechless without using a single foul word.

On the high-speed train, she had learned her lesson well, so naturally, she wasn't going to ask for trouble.

Luran flashed Bai Xiaosheng an apologetic smile.

Even someone as slow as he could feel somewhat embarrassed by Jiang Lu's attitude.

But Bai Xiaosheng couldn't care less.

Jiang Lu tried hailing several taxis, but they were all occupied, which left her a bit irritated. "You two grown men, how can you just stand there staring blankly? Don't you feel ashamed at all?"

"I'll do it, I'll do it! Jiang Lu, take a break," Luran hurriedly said.

Jiang Lu huffed and walked aside.

Bai Xiaosheng shook his head in disapproval.

It seemed that Ziyu New Science and Technology didn't really treasure Luran, not bothering to send a car to pick him up. And the assistant they paired him with, she wasn't an assistant at all—she was more like a tyrant.

No, I can't let such a talented person suffer; I must poach him and offer him better treatment!

At that moment, Bai Xiaosheng felt fully justified in his intentions.

The guilt he had previously felt about ruthlessly headhunting dissolved into nothing.

Luran attempted to hail a taxi several times, but to no avail.

At this hour, taxis were all full—just our luck.

"How about I call a ride-hailing service? It might be more convenient," Bai Xiaosheng suggested with a smile, fiddling with his phone since earlier.

"Ride-hailing service? Isn't that just an unlicensed cab? Pfft!" Jiang Lu said with disdain, "You take unlicensed cabs often, and you say you're our boss's friend? I'm very doubtful!"

"What's wrong with ride-hailing? Plenty of rich people use them for fun. Call a few ride-hailing cars, and who knows—you might even snag a wealthy husband," Bai Xiaosheng replied, still smiling.

"You must be dreaming," Jiang Lu scoffed, "You people who ride unlicensed taxis all the time, how often do you see a luxury car? Let me tell you, if you can get a luxury car through a ride-hailing service, I..."

Jiang Lu hadn't finished speaking when she heard the sound of brakes next to her. She turned her head to look, and her eyes nearly popped out.

A black Maybach S-Class worth two million smoothly pulled up alongside her.

Is it here already? That was fast. Can't be real, right?

Jiang Lu was a little slack-jawed and incredulous.

"I've been calling for a car since we got off the high-speed train, impressed?" Bai Xiaosheng said as he smiled broadly, continuing to play with his phone.

It's not even your car, what are you showing off for?

Jiang Lu gave Bai Xiaosheng a disdainful look and pursed her lips.

The car window rolled down, and a tall, thin man looked out at them.

"Who called for the car? I'm here!"

A real luxury car had arrived, and it was a Maybach.

Jiang Lu was still somewhat disbelieving, her beautiful eyes almost bulging.

"The car's here, let's go," Bai Xiaosheng said with a grin, heading to the passenger seat.

"Hey, you, get in the back!" Jiang Lu brooked no argument, pushing Bai Xiaosheng aside and hurriedly opening the door to sit in the passenger seat.

A Maybach S-Class, wow!

Jiang Lu looked greedily at the car's interior.

Sitting in the front, she could enjoy and experience the luxury car to the fullest. Plus, when she returned to the office, she could impress everyone with the figure of Jiang Lu stepping out of a luxury car—it would be a shock to them all!

Jiang Lu couldn't help but daydream, feeling ecstatic.

You have to understand, even their boss's car wasn't nearly as high-end.

"Riding in your car isn't going to cost us a lot, right, handsome?" Jiang Lu suddenly thought of something and quickly asked, her eyes sparkling and sending flirtatious glances at the young man driving.

"No, just pay whatever you like; any amount is fine," the driver replied with a gentle smile.

So generous!

Right, would a man driving a Maybach be short on cash?

They probably just do it for fun!

Jiang Lu couldn't help but size up the driver surreptitiously.

He was in his thirties, quite young, but to be able to drive a Maybach at such a young age and have the leisure to play at being a rideshare driver, he must come from a wealthy family!

"Handsome, hello, my name is Jiang Lu. What should I call you?" Jiang Lu's voice was sweet and sticky.

"Oh, suddenly it's so cold." A teasing voice came from the back seat.

The speaker, of course, was Bai Xiaosheng.

Luran had also gotten into the car and was curiously examining the luxury car's interior.

"Hey, listen here, if you don't speak up, no one will think you're mute!" Jiang Lu snorted coldly and turned around to glare fiercely at Bai Xiaosheng, "Look at yourself, and then look at this handsome guy. He's only a few years older than you and he's driving a Maybach! Have you ever ridden in one? If not, then shut your mouth!"

After scolding Bai Xiaosheng, Jiang Lu turned back to the driver, her voice warm and gentle, "Sorry about that, this guy is not worldly. So, handsome, what should I call you?"

"My surname is Feng," the driver replied, glancing at the rearview mirror.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled faintly, shaking his head almost imperceptibly.

How could he possibly have really ordered a ride-share? In fact, on the high-speed train, as soon as Bai Xiaosheng guessed that they were about to arrive, he had already sent a message to Feng to pick him up.

Feng had been nearby the whole time.

When Feng received the message from Bai Xiaosheng, he also felt quite bemused.

Mr. Bai told him to pretend to be a rideshare driver, what was he hinting at?

However, since the boss had made arrangements, Feng naturally followed them.

Right now, pretending not to know each other and with a man and a woman joining, this woman was somewhat attractive. Was Mr. Bai planning to play a game of prince and Cinderella with her?

Feng thought to himself.

But, this woman chattered non-stop all the way, showing boundless enthusiasm toward him, and no matter what he said, she would laugh till she was trembling like a flower branch!

Feng was starting to feel a little uncomfortable!

If Mr. Bai's woman took a liking to himself, that would really escalate the joke!

Every time this woman complimented him, she always managed to slip in a subtle jab at Bai Xiaosheng. Feng responded vaguely, with a forced smile, honestly wanting to slap her.

You really are blind!

Mr. Bai has such an exceptional presence and aura, and you didn't even notice him, talking nonsense with me!

Oh, it's because I'm driving a luxury car...

This car belongs to Mr. Bai!

Feng was genuinely on edge driving this entire way.

Bai Xiaosheng ignored Jiang Lu completely but was happily chatting with Luran.

Luran, while talking, noticed Jiang Lu's boundless enthusiasm for the driving man and couldn't hide the dim look on his face.

After all, he had once been fond of Jiang Lu, even pursued her, and was almost successful. If he had become the director, maybe it really could have happened.

Luran felt somewhat discouraged.

But in the end, the boss said he lacked management skills and was better suited for a technical position where he could play to his strengths, casually promoting his own son instead. Luran had no objections to this, as he himself disliked managing people and preferred coding and development.

But still, to be ignored by Jiang Lu wounded his male pride.

Luran was somewhat distracted.

Bai Xiaosheng also noticed and couldn't help but think, "Luran, if only you would come to Zhongjing Media, I would make you the director with a monthly salary of thirty thousand and have you coming and going in luxury cars! You've lost face in front of one woman, I'll help you regain it in front of a hundred!"

Of course, Bai Xiaosheng would not say these things out loud.

He just glanced at Jiang Lu indifferently.

This woman was quite materialistic and also couldn't recognize a real gem!

"Oh, we're here, that's our company up front!" Jiang Lu excitedly pointed ahead, and then with a sweet smile said to Feng, "Handsome, would you like to come to my company for a cup of coffee?"

Feng didn't respond.

Inside, he cursed furiously: You fool, you've been badmouthing Mr. Bai the whole way and now you're asking me to go have coffee with you?

I'd rather have tea with your uncle!

Chapter 518 Jiang Shao, Jiang Feifan_1

An innovative technology company—Ziyu New Science and Technology—had its office located in an apartment-style office building.

In this area, this place was barely presentable, somewhat famous.

However, Feng merely glanced at it indifferently, showing no interest whatsoever.

His company, Zhongjing Media, was housed in a landmark building of Zhongjing; compared to that, this place paled into insignificance a hundred times over.

Jiang Lu had extended her invitations repeatedly.

Feng merely offered an indifferent smile in return and responded, "No thanks, I have other things to do," decisively turning her down.

Jiang Lu couldn't help feeling deeply disappointed.

"You two go ahead. I have some change; I'll pay," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile to her and Luran.

"Your money might just be enough to cover the cab fare," Jiang Lu muttered as she got out of the car.

Although Bai Xiaosheng claimed to be a friend of her boss, she still didn't believe it. Even if he was a friend, it was probably a superficial relationship. Hadn't she seen how adroitly Mr. Bai hailed a black taxi? How could someone like that be esteemed by her boss?

"This doesn't seem right," Luran said, attempting to pay.

"Really, it's not necessary. I told you, I have change," Bai Xiaosheng insisted with a smile, pushing him out the door.

Seeing that only Bai Xiaosheng and himself were left in the car, Feng lowered his voice to a whisper that only the two of them could hear, complaining, "Mr. Bai, what on earth are you playing at? If you don't explain clearly, how can I coordinate with you?"

By now, Feng was convinced that Bai Xiaosheng definitely wasn't interested in that woman named Jiang Lu.

The reason was simple: she was materialistic, realistic, cunning but not smart enough. Compared to Assistant Lin and the others, she didn't even deserve to carry their shoes!

Feng didn't believe that Mr. Bai's taste could be that poor.

Moreover, throughout the journey, Mr. Bai hardly exchanged a word with the woman.

If he wasn't chasing after the woman, why keep his identity hidden? Feng was puzzled.

But then again, it wasn't his place to worry about the boss's business.

He had that much sense, at least.

"Wait for me nearby. I'll call you after I finish up here," Bai Xiaosheng instructed.

If all went well, it shouldn't take too long.

"Sure," Feng agreed immediately.

Only then did Bai Xiaosheng get out of the car and stand with Luran and Jiang Lu, watching the Maybach drive away.

"Darn it, my Maybach... Exchanging a business card and maybe meeting up for coffee next time would've been nice. Why doesn't he pay me any mind? Is it that I'm not good enough, or are his standards too high?" Jiang Lu couldn't help muttering to herself and even touched her own face, "I don't look too bad, right?"

Bai Xiaosheng, standing nearby, couldn't hold back any longer and rolled his eyes.

Luran chuckled awkwardly, trying to ease the tension, and asked Bai Xiaosheng, "How much did you give him? It wasn't little, was it?"

"No more expensive than a taxi," Bai Xiaosheng replied with a smile.

"Of course. He's driving a ride-share as a hobby, not for the money," Jiang Lu snorted dismissively.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't be bothered with her.

"Let's go, take me to see your boss," Bai Xiaosheng said to Luran.

"Okay," Luran nodded, leading the way with Bai Xiaosheng following.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng ignoring her, Jiang Lu huffed angrily, stamped her foot, and had no choice but to follow.

The three of them took the elevator up together.

"Bai Xiaosheng, have you never been to our company before?" Luran suddenly asked inside the elevator.

Bai Xiaosheng seemed very unfamiliar with everything here.

"Mm, I've never been here," Bai Xiaosheng acknowledged freely.

"You've never even been to our company, yet you have the audacity to claim you're a friend of the boss?" Jiang Lu scoffed, "I think I should give the security guards a heads-up!"

Bai Xiaosheng heard this, smiled, and paid no attention.

"It's okay if you've never been here. Our company occupies the entire eleventh floor! You couldn't possibly get lost in there. But let me tell you, when I first arrived, I often went into the wrong offices," Luran said with a chuckle, seemingly amused.

"That's because you're clumsy, can't even find the right office," Jiang Lu sneered, glancing at Bai Xiaosheng, "The place is really big over here, you might not be used to it. If you don't know your way, remember to ask. Don't go wandering around, okay? If anything happens, don't drag us into your mess!"

Jiang Lu mocked Bai Xiaosheng with a mix of cold derision and sarcastic fervor.

The more he ignored her, the more she refused to accept it, determined to provoke him.

"Don't worry, your company isn't the Inner Palace. It's not like someone could get lost," Bai Xiaosheng said calmly.

He had never lost his way in the Zhongjing Media Tower, with its many floors and departments; an entire floor was nothing in comparison.

This woman constantly boasted about herself while belittling others.

Summer insects cannot discuss ice.

Bai Xiaosheng shook his head inwardly.

With a ding, the elevator arrived.

The three of them got out of the elevator, about to head to the office area.

From behind them came a leisurely voice, with a hint of laziness, "Oh, you're back."

The three of them turned around.

Bai Xiaosheng saw a man who appeared even younger than himself, frowning as he approached, a cigarette wedged between his fingers. His face showed signs of lethargy, with heavy dark circles under his eyes, and his hair seemed a bit greasy.

Clearly, he was suffering from the aftereffects of an all-night gaming session.

Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

He had been there during his student days and knew exactly what post-gaming overnights looked like.

"Director Jiang?" Jiang Lu's eyes suddenly lit up, and she greeted him with a beaming smile.

"Director Jiang." Luran nodded in greeting as well.

Only Bai Xiaosheng was curiously sizing up the guy. Being so nonchalant in the company yet still a director, combined with the information he had pried from Luran earlier,

the person before him must be Jiang Feifan, the son of the owner of Ziyu New Science and Technology!

Even from this name, it was clear that his parents had great expectations for him.

For someone to become a director immediately after joining the workplace, especially in charge of Luran's department, he should have looked the part.

But upon meeting him, Bai Xiaosheng secretly shook his head.

He was the epitome of a decadent and sloppy second-generation heir!

These family-controlled enterprises truly declined with each passing generation.

As Bai Xiaosheng reflected, he thought of his own journey of inheritance. He had to admit that the elder at Zhenbei Group was a very wise man who had chosen this mode of cultivation.

Bai Xiaosheng seemed to understand a bit.

"Director Jiang, is Mr. Jiang in?" Jiang Lu asked softly.

"My dad? No, he's not here. He went to Zhongjing Media, apparently to request a meeting with that general manager," Jiang Feifan's gaze fell on Jiang Lu, his eyes lingering greedily on her protruding chest.

Although Jiang Lu's surname was Jiang, she had no blood relation to his family. They were merely distant fellow villagers, connected by a convoluted series of relationships.

To this, Jiang Lu responded with a coy smile, accentuating her figure even more.

"Mr. Jiang isn't here, then? Well, give him a call," Bai Xiaosheng told Luran.

If the person wasn't there, this matter still needed to be dealt with.

Luran nodded and took out his phone.

"Hold on, you want to call my dad?" Jiang Feifan stopped Luran, squinting as he scrutinized Bai Xiaosheng from top to bottom, his voice cold and puzzled, "And who are you?!"

Chapter 519: If You Can't Behave Properly, Let Me Teach You_1

"His name is Bai Xiaosheng, he claims to be Mr. Jiang's friend," Jiang Lu glanced at Bai Xiaosheng and said to Jiang Feifan, "We met him in the car on our way back."

"My dad's friend?" Jiang Feifan snorted coldly, his eyes narrowed as he scrutinized Bai Xiaosheng from head to toe.

Bai Xiaosheng wore a slight smile, responding calmly, "Indeed."

If Jiang Xinhe had known it was Bai Xiaosheng calling himself a friend, he would have been surprised and flattered.

After all, this man was the first president of the Zhongjing Media Industry Alliance, the darling of the mayor, and also a mover and shaker in Zhongjing who could topple the Yin Family and Zhang Family with a flick of his fingers!

A true big shot!

Unfortunately, Jiang Feifan didn't know this.

"He does have some presence, but he doesn't mince words. What do you do? I haven't heard my dad mention you, such a character!" Jiang Feifan frowned, drew on his cigarette, and blew the smoke rudely towards Bai Xiaosheng.

This was an extremely impolite act. It also showed that Jiang Feifan simply didn't believe what Bai Xiaosheng had said.

Jiang Lu's words had carried a tone of disbelief.

Jiang Feifan was just as skeptical!

A young man about his own age claiming to be his father's friend?

If he really were of his father's stature, wouldn't he move with assistants and a retinue?

And the younger they are, the grander their entourage, even Jiang Feifan himself was no exception.

This is what they call status!

The man before him who had arrived alone, and whom they met by chance on the car, also dared to claim to be his father's friend? He might have just seen him once somewhere and had the audacity to show up at their door.

Aren't all those salespeople like that?

Jiang Feifan was very disdainful.

Bai Xiaosheng waved away the smoke with his hand, still smiling, though his smile grew colder.

The other's attitude was truly offensive!

"Perhaps your dad hasn't introduced me to you, and that's fine. At the very least, he should have taught you one thing—," Bai Xiaosheng said with a slight smile.

"What's that?" Jiang Feifan huffed.

"To respect others! And also, not to look down on people," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

"You're insulting me!" Jiang Feifan snarled, flinging his cigarette butt in anger.

Bai Xiaosheng remained silent with a smile.

As if to say, so what if I insult you?

Jiang Lu stared at Bai Xiaosheng in shock. She had never imagined that this man, on his first visit, would dare insult Jiang Feifan.

And who was Jiang Feifan? He was the boss's son!

If Bai Xiaosheng called him a dog, what did that make Jiang Xinhe?

It didn't matter that Bai Xiaosheng might not actually be Jiang Xinhe's friend; even if he were, such an insult was too much!

She hoped this incident wouldn't implicate them, after all, they were the ones who had brought him here...

Jiang Lu couldn't help but swallow nervously, feeling uneasy.

Although she shared the Jiang surname, she had virtually no connection with the Jiang Family; whatever hometown ties they had meant nothing.

For the sake of better prospects, Jiang Lu had even considered seducing Jiang Feifan. Unfortunately, he was currently involved with an up-and-coming model and didn't give her a second glance.

"You've crossed the line, you cur, daring to insult me on my turf! I see you're courting death!" Jiang Feifan's face twisted into a snarl as he charged towards Bai Xiaosheng.

Jiang Feifan's passions, aside from chasing women, included working out, and of course, the latter was in service of the former, along with practicing boxing and Sanda.

Not long ago, he had sent someone to the hospital.

Of course, it was settled with a sum of money, which he didn't care about, and the other party, looking at the cash, swallowed the insult.

That only made Jiang Feifan more unbridled.

Right now, he was about to teach this self-presenting punching bag a good lesson. He believed that once his father found out that this man had come to insult them, he certainly wouldn't care.

Bai Xiaosheng watched with cold eyes, and he was not at all afraid of this seemingly robust guy.

The atmosphere suddenly grew tense, on the verge of erupting.

At the side, Luran panicked all of a sudden and hastily intercepted Jiang Feifan, urgently saying, "Mr. Jiang, please, don't be impulsive, Bai Xiaosheng... he didn't mean that..."

"He cursed at me, what do you mean he didn't mean that?!" Jiang Feifan glared at Luran, barked out, "Luran, you fool, whose side are you on? Make it clear who you work for, who provides your livelihood! A disloyal scum, get lost from my sight!"

With a slap, Jiang Feifan pushed Luran into a stagger, just enough to step on Jiang Lu's foot, who let out a cry of pain and angrily pushed with both hands.

Caught off guard, Luran lurched forward several steps, and with a loud "thud," his forehead hit the nearby wall, instantly bruising.

Luran wobbled on his feet, nearly falling over.

"Damn, serves you right!" Jiang Feifan spat.

His old man might indulge this Luran surname, but he certainly didn't!

Jiang Lu watched as the bruise swelled on Luran's forehead, feeling somewhat uneasy, thinking about going to check on him, but then she heard Jiang Feifan scold.

She hesitated at once.

Luran, seeing Jiang Lu's move, shook his head and forced a smile, "I'm fine, I'm really fine! Mr. Jiang, Bai Xiaosheng, he didn't mean it, you—you..."

A wave of dizziness overtook him, and just as Luran was about to fall over, someone grabbed and steadied him.

Bai Xiaosheng, holding on to the guy's arm, couldn't help but shake his head.

This guy, despite being in such a state, was still trying to make excuses for him.

He must think of himself as a friend.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at the bruise on Luran's forehead and his expression turned very ugly!

If the guy had been knocked silly, he would not let it go!

"Kid, I'm going to give you a lesson in humanity today without a beating so you'll understand! There are some people you just can't afford to provoke!" Jiang Feifan said, murderous, clutching his fists, and pounced.

Bai Xiaosheng turned towards him, his eyes, cold and utterly merciless!

Ziyu New Science and Technology, office area.

Some employees were immersed in their work when suddenly they heard a series of screams that were terrifying.

"What's that sound?" someone asked, listening intently.

"Such a wretched cry, like someone's lost their parents, who is it, so lacking in manners." someone else said, annoyed.

"Don't talk nonsense, it sounds to me... the noise is right here on our floor!"

"No way!"

"I think it sounds like it too!"

While they were discussing, someone rushed in, their face a picture of fright, "Mr. Jiang, in the corridor, he's getting beaten up!"

With that single sentence, everyone in the room was dumbstruck and incredulously looked at the person who had delivered the news.

Mr. Jiang, Jiang Feifan being beaten up in the corridor?

This was their own company!

Who was so bold as to come here and attack him...

"Quick, let's go see!" someone couldn't help but say.

The rest got to their feet.

These people felt neither outrage nor anger, and although each of them was repressing their emotions, a hint of glee was clearly visible in the depths of their eyes.

Seeing Jiang Feifan in such a state was somehow satisfying...

In the corridor.

Jiang Lu's eyes widened in horror, and Luran was dumbstruck as well.

Bai Xiaosheng was there, beating Jiang Feifan leisurely.

Jiang Feifan, much more robust than Bai Xiaosheng, was being beaten to the point of cowering and screaming pitifully.

It looked truly pitiful.

A crowd had gathered around.

"Stop!" Suddenly, a voice roared with furious desperation.

The crowd parted, and a middle-aged man with eyes wide with rage strode forward.

Chapter 520 Today, I'm Bullying You_1

One arrives, and a hundred fall silent.

Without asking, Bai Xiaosheng guessed who it was—Jiang Xinhe!

As for this man, Bai Xiaosheng had indeed never met him in person.

Although Bai Xiaosheng had planned the affairs of Zhongjing and was deeply involved, even discussing the enterprise and institution versions of tailored strategies with Ji Mingyang, he had not participated in talks with enterprises and institutions except for attending the Media Industry Alliance meetings.

Afterward, indeed, some enterprise and institution heads had visited him, but recently, he had been more preoccupied with preparing for the second phase of the report, and among the visitors, there had been no Jiang Xinhe.

Now, at last, he was seeing the man himself.

Bai Xiaosheng looked over.

The man approaching looked only in his forties, muscular and standing tall with a brisk stride. According to the records, Jiang Xinhe should have been in his fifties, showing that he took exceptional care of himself and was a regular at the gym.

While Bai Xiaosheng was observing Jiang Xinhe, the latter also gave him a fierce glance.

That look was filled with an overflowing rage, dark and intimidating.

In fact, today, Jiang Xinhe had specifically gone to visit Zhongjing Media General Manager Bai Xiaosheng, only to find his effort in vain.

Bai Xiaosheng's assistant Lin Weiwei told him that Mr. Bai had gone to the province with the mayor early in the morning.

Jiang Xinhe couldn't help but feel regret.

That renowned Mr. Bai, said to be incredibly young, not even thirty, had his legendary deeds thunder through Zhongjing, astonishing to all!

In charge of Zhongjing Media, he suppressed the Yin Family and Zhang Family, single-handedly facilitated the Media Industry Alliance, even the mayor favored him enormously!

All of this happened in just two or three short months, nothing short of miraculous!

Such a figure could certainly be described as a monstrous talent!

Alas, his visit was ill-timed.

Jiang Xinhe left in high spirits, only to return utterly dejected.

To his surprise, upon returning, he encountered such an outrageous scene!

Someone was hitting his son in his own company!

And these employees were even watching!

Jiang Xinhe felt a boiling rage surge, nearly murderous.

"Dad, Dad, he hit me!" Jiang Feifan finally recognized that the man before him was his father and instantly burst into loud sobs.

Such a grown man, with muscles and martial arts training, who had even hospitalized others.

Now, he was openly weeping...

The onlooking crowd murmured, but they all inwardly cursed: It serves you right!

Jiang Feifan usually acted arrogantly, and now that he had been dealt with, everyone felt a sense of satisfaction.

Only Jiang Xinhe genuinely felt a deep pain for his son.

His cherished son, whom he had at the age of thirty and rarely ever laid a hand on, was now beaten to such a state.

"Son, how are you, should we go to the hospital?!" Jiang Xinhe hurried to check on Jiang Feifan's injuries.

"Dad, I'm not going, I want this bastard to go to the hospital!" Jiang Feifan pointed at Bai Xiaosheng, his gaze fierce as he shouted loudly.

Jiang Xinhe looked at Bai Xiaosheng with a venomous glare.

"Who the hell are you to run wild here!" Jiang Xinhe said in a low tone, his voice brimming with a thunderous force.

"He's with Jiang Lu and Luran, they said he was your friend, and out of nowhere, he started attacking me!" Before Bai Xiaosheng could speak, Jiang Feifan cried out loudly.

It sounded as if Bai Xiaosheng had beaten him for no reason.

In this world, there's no such thing as unprovoked love, nor unprovoked hatred.

Who would out of the blue hit you? You must have provoked the other person!

The employees of Ziyu New Science and Technology who were watching couldn't help but secretly curl their lips.

"Oh?!" Jiang Xinhe narrowed his eyes, his gaze sharp as knives and swords.

"No, no, I don't even know him, he said he was your friend, and then, then Luran insisted on bringing him here, I have nothing to do, absolutely nothing to do with this," Jiang Lu started shouting, frantically waving her hands, anxious to clear her name and stay out of the messy situation.

What a scene!

She was truly frightened by that look in Jiang Xinhe's eyes!

Mr. Jiang dotes on his son immensely. If this were to be misunderstood, and she were to be implicated, the lightest punishment would be losing her job. But the worst-case scenario... she'd surely be skinned alive by Jiang Xinhe.

As for the consequences, Jiang Lu didn't even dare to think about them anymore.

As for what would happen to Luran, she could only look out for herself, unable to help him...

"It's not like what they said, Mr. Jiang, actually..." Luran said urgently.

He was just honest and straightforward. Could someone capable of being a System Analyst and who could develop two small patents every week be so foolish as to not know how to defend himself?

"You, shut your mouth!"

Jiang Xinhe's eyes darkened with anger as he shouted, "You are also responsible for this incident. I will dock your bonus for half a year and cut your salary by one-third for six months! Jiang Lu, the same goes for you!"

Without clarifying right from wrong, he went straight to doling out punishment.

This was Jiang Xinhe's way of administering his authority.

If you can't stand it, then leave; after all, the one thing Zhongjing doesn't lack is people! It especially doesn't lack talents!

Of course, if Luran were to actually leave, Jiang Xinhe would definitely try to retain him, because the guy was a treasure, albeit with a low EQ. To get him to stay, one would only need to play the emotional card a little, and Luran would soften up.

Upon hearing the punishment, Jiang Lu's expression turned bitter, somewhat with a look of worry and frustration.

Who had she provoked to deserve this unwarranted implication?

But she couldn't argue with Mr. Jiang, especially not to his face. That would be even more suicidal!

Jiang Lu kept her mouth shut, but Luran was still trying to speak up.

"Mr. Jiang..." Luran was about to speak, but someone patted him lightly on the shoulder.

Luran turned around in surprise and saw Bai Xiaosheng walking past him and stepping to the forefront.

"Luran, speaking more is of no use. Mr. Jiang is not targeting you. The one he wants to deal with is me," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, then suddenly asked, "Mr. Jiang, can I ask you a question?"

You want to ask me a question? What question?

Jiang Xinhe squinted his eyes, his gaze questioning.

With a smile, Bai Xiaosheng leisurely said, "As for what kind of person your precious son usually is, don't you, as a father, have the slightest idea?"

Bai Xiaosheng, with his elegant demeanor, cursed out loud.

"Or are you blind? Haven't you seen the wound on Luran's head?" Bai Xiaosheng exclaimed.

There was a sudden hush around them as the employees stared in astonishment at the large swollen area on Luran's forehead.

"The injury on Luran's head, was it caused by Young Master Jiang?"

"No way, how could he have been hit like that? That must have been a severe blow!"

"Luran is a hero at Ziyu New Science and Technology, and even he's getting hit at will..."

"Didn't Liu from the administrative department get hit yesterday too?"

"This is too much, how can they just hit people like that!"

...

The employees couldn't help whispering among themselves, albeit in very low voices. If the boss were to find out, they would definitely be in big trouble, yet they still couldn't stop discussing it.

This shows how much the Jiang Family's Young Master had offended everyone with his usual behavior.

"If it's my son who hit him, what of it! I believe, it wasn't intentional! Luran works for my company, I pay him; can't he tolerate a little grievance!" Mr. Jiang roared.

All of a sudden, the entire corridor quieted down again.

The employees looked at their boss, their eyes filled with disbelief and a hint of simmering anger.

Luran was stunned as he looked at his own boss, his eyes filled with disbelief and tinged with disappointment.

"As for you, acting lawlessly, daring to fight here, I must teach you a lesson! Whether you eat prison food or get a broken leg, choose for yourself!" Mr. Jiang spoke openly like this, brimming with arrogance.

"On what grounds?" Bai Xiaosheng asked, emotionless.

"On the grounds that the Jiang Family has wealth and people!" Jiang Feifan declared proudly.

Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

"Oh, is being wealthy that impressive, and having people means you can bully others?" Bai Xiaosheng said to the Jiang father and son, "Today, then, I will bully you!"