

Two Trillion 551

Chapter 551 Indeed There's a Problem!_1

"What did you say?" Li Feitian couldn't help but frown as he looked at Bai Xiaosheng.

Yes, he had brought a new product with data to Bai Xiaosheng for a "wager". For this, he had even called Zhou Ping to act as a witness.

However, this thing was not so simple that one could just look at it and analyze it—was a human brain supposed to be a computer?

This stack of materials was filled with data and models, extremely professional content.

Even professional actuaries might not be able to fully comprehend it in a short amount of time.

On this point, Li Feitian was actually being a bit shameless.

He even worried that Bai Xiaosheng would question the fairness and wouldn't dare to bet.

But to his surprise, Bai Xiaosheng accepted it!

This made Li Feitian very happy.

Because next, Bai Xiaosheng could have one of three reactions: understand, not understand, or talk nonsense.

If he understood, it was impossible for him to spot the problem immediately.

If he didn't understand, that meant conceding defeat, and he'd have to honor the wager, looking after Tianfu Wealth Management's business interests to some extent. As long as a purchase was made, even if it was only for one dollar, Li Feitian could heavily promote it, especially since the purchasing party was Zhongjing Media!

If Bai Xiaosheng talked nonsense, Li Feitian would expose him, mocking him in front of Zhou Ping, reclaiming the face he had lost last time.

When all was said and done, he was always going to come out ahead.

Li Feitian felt quite pleased with himself.

But unexpectedly, Bai Xiaosheng just flipped through it once and told him that he was in big trouble.

He spoke as if it were really true!

"Oh really, what's the problem then?" Li Feitian looked at Bai Xiaosheng and scoffed.

Whether there was a problem or not, he had taken a long time to make sense of it himself, and he did not think there was any major issue.

Even if there were, it was deeply hidden, not easily detected by those in the industry...

At this moment, Bai Xiaosheng, the "expert", could find the problem just by casually flipping through?

Li Feitian clearly stated his attitude: he did not believe it!

"Mr. Bai, is there really a problem with this?"

Different from Li Feitian, Zhou Ping sincerely looked at Bai Xiaosheng, humbly seeking guidance.

This product had been submitted to the province as an innovative achievement and had just passed the review a few days ago; it was even launched into the market. If there was really a major issue, it could be big or small.

If the provincial authorities discovered it and blamed them, it would be a big problem.

It might even affect Tianfu Wealth Management's application qualification!

Zhou Ping, as the son of Zhou Yifa, naturally took this matter very seriously.

Bai Xiaosheng kept a calm demeanor.

Originally, he had planned to speak up. After all, they were relatives, and he wouldn't keep it to himself if there was a big problem. Seeing Li Feitian's attitude, however, he suddenly lost the interest to explain.

However, he couldn't resist Zhou Ping's earnest inquiry.

Bai Xiaosheng sighed and, to simplify things for Zhou Ping, said, "Let me put it simply for you. This product doesn't comply with the regulatory requirements for insurance products that will come into effect in the middle of this month in Anjiang Province. The policy content has been published already and can be found online; you can take a look. Moreover, this insurance product has an unreasonable calculation of cash value, with an uneven cash value curve, which doesn't align with actuarial principles. This irrational calculation amounts to a covert breach of regulatory mandates!"

"In short, it's problematic, and in a few days, it will be illegal!"

Bai Xiaosheng had put it as simply and directly as possible.

With the help of Red Lotus, he couldn't just pinpoint the insurance product's issues but also verify its compliance with local regulations.

Unfortunately, it does not comply!

Zhou Ping still didn't understand, fully confused.

But he knew what Bai Xiaosheng meant: the product was non-compliant, and seriously so!

Zhou Ping's complexion changed.

"Don't talk nonsense!" Li Feitian's face turned cold, and he said with great displeasure, "Don't think just because you know a bit about actuarial science that you can pretend to be an expert! Do you understand our industry? In our field, it's extremely difficult to innovate! Regulations are fixed, but humans are adaptable. We haven't broken the rules; we're just playing near the edge, do you get it? And here you are, babbling nonsense!"

Bai Xiaosheng gave a faint smile, making no attempt to refute.

"Feitian Brother, there really is a violation in this!" Zhou Ping stared at Li Feitian and said earnestly.

Li Feitian's words seemed to admit something.

"Not at all! Don't listen to his nonsense. We have a handle on this!" Li Feitian said hastily.

Zhou Ping looked at his old friend expressionlessly and reached for his phone.

"This matter is of great importance; I need to report to my father."

"Ah, why bother with this? It's just a small issue. Why alarm Secretary Zhou?" Li Feitian said with a forced smile, reaching out to stop him.

"I must make this call!" Zhou Ping's voice turned cold as he looked at Li Feitian and spoke loudly.

Li Feitian's smile stiffened, and he gave a helpless smile.

"Alright, alright, make your call."

Zhou Ping dialed and answered the phone with a serious expression by his ear.

During this time, Li Feitian couldn't help but glare at Bai Xiaosheng.

All because of this meddler spouting nonsense!

Bai Xiaosheng acted as if he hadn't noticed.

"Hello, Dad, it's me!" Zhou Ping got through and walked to a corner, whispering the situation here to his father.

"Alright, alright, I got it!" A moment later, Zhou Ping came back with the phone and handed it to Li Feitian.

Li Feitian eagerly took it and said with a forced smile into the phone, "Secretary Zhou, really, this matter isn't that complicated. We were just..."

Li Feitian's words stopped abruptly, his complexion looking a bit unpleasant. Then he nodded, "Oh, okay, alright!"

Zhou Yifa on the phone wanted all the documents and data related to this product, and he told Li Feitian explicitly that these materials would be sent to his professor friend at Anjiang Province University of Economics for analysis.

Li Feitian opened his computer and sent the files over.

Then came an unbearably long wait.

During this time, Zhou Ping chatted with Bai Xiaosheng.

Seeing Li Feitian's expression, Zhou Ping knew that the product might indeed have issues as Bai Xiaosheng had said. With such complex data and models, it was incredible that Bai Xiaosheng could spot the problems at a glance.

Zhou Ping was in awe of Bai Xiaosheng.

In fact, with the assistance of Red Lotus, no matter how complex a model derived from the data, even ten times more, was a piece of cake!

As they waited, Li Feitian's expression became increasingly uneasy and anxious.

An hour later, Zhou Ping's phone rang.

Once connected, Zhou Ping turned on the speaker and set it to maximum volume as instructed.

Clearly, Zhou Yifa knew who could hear on this end, which is why he did this.

"Li Feitian, this product is non-compliant!" The first sentence that came from the phone was Zhou Yifa's stern rebuke.

"Yes, yes, we will find a solution as quickly as possible!" Li Feitian immediately responded.

Denial or making excuses in the face of Zhou Yifa's anger was certainly not a wise move!

Li Feitian was very tactful, displaying the right attitude from the get-go.

As expected, the tone on the other end of the phone softened considerably.

"The city's pressure is intense, and you are facing difficulties; I understand that. This can't all be blamed on you. There are indeed grey areas in the insurance industry, but Li, we aim to set a benchmark. We must be strict and thorough; we cannot let our guard down!" Zhou Yifa taught earnestly.

Li Feitian broke out in sweat on his forehead, repeatedly agreeing.

Zhou Yifa lectured for quite a while, then suddenly changed his tone, speaking very politely, "Mr. Bai, I thank you for spotting the issue and alerting us in time. You have done Tianqing a service. However, I would ask that you keep this matter confidential!"

Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback.

Was Zhou Yifa trying to cover up the problem?

Chapter 552 Report to Mayor Dai_1

From the moment Zhou Yifa had Zhou Ping play the call on speakerphone for him to hear, expressing strong criticism towards Li Feitian, Bai Xiaosheng sensed the underlying implication.

Indeed, Zhou Yifa was both angry and reproachful, but quickly requested Bai Xiaosheng to keep things confidential.

It seemed that the whole speech was intended for Bai Xiaosheng's ears.

"The Secretary to the Mayor surely has a hard time!" Bai Xiaosheng lamented inwardly.

The situation was indeed quite convoluted.

"Mr. Bai, our Tianqing has always had friendly ties with your Zhongjing. Our Mayor Dai and your Mayor Ji are also old friends of many years, and our relationship is familiar. You and Mr. Li are relatives, adding another layer to our close connection. Tianfu Wealth Management operates in the insurance sector, while Zhongjing Media is in the media industry; we aren't competitors. Now, with this incident occurring, although there are violations, they are...understandable and haven't led to any severe consequences; there's still time for remedy! I hope you can understand and sympathize with our difficulties. Please don't disclose this matter. Personally, and on behalf of Tianqing, I thank you!"

Zhou Yifa's words were emotionally charged and logically sound.

Before this, he had gathered from a phone call with Zhou Ping that only three people knew about the incident: Bai Xiaosheng, Li Feitian, and Zhou Ping. If Bai Xiaosheng kept it to himself, the situation could likely be smoothed over. Sealing Bai Xiaosheng's lips was just one measure; Zhou Yifa had also asked a professor friend to keep the matter confidential and requested a prompt remedy.

The aim was to rectify any oversight before it was discovered, to mitigate any issues in advance so that, even if the province demanded accountability later on, it wouldn't affect the application for benchmark enterprise status.

Zhou Yifa made the best call for the situation's development in the shortest time possible.

He hadn't even had time to report to Dai Mingcheng before taking immediate action to solve the problem.

This level of efficiency made him worthy of being Tianqing's top secretary, and even Bai Xiaosheng felt a bit of admiration.

However, the situation must be more serious than imagined!

Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

Otherwise, Secretary Zhou wouldn't be acting like this!

Li Feitian and Zhou Ping anxiously looked at Bai Xiaosheng.

After a moment of contemplation, Bai Xiaosheng finally nodded, "Okay, I can keep it confidential."

This assurance from Bai Xiaosheng relieved Li Feitian and Zhou Ping immensely.

"Please wait a moment; I'm going to find a few reliable actuaries to study remedial measures," said Li Feitian, unable to sit still any longer. He hurried off with a nod from Zhou Ping.

Watching Li Feitian leave, Bai Xiaosheng continued, "Secretary Zhou, before coming to Tianqing, Mayor Dai visited Zhongjing and sought me out for a chat. Our meeting was brief, but I managed to grasp a sense of his character. You haven't reported this matter yet, have you?"

If Zhou Yifa had reported it, Bai Xiaosheng was certain that the caller would have been Dai Mingcheng himself.

"You... You know Mayor Dai!" exclaimed Zhou Yifa over the phone, completely shocked, even changing how he addressed Bai Xiaosheng.

Zhou Ping looked at Bai Xiaosheng in disbelief.

Bai Xiaosheng mentioned it casually, but he was talking about Mayor Dai visiting Zhongjing specifically to talk to him!

This revelation fuelled countless speculations in the minds of Zhou Yifa and his son.

"You should report this incident as soon as possible," Bai Xiaosheng said firmly.

"Yes, yes, I'll do it right away!" responded Zhou Yifa hurriedly, "Thank you, Mr. Bai!"

With that, the call ended.

Zhou Ping put away his phone, looking at Bai Xiaosheng with reverence.

Previously, Bai Xiaosheng was indeed influential, but his influence was contained within Zhongjing; it didn't extend to Tianqing. But knowing that he was acquainted with Mayor Dai made a big difference.

Bai Xiaosheng checked the time.

The morning had passed with the inspection at Tianfu Wealth Management and the ensuing issues, and before he knew it, noon was approaching.

After lunch, they were scheduled to return to Zhongjing.

"It's getting late; I should be going. We have to head back to Zhongjing this afternoon," Bai Xiaosheng told Zhou Ping.

"Let me escort you!" Zhou Ping quickly offered.

"No need, my cousin still needs your assistance with this incident," said Bai Xiaosheng with a smile.

"Then I'll find you a ride!" Zhou Ping said again.

Perhaps inheriting his father's talents, Zhou Ping was quite adept at maintaining interpersonal connections.

Bai Xiaosheng knew he was extending goodwill, so he smiled and didn't insist.

Zhou Ping quickly found him a car and personally escorted Bai Xiaosheng downstairs, watching him get into the car.

After that, Zhou Ping returned.

As soon as he entered Li Feitian's office, Zhou Ping saw Li Feitian hurry up to meet him, looking behind him, "Where is Bai Xiaosheng?"

"Just left, I got him a ride," Zhou Ping said.

"Why did you let him go!" Li Feitian frowned and muttered, "Can we trust that kid not to spill the beans about this later!"

After all, Li Feitian's trust in Bai Xiaosheng was not high.

"Don't worry, it's fine!" Zhou Ping gave his friend a deep look.

What Li Feitian probably didn't know was that Bai Xiaosheng knew Mayor Dai!

Of course, he didn't say anything.

"What's most urgent now is to come up with a remedial plan as soon as possible!" Zhou Ping urged.

...

After hanging up the phone, Zhou Yifa hurried to the mayor's office.

Outside the door, he suddenly remembered that the mayor was having a small meeting with several municipal leaders, which he himself was responsible for notifying and arranging.

How could I forget about this! Zhou Yifa smacked his forehead.

He hesitated outside the mayor's office door, eventually deciding not to disturb them.

Reporting was definitely necessary, and it should be done as soon as possible, but if he could also present the best solution to the problem at the same time, wouldn't it be better.

Zhou Yifa felt that since the incident had already occurred, letting the mayor know a minute earlier or later didn't really matter; what was important was whether he handled it promptly and effectively!

Zhou Yifa turned around to call his professor friend to inquire about the progress.

One o'clock in the afternoon.

The door to the mayor's office finally opened, and the municipal leaders filed out. Zhou Yifa, waiting outside, greeted each one with a smile and then knocked on the mayor's office door.

"Come in." A short, firm voice sounded, and Zhou Yifa pushed the door open.

"Oh, Old Zhou." Dai Mingcheng had just taken a sip of tea, set down the teacup, and greeted him with a smile; it seemed like the earlier conversation had gone quite well.

"Ah, it's one o'clock already, you haven't eaten yet, right. Come on, let's eat together," Dai Mingcheng said with a smile.

Zhou Yifa quickened his pace, moving a bit closer.

"Mayor, there's something I need to tell you!"

Seeing Zhou Yifa's somewhat solemn expression, Dai Mingcheng nodded immediately, "Then tell me."

Zhou Yifa reported the situation in detail, particularly mentioning his professor friend and Tianfu Wealth Management, who were both working hard to come up with a remedial plan, and progress was good.

"Such a thing actually happened!" Dai Mingcheng's brow furrowed, his gaze turning serious.

He didn't utter a word of blame, yet it made Zhou Yifa, an experienced municipal official, feel an invisible pressure.

"How was it discovered?" Dai Mingcheng asked in a grave tone.

"It was... someone you know, Bai Xiaosheng who discovered it! Oh, he's also the relative of Li Feitian from Tianfu Wealth Management," Zhou Yifa cautiously said.

"Bai Xiaosheng!" Dai Mingcheng suddenly widened his eyes and stood up abruptly.

Just moments ago he had been composed, but now he was anything but!

Chapter 553

Upon hearing the name Bai Xiaosheng, Mayor Dai Mingcheng stood up abruptly.

Due to the suddenness, he gave Zhou Yifa quite a scare.

The mayor's reaction was too intense.

Even if they knew each other, there was no need to get this excited!

Zhou Yifa was puzzled.

Mayor Dai Mingcheng was always composed and measured. Could Bai Xiaosheng really shake him to this extent?!

Zhou Yifa was shocked.

Little did he know what Mayor Dai had said to Mayor Ji Mingyang during his previous visit to Zhongjing.

Now, Dai Mingcheng was filled with regret and inwardly vexed.

Why had he insisted on going to Zhongjing in the first place? Why had he told Ji about the thirteen prefecture-level city enterprises, with two dropping out, informing him that out of the remaining eleven, nine were set to advance without issue? He had also told him that the final showdown might be between Zhongjing Media and Tianzheng Media, vying for the media industry's leading position.

Look where he was now! A problem had arisen on his side, and it was Bai Xiaosheng who had uncovered it!

Wasn't this just handing Zhongjing the opportunity to report the issue and disqualify his side, leaving only ten enterprises, and then happily divide the indicators among themselves, everyone delighted...

Tianqing could even be used as a negative example...

Mayor Dai felt bitter inside.

Not getting the provincial flagship enterprise slot was a secondary concern.

After all, even if they got that slot, it didn't mean much to Tianqing, at best earning limited support policies from the provincial government.

What's another honor, after all?

Their Tianqing couldn't compare to Langbei, let alone Zhongjing, as both cities were awash in wealth, with honor above all else.

Even if Tianqing managed to obtain the pride of a provincial flagship enterprise, it would merely be for show!

Therefore, Dai Mingcheng had never taken this matter completely to heart.

Usually, he just let Zhou Yifa take charge.

However, now that there was a problem, that was another story!

If there was a mishap in the review they sent, they would be bearing the responsibility for the oversight.

This problem could be big or small, potentially affecting his personal career, and even causing the provincial government to question their city, which would impact Tianqing!

Zhou Yifa had said they were taking remedial measures.

But once the problem blew up, what good would remediation do!

Dai Mingcheng had just listened, and felt the measures Zhou Yifa had taken seemed fine but too conservative, aimed solely at preserving Tianfu Wealth Management's eligibility to report. That was not enough!

Within a few moments, Dai Mingcheng had made a decision.

"Like this, immediately go and notify Tianfu Wealth Management to stop further sales of that product and prepare for a compensation plan and preparations!"

"Have them increase their manpower to make contact with every purchaser and try to appease them as best as possible."

"Also, regarding the news, instruct the city's propaganda department to get ready to handle public opinion properly."

...

Dai Mingcheng rattled off seven or eight directives in one breath.

Zhou Yifa noted them down, and there was no problem, but by doing this, they would be exposing the issue to the public.

Currently, the incident had not reached such a level, and that insurance product was only in a trial release, without causing any serious consequences.

Wasn't this an overreaction?

Would it affect Tianfu Wealth Management's qualification for the provincial flagship enterprise?

Zhou Yifa hesitated a bit.

"Old Zhou, trust me, when a problem is found, it must be resolved quickly, strictly, and decisively. This is the only way to handle it!" Dai Mingcheng patted Zhou Yifa's shoulder, "The provincial government is not easy to fool. Once something happens, the leaders look at the attitude! So, from our own perspective, we cannot tolerate mistakes!"

Zhou Yifa nodded his head.

"Alright, go and handle it promptly. I will call Minister Fan right away to report the issue!" said Dai Mingcheng in a solemn voice.

Attitude represents everything.

Exposing one's own issues, without any leniency or indulgence, might be the only way to gain greater forgiveness.

Zhou Yifa seemed to have an epiphany and nodded.

Perhaps Mayor Dai's approach was the most correct one.

"I'll take care of it right away!" Zhou Yifa said, hurrying off.

Dai Mingcheng also entered an emergency state, not even having time for lunch and asking his secretary to grab something on the go.

At this very moment, at the Li Family.

The noon banquet, which was also a farewell feast for the Bai Family, was in progress.

With Li Wenzun at the helm, the Li Family's attitude towards the Bai Family members had noticeably warmed.

Of course, all the warmth was for the sake of one person—Bai Xiaosheng!

"Sheng, whenever you have time, come to Tianqing, and visit your uncle's home. We're family after all, and families should visit each other often," Li Wenzun said to Bai Xiaosheng with a hearty laugh.

"Sure," Bai Xiaosheng smiled in response.

"Fengguan, you really should stay longer. Why the rush to leave after just two or three days?" Li Wenzun turned to Li Fengguan and said with a hint of blame in his voice.

"Just can't let go of home, always thinking about going back to check on things. If big brother and sister-in-law have time and don't mind, you can visit us in Zhongjing," Li Fengguan replied with a smile.

She knew, of course, that Li Wenzun's enthusiasm was all for Sheng's sake.

Seeing Yu Qingmei silent and somewhat despondent, Li Fengguan felt a sense of relief but also didn't want to upset her sister-in-law any further.

"Alright, alright, we'll have the chance," Li Wenzun laughed heartily in response to Li Fengguan's invitation.

The atmosphere was extremely harmonious.

As the banquet drew to a close, Li Feitian also returned.

Bai Xiaosheng saw that he looked tired but also relieved, as though a burden had been lifted, and Sheng knew that matters must have been resolved.

"Why did you come back so late?" Li Wenzun asked casually.

"There was a bit of an issue at the company that needed my attention, which delayed me," Li Feitian said with a smile, poured a cup of wine, and raised it towards Bai Xiaosheng, "Sheng, this cup is for you!"

Li Feitian took the initiative to toast Bai Xiaosheng.

Some members of the Li Family couldn't help but be surprised.

But in Li Wenzun's eyes, there was nothing but approval.

There are no permanent enemies, only permanent interests.

This was the vision of a successful businessman!

Moreover, they were related by blood, so naturally, these relationships had to be well maintained and utilized.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and lifted his cup.

As Li Feitian was about to drink the wine he had just brought to his lips, his cell phone on the table rang.

Li Feitian glanced at it, immediately set down his wine cup, "Sorry, Sheng, it's Secretary Zhou's call!"

A call from Zhou Yifa naturally needed immediate attention.

Everyone present understood.

Li Feitian walked to a corner with his phone, smiling as he answered the call.

However, after listening for just a few seconds, his expression suddenly changed.

Within less than two minutes, Li Feitian's hand dropped, the call ended, and his face looked incredibly distressed, even ashen.

Li Feitian walked back, and when he looked at Bai Xiaosheng again, his face was overshadowed with gloom.

"Bai Xiaosheng!" There was a hint of aggression in his voice.

Municipal Office of the Mayor of Tianqing.

Zhou Yifa knocked on the door and, upon receiving permission, hurried in.

All matters had been settled, and the last call he made to Li Feitian was to convey the Mayor's stern request.

Zhou Yifa was now there to report back to Dai Mingcheng.

"Old Zhou, you've come at just the right time," Dai Mingcheng stood up and said to him, "Come with me to the Li Family's place, I want to see Bai Xiaosheng!"

Chapter 554 Must See! The Mayor is Here!_1

"You're going to see Bai Xiaosheng now?" Zhou Yifa was startled.

After the incident, Zhou Yifa had been extremely busy for a while, and now, at last, he had a temporary break.

He believed Mayor Dai was the same; he had just heard from the secretary that the mayor hadn't even had a proper lunch.

Just after finishing up, Mayor Dai was going to see Bai Xiaosheng?

Even if Bai Xiaosheng was the head of a large enterprise, he wasn't in politics! How could a mere mayor be in such a hurry to see him!

"How about, I call him and ask him to come to the municipal government office?" Zhou Yifa suggested.

"No need, I'll go there," Dai Mingcheng shook his head.

"But you are the mayor. It might not be appropriate for you to personally go see such a... young man," Zhou Yifa couldn't help saying.

He couldn't think of a reason why the mayor absolutely had to see Bai Xiaosheng!

There was simply no need!

"I just want to talk to him face-to-face," Dai Mingcheng said.

There was an unclear meaning in his eyes.

"Okay! I'll arrange the car right away!" Zhou Yifa quickly nodded in agreement.

Once the leader had made a decision, if you think there's something wrong, you can advise once, but never a second time; that's the way of Zhou Yifa as a secretary.

"Have you called the provincial government office yet? What's their attitude?" Zhou Yifa couldn't help but ask tentatively before leaving.

"Criticized a bit, warned a bit, acknowledged a bit," Dai Mingcheng said with a slight smile.

These three "a bit" clarified everything.

"Understood!" Zhou Yifa, somewhat excited, nodded his head and hurried off.

With this, it was very likely the provincial government won't withdraw Tianfu Wealth Management's application qualifications!

On the way, Zhou Yifa let out a sigh of relief and laughed at himself, "What a scare, I just called Li Feitian, with a tone both stinky and hard. When I go over, I'll have to ease his mind!"

After Zhou Yifa left.

Dai Mingcheng also muttered to himself, "This time, I really owe it to Bai Xiaosheng. If it hadn't been for him, I might not have reported the situation as decisively, admitting the mistake directly to the minister. Not only did I avoid blame, but I also eliminated a hidden danger, turning misfortune into a blessing!"

Dai Mingcheng laughed.

"Bai Xiaosheng, Bai Xiaosheng, I must thank you in person!"

"Bai Xiaosheng, I must thank you in person!" At the Li Family's place, Li Feitian, with a twisted expression, angrily shouted at Bai Xiaosheng.

The people present were all startled?

Li Feitian had simply taken a call from Secretary Zhou. Why had he suddenly turned hostile and lost his temper?

Bai Xiaosheng was also taken aback.

What exactly did Zhou Yifa say to Li Feitian over the phone that infuriated him?

"Feitian, what on earth is going on?" Li Wenzun couldn't help frowning and shouted.

Li Feitian suppressed his anger and explained through gritted teeth, "Grandfather, wasn't our Tianfu Wealth Management applying to become a provincial benchmark enterprise? One of the audit requirements was innovation in product development, so today, with all good intentions, I invited Bai Xiaosheng to take a look at a new insurance product we developed to see if there was a possibility for our two companies to cooperate."

Li Wenzun nodded.

"But who would have thought, this Bai Xiaosheng insisted that there was a problem with our product's actuarial aspects, and he said it right in front of Zhou Ping!" Li Feitian was furious, "How could Zhou Ping not report it to his father! "

The words of Li Feitian caused Li Wenzun's face to change!

If there was an issue with the content of Tianfu Wealth Management's report to the provincial government, considering it an innovative achievement, that was indeed no small matter!

But even if there was a problem, and Bai Xiaosheng had discovered it, they should have discussed it privately. Wouldn't it have been better to solve it behind closed doors amongst themselves?

Talking about it in front of Zhou Ping, how inappropriate!

If Secretary Zhou heard about this, the situation could get troublesome!

Li Wenzun couldn't help glancing at Bai Xiaosheng.

"How could you let outsiders know!" Yu Qingmei also couldn't help but exclaim, her eyes clearly filled with dissatisfaction as she looked at Bai Xiaosheng.

Many members of the Li Family were also frowning.

The Bai Family Members looked at Bai Xiaosheng, also with some surprise.

Bai Xiaosheng's eyebrows furrowed slightly.

The facts were as such, but Li Feitian's narrative was in the style of the Spring and Autumn Annals, pushing all responsibility onto him.

"Once Zhou Ping reported it, Secretary Zhou naturally became very angry! I explained to him that we were doing this for the application, in a rush for time, and it was inevitable that there would be some oversights and that such issues were not uncommon in our industry!" Li Feitian said.

Li Wenzun as the leader, and the members of the Li Family, nodded continuously.

A thorough explanation would surely be understood by Secretary Zhou.

"Secretary Zhou is reasonable. He said he would help us resolve it, but he asked us to ensure confidentiality. He even asked this young man over the phone to help conceal it!"

Li Feitian glared at Bai Xiaosheng, "But just now, Secretary Zhou told me in a harsh tone to immediately stop the further sale of this product and to prepare a compensation plan, while also getting ready for our enterprise to have its application qualifications revoked!"

Li Feitian's words made the Li Family members present involuntarily gasp for air.

Li Wenzun immediately widened his eyes.

This application opportunity was a once-in-a-century stroke of luck for the Li Family. If handled correctly, it could send the Li Family soaring to great heights.

Hadn't Secretary Zhou agreed to resolve the issue? How had things suddenly reached such an uncontrollable extent!

The Bai Family members also looked at each other in dismay.

"I asked why, and Secretary Zhou told me to ask Bai Xiaosheng! He said the root cause was with him!" Li Feitian raged, "It must have been Bai Xiaosheng, doing something behind my back! Otherwise, a man of Secretary Zhou's word would never go back on his promises!"

"Bai Xiaosheng, tell us, what exactly did you do! Did you leak this matter, or what! You must have done something to make Secretary Zhou angry!" Li Feitian was fuming with rage.

He blamed all the problems on Bai Xiaosheng.

As soon as Li Feitian had spoken, the Li Family members exploded.

"I knew it, the Bai Family people would never mean well!"

Yu Qingmei was the first to shout out loud, angrily pointing at Bai Xiaosheng.

"How can you do this, openly undermining my Li Family!"

"Exactly, one family sabotaging their own, despicable!"

"It must be because you're jealous of our Li Family, so you deliberately made mischief!"

...

The Li Family members suddenly became agitated, with all sorts of accusations flying.

"Nonsense, what evidence do you have to wrongly accuse Sheng like this!"

"The way you're speaking is too much, it has nothing to do with Sheng!"

"Before things are clear, don't make wild accusations and wrongfully blame someone!"

...

The Bai Family members, refusing to be outdone, immediately started shouting back.

Yesterday, Bai Xiaosheng's voice shook the Li Family, making the Bai Family stand out.

Underneath the facade of harmony, resentment lay hidden.

Like a whirlpool beneath a still lake, ready to erupt at any time, immediately churning into tempestuous waves!

This quarrel lasted for a full ten minutes!

As the emotions of both sides rose, things really became uncontrollable.

Hearing all this, even Bai Xiaosheng looked helpless.

By now, Dai Mingcheng's car had almost reached midway.

"Enough!"

Finally, Li Wenzun shouted loudly, "Now is not the time for arguing!"

"That's right, now isn't the time to point fingers. Bai Xiaosheng, as the so-called general manager, go and apologize to Secretary Zhou at once! Beg his forgiveness and urge him not to be angry!" Yu Qingmei ordered.

"Yes, go and apologize to Secretary Zhou right away!" the elder members of the Li Family ordered.

"Why should I!" Bai Minghang, who had been silent all this time, suddenly burst out.

"Indeed, why should he!" led by Bai Minghang, the Bai Family members shouted.

"Enough, stop arguing!" Li Wenzun once again slammed the table and roared.

Continuing this argument would lead nowhere!

Then, he turned to Bai Xiaosheng, trying to persuade him, "Sheng, this matter started because of you. I believe you are a responsible person and will resolve it."

"Big brother, you're being unfair. It's not clear whether this matter started because of Sheng or not." Li Fengguan said.

"Who else could it be but him!" Yu Qingmei shouted angrily.

The three eldest started to argue.

The Bai and Li families began quarreling once again.

This couldn't go on any longer!

Bai Xiaosheng furrowed his brows, just about to speak.

Suddenly, a servant burst in, shouting, "There's, there's a visitor!"

"Not seeing anyone!" Li Wenzun glared and yelled.

"We can't not see them, sir, the mayor is here!" the servant stammered, a look of sheer panic on his face.

The mayor!

That single word struck everyone in the room like a thunderbolt, leaving them stunned.

In the time it took to speak these words, Mayor Dai... arrived!

Chapter 555 I'm looking for Bai Xiaosheng!_1

The Li Family's quarrel, bubbling like a boiling pot.

The Bai and Li Families, whether due to long-term grievances or yesterday's provocations, had their emotions ignited in an instant.

If the argument continued, things might spiral out of control.

When Li Wenzun and Li Fengguan could no longer suppress it, physical altercation was not far off.

Just then, a servant rushed in and with a single sentence, extinguished the fire that raged throughout the room.

It was like dousing a boiling pot of water with a basin of cold water.

The mayor, has arrived!

"What, which mayor?!" Li Wenzun even asked incredulously, somewhat bewildered.

"It's our Tianqing City Mayor Dai Mingcheng ah!" The servant excitedly exclaimed.

Li Wenzun suddenly stood up, his eyes bulging and round.

The Li Family members looked at each other in shock, all astonished.

Li Feitian couldn't believe his eyes either.

The mayor had come?

Li Feitian found it hard to believe.

It should be known that ever since Tianfu Wealth Management applied to be a provincial benchmark enterprise, the mayor had only visited once, offering simple encouragement on the spot, nothing more.

Despite Tianfu Wealth Management being pushed to apply for benchmark enterprise status, frankly speaking, in terms of profitability and taxation, it didn't even rank in the top five among Tianqing's major taxpayers!

Not being given much attention, Li Feitian was self-aware.

The issue now was, why would the mayor come to his home!

Li Feitian couldn't think of a reason.

If Mayor Dai was coming, Secretary Zhou would certainly accompany him. Perhaps the mayor knew about the issues with their innovative product. Was that the reason for his visit?

But for a mayor of his standing, if he wanted to inquire about the matter, he could simply summon him for a report. Was there really a need for a personal visit?

If it wasn't for that matter, then Li Feitian truly couldn't figure out any other reason the mayor would come!

His Li Family didn't have enough clout to request a visit from the mayor.

Otherwise, there would've been no need to put so much effort into dealing with Secretary Zhou.

Li Feitian felt utterly bewildered.

"Quick, open the gates wide! You all, follow me to welcome the mayor!" Li Wenzun commanded in a stern voice.

Then, he cast a faint glance at the Bai Family Members and said to Li Fengguan, "Fengguan, you should head back to the front courtyard first. If you want to leave now, I regret that you'll have to take the side door. As you've seen, we have an important guest, and I cannot accompany you out!"

With the mayor's arrival, it was very likely he knew about that matter.

Fortune or misfortune, there was no longer a need for Bai Xiaosheng to apologize to Secretary Zhou.

In fact, Li Wenzun felt that if Bai Xiaosheng stayed, he might bring trouble.

It was better to let them go.

So, the undertone in Li Wenzun's voice was clearly one of seeing off guests.

Having said that, Li Wenzun didn't wait for a response and hurriedly led people away.

As the old man walked away, Yu Qingmei glanced at Li Fengguan.

"Amei, later you take them out through the side door," Yu Qingmei instructed, her words carrying the clear intent to shoo them away.

She gave this single order and quickly followed after the others.

With Li Wenzun and Yu Qingmei making themselves clear, there was no point for the Bai Family Members to stay any longer.

"Let's go," Li Fengguan said, unfazed.

The Bai Family Members nodded silently, surrounding the old lady, and followed the servant Amei out.

Amei, cold and detached, was not so much seeing off the guests as following the old lady's wishes to ensure the Bai Family's departure.

Initially, Bai Xiaosheng, upon hearing of Dai Mingcheng's arrival, wanted to meet him, as they had after all had the chance to sit down and talk in Zhongjing.

But seeing the current situation, Bai Xiaosheng abandoned the idea of following them.

Forget it, I'll find an opportunity to apologize to Mayor Dai later, Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself. He gave up on his plan to meet Dai Mingcheng and, with the others, followed his grandmother back to the front courtyard.

With their belongings packed in large and small bags, everything was ready. The RV was parked just outside the courtyard wall, not too far away.

The Bai Family Members silently carried their items, silently exiting through the side door, walking towards the RV.

Back when they had arrived, they had entered through the front door with dignity, as honored guests.

Now, upon leaving, they were exiting through the side door, as if they were being chased away.

With such a stark contrast, a sense of humiliation subtly marked the faces of the Bai Family Members.

"Why hang your heads in defeat? Stand tall and proud!" Li Fengguan couldn't help but shout, "Do you see the difference now? Then don't feel ashamed! As long as you live your lives well and educate your next generation properly, in the future, the Bai Family might just be as glorious, to have the mayor or even the governor visit your doorstep!"

The Bai Family Members all nodded and gathered around the old lady as they departed.

In the distance, Amei sneered, snorting coldly, lowering her voice but still loud enough for the Bai Family Members, who hadn't gone far, to hear, "Such a small household and yet so haughty! Hmph, even if your family produced a general manager, the mayor would never visit your home! That's the difference!"

With that, Amei closed the side door forcefully.

The Bai Family Members fell silent.

Walking beside Li Fengguan, Bai Xiaosheng's face was sullen.

The pride of the Li Family had never changed!

Even a servant dared to do this!

Very well, I hope you don't regret what you did today! Bai Xiaosheng thought coldly to himself.

The Li Family's main gate was wide open.

The butler was all smiles, leading the way in front, with Mayor Dai in the lead and Zhou Yifa following behind, both of them stepping inside.

Just as they entered the second courtyard, Li Wenzun and others had already come forward to greet them.

With Li Feitian by his side, Li Wenzun's old face beamed with joy, and upon seeing the mayor, his smile grew even wider.

"Mayor Dai, what an honor to have you visit! I'm sorry for coming out late!" Li Wenzun called out.

"Mr. Li, your words are too kind!" Dai Mingcheng hastened his pace and laughed, their hands clasping together.

"Mayor Dai, please come in, come in!" Li Wenzun eagerly ushered him further inside.

"Mayor Dai, your visit is both a surprise and an honor for Feitian!" Li Feitian grinned, hastily chiming in.

This seemingly pointless small talk was actually Li Feitian paying close attention to Mayor Dai's demeanor.

"Mr. Li," Dai Mingcheng's smile slightly restrained, but still present, "I'm aware of your situation. The fact that you reported it proactively instead of hiding it is very good! I've reported it to the provincial authorities and they've understood our position. Your company's application status remains intact. However, you still cannot be complacent—the matters that need to be properly handled afterwards must be dealt with. Secretary Zhou will coordinate with you on this."

Mayor Dai had directly mentioned the issue and clarified that it had been properly resolved!

Even the provincial authorities had given their understanding!

Li Feitian's hanging heart finally settled, feeling as if he had cleared the fog to see the clear sky, his heart filled with exhilaration.

It seemed that Mayor Dai was not angry, and had personally paid a visit!

Li Feitian was overjoyed beyond belief.

This year must be my lucky year, today must be my lucky day!

Li Feitian couldn't help but want to remember this day, to commemorate it every year thereafter.

"Rest assured, Mayor Dai, I will handle this matter properly and will not leave any issues behind! Please put your mind at ease! Mayor, please come in!" Li Feitian was so delighted, he almost bowed and scraped.

Learning that the issue which had been a cause for concern in their household had been perfectly resolved, Li Wenzun's old face was brimming with even more joy.

Behind him, Yu Qingmei and the Li Family Members also heard the news, all of them ecstatic.

Their Li Family's Tianfu Wealth Management had turned disaster into fortune and now had tied connections with the mayor—it was a blessing in disguise!

Due to the troublemaker Bai Xiaosheng, they had received immense good fortune!

It must be heaven's blessing on our Li Family! Yu Qingmei secretly gloated.

Mayor Dai took a few steps inside and suddenly said to Li Wenzun, "I heard Bai Xiaosheng was a guest at your residence; I came especially to see him. May I know where he is?"

A seemingly casual question from Mayor Dai.

The smiles on the faces of Li Wenzun, Li Feitian, Yu Qingmei, and those other Li Family Members froze instantaneously.

In everyone's eyes, shock rose tremendously.

What!

Mayor Dai was here for Bai Xiaosheng?

Chapter 556 - Bai Family Members, Have Already Left_1

Mayor Dai made a special trip to the Li Family, to find someone with the last name Bai!

The members of the Li Family were astonished and speechless.

It would be understandable, if surprising, for Mou Yutian to acknowledge Bai Xiaosheng and take the initiative to sit with him, as one was the top figure in Zhongjing's business world and the other was the

general manager of Zhongjing's leading enterprise. They had connections, which people could make sense of.

But why was Mayor Dai, looking for Bai Xiaosheng, and in person no less?

The Li Family racked their brains but couldn't figure it out.

Mayor Dai was the Mayor of Tianqing, and Bai Xiaosheng was Zhongjing's Bai Xiaosheng, what could their connection be?

Li Wenzun couldn't help but swallow hard and forced a smile, "Mayor Dai, you must be joking. The person you're looking for, is it really..."

"Bai Xiaosheng, yes." Dai Mingcheng looked at him strangely, thinking he hadn't made himself clear, and repeated, "Aren't you his uncle? He's here to celebrate your birthday, what's wrong, is there a problem?"

"No problem!" Li Wenzun replied hastily.

This time he heard it clearly, Mayor Dai's visit was indeed for Bai Xiaosheng!

I never imagined that in Tianqing, the face of my Li Family would be worth less than a Bai Xiaosheng!

On top of being shocked, Li Wenzun felt a sting in his heart.

At the birthday banquet the day before, Bai Xiaosheng had already shown an incredible network of connections.

But I had no idea, that wasn't all!

Li Wenzun sighed deeply.

"You are looking for Bai Xiaosheng, why, why exactly?"

Li Feitian, being beside him, wasn't supposed to interrupt, but he couldn't help himself and blurted out a question.

"He and I, could be considered friends, I suppose. It was thanks to him that I discovered the problem this time, allowing me to take the most correct course of action; it turned out to be a blessing in disguise. So, I wanted to thank him in person and also discuss some other matters," said Mayor Dai Mingcheng.

Mayor Dai called Bai Xiaosheng a friend, and his visit this time... was to express his gratitude!

Li Feitian felt as if an invisible arrow had struck him right in the heart.

Ever since learning that Bai Xiaosheng was the general manager of Zhongjing Media, he had always wanted to outdo him but never considered that he wasn't even in the same league.

All this time, my family has been smug about our connection with Secretary Zhou. Look at him, he's already friends with the mayor, and not just any mayor, but the Mayor of Tianqing!

The faces of the Li Family members conveyed a degree of horror.

Li Feiyun and Li Feiyan couldn't help but swallow hard as they recalled Bai Xiaosheng's calm and composed demeanor. At this moment, in their hearts, a sense of admiration—reserved only for Li Feitian before—began to take root.

Li Wenzun's expression changed slightly, and his breathing became somewhat rapid.

I've grown old, so old that I've become blind to true gems, my earlier attitude towards the Bai Family, towards Bai Xiaosheng...

I almost ruined everything!

"Mayor, please come to my humble home and wait for a moment. Bai Xiaosheng and the others are just across the courtyard. As a matter of fact, my sister was just talking about leaving, but now that you're here, they haven't left yet. I'll go call them over immediately," Li Wenzun said to Dai Mingcheng.

His mind whirled, thinking about how to mend the relationship with Li Fengguan and Bai Xiaosheng!

Bai Xiaosheng could talk with Mayor Dai!

This is a tremendous resource!

Heaven bless my Li Family! Li Wenzun thought to himself with glee.

As long as I have a good relationship with Bai Xiaosheng, why worry about not connecting with Mayor Dai's line!

If supported by the mayor, my Li Family could truly root itself deeply in Tianqing!

This Bai Xiaosheng lad, I see he is extremely filial to Fengguan. If I start from there, I can surely win him over!

The more Li Wenzun thought, the more delighted he became, and even the corners of his mouth revealed a slight smile that others could scarcely detect.

"Old man, old man!" Just as Li Wenzun was lost in his boundless daydreaming, Yu Qingmei tugged at his sleeve persistently, even softly called out to him, her tone quite urgent.

This old woman, what is she thinking, and in front of the mayor, no less!

Where is her sense of propriety? She never used to be like this!

Li Wenzun intended to ignore Yu Qingmei, but couldn't help himself as she kept tugging at his clothes, increasingly forceful with every pull; even Zhou Yifa turned to look their way.

"What's the matter?" Li Wenzun finally snapped.

"The people from the Bai Family might have already left!" Yu Qingmei raised her voice in her agitation.

This time, even Dai Mingcheng heard.

"You're saying they've left?" Dai Mingcheng was taken aback, glanced at Yu Qingmei and quickly turned to Li Wenzun, "Mr. Li, didn't you just say they were still here?"

"They were here, how could they have left?" Li Wenzun was astonished, questioning his own wife.

Though he had mentioned that the Bai Family members could leave through the side door if they were in a hurry, that was just a spur-of-the-moment outburst, definitely not meant to be taken seriously.

"They seemed very anxious, so I had Qingmei lead them out through the side door," Yu Qingmei sheepishly explained.

Li Wenzun was stunned.

Li Feitian's mouth fell open in shock as he gazed at his grandmother.

Just like Li Wenzun, he had been pondering over how to mend the relationship with Bai Xiaosheng, even indulging in some hopeful fantasies, only to find out his own grandmother had sent the person away!

Why was this old lady in such a rush!

The other members of the Li Family exchanged confused looks.

"You, you really are!" Facing Mayor Dai, Li Wenzun's face turned the color of liver, staring at Yu Qingmei, struggling to contain his anger.

Dai Mingcheng looked at them with suspicion, then glanced at Zhou Yifa.

Zhou Yifa stepped forward and rapidly muttered a few sentences into Dai Mingcheng's ear.

At this juncture, there was no need to hide anything from the Li Family; the discord between the Bai and Li families was hardly a secret. In Zhou Yifa's eyes, there was nothing that couldn't be discussed openly.

Dai Mingcheng understood.

His smile faded, and his eyes regained their calmness.

"Is that so, they must have just left. In that case, I won't impose. If I drive now, it's still possible to catch up." Dai Mingcheng said.

To be honest, as the mayor of the entire city, was Dai Mingcheng really unaware of the petty affairs among the wealthy merchants and gentry of Tianqing?

He was very much aware, in fact, he understood the nature of each family!

The Li Family's Tianfu Wealth Management had been recommended to apply for the provincial benchmark enterprise, and he knew much more about it!

Tianfu Wealth Management's application had been of little concern to Mayor Dai.

Apart from his lack of emphasis on the honor itself, considering the nomination was all but secured and required no worrying, if there was to be a personal element to consider, it would be Dai Mingcheng's tiredness of the Li Family's arrogance and frivolity, of which he had heard and understood far too much.

He was fed up!

He also had some understanding of the situation at Bai Xiaosheng's end; aside from Bai Xiaosheng himself, the Bai Family was quite ordinary.

It seemed they didn't meet the high standards of the Li Family, to the extent of being ushered out through a side door!

Dai Mingcheng no longer cared to waste his time here.

"Mayor Dai, there's no need for you to personally go. I'll just call them and ask them to come back," Li Feitian said hastily upon learning that Mayor Dai intended to follow Bai Xiaosheng.

"There's no need." Dai Mingcheng cut him off with a single sentence, then turned and walked away.

Zhou Yifa gave the Li Family Members a profound look, then turned and followed Dai Mingcheng.

The Li Family was in a flurry, seeing off the mayor.

From the moment he entered to the moment he left, the mayor didn't even stay for ten minutes!

Because they had sent Bai Xiaosheng away, now they couldn't keep the mayor either!

Chapter 557 Just a Joke_1

The Bai Family's RV had just left the villa area when it was stopped by a red light at the first intersection.

Inside the vehicle, the Bai Family members were silent, lacking the cheerful conversations and liveliness they had on the way there.

This caused the driver, unable to contain his curiosity, to frequently glance back through the rearview mirror. Even he was wondering how this family could have visited their wealthy relatives and returned in such a state.

On this occasion, Bai Xiaosheng sat in the front passenger seat.

Watching the young man, he seemed composed and calm, showing none of the dejected appearance of the others in the car. Taking advantage of the wait at the traffic light, the driver leaned in and asked in a low voice, "Young man, were you perhaps looked down upon by your wealthy relatives?"

The driver had picked up the people from the Bai Family and taken them to the Li Family's mansion, so he knew the purpose of their visit was to celebrate a birthday, and he had also seen the status of both families, which is why he made this comment.

"I guess so," said Bai Xiaosheng indifferently.

"Ah, that kind of thing happens all the time. When us common folks have a well-off relative, no matter how sincere we are, we're not looked upon favorably. But what of it? Wealth doesn't last more than three generations, and poverty doesn't last beyond five. Times change. It was Hedong before, now it's Hexi. Who knows, there might come a day when they'll need us," the driver consoled him.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled but didn't respond.

Not long after the driver had spoken, Bai Xiaosheng's phone started ringing.

Bai Xiaosheng took a look and saw it was a call from Li Feitian; they had each other's numbers saved.

Shouldn't Li Feitian be accompanying Mayor Dai at this time? Why would he have the leisure to call me?

Bai Xiaosheng frowned and thought about it, then suddenly laughed, "Uncle, you make a good point."

"Eh?" The driver was startled.

He had made his point quite a while ago, and only now did the young man realize the sense in it.

"There will be a time when they need us!"

Bai Xiaosheng hit the reject button directly, then turned to shout into the cabin, "It's a call from the Li Family, no one is to answer—not even you, Grandma!"

In the cabin, the Bai Family members, downcast, heard Bai Xiaosheng's sudden shout and couldn't help but look at each other in confusion.

A call from the Li Family? And they are to reject it? What did that mean?

Just as they were puzzled, Li Fengguan's phone started ringing, followed by the ringing of Bai Minghang's phone.

"Don't answer, do as Sheng says!" Li Fengguan said decisively.

Bai Minghang smiled and hit the reject button directly.

"Driver, after this traffic light, find a place to pull over on the side of the road and stop for a bit," Bai Xiaosheng said.

"Ah, what happened?" The driver was astonished.

"Nothing much, we might need to go somewhere else in a bit," Bai Xiaosheng said nonchalantly.

He guessed that maybe Mayor Dai knew he was in town and wanted to talk with him, but he would definitely not return to the Li Family's place. If they were to talk, they would meet somewhere else.

By this time, even Bai Xiaosheng hadn't expected that Mayor Dai would personally come after him in his car.

"Sure," the driver of the car hired by the Bai Family nodded readily and began looking for a place to park.

Before a spot could be found, Bai Xiaosheng's phone rang again—this time, the number was unfamiliar.

"Hello?" Bai Xiaosheng answered the call.

"Sheng, where are you guys?" To his surprise, it was the voice of Mayor Dai.

"We're on the road," Bai Xiaosheng said, somewhat taken aback, but after glancing at the road sign outside the window, he reported their location truthfully.

The RV came to a steady stop by the roadside.

"Like this, just pull over to the side and wait, my car will be there shortly, I want to have a word with you," Mayor Dai said with a laugh, "I told you that while you're in Tianqing, I'd show you hospitality. What, you didn't even say hello to the local before wanting to leave?"

Dai Mingcheng was actually coming over to chat with him!

Bai Xiaosheng was startled but then laughed.

"Alright, we're currently at..."

Bai Xiaosheng described the parking spot in detail.

"What's going on, Sheng?" Bai Minghang leaned over from inside the cabin and asked.

"A friend of mine is coming over in a bit. I need to talk to him for a moment," Bai Xiaosheng said nonchalantly.

Bai Minghang nodded, returned to the car, and went to inform the Bai Family Members.

It wasn't long before Dai Mingcheng's car arrived, stopping in front of the RV.

Bai Xiaosheng saw it first, got out of the car, and walked over with a smile.

Dai Mingcheng and Zhou Yifa got out of the car one after another, and when they saw Bai Xiaosheng, they also smiled.

"Bai Xiaosheng, I should treat you to a meal or maybe a cup of coffee," Mayor Dai said with a laugh.

"There's no need for such courtesy, Mayor Dai. You coming to see me off is an honor that surprises me!" Bai Xiaosheng smiled, shook hands firmly with the mayor, and then greeted Zhou Yifa with a smile.

Zhou Yifa's face was full of smiles, but deep in his eyes, there was a hint of surprise.

Once, he thought he had esteemed Bai Xiaosheng highly enough, but now it seemed he had grossly underestimated Bai Xiaosheng's status in Mayor Dai's eyes!

I must definitely make friends with this Bai Xiaosheng, and I have to warn Zhou Ping about this!

Zhou Yifa thought to himself, and also, to tell Zhou Ping not to get too close to the Li Family!

The Li Family wasn't well-regarded in Mayor Dai's eyes.

"What I really want is to have a word with you," Mayor Dai looked around with a smile and said, "This place isn't bad either, fewer cars, and the air is quite good, shall we take a walk?"

Bai Xiaosheng nodded at Mayor Dai's suggestion.

"Old Zhou, you don't need to follow," Dai Mingcheng told Zhou Yifa.

"Yes," Zhou Yifa nodded, a strange look in his eyes.

Is Mayor Dai going to have a private talk with Bai Xiaosheng?

Bai Xiaosheng followed Dai Mingcheng, slowly walking along the greenway, talking as they walked.

"This time, I have to thank you, Mr. Bai. If it weren't for you, Tianfu Wealth Management would have buried a major hidden danger like an unexploded bomb, which could go off at any time with unimaginable consequences," Dai Mingcheng began by expressing his gratitude.

"Is the issue resolved?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

"It's resolved, and the leaders in the province are already aware and have forgiven our oversight," Dai Mingcheng glanced at Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng pondered for a moment and then laughed, "I didn't expect you to have reported it to the province so quickly. Were you worried that I might tell Mayor Ji Mingyang, and he might make something of it?"

Bai Xiaosheng was quick on the uptake.

Dai Mingcheng burst out laughing, "Emotionally speaking, I'd prefer to trust Ji, as well as you."

He said the words very skillfully.

"I appreciate your confidence in me, Mayor Dai," Bai Xiaosheng replied with a smile.

"Last time, we talked about Tianqing's development, and there were many topics we didn't get to. You've come this time and seen our city's face. Do you have any thoughts, anything to share?" Dai Mingcheng asked with a smile.

Last time, Bai Xiaosheng's words had made quite an impact on him.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled as well and picked up where they left off in Mayor Ji Mingyang's office, chatting away.

Dai Mingcheng listened attentively.

As they talked, they broached the subject of the provincial benchmark enterprise selection, and Bai Xiaosheng suddenly asked, "Mayor Dai, do you think this seat is useful for you?"

"What do you mean by that?" Dai Mingcheng asked with a half-smile, looking at Bai Xiaosheng.

"If I may speak frankly, please forgive me if I go too far," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, "I know you have Tianqing's best interests at heart, and your pragmatism is even praised by Mayor Ji Mingyang! This nominal benchmark actually isn't very beneficial to Tianqing, wouldn't you agree? And Tianfu Wealth Management, do they really deserve this title?"

In his smile, Bai Xiaosheng's expression remained calm, as he continued.

"One danger has been removed, but who's to say another won't arise? In the end, Tianfu Wealth Management may appear to be a public company, but it's essentially a family business. There's too little oversight and restriction, which can lead to recurring problems! You can save them once, but can you always protect them?"

Dai Mingcheng remained silent, listening intently.

"They're not strong enough! Being burdened by this title, might it harm them and drag down Tianqing as well..." Bai Xiaosheng stopped.

Mayor Dai's smile gradually vanished, and he nodded earnestly, "I've heard what you've said!"

Chapter 558 Back to Zhongjing_1

Bai Xiaosheng and Mayor Dai Mingcheng chatted for another half hour, walking here and there, and then back again.

Regarding that issue, both of them tacitly chose not to bring it up again.

After that topic, the two delved into a discussion about the overall economic development trends of Anjiang Province.

Bai Xiaosheng, starting with the province's benchmark enterprises, analyzed the situation. In secret, he used Red Lotus to search for expert scholars' views and combined them with his own, dissecting the issues.

Mayor Dai Mingcheng listened and nodded frequently, full of praise!

"I never expected you, Bai Xiaosheng, to have such a broad vision. You're able to look at problems both from a high vantage point and see the minute details," Dai Mingcheng couldn't stop praising Bai Xiaosheng, even expressing envy, "Ji is lucky, I don't know what good fortune he stumbled upon. The city actually has someone like you! If it were me, I'd certainly find a way to bring you into the municipal government!"

These words represented a great affirmation!

"You flatter me. My views are rather superficial, especially in front of an expert like you. I'm just showing off in front of a master," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

"You're too modest, and remember, modesty to the extreme can be a form of pride," Mayor Dai teased.

The two laughed heartily and walked back.

Zhou Yifa had seen and heard them from a distance.

He admired Bai Xiaosheng even more in his heart!

"This young man is really something! Not only does he manage Zhongjing's largest leading enterprise at such a young age, but he can also converse amiably with the mayor. Especially Mayor Dai, he has very high standards. He not only considers one's capabilities but also character. Seeing him chat so happily with Bai Xiaosheng, it's clear that Bai Xiaosheng is no ordinary person," Zhou Yifa thought to himself.

For the Mayor to spend half an hour chatting with Bai Xiaosheng was almost inconceivable in terms of time.

"Alright, that's enough, I've also taken up quite a bit of your time!" Mayor Dai Mingcheng said apologetically, glancing at the RV parked over there.

"You're too kind. It was very beneficial for me to have this chat with you, Mayor," Bai Xiaosheng replied with a smile.

Mayor Dai Mingcheng took the initiative to extend his hand, "Come here, I've been unaware of your visit and haven't shown proper hospitality. But don't blame me, it's because you didn't notify me! In the future, when you come to Tianqing, you must let me know, otherwise I won't be happy."

Zhou Yifa was astonished by Mayor Dai's words; he had never seen the Mayor speak like this to anyone before.

"Sure! Next time, I'll definitely bother you!" Bai Xiaosheng shook hands firmly with Mayor Dai Mingcheng.

"Safe travels!" said Mayor Dai Mingcheng with a smile, and then he waved to Zhou Yifa to get into the car.

After all, he still had a pile of matters to handle.

Bai Xiaosheng watched his car drive away before returning to the RV.

Inside the vehicle, the driver had been waiting with a growing impatience.

"Sorry about that, sir. I'll give you an extra five hundred as compensation for the delay," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

With these words, the driver cheered up and didn't decline, "Then I thank you, young man! Shall we get going now?"

"Let's go!" Bai Xiaosheng smiled, rising to return to the compartment.

He felt a bit tired and wanted to rest in the back.

The driver had run this route before, and with the aid of navigation, there was no need for someone up front to give directions.

The Bai Family Members were also getting impatient.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng walk in, Li Fengguan couldn't help but ask, "Sheng, was that person just now your friend?"

The old lady was puzzled because Bai Xiaosheng had never been to Tianqing before, so where did such a friend come from.

Her curiosity mirrored everyone else's.

"Ah, sort of," Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

If Dai Mingcheng considered him a friend, then he wasn't simply clinging to someone of higher status.

"Just now, your uncle called, and I answered," Li Fengguan said somewhat sheepishly, "He spoke very quickly, incoherently, I didn't quite catch it. Something about a mayor looking for you, and so on. Then I mumbled an answer and hung up."

Mayor, looking for Bai Xiaosheng!

The Bai Family Members didn't know before, but now, hearing the old lady mention it, they perked up.

"Mom, when you said mayor, did you mean the Mayor of Tianqing?"

"Well, of course, it was the Mayor of Tianqing. We're not in Zhongjing, are we?"

"The Mayor of Tianqing, looking for our Sheng, for what?"

"Maybe they want Sheng's company to invest in something."

"Even if they were looking to discuss investments with Sheng, there's no need for a mayor to personally handle it."

...

The Bai Family Members were all speaking at once, discussing fervently.

Bai Xiaosheng looked completely calm, seemingly unaffected.

"Sheng, that's the mayor! Shouldn't we go back?" Li Fengguan couldn't help but say.

"No need," Bai Xiaosheng said.

"That doesn't seem right," Bai Minghang also couldn't help saying.

"There's nothing wrong with it; we've already talked," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

"Ah?" The Bai Family Members were all taken aback.

"The person just now, he was Mayor Dai Mingcheng of Tianqing City," Bai Xiaosheng said nonchalantly.

"Ah!" The Bai Family Members were all astounded!

The person who had talked with Bai Xiaosheng under the car for half an hour was the Mayor of Tianqing?!

The Mayor of Tianqing was supposed to be at the Li Family's, yet he drove over personally just to chat with Bai Xiaosheng?

He even put the Li Family aside?

The Bai Family Members were all shocked, speechless with amazement.

Even the elderly Li Fengguan was staring with wide eyes at her grandson as if she didn't recognize him.

Driven out by the Li Family, she had advised her descendants that one day, they would have the mayor come to visit their door.

Now, there was a mayor who had rushed over just to have a chat with her eldest grandson. It was simply unbelievable!

No wonder Li Wenzun was so shocked that he was incoherent even when making a phone call!

"Yawn. I'm feeling a bit tired; I'm going to take a nap," Bai Xiaosheng said, hugging his shoulders, leaning back on the soft chair, and closing his eyes.

All the elders in the car, along with Bai Fei and Bai Ran, stared at Bai Xiaosheng, as if trying to read his face.

...

On this journey, Bai Xiaosheng did not rest comfortably.

Although the Bai Family Members didn't ask him anything, they couldn't stop whispering among themselves.

There were sounds of excitement and discussion, never ceasing. Even his parents were talking about it.

Bai Xiaosheng could only pretend to sleep.

But towards the end, he did indeed doze off.

Three hours later, the RV entered the community, and they had arrived.

The three-day visit to the Li Family had officially come to an end.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng wake up, everyone looked at him with a look of admiration. Elderly Li Fengguan was even more delighted with her grandson the more she looked at him.

Everyone got out of the car, settled up with the driver, and went back to their own homes.

The moment Bai Xiaosheng crossed the threshold of his own home, a notification sounded in his mind.

The company had achieved a stage result by implementing new policies, and Red Lotus had calculated his scores for the new achievements due to the trial run of the new patents.

Bai Xiaosheng gained another eight points!

Currently, he was at the general manager level with fifty points, fifty points away from the provincial-level industry head.

Bai Xiaosheng's mood suddenly became extremely pleasant.

Indeed, gaining points was the happiest thing.

Back at home, as soon as he threw himself onto the bed, feeling delighted, Bai Xiaosheng's phone suddenly rang.

Chapter 559: New Formula Certification Meeting_1

Lying in bed, Bai Xiaosheng lazily reached for his ringing phone, took a glance, and was startled into sitting up.

The incoming call was from Mo Xin.

That woman who was known as a god-level bartender, a senior bartender technician in her twenties, had her life saved by Bai Xiaosheng during the Zhang Family incident.

At that time, Mo Xin was very grateful and asked for his number.

Bai Xiaosheng had given it to her.

In his memory, she was a strikingly beautiful woman with fair skin, seemingly gentle and demure at first glance, but possessing a chivalrous heart and a recklessly daring spirit.

That was all Bai Xiaosheng remembered about Mo Xin.

"Hello, Miss Mo Xin?" Bai Xiaosheng answered the phone, putting it to his ear.

"Bai Xiaosheng, you still remember me." Over the phone, Mo Xin's voice was pleasant, with a hint of joy in her tone.

Bai Xiaosheng chuckled in surprise, "I saved your number, so I saw the caller ID..."

"So that's how it is." There seemed to be a touch of disappointment in Mo Xin's voice.

Ever since the Zhang Family incident, she had taken quite a liking to Bai Xiaosheng.

Playing the hero to rescue the damsel is a dream for men and equally a dream for women.

Being a bartender is in itself a profession of creating romance; they have an inherent persistence and sensitivity towards romance.

Bai Xiaosheng asked with a smile, "Do you need something from me, Miss Mo Xin?"

Calling her Miss Mo Xin seemed to irritate the person on the other end.

"We're already friends, how can you address me like that, it's so impersonal!" On the phone, Mo Xin's voice was quite displeased, mixed with a trace of grievance.

Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback and then laughed, "My bad, Mo Xin..."

"Good, I'll forgive you this time," she brightened up on the other end.

Women's emotions...

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but smile wryly.

"It's like this, last time at the Zhang Family's, you used my 'Forget Sorrow' to create 'Encounter', which I submitted to the Bartenders Association for review. It passed!" Mo Xin revealed the reason for her call.

Her voice was excited.

Submitting a new cocktail recipe for review? Bai Xiaosheng didn't feel much about it.

When it came to developing a new drink, it was only because of the circumstances, building on the achievements of others, and using Red Lotus's component analysis and calculation, that he succeeded, and he barely contributed, so he didn't feel much sense of achievement.

"Then congratulations to you," Bai Xiaosheng responded with a faint smile.

Though he himself didn't feel anything, he didn't want to dampen the ardor of a senior bartender technician who was passionate about cocktails.

"I should be congratulating you, you are the creator of this cocktail!" Mo Xin said with a laugh.

Me? Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback, then he smiled wryly.

He had no interest in being the so-called creator of the cocktail.

However, since it was already submitted, Bai Xiaosheng didn't care. He was about to say something when he heard Mo Xin continue on the other end.

"So, you must attend the certification event!" Mo Xin spoke earnestly over the phone.

"What certification event?" Bai Xiaosheng was puzzled.

Wasn't the submission approved already, so what certification was needed?

"The cocktail recipe certification. The PRO International Bartenders Association accepted my application; naturally, they'll hold a certification event. Only after it passes the event will it be officially recorded," Mo Xin explained.

So it wasn't an end, but a beginning.

How troublesome!

Bai Xiaosheng gave a wry smile.

"Then, why don't you change the creator to yourself, Mo Xin? Look, 'Forget Sorrow' is the drink you painstakingly developed, right? The main component of 'Encounter' is 'Forget Sorrow', isn't it? Strictly speaking, my ability to successfully blend a new drink is entirely built on the efforts of others—on your efforts. So I feel I don't deserve to be the creator! The one who truly should gain this achievement is you! And I'm not even a bartender, but you are, and within your circle, you're more convincing. This high-level certification event looks difficult, and to ensure success, you are the right person to take charge!" Bai Xiaosheng fully leveraged his gift of the gab, his words laced with flattery and admiration, persuasively urging her.

In truth, he had no interest and disliked the hassle.

His argument was sound; the sentiment, sincere.

Bai Xiaosheng felt he had even convinced himself.

"Bai Xiaosheng, what do you think our association is? Once the originality application for a new wine is approved, it's impossible to change the person!" Unexpectedly, Mo Xin was completely immune to his ploys.

Bai Xiaosheng gave a wry smile.

That's right, international institutions like this stick to their principles rigidly, not allowing any frivolity.

"It's just a certification meeting, and although you're not a bartender, the ability you displayed that day was definitely on par with any Senior Bartender Technician! I even think you're better than me in some aspects!" Mo Xin persuaded, sounding more like she was coaxing.

"But..."

"Do you know that once a new wine is registered, it earns a hefty sum every year? It's all in real silver and gold, yours alone, and all you have to do is attend one certification meeting."

Mo Xin was tempting him with incentives.

"However..."

"Leave all the procedures, all the processes to me. You just need to show up. How about that?"

In that moment, Mo Xin displayed a level of eloquence that overpowered Bai Xiaosheng's earlier arguments.

Bai Xiaosheng was somewhat astonished, never having expected that he could be outdone in argumentation.

With Mo Xin having gone to such lengths, Bai Xiaosheng found it difficult to make any more excuses.

Still, he wanted to give it a try.

"But I'm really busy lately. My company is applying for the status of a provincial benchmark enterprise, and I can't leave. You know, to travel to Europe and attend your certification meeting, wouldn't it take at least two days? I really don't have the time..."

Bai Xiaosheng attempted to resist.

"Go to Europe? What do you need to go to Europe for? This time the certification meeting is in Anjiang Province," Mo Xin answered.

"What?" Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback.

"To be precise, it's in Zhongjing," Mo Xin continued with a giggly smile, "Are you surprised and delighted? I've used my significant influence as a Senior Bartender Technician to make this happen!"

Mo Xin was quite proud of herself.

She didn't see the utterly speechless expression on Bai Xiaosheng's face.

"Then I thank you," Bai Xiaosheng said weakly.

He gave in.

If someone went to the trouble of bringing an international conference to his doorstep, it would be truly excessive not to show some consideration.

"When and where will it be?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

"Next Tuesday at two in the afternoon, at Zhongjing Mutian International Building 1102!" Mo Xin said quickly.

Bai Xiaosheng carefully noted the time and place.

After all, it was a kind gesture from Mo Xin, and since he had agreed, he should dutifully remember it and arrive on time.

Once Bai Xiaosheng agreed to something, he could be very evasive and rejecting at first, but he would take it to heart and see it through meticulously.

Next Tuesday, huh?

Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself that thankfully, it was not Wednesday; Wednesday was when their third-phase report was due to be completed, reviewed for errors, and then submitted to the city to arrange a time with Mayor Ji Mingyang to go to the province for a formal presentation.

And on that very day, the fourth-phase work would also begin!

This would be quick!

Since Mu Beichen wanted to accelerate the process, then he was game to join in!

Bai Xiaosheng's gaze became distant, as he involuntarily curled his lips into a smirk.

He was a bit distracted.

"Additionally, I have another thing to tell you; I will arrive in Zhongjing tomorrow, and when the time comes, you owe me a thorough tour around the city."

With his mind elsewhere, Bai Xiaosheng casually responded, "Sure!"

His decisive reply pleased Mo Xin enormously.

"You promised, no backing out; we must meet tomorrow!"

The call ended, and the dial tone meant Bai Xiaosheng didn't have a chance to explain.

"What did I just agree to!" Bai Xiaosheng stared at his phone, eyes wide with shock.

Chapter 560 Accompanying the Beauty, Touring Zhongjing_1

A real man should keep his word!

After hanging up the phone, Bai Xiaosheng silently put down his mobile phone.

However, I had just returned from Tianqing to Zhongjing, and I had agreed to start work tomorrow. On the very first day of work, I have to go shopping with a young lady. If someone discovers this, how can I, as the General Manager, command the respect of others and lead my subordinates!

Bai Xiaosheng was on the verge of tears.

"That's why you must never get distracted while on the phone, or else the consequences can be quite serious!"

Bai Xiaosheng let out a long sigh.

Naturally, he couldn't call Mo Xin back to refuse her invitation, so he simply tossed his phone away, threw himself onto the bed without a care, and decided to take a nap and empty his mind.

Bai Xiaosheng slept very soundly, until almost dinner time, when he was awakened by his mother Li Qiuyun knocking on his door.

During dinner, Bai Minghang made a point of discussing a few matters.

While Bai Xiaosheng was sleeping, the Li Family had made several calls. Some were for his grandmother Li Fengguan, and some were for his father Bai Minghang.

They were all repeated apologies for today's events, hoping the Bai Family would let bygones be bygones.

Not a single call came for him personally.

It seemed that the Li Family was choosing a roundabout strategy.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but crack a faint smile.

"This time, even your aunt Yu Qingmei took the initiative to call, lowering her stance with an incredibly soft attitude, and asking your grandmother to forgive and forget," Bai Minghang said with evident satisfaction, smiling, "Your grandmother told me that your aunt has never spoken with such an attitude and tone before."

Bai Xiaosheng shook his head slightly, "The Li Family, being able to shamelessly reiterate their stance in person, they really know how to swallow their pride!"

"It's all because they're looking at your face, considering their interests," Bai Minghang glanced at his son and chuckled, "In the end, it's my son who has made a name for himself! They are eagerly trying to curry favor with us. Your grandmother said that as far as family relations go, we're still relatives. But if they have any requests, you should do as you see fit, without needing to tiptoe around because of her!"

The old lady was ready to move on.

"Good!" Bai Xiaosheng said in a single word.

"My son, the General Manager of Zhongjing Media, can even speak with the mayor, and now he is successful in his career!" Li Qiuyun said with a laugh from beside him.

Bai Xiaosheng chuckled, feeling proud, but also tried to show some modesty.

Yet, Li Qiuyun continued, "Does that mean you should start considering personal matters? When are you getting married? When will you have children? If you feel that Yang Qian'er is not suitable, we won't pressure you, but you should at least bring us a daughter-in-law!"

Li Qiuyun looked at her son eagerly.

Bai Xiaosheng's smile suddenly became a bit stiff, and upon glancing at his father Bai Minghang, he saw that he too was looking at him intently.

He never imagined that he would find himself in the situation of being pressured to get married as a single adult...

Bai Xiaosheng felt bitter inside.

"Well, Dad, Mom, you guys go ahead and eat, I'm full. I'll head back to my room now; I still have a report to finish..." Bai Xiaosheng quickly made an excuse and fled.

If outsiders knew that Bai Xiaosheng, who made a name for himself in Tianqing and Zhongjing, was being pressured to marry, who knows what they would think...

The night passed without conversation.

The next day, after Bai Xiaosheng had breakfast, he received a call from Feng.

The car had arrived.

Bai Xiaosheng said goodbye to his parents, went downstairs, and easily found his car to return to Zhongjing Media.

After arriving at the office, Lin Weiwei was the first to report to him.

During the three days Bai Xiaosheng was away, the company maintained smooth operation thanks to the effort of the assistants.

Bai Xiaosheng looked through the reports, extremely satisfied.

After dealing with some matters, and as it was nearing ten o'clock, he called Lin Weiwei over.

"Well, Weiwei, I have something to take care of today and need to step out for a bit. Keep an eye on things here at the company, and call me if there's any issue!" Bai Xiaosheng told her with a smile.

"Ah, okay then. You go ahead," Lin Weiwei nodded, looking at Bai Xiaosheng with a perplexed gaze as he left.

"Why do I get the feeling that Xiaosheng is acting like he has a guilty conscience..." Lin Weiwei muttered to herself with utter confusion.

Bai Xiaosheng went downstairs, didn't take his own car, and hailed a taxi on the roadside, heading straight for the airport.

Upon arriving at the terminal building, he smoothly picked up Mo Xin.

Seeing Mo Xin again, her long black hair was waterfall-like, further accentuating her fair skin. A snow-white blouse on top, with dark blue jeans below.

Her simple attire somehow highlighted her charm all the more, making her look like a tranquil goddess and attracting the gaze of passing men one after the other.

As Bai Xiaosheng approached, he realized that this lady was indeed simply and refreshingly dressed, carrying just a small crossbody bag.

"You don't have any luggage?" Bai Xiaosheng exclaimed in surprise.

It's said that when women travel, they must bring bags big and small, all filled to the brim.

But this one, she had nothing at all, and she was alone—even her best friend didn't accompany her.

"I've checked my luggage, and it will be sent directly to my hotel. Didn't we agree that you'd accompany me shopping? What do I need luggage for?" Mo Xin said with a giggly smile.

That made things simple.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "Alright, let's go then!"

After picking up Mo Xin, they caught a taxi and headed straight for the city center.

Once they reached the destination that Bai Xiaosheng had requested, the two got out of the car.

Bai Xiaosheng acted as a guide, taking Mo Xin around to visit one historical site after another in the old city.

Cultural anecdotes and amusing tales flowed easily from Bai Xiaosheng, and the vivid stories combined with the sights in front of them left Mo Xin exclaiming in wonder.

As they passed through streets and alleys, Bai Xiaosheng always managed to find the most authentic and delicious local snacks hidden in the corners.

With tasty snacks, ancient sights, and a handsome guy telling her stories, the journey was delightful for Mo Xin, her smile blooming like flowers, her heart filled with joy.

However, on the street, men who saw the pure and goddess-like Mo Xin couldn't help but shoot murderous looks at Bai Xiaosheng.

Before they knew it, it was noon.

Bai Xiaosheng invited Mo Xin to a very authentic small restaurant to try the local dishes, which Mo Xin repeatedly praised as delicious.

"How come you're so familiar with the tourist routes? You don't seem like someone who has a lot of time to travel. Could it be that you're considering a career change, from general manager to tour guide?" Mo Xin teased.

Bai Xiaosheng chuckled, nodded his head, and said earnestly, "Possibly."

Mo Xin looked incredulous.

In reality, Bai Xiaosheng knew nothing about these places two hours ago. The reason he could pull off such a knowledgeable front was entirely thanks to Red Lotus's powerful search capabilities—though he said he was taking Mo Xin out, it was also his first time exploring these places.

"Oh, I want to go somewhere later," Mo Xin said with a smile. "I heard that the flagship store of the age-old Yutianxiang is right here in Zhongjing. I want to check it out!"

Yutianxiang, an ancient brand of rouge and powder, has a history of over a hundred years and is now listed as a national key protected brand, having won numerous international awards.

"Sure, having a destination makes it even easier," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

After lunch, the two set off for the flagship store of Yutianxiang.

At this very moment, outside the Yutianxiang flagship store.

A tall man with long legs and fairly spirited looks paused in front of the entrance, glanced at the sign, and stepped inside.

"Hello, sir, can I help you with anything?" a store attendant approached.

A man visiting a makeup store alone was indeed a curiosity.

"Show me some good products; I want to buy a gift," the man said lightly.

"Right this way, please." The attendant was extremely enthusiastic.

The man followed, muttering to himself in a voice only he could hear.

"Mo Xin likes these things, if I give her this, she can hardly refuse me this time!"