

Two Trillion 591

Chapter 591: The Ultimate Temptation of Deliciousness_1

"Since you've bought so much, let me show you how to eat it," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

He reached out, picked up a pair of disposable gloves from the food box, and put them on.

When it comes to eating, especially the snacks of Zhongjing.

Bai Xiaosheng had discovered, during his last shopping trip with Mo Xin and with the help of the guide provided by Red Lotus, how the versatile foodies would reconstruct these snacks to create the ultimate deliciousness!

"The Baiwei Residence's layered pastry, the outer layer can be peeled off, just like a dumpling wrapper, lay it down here. Tear the Qingfeng Residence's sauced duck and pork knuckle into fine shreds, lay them out, then add another pastry layer, top it with a few strands of Fuyun Number's silver-thread salted plum, take some of Chen Family's aged crispy bites from Sifeng Street, crush them, sprinkle on top, and roll it up," Xiaosheng explained his actions, surprisingly combining several different snacks together.

"That's just crazy talk!" Zhang Tianze scoffed under his breath, mocking quietly.

Yet Chen Xiaoya's eyes widened in disbelief, all ears.

"Here, give it a try," Xiaosheng smiled, handing the rolled snack to Lin Weiwei.

"Mixing them all together, can it actually taste good?" Weiwei muttered doubtfully, also somewhat skeptical.

Bai Xiaosheng made an inviting gesture, his eyes encouraging.

Only then did Weiwei gingerly place the roll in her mouth, took a gentle bite, and slowly chewed.

Her beautiful eyes immediately went wide with disbelief, looking down at the snack that Bai Xiaosheng had improved.

"This is too delicious!" Even a collected girl like Weiwei couldn't help but exclaim.

The crust was crisp and springy, first flooding the mouth with a savory meat aroma, followed by a refreshing aftertaste, with the pastry's delicate texture lingering at the end.

One bite of the snack set off an explosion of taste buds, each chew seemed to reveal a thousand different nuances.

Before, Weiwei had always thought that "so delicious it makes you want to cry" was an exaggerated phrase foodies used, but now, with this one bite, she truly felt there were no words to describe the wonder!

Following Weiwei's exclamation, Chen Xiaoya immediately stood up, blinking her large eyes at them.

"Miss, could you let me have a taste please?" Xiaoya looked at Weiwei eagerly, pleadingly.

Bai and Weiwei exchanged startled glances.

Unable to resist a glance at Bai, Xiaoya's gaze fell on his face, her eyes filled with entreaty.

This young lady, pretty and dressed in brands, carried an extraordinary demeanor, yet who would have thought she was a foodie...

Xiaosheng smiled, replicated the roll, and passed it over.

Xiaoya took it cautiously, took a bite, and her beautiful eyes went wide. Moments later, they welled up with tears.

"Xiaoya, what's wrong?" Zhang Tianze was startled and quickly got up.

The two accompanying attendants also stood up anxiously.

"It's so delicious," Xiaoya sobbed a little.

Bai and Weiwei were initially alarmed, but hearing her words, they looked at each other, speechless and surprised.

Such a reaction was truly that of a supreme foodie...

"So, do you want another one?" Weiwei couldn't help but feel a bit of compassion and asked softly.

"Yes, yes, please," Xiaoya nodded eagerly, like a pecking chicken.

Zhang Tianze watched as Xiaoya looked at Bai with eyes full of admiration, and he felt bouts of irritation.

I've spared no expense, going to great lengths to please you with romance every day, yet I've never seen you look at me like that!

Deep within Zhang Tianze's eyes, there lurked a hidden resentment, and when he looked at Bai, it naturally included a deeply buried hostility.

Bai didn't notice and probably wouldn't have imagined that he could offend someone with food.

The seats in this business cabin were of a new design and could be rotated.

With the help of the flight attendants, everyone sat face to face, Xiaoya looking eagerly at the food box in Bai's hands, full of anticipation and joy.

With the two ladies Weiwei and Xiaoya there, Zhang Tianze managed to keep a polite smile, maintaining his manners rather gracefully.

Sitting opposite each other, everyone introduced themselves, getting acquainted, and even the two attendants were mentioned. The male attendant was Zhang Tianze's man, He Yitao, and the female attendant was Xiaoya's, Tian Cheng.

"Xiaosheng, what's the name of this dish you made?" Chen Xiaoya asked while eating.

The way she said "Xiaosheng," was very sweet—but not cloying, not annoying at all.

At the very least, Lin Weiwei didn't find it off-putting.

However, Zhang Tianze had a slightly unpleasant expression on his face.

He had been working so hard for many days, waiting on her hand and foot, yet he hadn't earned such an affectionate "Xiaosheng." And now, some kid he'd never met before had snatched it away.

Plus, this kid had a smart and beautiful woman like Lin Weiwei by his side.

His heart instantly filled with an even greater dislike for Bai Xiaosheng.

"This?..." Bai Xiaosheng pondered for a moment, then smiled, "It doesn't have a name yet. How about you give it one? Would that be okay?"

Actually, the original creator of this delicious dish had already given it a name, "Intoxication Between the Lips and Teeth."

But if Bai Xiaosheng said that out loud right now, it wouldn't be much different from flirting...

Especially in front of someone else's pursuer—it would definitely be seen as picking a fight...

"No name? I get to name it? Sure, sure!" Chen Xiaoya immediately became excited, "Hmm... what should I call it!"

Lin Weiwei's smile was full of anticipation, curious about what name this "foodie sister" would give the snack.

"How about 'Salt Plum Crisp Duck and Braised Pork Roll'! How does that sound?" Chen Xiaoya asked, full of hope.

Bai Xiaosheng was startled, chuckled, and muttered, "If it makes you happy."

"Actually, it's quite fitting, not bad at all," Lin Weiwei quite encouragingly said.

"With these remaining ingredients, you can make other tasty things too," Bai Xiaosheng glanced at the food box, smiled, and started working at a relaxed pace, quickly conjuring several new snacks.

"Here, have a taste," Xiaosheng offered to everyone.

Zhang Tianze couldn't help but take one, too.

The new snacks amazed Lin Weiwei, Zhang Tianze's eyes widened in surprise, and Chen Xiaoya kept exclaiming in amazement.

Each kind was the epitome of delicious, creating an addictive desire in everyone.

The other passengers in the carriage, curious, came over, and Bai Xiaosheng didn't skimp, handing out several servings.

After trying them, people couldn't help but praise loudly.

The normally quiet business cabin suddenly became a bit noisy and lively.

Watching Bai Xiaosheng being praised by everyone and adored by Chen Xiaoya, Zhang Tianze felt increasingly irritated, the disgust in the depths of his eyes growing heavier.

"Brother Bai, what do you do for a living? You seem to know a lot about food—are you a cook?" Zhang Tianze said with a fake laugh, his words unkind and tinged with sarcasm.

Even if Bai Xiaosheng was really a chef, referring to a chef as merely a "cook" is clearly disrespectful.

Moreover, saying this in front of so many people, and to a peer, was clearly intentional.

Chen Xiaoya, preoccupied with eating, hadn't noticed.

But Lin Weiwei wasn't pleased and opened her mouth to tell him—Bai Xiaosheng is a bona fide big company CEO!

Bai Xiaosheng stopped her.

He had noticed that the look in Zhang Tianze's eyes was off.

After a brief moment of being taken aback, Bai Xiaosheng realized what was happening.

The kid was annoyed because he had stolen the spotlight in front of his companion.

Clever boy! You eat my food, and you want to pick a fight with me?

No way!

But, since I have nothing better to do, I might as well tease you.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled at Zhang Tianze, "Me? I'm not a cook, I'm actually a fortune teller. We have a long way to go, and it's quite boring. Mister Zhang, are you interested in having your fortune told? Ten thousand per session, no charge if it's not accurate."

Chapter 592: Master of Physiognomy Bai Xiaosheng (Please Subscribe)_1

Calling himself a master of physiognomy, Bai Xiaosheng spoke with utmost seriousness, as if dealing with a matter of great importance.

Lin Weiwei couldn't help but look at him oddly, and suddenly understood—Xiaosheng was just teasing the guy!

But it was quite interesting.

Lin Weiwei laughed inwardly, choosing not to chime in.

"Really, I couldn't tell," Zhang Tianze scoffed with disdain, "Feng shui and physiognomy are for the adept. With someone as young as you... you lack decades of experience, Bai."

Bai Xiaosheng just smiled and began to cover each of the food boxes.

"Just a bit of fun, what harm is there? If my predictions are wrong, I'll give you all this food and not ask for a penny more."

He had refused to sell them for fifty thousand, and now he was offering them for free?

Chen Xiaoya stared at the food boxes with eager eyes, then looked at Zhang Tianze, her gaze urging him on.

Surrounding passengers, who had gathered to watch the commotion, began to goad them.

"Take the bet, young man, it's not like you can't afford it. Besides, you can't back out if it's not right," they taunted.

"Right, money is a trifle, but you can't lose face, especially in front of a lady. You can't chicken out now."

"Just now, you were willing to spend tens of thousands to buy these snacks, and now you've got a chance," they chimed in.

Those who come to watch the fun are never afraid of making matters bigger.

When it comes to face, plus Chen Xiaoya's eager gaze...

Zhang Tianze stopped backing down and smiled promptly.

"Fine, I'll play along. Let's see how accurate you are—I'm curious to hear it!"

Zhang Tianze had his own plans.

In his eyes, a feng shui master was credible, but this kid was nearly his own age—what kind of feng shui or physiognomy expert could be so young? Most likely, he knew some minor trickery, either smooth talk or bluffs.

Such methods might fool a girl, and he had played with them before.

As long as he paid attention not to get caught in the net of words, the other party would be powerless.

Even if what you say is right, I'll just deny its accuracy, and there's nothing you can do about it! Zhang Tianze inwardly sneered.

"Hey, Xiaosheng, calculate mine first. Is it something like zodiac signs? I'm an Aries!" Chen Xiaoya said, beating everyone to it.

Her eagerness naturally made it difficult for Zhang Tianze to refuse.

"Alright, alright, let's start with Xiaoya then," he said.

Zhang Tianze had no choice but to agree. Nonetheless, he watched warily, ready to intervene should Bai Xiaosheng attempt wordplay on Chen Xiaoya.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled slightly and studied Chen Xiaoya's face carefully.

You're actually reading her face!

Zhang Tianze was speechless at first and then felt something was off. Was Bai Xiaosheng blatantly taking advantage of Chen Xiaoya...?

His eyes narrowed immediately, alert and protective.

Chen Xiaoya initially didn't think much of it, but after being gazed upon for a few seconds, her beautiful eyes locked with Bai Xiaosheng's.

It had to be said that Bai Xiaosheng's eyes were very attractive—clear and bright, with a depth that sparkled with intelligence.

Chen Xiaoya's face turned slightly red.

At that moment, Bai Xiaosheng spoke.

"Miss Chen, are you in Zhongjing to relax or to play? It seems you're in good spirits. Is there something that's made you happy? What is it that delights you so, a person or a thing? Things—are they living or inanimate? Do you like animals? Cats, dogs? So it seems, there's a little animal, isn't there? One, two, three, four, five, six, seven..." Bai Xiaosheng stared into Chen Xiaoya's eyes, firing question after question.

At first, Zhang Tianze thought that Bai Xiaosheng was going to use wordplay and was instantly on guard.

But Bai Xiaosheng just kept talking to himself, without letting Chen Xiaoya respond.

"I see. Miss Chen's pet dog had a litter of six puppies, no wonder you're especially happy, feeling great, and even came to Zhongjing to buy them treats." Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

Chen Xiaoya's lovely eyes widened in astonishment, her mouth forming an 'O' as she looked at Bai Xiaosheng incredulously.

"How did you know?" Chen Xiaoya looked at Bai Xiaosheng with an expression as if she had seen a miracle.

From start to finish, she had not said a word.

Meanwhile, Zhang Tianze was dumbstruck.

Slick con artists speak in riddles, but I've never seen this sort—the kind that doesn't need anyone to answer at all.

Could it be that physiognomy can even reveal whether someone's dog at home has had puppies?!

Incredible, simply unbelievable.

Lin Weiwei also looked at Bai Xiaosheng in amazement, especially after getting Chen Xiaoya's confirmation, she found it somewhat hard to believe.

The surrounding people were also abuzz.

"Can this kind of thing be seen from a face?"

"The young girl hasn't said a word, yet this young brother pinpointed it in one go. Awesome indeed!"

"Is this physiognomy? It's so magical!"

...

Bai Xiaosheng just smiled without saying a word.

Reading faces? He didn't know how!

But the third assist of his system, the Micro Expression Analysis System, evolved to become incredibly sensitive.

Upon hearing a question, people's pupils, the corners of their eyes, or their brows all have subconscious micro-reactions which are the most truthful feedback from the unconscious mind.

All Bai Xiaosheng needed to do was keep asking questions.

If a certain keyword touched the other person, their response would naturally surface.

For instance, by asking whether she was happy about a "person" or a "thing," if it was a "living creature" or an "inanimate object," if she preferred "cats" or "dogs," or out of a series of numbers, which one she cared about more.

With a bit of connection and deduction, the answer could be figured out.

Of course, while it seems simple, it would be impossible without the system.

Is it really so magical? Zhang Tianze was inwardly astonished.

"It's exactly that magical!" Bai Xiaosheng smiled back at him.

He had even voiced the subtext in his mind!

Zhang Tianze was startled but still a bit incredulous, "Fine, then give me a reading!"

"Sure," Bai Xiaosheng replied with a smile, "but first, settle the tab from earlier. A master of physiognomy does not give credit!"

Zhang Tian gave a cold snort and glanced at He Yitao.

That attendant immediately took out his phone and said to Bai Xiaosheng, "I'll transfer the money to you."

"Weiwei, collect the money," Bai Xiaosheng said calmly.

"Alrighty!" Lin Weiwei was not shy and went over to transfer the money with He Yitao.

"Now, are we good to go?" Zhang Tian asked.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and began to scrutinize Zhang Tianze.

Chen Xiaoya watched eagerly from the side, curiously staring at Bai Xiaosheng.

The crowd around him fell silent, quietly watching this mystical master of physiognomy.

"Your features are quite good, but sadly you've recently faced a tribulation," Bai Xiaosheng seriously started with a one-size-fits-all opener used by physiognomists, gathering feedback from Zhang Tian's micro expressions and continuing to probe, "Ah, the incident has already occurred. It's no small matter,

causing you a lot of anxiety. This matter affects your career, education, family, yes, it affects your family, and even your future. Haha, it seems to be a serious issue, hence you are trying to handle it. You managed to deal with it in the past few days, yesterday, the day before yesterday, yes, it was the day before that you solved it. This matter, it seems to be related to a woman..."

Bai Xiaosheng kept muttering to himself, and to others listening, it seemed to be nothing special.

That's what a physiognomist does, right? Keep muttering to give the flavor of a face-reading session.

Zhang Tianze's expression changed slowly as Bai Xiaosheng continued to mutter, terror surfacing in his eyes.

Of course, these changes in expression still could not affect Bai Xiaosheng's judgment, as he had the system to assist him, letting him discard the false and keep the true.

As soon as the topic of women was brought up, Zhang Tianze quickly raised his hand to block Bai Xiaosheng's view, preventing him from continuing to deduce further.

"He Yitao, pay up!" Zhang Tianze called out urgently.

This time, he believed!

He was afraid Bai Xiaosheng might really spell it out!

If he was to speak in front of Chen Xiaoya, it would spell major trouble.

Good heavens, what a master of physiognomy! When Zhang Tian looked at Bai Xiaosheng through his fingers, his eyes were filled with reverence.

He hadn't expected to encounter a master by chance!

Chapter 593: Arriving at Linshen (Seeking Subscriptions)_1

Zhang Tianze faced Bai Xiaosheng again, feeling somewhat uneasy and even more, a sense of alarm passed through his heart.

How can a peer be so formidable!

Just with the analysis of his facial features, he was able to deduce those affairs...

Zhang Tianze would rather believe it possible, afraid that Bai Xiaosheng might really speak in front of Chen Xiaoya.

A few days ago, a young model he was close to got pregnant. The Zhang Family might be wealthy and powerful, but if word of this got out, how could he dare pursue Chen Xiaoya? It would be a dream! The Chen Family would never allow it!

The young model was also ruthless, aiming to use this to climb the social ladder.

Zhang Tianze had expended considerable effort threatening and tempting to smooth things over.

Already feeling guilty, Bai Xiaosheng's continuous bluffs made him lose his composure first, becoming timid; he didn't dare to show off anymore.

"What's the matter, why have you stopped talking?" Chen Xiaoya asked with her big, watery eyes, unable to restrain her curiosity.

She was very curious.

Just what had Bai Xiaosheng figured out that he didn't spell out clearly, causing Zhang Tianze to become so frightened.

"Hehe, it's nothing, really nothing, it's all in the past, a loss of wealth has averted a minor disaster. There's no pleasure in bringing it up, no need to talk about it! Master Bai, you are remarkable, I concede defeat!" Zhang Tianze said with a laugh, his gaze towards Bai Xiaosheng filled with a hint of respect.

Chen Xiaoya wanted to ask more, but Zhang Tianze quickly picked up a "salt plum and crispy duck with braised pork wrap" and laughed, "Xiaoya, want another?"

"Sure!" Chen Xiaoya responded delightedly.

With that subject dropped, she pursued it no further.

Zhang Tianze was still a bit concerned and couldn't help but ask Bai Xiaosheng with a laugh, "Master, you didn't continue my fortune, right?"

"No, don't worry," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

He hadn't really divined anything; he had simply teased it out of him. Since Mr. Zhang had accepted his loss, he let it be.

However, he was actually curious about what else he could have drawn out from Zhang Tianze. Now there was no chance...

Zhang Tianze looked grateful.

Bai Xiaosheng was even more content.

This trip had been really good, earning an extra twenty thousand on the side.

Lin Weiwei was smiling from ear to ear, looking at Bai Xiaosheng with admiration.

"Master, how about you see for me too?"

"Yeah, look at mine too, I can afford the ten thousand consultation fee if it's accurate," another person said.

"Do mine discreetly!" another passenger couldn't resist saying.

In this business-class cabin, there were indeed a few wealthy individuals.

When people have reached a certain level of wealth, they start liking these things, believing in fate.

"Sorry, everyone, I have a daily limit for doing readings, and I've just used up my quota for today. My apologies," Bai Xiaosheng said to everyone with a smile.

The crowd showed faces of disappointment, uttering exclamations of admiration as they returned to their seats.

Turning down money like that, ten thousand without even consulting, this man really is a master!

Zhang Tianze looked at Bai Xiaosheng with even more belief.

"I wonder, where does Master Bai currently cultivate?" Zhang Tianze asked with a smile.

Cultivate? Lin Weiwei almost burst out laughing.

"You flatter me, my small tricks are nothing but superficial. I only studied with a master for a couple of days, and I'm not worthy of being called a master," Bai Xiaosheng said with feigned modesty, his face unchanging, "In today's society, to provide face readings and feng shui consultations one has to be well-known. Also, the older and more venerable your appearance, the more in demand you are. I don't earn a living this way; I have other work."

"Ah, what a pity!"

Zhang Tianze seemed to lament slightly before smiling, "But, Brother Bai, those skills of yours! They're more formidable than many masters!"

He really believed it...

Bai Xiaosheng didn't burst his bubble, and for a moment his smile became inscrutable.

The group continued to eat snacks and chat about various topics.

Zhang Tianze discovered that Bai Xiaosheng actually possessed startling knowledge, able to hold his own on any topic with remarkable insight. Plus, since it was very likely that Bai Xiaosheng had guessed his dirty little secret, he was much more polite.

This was a great figure worth getting to know!

Too bad, though, he's aware of my secret... It's better to have less to do with him...

Zhang Tianze was filled with regret, determined to keep Bai Xiaosheng at arm's length.

After chatting for two hours, most of the snacks Lin Weiwei had brought were devoured by Chen Xiaoya.

This slender girl had an astonishing appetite, which left Lin Weiwei repeatedly shocked in silence, fearing that she might overfeed her.

By the end of the conversation, everyone was a bit tired.

"Xiaoya, why don't you recline your seat and rest for a bit? It's the perfect time for a beauty nap at noon," Zhang Tianze seized the opportunity to suggest.

In the presence of Bai Xiaosheng, he always felt somewhat unnatural.

Chen Xiaoya agreed.

He Yitao immediately called the attendant to reset the seat to its original position.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei were also happy to take a break.

They had started snacking around ten and continued until noon, which essentially served as lunch.

Bai Xiaosheng also had the habit of taking a midday nap, and feeling genuinely tired at the moment, he promptly tidied up, folded away the table, reclined the sofa-style seat, and lying down, he found it quite comfortable indeed.

Before he knew it, Bai Xiaosheng drifted off to sleep.

The slumber was profoundly sweet.

The fatigue of the past few days seemed to dissolve into sleep.

"Xiaosheng, wake up," Lin Weiwei eventually woke him by pushing him.

He opened his groggy eyes, yawned widely, and stretched lazily as he got up.

That nap was incredibly refreshing.

"Where are we?" Bai Xiaosheng saw people starting to walk out and couldn't help asking.

"We've already arrived at the station!" Lin Weiwei said.

The seats around them were empty.

Zhang Tianze and Chen Xiaoya in the row ahead were also gone.

"The two of them and their entourage have all disembarked. That Chen Xiaoya even asked me to pass on her thanks to you!" Lin Weiwei was retrieving luggage.

Bai Xiaosheng stood up to help her.

"You have no idea, that girl has taken a liking to you, and she even wanted to take you home as a guest," Lin Weiwei snickered, "Zhang Tianze was in a panic, hustling her away while trying to convince her, as if he was afraid you would actually agree, adding a rival for him. That girl was really reluctant to leave."

Lin Weiwei glanced out the window and pointed.

Bai Xiaosheng looked and vaguely saw their figures in the distance.

So there had been such a scene, and he hadn't known a thing about it, sleeping so soundly!

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but laugh in silence.

Having missed the chance to say farewell to the Zhangs and Chen Xiaoya, Bai Xiaosheng didn't really mind; after all, their meeting was just a brief encounter.

The two picked up their things and got off the train.

Right after descending, Lin Weiwei received a phone call stating that the film crew's vehicle had arrived.

Upon exiting the high-speed train station, they were greeted by Gao Dazhi, with Zhao Xiaoying and Gao Ya following behind him.

With limited space in the car, apart from the driver, no one else had come.

"Mr. Bai, it's been a long trip!" Gao Dazhi, cheerful and spirited, hadn't seen him for a while.

"No, Director Gao, you're the one who's been through the wringer. Look at you, you've lost weight with the crew!" Bai Xiaosheng teased with a smile.

Zhao Xiaoying and Gao Ya, smiling, watched Bai Xiaosheng; they came over to enthusiastically greet him and help Lin Weiwei with her things.

The car, an MPV, a Buick GL8, was parked outside.

The driver greeted Bai Xiaosheng respectfully, and Bai Xiaosheng courteously nodded in response.

Everyone got into the car, and out of curiosity about the destination, Bai Xiaosheng chose to sit in the front passenger seat, and Gao Dazhi didn't insist otherwise.

The MPV headed toward the destination—Qingbei Town in Linshen City.

On the road, Bai Xiaosheng smiled and asked, "How's the shooting progress with the film crew lately?"

Gao Ya started to speak, but Zhao Xiaoying subtly tugged at her, interrupting what she was about to say.

Gao Dazhi hurriedly laughed, "Um... everything's going smoothly!"

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but take a deep look at him through the rearview mirror, "That's good to hear!"

Chapter 594 Trouble with the Film Crew_1

Linshen City, one of the old first-tier cities in the country.

Drive north for three hours, and there is a small town—Qingbei Town.

It used to be an inconspicuous place, but now, it is known throughout the cosmos.

The reason is that a famous film and television city has been built here—Qingbei Film and Television City. It integrates film and television production, tourism, vacationing, leisure, and sightseeing, and is also a national 5A-level scenic area.

The owner of this film town, Qingbei Group, invested a total of 35 billion yuan to build numerous dynasty-themed palatial complexes and several bases with regional features of the north and south, as well as two ultra-large modern studios. It is said that, in terms of scale, this is the second largest film city in the country and the fourth largest in Asia.

The crew from Zhongjing Media has been transferring to Qingbei Film and Television City for two weeks.

Although they were shooting a city-themed drama, the plot involved several generations of grudges and emotional entanglements, inevitably requiring contemporary scenes to be filmed here.

In terms of filming, everything was going smoothly until the day before yesterday.

But that evening, after finishing shooting a scene, several people showed up.

They did not hide their identities and made it clear they belonged to a subsidiary company of Qingbei Group. They wanted to invite Shang Wanwan to the general manager's private party in two days to add to the festivity.

Shang Wanwan rejected the invitation outright.

Firstly, she needed to rush through memorizing her lines.

Secondly, as an up-and-coming movie queen in the circle, she carried her status with self-respect. Such gatherings usually required the consent of the talent agency. Moreover, if it were Qingbei Group itself, it might be a different story, but just a subsidiary company's general manager—attending would be beneath her dignity.

Shang Wanwan refused, and those people did not seem angry or annoyed; they simply turned and left.

However, the next morning, the crew was informed by the site management.

The site needed maintenance, and they had to halt production!

This was completely nonsensical. Other crews nearby were not halting production; it was just this one street that was stopped. And they spoke of maintenance, yet there wasn't even a shadow of a worker in sight.

Yesterday, they waited the whole day.

Eventually, Gao Dazhi and others couldn't contain themselves and went to confront the site manager.

As a result, they were just given the runaround.

An entire day was lost with no work done!

When Bai Xiaosheng wanted Lin Weiwei to call Gao Dazhi, Gao was still fretting over this issue.

Of course, he did not mention a word of it on the call.

On one hand, Gao Dazhi felt he could resolve the issue and didn't want to leave an impression of incompetence on Bai Xiaosheng.

On the other hand, Gao Dazhi had heard from Lin Weiwei that Bai Xiaosheng had been working very hard recently, and he did not want to add to Bai's troubles.

After all, there was still more than a day before Bai's arrival, and in his view, the issue could be resolved by then.

However, one thing led to another, and the situation remained unresolved until he went to pick up Bai Xiaosheng.

For now, the entire crew was stuck in their accommodations, resting.

At that moment.

Shang Wanwan was in her room, her delicately arched eyebrows furrowed, unable to concentrate on her lines anymore.

"Shang, there's no need to worry too much. After all, we have a contract with the film city. They can't just keep us from using the place forever," Xiao Mai said in an attempt to calm her down.

Shang Wanwan gave a bitter smile and shook her head, "Silly girl, they don't need to breach the contract; they can still delay us for ten days or half a month! With such a large crew and so many people waiting here, how ridiculous! The delay in progress is not a trivial loss."

"Then let them do the maintenance, and we can go back to Linshen City to shoot other scenes," Xiao Mai muttered.

"What if we come back and they need to maintain the site again?" Shang Wanwan retorted.

"Then..." Xiao Mai was at a loss for words.

"This is all because of me," Miss Shang sighed softly, "It was my miscalculation! A mere subsidiary, and it's got people inside Qingbei Group playing hot potato? That so-called subsidiary's general manager

must be no ordinary person! And this Qingbei Group – I've looked into them – they're not simple at all. That massive film and television town is but one of their many industries."

As she spoke, Miss Shang let out a melancholy sigh, "First-tier cities are full of crouching tigers and hidden dragons. Just a slight oversight, and you offend someone!"

Xiao Mai opened her mouth but didn't know what to say to comfort her.

Even though she was Miss Shang's assistant, mostly handling Miss Shang's daily living needs, she was young and inexperienced, naturally unaware of the intricacies involved.

However, seeing Miss Shang unable to eat or drink for the past two days, she felt a bit heartbroken.

"Why don't we report this to our company and let Mr. Cui handle it?" Xiao Mai suggested cautiously.

But the company would not likely offend some big shot just for the sake of an artist under their banner; they might instead order Miss Shang to solve the problem on her own.

Miss Shang seemed not to hear Xiao Mai's suggestion; she looked out the window and murmured, "Bai Xiaosheng, it should be time."

"Yeah, let him handle it, this guy is formidable! Kick the trouble over to him!" Xiao Mai suddenly perked up.

But Miss Shang came back to her senses, looked at her, and smiled while shaking her head, "The trouble I've caused really boils down to me!"

As they were speaking, there was a gentle knock on the door.

"Who is it?" Xiao Mai got up to open the door.

Miss Shang looked over.

The door opened.

Outside stood two men in sharp suits, robust and stylish, yet they politely held their hands folded in front of them.

"Is Miss Shang Wanwan present?" the lead one asked.

"It's you!" Xiao Mai frowned.

She had seen these two men before.

They were the ones who had come to invite Miss Shang that day, and the appointed time, now that she thought about it, was today – for a dinner banquet!

And now, here they were again.

"I'm here," Miss Shang walked over, looking calmly at the two men.

"Miss Shang seems to have some time; could you accept our invitation now?" the leading man asked with a smile, "It's just a dinner party, and you can return to rest afterwards, as you have filming tomorrow. However, if you do not attend..."

He trailed off abruptly.

A smiling threat.

"Fine, since your master invites so courteously, Miss Wanwan has no reason to refuse," Miss Shang spoke with a smile, "Do you mind if I inform the film crew?"

"That's fine," the man said with a smile.

Miss Shang glanced at Xiao Mai, who immediately called Gao Dazhi.

"Hmm. In that case, let's make the trip, but stay in touch throughout," Gao Dazhi, in the moving car, looked at Bai Xiaosheng's figure and instructed in a low voice over the phone.

There wasn't much they could do even telling Bai Xiaosheng about the situation; after all, this was not Zhongjing, and the crux of the problem still lay with Miss Shang.

Afterward, Gao Dazhi gave a couple more low-voiced instructions before hanging up the phone.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at Gao Dazhi through the rearview mirror and asked, "Is there a problem?"

"Oh, it's just a small matter concerning Miss Shang that needs to be dealt with," Gao Dazhi replied with a smile, "It should be quick."

In the mirror, Bai Xiaosheng stared at Gao Dazhi intently for a full two seconds.

Gao Dazhi began to feel a bit uncomfortable.

Bai Xiaosheng averted his gaze and said indifferently to the driver next to him, "Drive faster!"

Chapter 595 Sir Cheng Has a Request_1

Facing the renewed invitation, Shang Wanwan agreed to the appointment.

As Xiao Mai was calling Gao Dazhi, Shang Wanwan went back to her room to get her handbag.

When Xiao Mai hung up the phone, Shang Wanwan walked towards the door, and Xiao Mai, as an assistant, naturally followed.

The two men did not obstruct Xiao Mai in the slightest, remaining courteous as ever.

Seeing their attitude, Xiao Mai finally felt somewhat at ease.

The leader made a 'please' gesture to Shang Wanwan and followed behind.

The group went downstairs, and just as they reached the hotel entrance, they ran into Yang Qian'er.

Yang Qian'er had also wanted to go pick up Bai Xiaosheng, but she had to stay because the actor playing against her kept flubbing a scene, so she couldn't leave.

Now that it was finally over, she rushed back to the hotel, only to witness this scene.

"Shang, are you going out?" Yang Qian'er asked casually at first, but then she raised her eyes and saw the two strong men following behind Shang Wanwan, and her brow immediately furrowed.

She recognized them, too—they were from the local venue, having invited Shang Wanwan once before.

Shang Wanwan had refused, and the next day, they had shut down the filming site.

Were these two men here again now?

Seeing this setup, was Shang Wanwan going to follow them to a banquet?

"Yes, I've got something to take care of," Shang Wanwan smiled at Yang Qian'er.

Having spent a lot of time together, the two women now had a good relationship. Moreover, with Bai Xiaosheng as a common topic, they had become friends.

"If Mr. Bai arrives, please tell him that if all goes well, the crew should be able to start work tomorrow," Shang Wanwan said with a smile, planning to walk outside.

Yang Qian'er watched them pass by her, then suddenly raised her voice, "Wait!"

Shang Wanwan turned around in surprise.

"I'll go with you!" Yang Qian'er stepped forward quickly and insisted.

Yang Qian'er was afraid that Shang Wanwan might encounter trouble going alone. Shang Wanwan felt a warmth in her heart, her eyes softening with a smile.

One of the big men frowning slightly was about to object.

"I'm also Shang's assistant. If I don't follow her, she's not comfortable!" Yang Qian'er firmly stated.

Shang Wanwan was about to say something but was stopped by Yang Qian'er's stubborn gaze.

The two big men exchanged a glance.

The leader smiled, "Alright then."

"I just can't rest easy if you go alone!" Yang Qian'er walked up to Shang Wanwan and lowered her voice, "With two of us, there's someone to back you up! Even if it comes to an argument, you have help!"

"Well... okay then," Shang Wanwan knew this girl was stubborn and once she was set on something, it was hard to change her mind.

If she wanted to follow, then let her come; after all, the men were there for her, Yang Qian'er should be safe. That's what Shang Wanwan thought.

The group left the hotel.

Outside the hotel, there was a Mercedes-Benz S-Class sedan parked by the roadside.

The group got into the car, the two big men in the driver's and front passenger's seats, the three women in the back.

Afterward, the car drove away from the guesthouse.

The journey was somewhat somber.

"May I ask, the host who invited me, how should I address him?" Shang Wanwan broke the silence, smiling at the man in the front passenger seat.

She wanted to get the lay of the land before they arrived.

"His surname is Cheng." The big man didn't avoid the question, his tone quite mild, "He's the deputy head of the first subsidiary under our Qingbei Group. Everyone respectfully calls him Sir Cheng."

Shang Wanwan nodded.

"I've been with Sir Cheng for many years; I know his temperament and nature very well," the big man continued, "Miss Shang, rest assured, it's just an ordinary banquet. As long as you cooperate, Sir Cheng is very reasonable."

Shang Wanwan nodded again.

"Cooperate, how? I've never heard of inviting someone like this! And Shang is a public figure. She can attend, but you have to understand, she needs to protect her public image. Please don't overdo it," Yang Qian'er interjected sharply.

She started her career as a journalist.

Although she joined the drama crew as an actor, she would occasionally show her temperament.

It's called professional sickness.

Shang Wanwan subtly tugged at her, signaling her not to speak further.

The burly man sitting in the passenger seat glanced at Yang Qian'er through the rearview mirror, his gaze casual but with a faintly disdainful sneer.

The car fell silent once again.

Before long, the Mercedes-Benz S-Class sedan turned into a manor.

When the car came to a halt, a servant ran over to open the door and shielded the top with his hand to prevent the guests from bumping their heads.

Everyone got out of the car and headed straight for the manor's great hall, led by the burly man.

Along the way, there were many servants passing by, but they were very well-mannered; evidently, they were well-trained.

Once they entered the great hall, Shang Wanwan and the others realized there were already quite a few guests inside.

These guests, in groups of twos and threes, each held a glass of wine, conversing in low tones; the scene was not noisy at all.

Someone recognized Shang Wanwan and merely raised their glass to her from afar, without any shouting or even the intention of coming over.

Shang Wanwan even spotted a few familiar faces from the circle.

It could be said that all the guests present were of refined demeanor; their identities must be extraordinary!

"Miss Shang, please follow me," said the leading burly man with a smile.

Shang Wanwan nodded her head.

The three followed the burly man through the hall to a drawing room. As they reached the door, they heard a man's voice from inside, "The Director has been in a poor mood recently, so I organized this party to cheer him up. I appreciate everyone's presence."

"When will the Director arrive?" someone asked.

"He is already on his way back to Linshen after a trip out of town to unwind," the previous voice replied.

The burly man pushed open the door and entered, announcing, "Sir Cheng, your guests have arrived."

With that, he stepped aside.

Shang Wanwan and the others saw that inside the drawing room, a circle of people were sitting on the spacious sofas.

The man seated in the center appeared to be in his forties with a chiseled face. His piercing eyes revealed a hidden sharpness, indicating he was not one to be trifled with.

On the coffee table in front of everyone, there were a circle of wine glasses, as well as several bottles of opened western liquor.

In the wine glasses, there was a shallow serving of red wine.

"Sir Cheng," greeted Shang Wanwan, smiling gracefully as she approached the man in the center.

"Ah, Miss Shang!" Sir Cheng laughed heartily and waved his hand, signaling for someone on the side of the sofa to make space for Shang Wanwan, "Please, have a seat, you are indeed hard to invite!"

"You flatter me," replied Shang Wanwan with a smile, leading the way to take a seat, followed closely by Yang Qian'er and Xiao Mai.

A good number of people in the room dispersed at once, and the burly man who led them closed the door from outside.

Shang Wanwan sat on the sofa, with Yang Qian'er next to her, and Xiao Mai stood obediently behind Shang Wanwan.

"And who might this be?" Sir Cheng glanced at Yang Qian'er, his brows furrowing slightly.

In his eyes, Shang Wanwan had the right to sit down, but what gave this woman the entitlement?

"She's a friend of mine, also one of the lead actors in our crew. She accompanied me here this time. You don't mind, do you, Sir Cheng?" Shang Wanwan said with a smile.

"I don't mind, certainly not," Sir Cheng said with a hearty laugh.

Yang Qian'er remained expressionless. She had interviewed many big shots, each humble and courteous, and she had not heard of anyone being forced to attend like this.

"Mr. Cheng, Shang has arrived as promised, so will the venue be open tomorrow? If there's anything you wish to discuss, please do so directly. After we finish here, we still need to go back and memorize our lines," Yang Qian'er stated coldly.

Shang Wanwan was taken aback.

She never expected Yang Qian'er to get straight to the point right away.

Sir Cheng's smile faded slightly as he looked Yang Qian'er up and down twice, then burst into laughter again, "Miss Shang, your friend here is very straightforward. I like that!"

Chapter 596: Fall Out!_1

Sir Cheng said to her face that he liked her temperament, yet Yang Qian'er frowned.

She didn't like it!

In the past, Yang Qian'er was a reporter, in charge of the finance section. All the interviews she conducted were arranged by the company, with each titan dressed in suits and leather shoes, all polite manners. She had almost never come into contact with anything gray, let alone black areas.

Furthermore, until now, she had thought this Mr. Cheng was just the vice president of a subsidiary company, trying to pressure Shang Wanwan into attending an event and had played dirty with the venue issue. She considered him insignificant.

She thought as long as Shang Wanwan showed up, gave the other party some face, the problem would be solved.

Unlike Yang Qian'er, from the moment she saw Sir Cheng, Shang Wanwan associated him with the Qingbei Group's head office, which did not consider its image and ingratiated itself with them.

Could a vice president of a subsidiary do that?

This person was definitely not simple!

Moreover, before entering the room, Sir Cheng mentioned the director, which might be an even bigger problem!

It would be best not to provoke him!

This was Shang Wanwan's thought, but unexpectedly, Yang Qian'er came up and confronted him right away.

"My friend here isn't very good with words. If she has said anything to upset Sir Cheng, I'll apologize on her behalf," Shang Wanwan said with a smile, while she secretly tugged at Yang Qian'er.

Being a major star with not the slightest airs about her and calling herself Wanwan in front of others made Yang Qian'er feel even more that she was undervaluing herself.

Sir Cheng's smile returned to normal.

"Miss Wanwan, gentle and virtuous! Truly befitting of an almost first-tier star," Sir Cheng praised, pouring a light glass of red wine and handing it over.

Shang Wanwan smiled and took it, placing it in front of her.

"Actually, it's nothing much. Our director has been in a bad mood recently, and I, his subordinate, organized a party for him. He really likes your song 'Wild Romance,' so we wanted to invite you to liven up the event. As for the venue issue, don't worry about it. Of course, the director has no knowledge of the venue issue; it was all my idea. Only that way would Miss Shang grace us with her presence," Sir Cheng said with a chuckle.

He really was a considerate subordinate.

However, in Yang Qian'er's eyes, there was a trace of scornful mockery.

If this had happened in the past, she certainly would have written a scathing article about such people.

"If that's the case, then it's an honor for Wanwan. Since I'm here, singing one song is no trouble," Shang Wanwan agreed with a smile.

"Haha, good, straightforward!" Sir Cheng laughed loudly.

"Miss Shang gives face!"

"Yes, the director will certainly be happy!"

The accompanying people also chimed in with laughter.

"However, just singing the song might not be... might not be exciting enough..." Sir Cheng smacked his lips and then tentatively suggested, "I know Miss Shang's song's MV has a dance section. Could you perhaps perform it live?"

As these words were spoken, Xiao Mai, who was behind Shang Wanwan, changed her expression.

The song was one Shang Wanwan released at the start of her career, and indeed, the MV had a dance section, but it was quite suggestive.

Likewise, the company later decided to cultivate her pure image, and they changed her style.

Setting aside whether she could still perform it after so much time.

Now, with Shang Wanwan dressed all goddess-like, having her dance in public like that would really be inappropriate.

Shang Wanwan's face also showed difficulty.

"Sir Cheng might not know that Wanwan has not danced that routine for many years and is quite rusty. I fear that performing it now might be somewhat clumsy and disappoint the esteemed director. Moreover, this attire is quite impractical," Shang Wanwan said with a sweet smile, "Please understand, Sir Cheng."

"Oh, is that so?" Sir Cheng seemed quite disappointed.

"She can't dance it! I've seen that MV, Mr. Cheng, asking her to dance that in public, you're really putting her on the spot!" Yang Qian'er said, a bit heatedly.

Seeing the other party's excessive behavior and Shang Wanwan swallowing her anger made her even more upset.

It was just a venue, after all!

This little deputy head of the subsidiary really thought she could bluff her way through everything. Why grovel so low before him!

At Yang Qian'er's words, Sir Cheng's originally smiling face suddenly darkened.

"Qian'er!" Shang Wanwan's face changed drastically, and she quickly tried to stop her from continuing.

"Sir Cheng, please don't take offense, my friend is impulsive, and she didn't mean that!" Shang Wanwan said hurriedly.

In fact, Sir Cheng had already shown signs of backing off just before.

It was Yang Qian'er who couldn't suppress her anger.

"Your friend has no filter, which can easily lead to trouble," Sir Cheng said, a mock smile appearing on his face, yet it was a dark and foreboding grin.

"As for the venue issue, we have a contract in black and white. If that doesn't work, we can take it to court. Miss Shang, you don't need to demean yourself over such a problem!" Yang Qian'er said angrily, "I'll tell you, I'm a reporter, and our drama production company is a media organization!"

Yang Qian'er's tone was firm, "I can expose you!"

Following Yang Qian'er's statement, Shang Wanwan let out a deep sigh.

This was tantamount to burning bridges.

Yang Qian'er, this girl, really wasn't aware of the situation!

"Oh?" Sir Cheng's smile vanished, and his gaze turned icy, ominous like a wolf, "So, you're a reporter. No wonder you're so bold!"

Seeing Sir Cheng's anger, the accompanying guests were extremely startled.

Yang Qian'er was utterly unafraid.

After all, she had never considered the man before her anything significant.

"Miss Shang, let's go." Yang Qian'er huffed and stood up straightforwardly.

Shang Wanwan smiled bitterly, looking at her and then at Sir Cheng.

"Is that all you have to say, beauty?"

At this moment, Sir Cheng chuckled, his smile containing only frost, and he ominously added, "Here, in my presence, after you've said those words, beauty, do you really think you can still leave?"

Yang Qian'er's expression changed, "Are you implying you want to kidnap me?"

Sir Cheng laughed heartily.

"Such a serious accusation, I wouldn't dare own up to it. Beautiful lady, can you convict someone simply with your words? Even in a court of law, we need evidence and witnesses. So, let's see here, excluding yourself, if anyone here can vouch for you, I'll accept it."

The others in the room looked at Yang Qian'er, some sneering, some mocking.

Threatening Sir Cheng here! They wondered if this woman was fearlessly naive or just downright foolish.

"Yang Qian'er, stop making a scene!" Shang Wanwan scolded hastily, then turned to Sir Cheng with a forced smile, "My friend might be a bit feverish today and could be talking nonsense, please don't take it to heart. In a moment, Wanwan will sing a few more songs..."

"Miss Shang!"

Sir Cheng icily cut her off, glancing at her, "Since you've entered, count how many times I've given you face!"

In his words, 'you' had replaced the more respectful 'you.'

Shang Wanwan felt a chill in her heart, realizing that he was truly angry.

At this point, she profoundly regretted bringing Yang Qian'er along.

This girl could only be intimidated by actual threats, but was slow to react to the intangible ones and unfortunately had a bit of a temper.

Shang Wanwan wanted to say something more.

Outside the door, a voice announced loudly, "The Director has arrived!"

At this, Sir Cheng's cold face immediately filled with a smile, ignoring the two women, he turned to address his own people,

"Come, let's go out and welcome the Director!"

Chapter 597 This Drink, I'll Take It!_1

In the grand hall outside, the guests finally crowded around because the real dignitaries had arrived.

A man and a woman entered, the man dashing and handsome, radiating a certain charm, and the woman stunningly gorgeous.

It was none other than Zhang Tianze and Chen Xiaoya.

"Sir Cheng said he had organized a party and even invited some celebrities to spice things up. It seems quite lively," Zhang Tianze whispered to Chen Xiaoya.

"Oh," Chen Xiaoya replied indifferently, showing little reaction to the celebrities present.

After all, the Chen Family often held such events, and anyone qualified to attend was a top-tier star. She hardly concerned herself with such matters.

Zhang Tianze, calm and collected, was of course aware of this, and knew that the guests alone couldn't pique Chen Xiaoya's interest.

"That's why, as soon as I found out on the way here, I had our family's sushi master, Hiromitsu Nagai, rush over. He's already making sushi," said Zhang Tianze, and at those words, Chen Xiaoya's eyes lit up.

She had tasted Hiromitsu Nagai's cooking before; it was indeed of supreme quality. At that moment, she became genuinely excited.

"Where is it? Have someone take me there later to have a look!" While maintaining her poise, Chen Xiaoya whispered excitedly.

Zhang Tianze smiled.

How could he fail to capture her heart when he knew her preferences so well?

"Today, you are the most esteemed goddess here. If you wish to go, we can go right now!" Zhang Tianze said unabashedly in front of everyone, gesturing to the butler, "Lead Miss Chen to Master Hiromitsu!"

"Yes," the head steward quickly nodded, a broad smile on his face as he led the way.

Chen Xiaoya walked away under everyone's gaze.

Most people were unclear about the young woman's background, but seeing Zhang Tianze's affectionate treatment and even a trace of flattery in his words, they all speculated wildly in their hearts.

But no matter her true identity, one thing was undeniable: she must be extraordinarily prestigious.

Those who knew Chen Xiaoya's identity dared not gossip carelessly.

As people watched Chen Xiaoya leave, they gathered around Zhang Tianze, enthusiastically greeting the young director of the Zhang Family.

"Mr. Zhang."

"Mr. Zhang!"

Zhang Tianze also wore a pleasant smile, gracefully greeting every acquainted and unacquainted person, managing the interaction with ease.

This display won him silent applause from the crowd.

"Director, you've arrived," came a shout from the outskirts of the crowd.

Everyone looked over—Sir Cheng was here!

They quickly made way.

"Sir Cheng, this party you've thrown is quite impressive," Zhang Tianze remarked.

The man known to everyone as Sir Cheng now had a face full of ingratiating smiles, "Young master, you flatter me!"

"Everyone is having a good time. Later, I'll have them share some of Sir Cheng's treasured wine with you all," Zhang Tianze said with a laugh.

The crowd repeatedly expressed their delight.

Zhang Tianze stepped toward the reception room to take a break, with Sir Cheng following behind.

"I heard that you've also invited a star on the brink of becoming first-rate, that Shang Wanwan?" Zhang Tianze conversed as they walked.

Sir Cheng hastily nodded, "Yes, yes, she's already here, in the lounge... but..."

Sir Cheng lowered his voice, recounting to Zhang Tianze what had just transpired as they walked.

Zhang Tianze's expression darkened momentarily, then he smiled, "She's quite a character. I actually want to meet her!"

In the reception room.

Only Shang Wanwan, Yang Qian'er, and Xiao Mai were left.

Seizing the opportunity, Shang Wanwan quickly shared her findings and concerns with Yang Qian'er, who was also somewhat taken aback.

"Qian'er, when the time comes, don't say anything. Leave it all to me," Shang Wanwan instructed, still worried.

Yang Qian'er hesitated, but eventually nodded reluctantly.

Xiao Mai, standing behind Shang Wanwan with her phone in hand, was frequently checking something.

"Now that the Director has arrived, we should go out and meet him," Shang Wanwan stood up and said.

"No need!"

Suddenly, a loud call came from outside the door.

Shortly after, the door to the parlor opened.

To the surprise of Shang Wanwan and the others, a distinguished man walked in, smiling, with Sir Cheng following behind him, the epitome of respect.

"Miss Shang is a guest, no need for formalities," Zhang Tianze said with a smile, "I am Zhang Tianze, it's a pleasure to meet you for the first time!"

Zhang Tianze, the perfect gentleman, walked over and extended his hand.

Shang Wanwan smiled and shook it.

Then Zhang Tianze looked at Yang Qian'er and extended his hand to her. Seeing his impeccable manners, which were not like the spoiled rich kids she had imagined, she also extended her hand to shake his.

"Come, please have a seat, esteemed guests!"

Zhang Tianze gestured for the two women to sit and then took his place opposite them.

Compared to Shang Wanwan, he gave Yang Qian'er a couple of extra glances.

Of course, it was purely out of curiosity. Although Yang Qian'er was attractive, she was not to his taste.

Besides, with Chen Xiaoya outside, he wouldn't make trouble for himself.

Shang Wanwan and Yang Qian'er took their seats once more.

Sir Cheng kept company at Zhang Tianze's side.

With Zhang Tianze present, he didn't say a word more than necessary.

"Miss Shang, you're filming that blockbuster drama at the film city, aren't you? I've seen the trailer; I'm really looking forward to it!" Zhang Tianze said with a smile, "Also, I greatly admire you. I like several of your singles, especially 'Wild Romance.' There are a few lines you sing that I find truly captivating!"

Zhang Tianze, all smiles, opened up the conversation with Shang Wanwan.

Shang Wanwan, smiling, engaged in a pleasant chat with him.

Seeing that Mr. Zhang, Zhang Tianze, was so easy to talk to, Yang Qian'er felt relieved.

They chatted for more than ten minutes.

It was then that Zhang Tianze stopped talking.

"Regarding the location issue, I am aware of it. Rest assured, Miss Shang, with you gracing us with your presence, it is an honor, and your crew can resume shooting tomorrow," Zhang Tianze said, smiling as he made his promise.

This delighted both Shang Wanwan and Yang Qian'er.

"However," Zhang Tianze took a sharp turn in his tone, "no matter what, Cheng Laosi is still one of my people. For your companion to be rude to him in my presence is to slight me. I, Zhang Tian, may have plenty of money to splurge, but I only have so much face! If my face is slighted, with just one word, your production crew will have to leave Linshen!"

Zhang Tianze's rhetoric chilled, the last sentence punctuated with a significant look.

This look sent a shiver down even Shang Wanwan's spine.

She had no doubt that Director Zhang had the power to do exactly that.

"But, we are all friends here. For Miss Shang's sake, I will give her a chance." Zhang Tianze's stern face softened once again, and he reached for a full bottle of foreign liquor. He twisted it open, pushed it across the coffee table.

"Drink this, and we'll call it even."

Zhang Tianze looked at Yang Qian'er with a smile.

Yang Qian'er's face changed; she had never expected a man who seemed so reasonable to be so ruthless.

Before Yang Qian'er could speak, Shang Wanwan pressed her down.

"Director Zhang is generous, but my little sister is allergic to alcohol. Drinking it might be dangerous, and that would spoil your good time on this occasion."

Smiling, Shang Wanwan grabbed the bottle, "I will drink this!"

Chapter 598: Bai Xiaosheng Arrives!_1

Yang Qian'er's face changed dramatically, her eyes filled with horror as she watched Shang Wanwan pick up the whole bottle of Western liquor, declaring she would drink it on her behalf.

That was a whole bottle of 40-degree, 700ml French cognac.

Even though it had a smooth taste, it was pure, strong liquor. To drink it straight from the bottle like that would surely lead to death by alcohol poisoning!

"Don't!" Yang Qian'er frantically tried to stop her.

Xiao Mai was also pale-faced, wanting to step in and stop it, but in this situation, she was too insignificant, and her interference would be useless.

Anxious, Xiao Mai tightly gripped her phone, constantly checking it.

To be frank, Xiao Mai was quite clever. After arriving, she had immediately sent Gao Dazhi her location.

At the same time, she kept the other party informed of everything in real-time.

Thanks to her quick thinking, the other side was already aware of the situation and was rushing over!

But in the current scenario, even if Gao Dazhi arrived, he would be helpless.

However, in his car, there was someone Xiao Mai trusted—Bai Xiaosheng!

During her time with the crew, Xiao Mai had become a fan of Bai Xiaosheng.

Everyone in the crew talked about Bai Xiaosheng enthusiastically.

The near-impossible marvels created by Bai Xiaosheng were passed on by word of mouth, nearly elevating him to a mythical status.

Just a couple of days ago, Zhongjing Media had bucked the trend, and without the nominal spot of an industry benchmark, they had fought back valiantly to secure the title of provincial benchmark enterprise, which had spread like wildfire within the crew.

It seemed to them that Bai Xiaosheng could always create miracles, he could always bring hope.

At this moment, Xiao Mai felt that the only one who could help Shang Wanwan was Bai Xiaosheng!

Actually, by the time Zhang Tianze and his group arrived here, Gao Dazhi's car had already entered Qingbei Town and was on its way.

Bai Xiaosheng, you better hurry up!

In her anxiety, Xiao Mai kept praying.

"I won't let you drink, if anyone should drink, it should be me!" Yang Qian'er struggled for the bottle of Western liquor.

Zhang Tianze smiled, lounging back on the sofa with the air of someone enjoying a great drama.

Sir Cheng beside him watched Yang Qian'er with a cold smirk.

A naive girl who doesn't know the immensity of heaven and earth, she is just missing a lesson!

Shang Wanwan slowly pushed Yang Qian'er's hands away, looked into her eyes, lowered her voice, and seriously said, "Qian'er, stop it! Offending Director Zhang here is no longer their own affair. If you keep making a scene, the crew, the company, and even Bai Xiaosheng will be implicated!"

Shang Wanwan's gaze was sincere.

Yang Qian'er was stunned into silence, unable to utter a word.

Shang Wanwan took back the bottle from her.

"Mr. Zhang, my sister has offended you greatly today, and I hope you will be forgiving. All apologies are in this drink!" Shang Wanwan said with a smile to Zhang Tianze.

Zhang Tianze half-smiled, paying her little attention.

With determination, Shang Wanwan raised her delicate chin, lifted the bottle high, and poured the strong liquor into her mouth.

The potent liquor burned her throat. Even someone with a bit of a tolerance like her was choked to the point of tears.

But she did not stop and continued pouring the liquor down her throat.

Why am I doing this?

As the strong liquor assaulted her brain, Shang Wanwan couldn't help but ask herself.

It had been many years since she'd been this impulsive, drinking on behalf of someone else. Was she really doing it for the crew, for the filming, for the sake of the movie? Or was it a moment of prideful impulse?

This wasn't the drink I should have been drinking...

Shang Wanwan thought of Bai Xiaosheng. Everyone had been talking about him these days, even Xiao Mai. Hearing so much, even she started to feel a vague stir of emotion...

Yang Qian'er was indeed her friend, but she also had a close relationship with Bai Xiaosheng...

Was I protecting her on behalf of Bai Xiaosheng?

Shang Wanwan wasn't clear; her consciousness was becoming blurry.

Yang Qian'er and Xiao Mai watched dumbfounded as Shang Wanwan downed the entire bottle of Western liquor in one go.

They didn't know what to say or what to do anymore.

The whole bottle was empty.

Miss Shang staggered, which was caught by Yang Qian'er in a flash. Xiao Mai also rushed over to support her from the other side.

Miss Shang's face was flushed with a touch of rouge, and her neck had turned the color of cooked shrimp, exuding a tempting allure.

Even Zhang Tianze could not help but be somewhat moved.

"Mr. Zhang... I, I've drunk the wine, please, please keep your promise..."

Miss Shang was speaking inarticulately, seeing double, but still insisting on clarifying the matter.

"Miss Shang has a great capacity for liquor!" Zhang Tianze said with a smile, gently starting to applaud.

Sir Cheng also wore a smile and followed with applause.

"However, Miss Shang, you need to understand, the wine was meant for her to drink, not you!"

After smiling, Zhang Tianze's expression darkened, "If you drink it, it doesn't count!"

"What did you say!" Yang Qian'er exclaimed in shock and anger, glowering at Zhang Tianze.

Miss Shang laughed.

It seemed like a bitter smile, and maybe also one of helplessness.

This was her last moment of lucidity before she collapsed.

Yang Qian'er and Xiao Mai braced her, only managing to let her fall onto the sofa.

Zhang Tian reached his hand for a whole bottle of foreign liquor, opened it anew, and pushed it across the coffee table, sending the bottle sliding over.

"Drink it!"

Zhang Tian ordered Yang Qian'er, his gaze filled with threatening intent.

At this very moment.

Bai Xiaosheng and the others had stopped their car outside the estate. Bai Xiaosheng exited the vehicle, his face somber as he strode inside.

Gao Dazhi looked anxious, following behind, flanked by Lin Weiwei, with Gao Ya and Zhao Xiaoying behind them.

Receiving the continuous messages from Xiao Mai, Gao Dazhi finally realized the seriousness of the situation and no longer dared to conceal it, reporting truthfully to Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't blame him, not uttering a single extraneous word.

He directly took Gao Dazhi's phone and instructed the driver to head this way.

Just as they arrived outside the estate, the latest message from Xiao Mai came through: Miss Shang had been forced to drink an entire bottle of foreign liquor.

When Bai Xiaosheng returned the phone to Gao Dazhi, an aura of deadly fury exuded from his being.

Gao Dazhi met his gaze, even feeling a shiver of terror.

Bai Xiaosheng was angry.

Yet, as he stormed inside with such overwhelming presence, naturally, someone tried to stop him.

"This is Sir Cheng's estate, isn't it? Get out of my way; I'm here to see him!" Bai Xiaosheng already knew the owner of this place through Red Lotus.

He was raging, his face a picture of fury as he bluntly called out Sir Cheng's name.

The servants didn't dare obstruct him and let him pass.

Bai Xiaosheng made his way straight to the hall.

"Who are you to call out to Sir Cheng by his name so boldly?" A burly man who had brought Miss Shang over stopped Bai Xiaosheng; he was one of Sir Cheng's personal attendants and not easily fooled.

Gao Dazhi quickly moved to Bai Xiaosheng's side, whispering something to him.

"I'm here for Miss Shang. You, lead the way!" Bai Xiaosheng said in a terse sentence.

Not one word more did he desire to speak.

"This isn't a place for you to wildly make trouble!" The burly man bellowed and pounced towards Bai Xiaosheng.

But in the span of a glance, everything became a blur to the onlookers.

When they snapped back to reality, Bai Xiaosheng had already seized the burly man by the throat, the imposing man looking pained, like a chicken being held by the neck.

"Lead the way!" Bai Xiaosheng commanded with an icy face.

In the hall, the guests witnessed this scene, and a wave of commotion ensued.

Suddenly, a voice rang out, "Xiaosheng?"

Hearing this familiar voice, Bai Xiaosheng furrowed his brows and looked over, surprised, "Chen Xiaoya?!"

Chapter 599 Who is this person?_1

Seeing Chen Xiaoya, Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback, as the two had only parted a few hours ago, and yet they had met again under such circumstances.

Indeed, the affairs of the world are strange and unpredictable.

Chen Xiaoya was also astonished as she watched Bai Xiaosheng lifting the burly man with one hand, exhibiting an aura of deathly ferocity and imposing grandeur.

After her initial surprise, a look of admiration burst forth in her eyes.

This scene was so manly that it was extremely impactful for a girl!

"Miss Chen, it's not safe here. Please go inside first, we will handle this matter!" The butler hurried to Chen Xiaoya's side, advising her with an attitude of utmost respect.

After all, even Director tried to please Chen Xiaoya, this little girl.

As a servant, he dared not offend her at all.

Chen Xiaoya ignored him, her beautiful eyes bright and focused, staring blankly at Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng also looked back at Chen Xiaoya with suspicion.

Here she seemed to have an extraordinary status, with the butler and others bowing and scraping, awaiting her instructions.

The black-clad toughs surrounding them converged their gaze on the butler, and without an order, no one stepped forward.

"Xiaoya, sister," Bai Xiaosheng said from behind as Lin Weiwei emerged, calling out.

Gao Dazhi had already told her about this matter on the way here.

Lin Weiwei felt the other party was overbearing and unscrupulous. There was no chance this matter would end amicably, especially after she saw Xiaosheng's fury.

Bai Xiaosheng was very capable. Lin Weiwei had experienced this firsthand.

When Yin Donglei kidnapped her, Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying took down twenty big men together, their ferocity unstoppable.

But this vast estate clearly had more than just twenty or thirty people!

And this was not Zhongjing, it was Linshen!

Here, where they were unfamiliar with the terrain, hoping to be successful was nearly impossible.

It might turn out that the dragon cannot suppress the local snakes.

Lin Weiwei, following behind Bai Xiaosheng, was also full of concern.

Now, seeing Chen Xiaoya, a turn of events seemed possible, and she was both shocked and delighted.

"Weiwei, sister," Chen Xiaoya said, looking at this kindly young lady who had taken good care of her on the high-speed train. Her face brightened as she stepped outside.

"Miss Chen," the butler called out with a bitter expression, softly beseeching by her side.

If Chen Xiaoya lost even a single hair, he wouldn't be able to bear the responsibility.

"These are my friends, and you want to stop me from meeting them!" Chen Xiaoya glanced at the butler unfavorably.

The butler immediately shuddered.

"Okay, okay, but you see, Leopard has been, been..." the butler gestured to the man being held by Bai Xiaosheng and grimaced.

Leopard was a black belt in karate, very capable of fighting; ordinarily, three to five men couldn't get close to him. Yet now, he had been subdued with a single strike by Bai Xiaosheng, who looked so thin and weak, and was being carried around like a dead dog.

The butler felt a chill watching this, and his eyes held a trace of fear when he looked at Bai Xiaosheng.

If it really came to a fight, there were only about a dozen men on his side who could fight. Going head to head with such a monster, it was unclear who would come off worse.

"He was the one who attacked first. My Xiaosheng was defending himself. Serves him right!" Chen Xiaoya snorted coldly, showing her disdain for Leopard.

The butler felt bitter inside.

It seemed that Leopard's beating might have been for nothing...

Hearing Chen Xiaoya say this, Bai Xiaosheng's face was expressionless as he gave a push, and Leopard crashed to the ground, immediately gnashing his teeth and grimacing with pain.

"Don't worry, I didn't damage his tendons or bones, I held back," Bai Xiaosheng said, looking at the others.

The burly men in black around them couldn't help but swallow nervously. The two with more courage quickly dragged Leopard away, not daring to linger for a moment.

During this time, they made eye contact with Bai Xiaosheng and felt their scalps tingle.

Chen Xiaoya walked over with a cheerful smile, and Lin Weiwei greeted her with her own smile. The two women held hands, looking quite affectionate.

"Weiwei, how come you're here?" Chen Xiaoya asked curiously.

She was neither blind nor foolish; of course, she had seen Bai Xiaosheng storm in like a fierce god, even getting physical, and there had to be a reason for it.

"One of our friends is here, invited by the owner of this estate and forced to drink a bit too much. We've come to pick him up," Lin Weiwei explained gently, glancing at Bai Xiaosheng as she spoke to Chen Xiaoya.

"I see," Chen Xiaoya nodded and said with a smile, "This place is owned by Cheng Laosi, a subordinate of Zhang Tianze. So it's his fault. Come on, I'll take you there. They're all in the drawing room. I'll ask for you!"

This girl, Chen Xiaoya, appeared to come from a wealthy family, innocent and lively, yet beneath her foodie exterior, she had a heart of gold.

Lin Weiwei promptly nodded and glanced at Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng's face had already returned to calm.

"Xiaosheng, come with me," Chen Xiaoya called out to Bai Xiaosheng, then led the way.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded and followed behind, then came Gao Dazhi, Gao Ya, and Zhao Xiaoying.

The three of them had been stunned since the confrontation began.

"My goodness, Mr. Bai is so fierce!"

When Bai Xiaosheng single-handedly subdued Leopard, Gao Ya's whisper was filled with awe, her eyes almost shining.

Zhao Xiaoying was equally animated, with her fists clenched tightly.

It wasn't just men who had a hero complex; women did too.

However, compared to the excitement of the two women, Gao Dazhi was filled with immense worry and anxiety.

This wasn't an age for violence and killing; it was modern society. Not to mention they were outnumbered, but just legally speaking, they were trespassing on someone else's property, which was illegal!

Fortunately, Bai Xiaosheng also had acquaintances here.

And when this acquaintance showed up, she managed to train the estate's butler to be completely obedient!

Gao Dazhi watched from behind, dumbfounded.

His admiration for Bai Xiaosheng soared once again!

With such an extensive network, Mr. Bai truly was no ordinary person!

In Gao Dazhi's eyes and heart, there was only respect.

With Chen Xiaoya leading the way, the group entered the hall.

Inside the hall, the gathered guests stared at these newcomers, their eyes converging particularly on Bai Xiaosheng. It was evident when even Chen Xiaoya played the role of the joker and guide for him.

What kind of background did he have!

The guests' eyes were wide, their mouths agape, silently committing Bai Xiaosheng's features to memory, planning to find out more about him later.

In Linshen, there was such a powerful figure?

And they had been unaware! Truly ignorant like frogs in a well!

In the drawing room.

The second bottle of wine opened by Zhang Tianze slid towards Yang Qian'er, who glared at him indignantly.

"Drink! Otherwise, your crappy film crew will be kicked out of Linshen by tomorrow!" Sir Cheng said with a vicious smile, threatening Yang Qian'er.

On their turf, were they going to let a young girl get the better of them? In their dreams!

"Go on, Miss Yang Qian'er, if you don't, the consequences will be more than you can bear," Zhang Tianze said with a smile, watching the scene as if it were a play.

"And what if I don't drink? I'd like to see what happens!" The doors of the drawing room burst open, and Bai Xiaosheng walked in expressionlessly, stepping forward and demanding coldly, "How exactly can't we bear it?"

Chapter 600 Here's a toast to you!_1

Chen Xiaoya led Bai Xiaosheng and the others to the reception room, and just as they arrived outside, Bai Xiaosheng heard Zhang Tianze's voice, which was threatening Yang Qian'er.

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes suddenly turned cold, and he stepped past Chen Xiaoya and the others. With a chilling voice, he pushed the door open and entered.

Even if Yang Qian'er was not his woman, she was his friend. To see her being threatened and not even be able to protect her—What kind of man would he be!

As Bai Xiaosheng entered, in the reception room, several gazes "whooshed" towards him.

Xiao Mai couldn't help crying tears of joy, finally seeing her savior!

Yang Qian'er's whole person was stunned, then her eyes also became teary.

Just a moment ago, she really wanted to smash a wine bottle on Zhang Tianze's head.

But Shang Wanwan had already drunk to the point of passing out for them, for the crew. If she acted impulsively, it would affect everyone and render Shang Wanwan's sacrifices in vain.

So, in the end, Yang Qian'er was thinking of compromising!

That feeling of powerlessness was painful to her, and after passing out from drinking, she would know nothing, completely putting herself in danger. She also felt a kind of fear.

Now, everything was okay.

Bai Xiaosheng was here!

At that moment, Yang Qian'er really wanted to throw herself into his arms and cry.

"Is it you?!" Zhang Tianze was incredibly shocked and let out a low cry.

Seeing the man he met on the high-speed train barging in, he was also taken aback for a moment.

This Master Bai held his respect, yet he also kept his distance.

On one hand, Zhang Tianze saw him as a person of high standing; on the other, this person had "calculated" his secrets, representing a threat to him.

Therefore, Zhang Tianze did not want to associate with Bai Xiaosheng anymore, but as fate would have it, they were now unexpectedly face to face.

"Who are you, and who let you in here!" Sir Cheng immediately stood up, frowning angrily at Bai Xiaosheng's unfamiliar face and his previous defiant tone. He roared, "Who brought him in here!"

Sir Cheng was an unmatched subordinate; he had incorporated protecting the Director's authority into his own life.

He would always react and make a statement immediately.

"I brought them in," Chen Xiaoya spoke up from behind. "Cheng Laosi, if you have any complaints, you can come to me."

Seeing that it was Chen Xiaoya who spoke, Sir Cheng's ferocious look immediately softened, and his face quickly turned into a forced smile, "Miss Chen, it's you? Naturally, you can do as you like, as you like! It was my mistake for speaking out of turn."

In public, Sir Cheng instantly cowered.

He certainly knew some of Chen Xiaoya's background!

"Xiaoya." Zhang Tianze also looked at Chen Xiaoya in surprise and stood up.

"Long time no see, Mr. Zhang. I really should thank you for inviting the people I care about to drink!" Bai Xiaosheng said expressionlessly to Zhang Tianze, then walked over to check on Shang Wanwan.

Having ingested a 700ml bottle of 40-degree French white wine, Shang Wanwan was drunk as a lord, her entire small face glowing and flushed, which was rather enticing.

"Red Lotus, how is she doing!" Bai Xiaosheng urgently wanted to confirm her condition.

"Please lift up her eyelids, I need to check her pupils, and also, test her pulse and heart rate..." Red Lotus's voice sounded.

The onlookers just saw Bai Xiaosheng looking stern, flipping Shang Wanwan's eyelids, feeling her pulse, and even quickly placing two fingers gently over her heart.

What was he doing? The crowd wondered.

Zhang Tianze's expression was serious as he quietly marveled, "Is this the method of Inspection, Listening, Inquiry, and Pulse-taking in Chinese medicine? Not only does this man understand physiognomy, but he also excels in medicine? He truly is skilled!"

But!

Zhang Tianze furrowed his brows slightly as he sized up Bai Xiaosheng, thinking to himself, "He said Shang Wanwan and Yang Qian'er are his people, does that mean that drama crew is owned by his family? But as far as I know, that crew seems to be a subsidiary of a large conglomerate. Just who is this person and where does he come from!"

Although Zhang Tianze couldn't figure it out at the moment, the look in his eyes when he watched Bai Xiaosheng became even more serious.

This man surnamed Bai, he's no simple character!

What's more important is that he has my secret in his hands!

The moment Zhang Tianze thought of this, his head started to ache, and he stole a glance at Chen Xiaoya.

She was walking over with Lin Weiwei, both staring at the man surnamed Bai with admiration in their eyes.

"If this man surnamed Bai tells Chen Xiaoya about that matter..." Zhang Tianze felt a chill in his heart and was somewhat frightened.

Chen Xiaoya would certainly not stay with him anymore!

And his father would be the first to not let him off!

Zhang Tianze suddenly broke out in a cold sweat.

"Today, I absolutely must not offend this man surnamed Bai!" Zhang Tianze made up his mind.

Having checked on Shang Wanwan's situation, Bai Xiaosheng also let out a sigh of relief.

She was just drunk, nothing too serious, and a good night's sleep would suffice.

"Xiaosheng, about Miss Shang... I..." Yang Qian'er faced Bai Xiaosheng, feeling incredibly wronged and particularly guilty.

Bai Xiaosheng's timely arrival saved her, giving her a sense of dependence. Usually she would call him by name, but now she had adopted the same "Brother Xiaosheng" that Lin Weiwei used.

"Miss Shang is fine. This incident isn't entirely your fault," Bai Xiaosheng reassured Yang Qian'er with a comforting smile.

This consolation only made Yang Qian'er, a strong woman, start to sob softly.

Bai Xiaosheng patted her shoulder and then flashed Xiao Mai a smile, giving her a thumbs up.

If it weren't for Xiao Mai's timely message, he would still be in the dark. Had anything serious happened to Shang Wanwan, he would have been consumed with guilt. So, for this girl, he was extremely grateful.

Xiao Mai, hearing Bai Xiaosheng say "Shang Wanwan is fine," immediately relaxed and revealed a smile toward Bai Xiaosheng.

"Mr. Bai is really a reliable man! Just the sight of his gaze can be so comforting," thought Xiao Mai.

After comforting them, Bai Xiaosheng turned back and looked at Zhang Tianze.

"Brother Bai, fate must be at play here for us to meet again," Zhang Tianze chuckled, but his smile betrayed a hint of unease.

He felt both fearful and anxious.

This mix of emotions hidden beneath his demeanor was easily caught by Bai Xiaosheng.

After a moment of thought, Bai Xiaosheng understood.

His sudden departure on the high-speed train showed how afraid he was of his secrets being revealed.

If he didn't genuinely lack the knowledge, Bai Xiaosheng would have really liked to spill the beans just to see the reaction.

"Brother Zhang has been so hospitable, I thank you on their behalf. We unfortunately cannot stay any longer, but I can share a drink with you, and I hope you won't refuse," said Bai Xiaosheng slowly.

Then, Bai Xiaosheng picked up the bottle of newly opened liquor from the table and grabbed two clean cups.

He lightly filled one while the other was brimming to the point of almost overflowing.

In full view of everyone, Bai Xiaosheng gently pushed the cup that was almost spilling over toward Zhang Tianze, while he picked up the cup with just a shallow measure of wine.

"Sorry, I cannot hold my liquor well, but I can read faces, and I see that Brother Zhang has a good capacity for alcohol," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile. He downed the scant amount of liquid in his cup in one gulp, wiped his mouth, and then spoke to Zhang Tianze in a tone that allowed no negotiation.

"I've finished mine, are you going to finish yours!"