

Two Trillion 701

Chapter 701: Want to Start a Fight with Me? I'm Always Ready!_1

"Hey you, stop right there!" Chen Changluo bellowed furiously as he strode toward Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng looked on in astonishment at the irate Chen Changluo approaching.

"Are you talking to me?" Bai Xiaosheng asked curiously.

"Who else could be here! You dare to approach my woman, today I'll let you see what I'm made of."

Chen Changluo rolled up his sleeves, bristling with a murderous aura.

On seeing his aggressive stance, Bai Xiaosheng's eyes suddenly turned cold.

Was he afraid of a fight? What a joke!

When Yin Donglei had kidnapped Lin Weiwei, he had teamed up with Lei Ying to take down twenty fighters from the Fist Market. What was Chen Changluo in comparison? He might look solid, but he was all "show muscle."

Bai Xiaosheng seriously doubted whether he could withstand even one punch from him.

But what was going on today?

Bai Xiaosheng's mood suddenly soured.

He had barely spent half an hour at the Chen family's house and he had already encountered a crazy woman, followed by a crazy man.

Could it be that this villa of the Chen Family was once an asylum?!

"Stop!"

"Don't fight!"

Chen Changluo was just two meters away from Bai Xiaosheng. One after the other, two delicate shouts rang out.

Song Yanran ran out from behind Bai Xiaosheng, while Zhao Qianze dashed out from behind Chen Changluo.

Two women stood between the two men.

Chen Changluo came to a halt.

No matter how angry he was, he couldn't just rush forward in front of these two women, especially not in front of Song Yanran.

He and Song Yanran were considered by the outside world to be a "couple," a match.

But their relationship was actually very delicate.

Song Yanran had been keeping her distance from him, and it was only under his relentless pursuit that she tacitly acknowledged a relationship, yet she had not really agreed to anything.

If he exhibited violence now, this woman could very well start to resist him.

Chen Changluo didn't want to take the risk.

"Chen Changluo, what do you think you're doing?!" Song Yanran asked with furrowed brows, first addressing Chen Changluo and then turning to Zhao Qianze, "Qianze, why did you come here?!"

"I should be asking you that, Yanran, what are you talking to Bai Xiaosheng about?!" Zhao Qianze asked with a frown.

"Exactly! I came over to see... Yanran, what are you discussing with him?" As he spoke, Chen Changluo suddenly paused.

Bai Xiaosheng!

The man who had been giving his cousin such a hard time?!

Staring at Bai Xiaosheng, a mixture of shock and anger raised Chen Changluo's voice by an octave, "He's Bai Xiaosheng!"

He had not sought him out, yet this guy had the audacity to come and bring bad luck to his doorstep!

"I was discussing something about you with Bai Xiaosheng," Song Yanran told Zhao Qianze, then glanced at Chen Changluo with a frown, "So what if he is Bai Xiaosheng, why are you shouting? Can't I talk to him?"

"Yanran, what's between Bai and me is our business, please don't interfere, okay?" Zhao Qianze beseeched her, "What did you tell him?"

"I'm helping you!" Song Yanran exclaimed, "I don't want to see my only good friend regret her choices later on!"

"What's the matter between you two?!" Chen Changluo couldn't help but ask Zhao Qianze.

This woman was supposed to be with Zheng Qinghong, right? Zheng Qinghong was someone Changluo had heard about. A man with a strong background, and extremely outstanding, Changluo had even wanted to meet him and make his acquaintance.

"It's none of your business what's going on between us!" Zhao Qianze snapped at Chen Changluo, then turned back to Song Yanran, irritation evident, "If you still consider me a friend, don't do this. I have my own thoughts and my own privacy!"

"You can't see the forest for the trees; don't be fooled by sweet-talk!" Song Yanran warned urgently.

"Oh, so you were talking to him on behalf of Miss Zhao, I see. That's fine, but there was no need to do it in secret." Chen Changluo said as he gave Bai Xiaosheng a cold glance and spoke to Zhao Qianze, "Miss Zhao, in my opinion, Zheng Qinghong is a much better match for you!"

This Bai Xiaosheng is nothing but trouble!

"Please refrain from prying into matters you know nothing about, Mr. Chen!" Zhao Qianze replied with displeasure, then glared at Song Yanran, "He hasn't been using any sweet-talk, and he is a hundred, even a thousand times better than Zheng Qinghong!"

Zhao Qianze, Song Yanran, Chen Changluo.

The three of them tangled up in a complicated mess.

No, more complicated than just tangled.

Each of them was talking to two other people: the first half of the sentence for you, the second half for somebody else.

Bai Xiaosheng watched from the side, completely dumbfounded.

Although their conversation involved him, he felt like an outsider.

Unable to get a word in edgewise, he could only watch the drama unfold.

"Otherwise, you guys keep chatting, shall I go first?" Bai Xiaosheng even suggested.

However, his suggestion was also ignored by the three of them.

The hallway was only so wide; with the three of them blocking the way, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't get through.

Finally, Zhao Qianze and Chen Changluo asked the same question—"How did your talk go?!"

"It didn't work out, and he even ridiculed me!" Song Yanran glared fiercely at Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but sigh—had they finally remembered him?

"He ridiculed you!"

Upon hearing this, Chen Changluo immediately flew into a rage and stepped forward to hit Bai Xiaosheng.

"Stop! Song Yanran took it upon herself to talk to Bai Xiaosheng, and it didn't end well. What has it got to do with him!" Zhao Qianze stood in front of Bai Xiaosheng, cold and unyielding.

Chen Changluo's face was dark with anger, pointing at Bai Xiaosheng, "Kid, are you a man or not, always hiding behind a woman? Come out and face me one-on-one if you dare!"

Chen Changluo yelled, "If it weren't for Miss Zhao holding me back, just because you disrespected Yanran, I would've killed you!"

The words were fierce and ruthless.

However, Song Yanran, who usually does not condone violence, for once, her eyes brightened slightly, looking at Chen Changluo with a different gaze.

Perhaps, she thought Chen Changluo at this moment was handsome, very MAN, very masculine.

Bai Xiaosheng was silent, his eyes cold.

If you're going to fight, cut the empty talk.

"Anyway, let's end this matter here, give me some face!" Zhao Qianze shouted.

"Forget it, Changluo, getting into a fight with someone like him is beneath you!" Song Yanran finally spoke up,

"What did you call me?"

The use of "Changluo" took Chen Changluo by surprise, then a pleased smile crossed his face.

Was that an affectionate nickname?

Overjoyed, Chen Changluo turned to Zhao Qianze, "Fine, Miss Zhao. For Yanran's sake, I'll let him off this time."

Then, Chen Changluo cast a cold look at Bai Xiaosheng, "I may not pursue this matter, but the way you bullied my brother Chen Changqing, I won't let it go so easily! Next time, you won't be so lucky!"

Chen Changluo raised his fists in a show of threat, adopting a professional boxer's stance.

The threat was clear without words.

"Let's go!" After the threat, Chen Changluo was ready to leave with Song Yanran.

Song Yanran complied, a rarity.

Zhao Qianze also breathed a sigh of relief.

"Wait a second!"

Chen Changluo and Song Yanran hadn't walked far when the cold voice of Bai Xiaosheng came from behind them.

Chen Changluo and Song Yanran turned around just in time to see Bai Xiaosheng, expressionless, walk up to a thick and tall porcelain vase at the side of the hallway, tap it with his hand, and then throw a punch.

Bang! A loud explosion.

The thick porcelain vase shattered on impact!

"Who do you want to fight with, me?" Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, "I'm always ready!"

Chapter 702

The vases in Chen Jiuzheng's home, those that were as tall as a person, were custom-made and extremely sturdy. Even baseball bats couldn't break them, and knocking them over might not even smash them.

And yet, such a durable object was shattered by a single punch from Bai Xiaosheng!

This was simply astounding to hear.

Incredible!

Was this still a human, or a steel-and-iron humanoid machine!

It was hard to imagine what would happen if that punch landed on a person...

Chen Changluo couldn't help but shiver.

By his side, Song Yanran was also in disbelief, her almond-shaped eyes widened in shock, her gaze travelling incredulously between the shattered pieces on the ground and Bai Xiaosheng's face.

Could this really be done by a human being!

Zhao Qianze also covered her mouth with her hand, unable to utter a sound.

However, a gleam of admiration flashed in her eyes.

Bai Xiaosheng's display of such formidable and terrifying power gave her the feeling of gazing upon a hero.

Bai Xiaosheng looked calm as he stared at Chen Changluo, "Just now, did you think my not taking action was my luck, I think the lucky one was you!"

"Mr. Chen may not know, but in Zhongjing there's a family called Yin, and the son of the Yin Family threatened my female assistant to intimidate me. I despise such despicable acts the most, threatening my loved ones. I attended a banquet alone, and he prepared twenty people for me, all masters from Zhongjing's underground Fist Market!"

"As a result, I can tell you without exaggeration that more than half of those fighters ended up in the hospital!"

"And that son of the Yin Family, his dad broke his legs," Bai Xiaosheng asked with a smile, "Mr. Chen, do you think his dad was too harsh? I think his dad was quite smart."

"If I had made a move, it would have been more than just breaking a leg!" Bai Xiaosheng said in a grave tone.

From beginning to end, he recounted the incident very calmly.

It wasn't a display of arrogance or an attempt to intimidate, but a serious recount of a fact.

If someone used violence against him, or his family and friends, he would not hesitate to strike back with ferocity.

Chen Changluo's forehead was beaded with sweat, his throat felt dry, and he couldn't help but want to swallow.

"I'm telling you this not for any other reason but to give you a heads-up. If you resort to violence, I will accompany you to the bitter end!"

As Bai Xiaosheng spoke, he stepped forward and casually said, "Qianze, let's go!"

"Yes!" Zhao Qianze replied very obediently, more compliant than a little maid.

Chen Changluo and Song Yanran watched them pass by, with Chen Changluo involuntarily stepping back, nearly pressing himself against the wall.

The horror in his eyes had reached an indescribable level.

This man was simply too fearsome!

It was a fortunate thing that he had been stopped at that time from taking action, or else...

Chen Changluo glanced at the pile of ceramic shards on the ground with the corner of his eye!

Song Yanran had a complex expression as she watched Bai Xiaosheng and Zhao Qianze leave.

Zhao Qianze didn't even give her a glance.

"How can a man who only knows violence be worthy of Qianze," Song Yanran couldn't help thinking to herself.

The scare was only temporary; soon after, she was convinced Bai Xiaosheng was nothing more than a brute, completely forgetting how dashing she found Chen Changluo when he was showing off his bravado.

Watching Bai Xiaosheng and his companion walk away, Chen Changluo forced a smile and said to Song Yanran, "Yanran, we should... go too, the gathering is about to start..."

His confidence had clearly diminished, and he was having second thoughts about Bai Xiaosheng.

"Big Brother Chen, are we just going to let that Bai Xiaosheng go like this!" Song Yanran suddenly spoke up.

It was the first time Chen Changluo heard her address him as "Big Brother Chen."

He was immediately surprised and said, "What did you call me, call me what!"

Song Yanran ignored Chen Changluo's surprise, her face darkened as she continued, "That Bai Xiaosheng, other than some fighting skills, what else does he have! We can't just let him off like this!"

"That's right!"

Hearing Song Yanran change her manner of addressing him, Chen Changluo instantly perked up, the fear vanishing.

"What era are we in now? With our status, how can we, like those kinds of people, resort to violence and killing at every turn? Violence can't solve everything!"

Chen Changluo's abandonment of martial force seemed impassioned and articulate, clearly forgetting how he had just threatened Bai Xiaosheng.

Song Yanran nodded.

"So, when the gathering officially starts, in front of all the guests, you'll have to show everyone that Bai Xiaosheng lacks talent, knowledge, cultivation— he is nothing at all! He doesn't deserve to sit with us!" Song Yanran declared.

Chen Changluo's eyes lit up.

Brilliant!

What's most important to a man?

Face!

Embarrassing Bai in public, this is indeed the perfect way to teach him a lesson!

Killing someone is heart-breaking.

It's not the deadliest to kill the person, but to break the heart!

"I'll listen to you! After all, this is our home, it's convenient to prepare anything. Just tell me how to proceed!" Chen Changluo said, patting his chest.

"I know all about your various skills and knowledge. This time, I'll make the arrangements for you!" Song Yanran said with a smile.

She was knowledgeable in music, chess, calligraphy, painting, astronomy, geography, and even spoke several languages.

With her present, how could Chen Changluo not crush Bai in front of everyone!

If a physical fight would not work, then they'd battle with wits.

"Since you won't heed my advice, don't blame me for being ruthless. Bai Xiaosheng, you'll lose all your dignity, and you brought it upon yourself!" Song Yanran thought to herself bitterly.

Bai Xiaosheng and Zhao Qianze returned to a quieter parlor and found a corner to sit down in.

"Bai, you looked so cool just now, actually smashing that huge porcelain vase with one punch. I saw that the shards were pretty thick. Doesn't your hand hurt?" Zhao Qianze couldn't help but ask.

"No problem, I've studied Inner Strength for ten years." Bai Xiaosheng said.

"Really!" Zhao Qianze said, her face full of shock.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but laugh.

"You're teasing me!"

Zhao Qianze realized she had been fooled, and with a playful smile, she gave Bai Xiaosheng a light punch.

"How did you really do it?" Zhao Qianze truly wanted to know.

"It's complicated to explain. You need to use skill, make use of the principle of resonance, tap it twice, listen to the echoes, identify the weak spots of the bottle, and then, with enough force, it's done," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

Zhao Qianze gave him a skeptical look.

This explanation, even less believable than the previous one.

Knowing she didn't believe him, Bai Xiaosheng laughed it off and changed the subject to perfume, which promptly piqued Zhao Qianze's interest.

While they were chatting, a servant entered the small hall and announced loudly to everyone, "Gentlemen, the gathering is about to begin, please move to the venue!"

It's finally starting!

Bai Xiaosheng and Zhao Qianze stood up and followed the crowd outside.

The place of the gathering wasn't in the main hall; the main hall was just for wine and canapés. The real gathering and banquet were behind the villa.

"Hey, Bai, look!"

As they walked with the crowd, Zhao Qianze suddenly pointed ahead and exclaimed.

Bai Xiaosheng followed her indication and saw a foreigner in a tailcoat, who disappeared around a corner after just a glimpse.

"Yegor! It's Yegor!"

Zhao Qianze's expression was a mix of excitement, "My favorite pianist from UE Country, I can't believe he's here too!"

At that moment, in a corner.

Chen Changluo hurried to see Song Yanran, bubbling with excitement as he reported, "Don't worry, everything is arranged! I've also greeted Mr. Yegor! This time, I'll make Bai Xiaosheng lose all his dignity!"

Chapter 703 Banquet Begins_1

The Chen Family's gathering and banquet were held in the square behind the villa.

Exiting the villa, there was a paved slate platform behind it, surrounded by a one-meter-high stone wall.

The platform was so spacious that it could easily accommodate twenty to thirty banquet tables. Standing atop the platform, one could behold the entire beauty of Moon Lake.

There were steps at the edge of the platform leading down, passing through a flower bed to the lakeside, where the shore was also paved with slate and lined with a row of lounge chairs, suitable for resting and fishing.

When Bai Xiaosheng and Zhao Qianze arrived, the view also left them thoroughly delighted.

The villas here were expensive for good reason—they were meticulously designed, full of surprises, and provided the utmost enjoyment.

At the center of the platform, a stage was set up with tables and chairs arranged around it.

Flowers were placed on the tables and the ground, all freshly bloomed and in full splendor.

The fragrance of flowers enveloped the area, creating a blissful atmosphere.

On one side of the central stage, there was a band, all from UE Country, comprised of handsome men and beautiful women.

Seated in front of a piano was a man in tails, his expression serious—it was Yegor.

Upon seeing him, Zhao Qianze immediately became excited and wanted to go over to greet him, but noticing that Mr. Yegor was busy preparing, she hesitated and ultimately decided not to disturb him.

"Miss Zhao, your seat is over there," said a servant who recognized Zhao Qianze, approaching proactively and pointing it out to her.

Following his gesture, Zhao Qianze saw that candidates of the same status as herself and Bai Xiaosheng had exclusive seats in the best location.

Zhao Qianze immediately led the way, with Bai Xiaosheng following her.

"Qianze, over here!" At that moment, Zheng Qinghong spotted her, his face instantly lighting up with a warm smile as he waved to her.

However, after that, Zheng Qinghong's expression changed abruptly upon seeing Bai Xiaosheng behind Zhao Qianze.

He had thought Bai Xiaosheng wouldn't make it as he hadn't seen him in the exclusive lounge, and had even secretly rejoiced.

Unexpectedly, Bai Xiaosheng had still arrived and gotten tangled up with Zhao Qianze right away.

Zheng Qinghong felt a bit resentful, but he had to suppress his anger in front of others and could only contain it inwardly.

Zhao Qianze actually didn't want to share a table with Zheng Qinghong.

However, those seated at that table were clearly the candidates with the best results and highest status from the training camp, not only including Zheng Qinghong but also Mu Beichen and even Fang Tianchen, who placed fifth when the scores were announced last time.

All those people were watching them and also turned their attention to Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng was the top candidate from the training class—how could he sit towards the back?

Hesitating only briefly, Zhao Qianze went straight over with Bai Xiaosheng.

Zheng Qinghong discreetly made eye contact with Bai Xiaocheng at the adjacent table, who instantly came over and sat in the center of the remaining three seats, intending to separate the two and then switch places with Zheng Qinghong. This way, Zheng Qinghong would be sitting next to Zhao Qianze.

As for Bai Xiaosheng, he could only watch helplessly.

Speaking of which, those eliminated from the training class hadn't left Zhongjing.

Some were accompanying their companions, while others hadn't left yet when they received an invitation, so they all were present.

Zhao Qianze caught sight of the little trick Zheng Qinghong and Bai Xiaocheng were playing and immediately became irritated, walking straight over and saying to Bai Xiaocheng, "Mr. Bai, please give up the seat."

"That doesn't seem right. I'm already seated here," Bai Xiaocheng said with a smile.

"May I ask, what rank did you achieve in the training class? This table is reserved for the top five scorers and those with outstanding performance!"

Zhao Qianze's blunt remark instantly put Bai Xiaocheng in an awkward position.

"How would you answer if Mr. Jiuzheng or even Mr. Jiutian came over to offer a toast?" Zhao Qianze asked, glancing at Zheng Qinghong.

Zheng Qinghong's face also changed.

Bai Xiaocheng shrank back and sheepishly returned to his original table.

Zhao Qianze snorted coldly, smiling as she let Bai Xiaosheng sit down and took the seat next to him.

Zheng Qinghong watched Bai Xiaosheng, his gaze growing colder the more he looked, filled with deep resentment.

All of this, Mu Beichen saw in his eyes, and he smiled without speaking.

As Zhao Qianze and Bai Xiaosheng just sat down, the voice of the host came from the side.

"Ladies and gentlemen, please pay attention, the gathering is about to begin!"

The two looked over and saw a handsome and spirited young host standing on the central stage with a smile on his face.

Listening to the people around, it seemed he was a famous TV show host from Anjiang Satellite TV.

When the host saw that the crowd was looking his way, he raised the microphone and spoke earnestly.

"Now, could everyone please quiet down, as we invite tonight's VIP guest—"

"The person in charge of the Zhenbei Group for the Greater China Region in the East China area, Mr. Chen Jiutian, to the stage!"

"Also, please welcome the host of tonight's event—"

"The person responsible for the Zhenbei Group's industries in Anjiang Province within the Greater China Region, Mr. Chen Jiuzheng, to the stage!"

"Let's give them a warm round of applause!"

Under the host's impassioned voice, accompanied by music and applause, Chen Jiutian and Chen Jiuzheng walked out with smiles on their faces, one after the other, until they reached the center of the stage.

Once the brothers had taken their places, the host passed them the microphone.

Chen Jiutian took the microphone and said with a smile to everyone left and right, "Thank you all for coming."

Another round of applause broke out.

After the applause died down a little, Chen Jiutian continued with a smile, "Like all of you today, I was invited here, and I am also a guest. It's just that, I have known the host for a longer period than all of you, so I couldn't refuse to put down my work and come here to show my support..."

The crowd laughed and clapped again.

In this way, Chen Jiutian delivered a speech that was quite humorous.

And Chen Jiuzheng also said a few words, the gist being to have fun and eat well, letting everyone enjoy themselves to the fullest.

Bai Xiaosheng watched Chen Jiutian from afar, his face adorned with a meaningful smile.

It had been half a year since their last encounter in Tiannan, making this a reunion with an old acquaintance.

Thinking back to that year in Tiannan, the scene where he had tricked the man's son was still vivid in his memory.

Having finished their speeches, Chen Jiutian and Chen Jiuzheng stepped down from the stage and went to a table directly opposite the band.

That table was not round but long, and the brothers sat side by side, somewhat akin to the seating of royalty in period dramas, which conveniently allowed them to observe the guests on both sides.

"Thank you both for your wonderful speeches!"

The host, with a beaming smile, went back on stage and said to the guests, "The evening is still young, and the feast is being prepared, but first, let us enjoy some fine wine and the performances brought to us by some top international teams!"

Today was indeed a gathering, not just for dining but also for entertainment.

The host announced the program name.

A song and dance opened the show, followed by acrobatics and magic.

All the content was carefully selected and extremely pleasing to watch, and it also had a high rate of interaction with the guests.

Servants with wooden trays shuttled back and forth, offering freshly cut fruit as well as drink menus for guests to order custom-made cocktails.

While Bai Xiaosheng enjoyed the program, he noticed at the table across from the stage sat Chen Changluo and Song Yanran.

They were also looking over, and their gazes met with Bai Xiaosheng's unexpectedly, then swiftly moved away.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled indifferently, unbothered.

After the magic act, the host took the stage and announced gravely, "Now we would like to welcome the master pianist from UE Country, Mr. Yegor, to bring us a spectacular piece. Please enjoy."

Below the stage, Chen Changluo's eyes suddenly lit up, he lowered his voice to Song Yanran and said, "It's about to start!"

Chapter 704 - Bai Xiaosheng, Dare to Give it a Try?!_1

The announcer finished calling the act and made a welcoming gesture toward the band from UE Country.

Seated beside the piano, Master Yegor nodded, placed his hands on the keyboard, and took a slight breath.

The entire audience held their breath and focused on the band.

The moment the first note sounded, the whole room fell into silence.

"Adelina by the Water," a melody as flowing as water—calm and sprightly, like a holy spring, cleansed the weary souls of the listeners. Under the master's interpretation, it had a kind of breathtaking beauty.

The piece ended.

Without anyone leading, the audience burst into applause together.

Mr. Yegor stood up, bowed to the guests, and then sat down again to continue his performance.

One beautiful piece after another, some light and bright, some expansive.

The applause came frequently.

"In the future, when I look for a husband, I also want someone who can play the piano, at least someone with a level eight certification. It feels so romantic!" said a female guest, full of longing.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and nodded.

Others might just find it pleasant to listen to, but he perceived so much more.

Red Lotus had imprinted the background of each piece deep into his mind.

Each piece was a story.

It belonged to the soul of the creator; every note was a scream of the soul.

After each piece, Zhao Qianze would quietly ask Bai Xiaosheng for advice.

A few words from Bai Xiaosheng would have her nodding frequently.

Zheng Qinghong, witnessing Bai Xiaosheng's expression and their interaction, couldn't help but feel contempt.

Bai Xiaosheng was being pretentious, putting on an act in front of Zhao Qianze as if he knew a lot.

"Do you really understand?" Zheng Qinghong simply didn't believe it.

Chen Changluo and Song Yanran shared this view.

Observing Bai Xiaosheng, their thoughts mirrored Zheng Qinghong's, believing that Bai Xiaosheng was just fooling Zhao Qianze.

A general manager from humble beginnings, he couldn't have received much of a higher education.

So young to have become a general manager, all his focus must have been on work. Where would he have the time or money to study music, especially the piano?

"Wait, I'll expose him for what he is!" Chen Changluo thought with a sneer.

Chen Jiutian and Chen Jiuzheng were engrossed in the music, not glancing Bai Xiaosheng's way at all, as if they hadn't noticed him.

In fact, this was something they had discussed with Mu Beichen beforehand—to treat Bai Xiaosheng as an ordinary guest.

Neither to slight him nor to pay him extra attention.

They wanted Bai Xiaosheng to get through the banquet smoothly, without feeling any hostility from the Chen family.

At the end of the piece, the room erupted in applause once again.

Master Yegor suddenly stood up, took the microphone from the host, and said something in Russian.

The host's smile stiffened. He didn't understand. While English was manageable, Russian was considered a minor language in the country.

Just as the host was worrying, someone behind him said, "I'll translate for Mr. Yegor."

The host was immediately relieved, turned around to see Chen Changluo, and knowing his identity, promptly stepped aside.

Chen Changluo, holding a microphone that was prepared in advance, translated verbatim whatever Master Yegor said for everyone to hear.

"Master Yegor says that he is very happy and honored to perform for so many distinguished and successful individuals today."

Upon Chen Changluo's translation, the audience clapped in unison.

The Chinese value etiquette.

Master Yegor's words highly pleased the audience.

"Master Yegor also says that he has heard about Zhenbei Group, a world-renowned financial consortium. He says that those of you present holding important positions in the group must be talented in many ways. He wonders if anyone would like to come up and play a short segment, to share the joy with everyone."

Chen Changluo translated with a smile.

Master Yegor also grinned broadly, making a welcoming gesture.

Speaking of playing the piano, among the more than two hundred guests present, there were quite a few who could play, and not just a few.

These guests represented various levels of society, all of them well-known figures!

Many people come from wealthy families, where music is a compulsory subject. Although most haven't taken grading exams, they can still play a piece to some extent.

However, playing a piece in front of a master feels like showing off one's minor skills before an expert—it's somewhat presumptuous.

Under the restraint of Chinese modesty, everyone was quite humble.

"Is there no one willing to take the lead?" Chen Changluo looked around at the guests and smiled, "Then I will embarrass myself to break the ice. If I don't play well, please forgive me!"

At this statement, the crowd immediately cheered.

"I didn't expect Chen Changluo to show off his skills," Bai Xiaosheng said, a bit surprised.

Zhao Qianze heard this and pursed her lips.

"He's just a show-off. What's so great about that? You also know how to make perfume, but do you go around bragging about it? He's merely looking for an opportunity to show off!"

Hearing Zhao Qianze's disdain, Bai Xiaosheng just smiled and said nothing.

"Bai Xiaosheng, I saw you were quite engrossed just now, you seem to know a lot about it. How about you give it a try later? Don't tell me you know how to listen but can't play!" Zheng Qinghong suddenly spoke up.

The people at the table looked at Bai Xiaosheng with playful gazes, with a hint of mockery.

Time and again, it had been Bai Xiaosheng who had scored high, and everyone was eager to see him mess up for once.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at Zheng Qinghong, smiled without saying a word, and also stopped Zhao Qianze from trying to speak up for him.

"Can't do it?" Zheng Qinghong snorted with a smirk, "Soon, I plan to play a piece! Dedicated to Qianze!"

"No need!" Zhao Qianze responded with a cold, stern face.

Zheng Qinghong was not offended but gave a magnanimous smile instead.

Meanwhile.

Chen Changluo sat down at the piano, imitating the master's demeanour, took a slight breath, and placed his hands on the keys.

A piano piece began to play, it was quite good, very pleasant to hear.

"What is he playing?" Zhao Qianze couldn't help but ask.

She was simply curious and asked casually.

"E major sonata, third movement, Haydn." Bai Xiaosheng responded offhand, "It's a Grade 6 piano piece."

The two's unconscious question and answer left Zhao Qianze suddenly startled, and she looked at Bai Xiaosheng with surprise, "You know this too?"

Bai Xiaosheng just smiled, without answering.

"How well is he playing it?" Zhao Qianze asked again.

"Quite skillfully," Bai Xiaosheng thought for a moment before answering.

Just skillfully?

Off to the side, Zheng Qinghong's nose nearly went crooked with annoyance, "He's playing extremely well, on par with me!"

When the piece ended, everyone clapped.

"I humbly present this," Chen Changluo stood up and said with a chuckle to everyone.

While he spoke modestly with his mouth, Chen Changluo puffed his chest up proudly in response to Master Yegor's symbolic applause, his face beaming.

Then, Master Yegor whispered something to him and even glanced in Bai Xiaosheng's direction.

Chen Changluo nodded, picked up the microphone, and smiled towards Bai Xiaosheng, saying.

"Master Yegor has heard that the main characters of today's banquet are the elite of the elites within our group. He would like to see just how outstanding the most outstanding individual is, to see if they can also play a piece."

His words left the crowd stunned, then many started to make a commotion.

"Right, let us witness it for ourselves."

"Within the group's elites, there ought to be hidden dragons and crouching tigers!"

Chen Changluo smiled, pointing at Bai Xiaosheng, "Our current top scorer, Mr. Bai Xiaosheng—won't you come up and give it a try?"

All eyes were on Bai Xiaosheng in unison.

Zhao Qianze's expression changed drastically.

What is Chen Changluo trying to do?!

The piece of information about Bai Xiaosheng's achievements had been heard by Song Yanran from Zhao Qianze.

"Just now, I saw him listening attentively and even explaining to the lady beside him, so he seems to understand quite well. I want to see whether this Bai Xiaosheng truly knows his stuff or is just feigning profundity," Chen Changluo's tone changed, subtly unfriendly.

"How about it, Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, dare you give it a try?"

Chen Changluo wanted to publicly tear off Bai Xiaosheng's disguise, exposing his ignorance and hypocrisy to everyone!

Chapter 705: Play if You Pay!_1

Guided by Chen Changluo's implicit pointing, everyone's gaze converged, falling entirely upon Bai Xiaosheng.

"Is he the candidate currently ranked first in performance? He looks so ordinary!"

"Wasn't Zheng Qinghong supposed to be the most popular? How come this person is first in the ranking?"

"So young?! The others are older and more experienced, yet they fall short of a young man?"

"Indeed, they really let themselves be surpassed by a younger junior!"

...

Murmurs of discussion rose in waves.

The candidates' faces turned unsightly in an instant, even Zheng Qinghong felt a touch of annoyance.

Unexpectedly, Bai Xiaosheng's youth had become their source of ridicule!

Chen Changluo smirked secretly to himself.

This was the effect he wanted: to have everyone in the special training class stand against Bai Xiaosheng, making him an isolated figure!

No one remaining to speak up for him!

Guests were discussing other matters as well.

"Nowadays, the youth love to boast, claiming they know this and that, but in reality, their knowledge is scant."

"I'm afraid that Bai Xiaosheng is all talk, just fooling the lady beside him with his despicable behaviors!"

...

Among these guests were some from Zhongjing, though very few. Those who knew Bai Xiaosheng voiced different opinions, but they were quickly drowned out by the sneers, not even making a splash.

Zhao Qianze grew increasingly angry as she listened, barely restraining herself from standing up and scolding them to stop spouting nonsense.

"Don't get agitated!"

Bai Xiaosheng stopped Zhao Qianze, also casting a deep glance at Chen Changluo.

This guy was scheming against him.

It was a plan well thought out in advance, to put him on the spot.

"It must have been tough for him, a spoiled young master, to come up with such a plot..." Bai Xiaosheng sighed, yet a spark of insight flashed as he looked at Song Yanran, "It must be her scheme!"

Song Yanran sneered as she looked at Bai Xiaosheng.

While everyone else jeered, Mu Beichen's expression turned grim, and he couldn't help but shoot a glance at Chen Changluo.

In his gaze, shock and anger.

Chen Changluo had dared to make a move against Bai Xiaosheng without any warning! Who gave him the audacity!

Chen Jiutian and Chen Jiuzheng hadn't expected this either.

In just a few words, their "competent" nephew had turned the spearhead directly at Bai Xiaosheng, the very person they did not wish to engage with at this moment!

Both were a mix of shock and anger!

"Useless at critical moments!"

"This bastard!"

These two important figures were simultaneously cursing in their minds.

Chen Changluo appeared oblivious to all, instead looking provocatively at Bai Xiaosheng.

"Why aren't you coming up, Mr. Bai, are you going to admit you're pretending to understand? That's right, with your ordinary background, how could you possibly play the piano!" Chen Changluo openly taunted, "You're still a distance away from high society!"

"He understands; he just said that your playing was very mediocre, very trashy!"

Zheng Qinghong suddenly yelled out.

He had been holding back waiting for an opportunity, and now, he certainly didn't mind kicking someone when they were down!

"My playing is trashy?" Chen Changluo's face darkened, but he laughed instead of becoming angry, "That's still better than being trash who can't play!"

Chen Changluo openly insulted Bai Xiaosheng.

The crowd was shocked.

"Silence, Changluo, you've gone too far!" Chen Jiutian couldn't help but exclaim.

Chen Changluo, he was going mad!

Was he intent on provoking Bai Xiaosheng to the point of hostility towards the Chen Family, to be on guard?

"Mr. Chen, this man is despicable and full of lies; he does not deserve to sit with us!"

In the heat of the moment, Chen Changluo, not even giving his uncle face, trampled on Bai Xiaosheng once more.

"What did you say!"

Zhao Qianze was simply livid, but he was stopped by Bai Xiaosheng in an instant.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and stood up.

In front of everyone, he suddenly asked, "Mr. Yegor, may I know how much you earn for participating in a concert like this?"

Yegor was taken aback, spread his hands, indicating he didn't understand.

Chen Changluo sneered, "Sorry, Master Yegor does not understand Mandarin."

Bai Xiaosheng laughed, then spouted a string of fluent Russian, which surpassed Chen Changluo's fluency, and instantaneously dumbfounded him.

He knows German too? The crowd was astonished.

Zhao Qianze looked at Bai Xiaosheng with amazement.

Song Yanran couldn't believe it, "He actually knows Russian, and his pronunciation is so standard?!"

Yegor gave a thumbs up for Bai Xiaosheng's German, then hesitated for a moment, and reported a number.

"Since Mr. Yegor gets so much for a concert, then why should I play for you for free!" Bai Xiaosheng declared matter-of-factly.

With that statement, he set the entire place abuzz.

"What is this guy saying, he actually wants to charge a fee?!"

"How boastful, who does he think he is, comparing himself to the master!"

"I have never seen such a shameless person!"

The crowd was excited.

Chen Jiutian and Chen Jiuzheng's faces were extremely unsightly, and equally helpless.

At this point, even they couldn't just sit back and do nothing.

"Let's just go with the flow!" Chen Jiutian gritted his teeth and suddenly raised his voice, "This Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, I have seen him before; he is a learned man. Since he has asked for a fee, it must be to make everyone happy, I agree, as long as he plays, no matter the quality, I will pay one million."

Chen Jiutian was determined; even if Bai Xiaosheng played like cotton, he would still pay the money.

With a peacekeeping attitude, to lull Bai Xiaosheng into complacency.

Play any note and get a million!

The crowd was taken aback by Chen Jiutian's words, and there was a buzz of astonishment.

"Fine, Bai Xiaosheng, I'll take that bet. If you really play well, I'll add another million. If the audience is not satisfied, not only can you forget about getting the money, but you'll also have to cough up another million! How about it!"

Chen Changluo took the opportunity to up the stakes even more.

The crowd was stirred up time and again, the atmosphere reaching a fever pitch, amidst shouts and cheers.

Zhao Qianze looked at Bai Xiaosheng with immense concern.

But Bai Xiaosheng just laughed and walked over to the orchestra, "It's a bet!"

Yegor stepped aside.

Bai Xiaosheng walked straight to the piano and sat down, smiling at everyone, "Please excuse my performance!"

That said, Bai Xiaosheng did not hurry to play but began to press and limber up his fingers.

This warm-up took a full three minutes.

Just as the audience's patience was running thin, Bai Xiaosheng's hands fell on the keys, beginning to dance rapidly.

A moment ago, what Yegor had played was like the gentle babbling of a brook, the cheerful flow of a small river.

But now, what Bai Xiaosheng played was like a flood bursting its banks, roaring towards them!

Notes, countless notes, seemed to fly, tumble, and dive in the air.

This dense onslaught was not at all unpleasant to the ear; instead, it brought an ultimate pleasure!

In an instant, everyone was rooted to the spot, their faces showing shock.

"'Flight of the Bumblebee'!"

Yegor, visibly excited, exclaimed.

This piece, one of the fastest in the world and one of the most difficult to play, something not even he dared to attempt, yet this young man played with such impassioned and fervent energy without being noisy, it was simply sublime.

The melodies played by Bai Xiaosheng seemed to carry an overwhelming magic, shocking and enthralling the audience!

"Incredible!"

Zhao Qianze was too excited for words, his eyes brimming with tears of admiration.

Bai Xiaosheng, with the strongest of postures, crushed all the slanderous rumors against him!

Chapter 706: When I Win, It's Never Enough_1

The entire hall was silent, with everyone fixated on Bai Xiaosheng playing the piano as if under a spell.

It's said that a man is at his most handsome when focusing intently on doing something. Bai Xiaosheng, who was already good-looking and immersed in concentration, was playing a tune that could be described as the sound of Heaven's Melody.

At this moment, he was simply explosively handsome!

Many women almost had stars in their eyes.

How could a man be so handsome!

Chen Jiutian, Chen Jiuzheng, Chen Changluo, Song Yanran, Zheng Qinghong, Mu Beichen, and also Chen Changqing in the corner, all had the same expression—no expression! Too shocked, they were no different from others around them, not even having time to react otherwise.

Just then, the melody abruptly stopped.

Under everyone's gaze, Bai Xiaosheng flexed his fingers, stood up with a smile, "Excuse me, excuse me, I haven't played in a while, I'm a bit rusty."

Bai Xiaosheng didn't mind bragging a bit in front of everyone.

This speed, and he's rusty? Many people couldn't help moaning.

That's just too exaggerated!

"Amazing!" Yegor suddenly exclaimed excitedly.

Everyone jumped in fright.

Though nobody understood Russian, seeing the highly respected and excited piano master, they could guess what he meant.

Even the master was impressed!

Chen Changluo's face soured, the master was impressed, and he couldn't deny it even if he wanted to!

Yegor's expression was electric as he invited Bai Xiaosheng to hold a concert in UE Country. If Bai Xiaosheng agreed, he would take care of all the arrangements, ensuring that Bai Xiaosheng needn't worry about a thing.

"Maybe in the future, there will be a chance!" Bai Xiaosheng quickly consoled the excited master.

Eventually, Yegor calmed down.

Bai Xiaosheng took a deep breath and then turned to Chen Jiutian with a smile, "Thanks for your generosity, Mr. Chen!"

Then, he looked at Chen Changluo, "Don't forget, Brother Chen, you owe me a million!"

Two minutes, two million!

Bai Xiaosheng was also very happy.

Chen Changluo's face turned from green to white, shocked as he was, but feeling angry toward Bai Xiaosheng.

This Bai, with his ability, had shown everyone that he was truly strong, and it was himself who was ignorant.

Feeling humiliated, Chen Changluo watched Bai Xiaosheng about to leave, suddenly shouted, "Wait! You're better at the piano than I am, but I can play other instruments. I'll bet you on those!"

It seemed that Chen Changluo thought winning even one game would suffice to regain some face.

Bai Xiaosheng immediately laughed, "How about this, I'll go first. I'll play an instrument, and if you can surpass me, then I'll consider it my loss. Otherwise, the usual rules, a million!"

Bai Xiaosheng said, "Do you dare?"

This time, he took the initiative, pushing Chen Changluo into a corner.

These three words, "Do you dare," spoken publicly, were intensely damaging to Chen Changluo.

"I'll bet!" Chen Changluo said, "But I get to choose the instrument!"

"Fine!" Bai Xiaosheng agreed.

"Violin!"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, took a violin from the band, and played a piece with top-notch skill!

Chen Changluo turned pale, knowing he couldn't compare, but he still wouldn't concede.

"Cello!"

Bai Xiaosheng went over, played a piece, and still maintained top-notch skill!

Chen Changluo's eyes reddened, he couldn't believe it.

"Tuba!"

Bai Xiaosheng walked over, played a segment, and yet again demonstrated top-notch skill!

Chen Changluo's gaze held a hint of despair, he couldn't best Bai in anything! This damn fellow was a monster!

Yegor looked at Bai Xiaosheng as if light was about to shine from his eyes.

Not just Yegor, the entire audience was stunned.

"Oh my God, he can play so many instruments!"

"Each one is masterful, unbelievable!"

"How long must he have studied to reach such a level, he's a musical prodigy!"

"Impressive, and besides, he's made hundreds of thousands in just a little while... my heavens, that's so much more profitable than running a company!"

A stir went through the crowd.

Zhao Qianze was extremely happy.

She looked at Zheng Qinghong, who was staring blankly, then at Mu Beichen, who was in disbelief.

Even Song Yanran sitting across from them was full of incredulity.

"You see? This is Bai Xiaosheng, the one you all want to challenge!"

"He is a hundred times better than all of you, yet he doesn't show off or make noise, he excels with restraint and class!"

Zhao Qianze really wanted to cheer for Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng walked towards the drum set, waiting for Chen Changluo to continue the challenge.

One million each, why not make money when you have the opportunity.

Now, including what Chen Jiutian had promised, he already had five million!

Bai Xiaosheng was also very happy.

Originally, there was only a few hundred thousand in his account, and now he had a large sum added. Thinking about it, he really should thank Chen Changluo, who wanted to humiliate him in public.

"Enough, no need to try anymore!"

The comments from all around finally made Chen Changluo realize. He had lost four million in just a moment!

And gave Bai Xiaosheng the chance to show off in public for free.

It was truly losing both substance and face!

"My money isn't blown in by the wind!" Chen Changluo felt a pang of pain.

"Not betting anymore?" Bai Xiaosheng smiled and stopped his steps.

At this moment, his mood was soaring, and he actually felt a bit itchy to play.

Especially since, for once, he had the chance to show off high and mighty, then it was time to make a good profit!

"When I win, it's never enough," Bai Xiaosheng muttered to himself.

If Chen Changluo wouldn't bet, he would find someone else to gamble with.

Bai Xiaosheng's gaze shifted, looking towards Yegor.

This foreigner, his fame is said to be quite big...

"Mr. Yegor, how about a bet with you?" Bai Xiaosheng asked in Russian with a smile.

Yegor was immediately stunned.

Just now, in the band, someone who understood Chinese had informed him about the bet between those two men.

Could it be that this young man wanted to bet with him as well?

"I can play all these instruments too, but what shall we bet on?" Yegor asked with a smile.

He was also interested.

Bai Xiaosheng pointed to the band's equipment box and said with a laugh, "I will play a piece using that, and if Master Yegor thinks it is good enough, then please have your group perform for me for free. If not, consider it a free gift from me, how about it?"

Master Yegor looked at the box and was startled.

Inside the equipment box, there was an erhu.

"That's a Chinese instrument I bought yesterday. You want to play it?" Yegor looked at the band.

The wager was no small matter; it was a bet for the whole band.

"Mr. Yegor, bet with him."

"Yes, we also want to hear how traditional Chinese instruments sound in his hands, to what extent they can be played."

"Agreed!"

The band members actually all agreed one after another.

"Great!" Master Yegor turned towards Bai Xiaosheng, smiled, and said, "I'll take the bet."

Bai Xiaosheng's exchange with Yegor was in Russian, and some of the guests understood, and word of mouth spread quickly, immediately making many people understand.

Bai Xiaosheng was going to bet against the UE Country's band!

Everyone's interest was suddenly piqued.

Bai Xiaosheng went over and picked up the erhu.

"I believe everyone has heard the erhu, thinking its tunes are either warmly wistful or desolately mournful, but in truth, it is not only so," Bai Xiaosheng smiled. "Just listen—"

Bai Xiaosheng said in his mind to Red Lotus, "Red Lotus, 'Flight of the Bumblebee' on the erhu!"

"Alright, master!" Red Lotus responded.

The erhu in Bai Xiaosheng's hands suddenly came to life.

The bumblebee took flight once more, this time from the strings of the erhu, the ultra-fast movement of ten fingers was a sight to behold.

This was a true feast for both the eyes and ears.

At the end of the piece, all was silent.

"I'll give you a free performance, my friend!" Yegor suddenly shouted.

The whole place erupted once again.

In the crowd, Song Yanran was biting her lower lip, with uncontainable anger and shock in her eyes, "No, I can't concede like this!"

She quietly stood up and headed straight for Chen Changluo!

Chapter 707: Another Match?_1

The applause thundered throughout the venue, celebrating Bai Xiaosheng's brilliant performance.

Chen Changluo joined in the clapping, but the smile on his face was uglier than a cry.

He had openly defied his uncle, aiming to strike at Bai Xiaosheng, only to lose face and internal pride—both!

He lost his wife along with his troops!

He was finally beginning to understand what his uncle meant by, "If you mess with him, I'm afraid you'll be at a loss." Unfortunately, his realization came too late, and four million was gone...

Whenever he thought about the money, Chen Changluo felt the pain more than ever.

"Changluo!" Just as he was feeling the heartache, someone tugged at him; it was Song Yanran!

"Yanran!" Chen Changluo forced his spirits up and smiled at her.

He might have lost, but he couldn't lose his composure, especially not in front of a woman.

Chen Changluo pretended to be relaxed, with an air of "no big deal" and nonchalance.

Taking advantage of the applause around them, Song Yanran leaned in and said to him, "Keep competing with him!"

"Compete again!" Chen Changluo couldn't help but exclaim aloud.

Four million was gone, of course the money was no concern to Yanran who hadn't coughed it up herself.

No, that wasn't right—if their affairs worked out, that money would be hers as well...

Chen Changluo grumbled internally.

"You're willing to accept defeat so easily? Bai, being good at music, might be an indicator that he's neglecting his duty! So what if he's first in the training program? I've heard it's all just luck, and he's shameless too! You are the top-earning general manager of the Anjiang Group's businesses in Anjiang. How could you lose to him?!" Song Yanran said.

At first, Song Yanran was only considering it for her girlfriend's sake, exhibiting a bit of pathological behavior.

But after Bai Xiaosheng ridiculed her in person, intimidated her with force, and now won five hundred thousand, earning applause from everyone, Song Yanran felt anxious and resentful. She just wanted to see Bai Xiaosheng lose for once because the thought of him winning was unbearably frustrating.

Now, even she didn't realize that her original intentions were forgotten, Zhao Qianze was no longer part of the equation...

Her words were like an epiphany to Chen Changluo, rejuvenating him as if "revived with full health."

Right, I am the top figure among the Anjiang Group's businesses. How could I lose to him?! Confidence surged back into Chen Changluo.

At that moment, the applause ceased.

Bai Xiaosheng finished his conversation with Master Yegor; after all, he had won a performance from the orchestra and needed to discuss the timing and location of the show.

Bai Xiaosheng already had ideas on how to use the orchestra.

Bai Xiaosheng wanted to return to his seat.

"Brother Bai, don't be in a hurry to leave!" Chen Changluo suddenly spoke up, stopping Bai Xiaosheng in his tracks.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at him in surprise.

"Brother Bai, you won splendidly, and you won well! But it would be lacking in grace to leave after winning. You should give your brother a chance to regain some face," Chen Changqing said with a forced grin, "Of course, if you're too scared to fight, I won't stop you!"

Bai Xiaosheng furrowed his brow slightly before smiling.

"I wonder what kind of opportunity Brother Chen wants! What do you want to compete in?!"

As the two faced off again, the entire audience perked up.

"What is this Chen Changluo playing at, not wanting to calm things down! We've been too indulgent with him! His temper..."

Chen Jiutian and Chen Jiuzheng exchanged glances, both showing a hint of anger in their eyes.

"No matter what we compete in, this time, the winner will be me!" Chen Changluo declared confidently.

"Is the stake still money?" Bai Xiaosheng calmly asked with a smile.

Then, he might win enough to bankrupt Chen Changluo.

"Money..."

Chen Changluo was choked by Bai Xiaosheng's remark, his momentum deflating as he sulkily said, "This...in such a refined gathering, constantly talking about money is so crass!"

"No money? Then I'm not interested." Bai Xiaosheng turned to leave.

"Wait!" Chen Changluo called out hastily, "Forget about the money, let's offset it with a partnership deal!"

Cooperate and offset the stakes?

Bai Xiaosheng halted his steps and turned around in surprise, "What cooperation?"

The guests also looked at each other, puzzled.

"I work in finance, Younger Brother Bai, and I've heard that you are in the media business, our two companies both provide services. Should one of us lose, that party could provide the other's company with six months of free service! How about that?"

As Chen Changluo finished speaking, he hurriedly sought approval from his elder, "Mr. Chen, our corporations are both part of the group; this can be seen as communication between brother companies, enhancing our cooperation, it's not against the rules, right?"

Whether it was against the rules was up to Chen Jiutian alone.

Chen Changluo's proposal made Chen Jiutian's eyes light up.

Chen Jiuzheng also felt a stir in his heart.

They had always wanted to forcibly intervene in Zhongjing Media, but had encountered fierce resistance from Bai Xiaosheng.

They had been going about it all wrong!

Now, Chen Changluo's proposal, although unintentional, was extremely ingenious!

If Changluo were to lose, providing financial services to Zhongjing Media would allow him legitimate access to many things within, all first-hand information that could aid Changqing in taking control of the reins once Bai Xiaosheng was out of the picture!

Besides, there were many other wonderful subtleties to consider for the long-term game.

The Chen Brothers were instantly intrigued.

"Is that so..." Chen Jiutian pretended to ponder for a moment.

Under Chen Changluo's anxious gaze, he finally nodded, "Although this is a private challenge between you managers, if it can encourage exchange and cooperation between the two companies, it can be seen as a good thing!"

Chen Jiutian had agreed.

With him saying so, naturally, the others dared not object.

Bai Xiaosheng observed Chen Jiutian from a distance; despite the gap, he could clearly see the fluctuations in Chen Jiutian's expression.

Bai Xiaosheng also smiled.

He turned to Chen Changluo, "Since Mr. Chen supports it, I accept. What would you like to compete in?"

"I'll set the challenge, if Mr. Bai agrees!"

Song Yanran suddenly spoke up.

"You?" Bai Xiaosheng looked at her and was momentarily taken aback.

"Are you afraid, Mr. Bai?" Song Yanran taunted.

Zhao Qianze hurried to Bai Xiaosheng's side and raised her voice, "I think for fairness, it would be better to have someone else pose the question."

"Qianze, you don't trust me?"

Song Yanran immediately got irritated upon hearing her say that.

"It's not about trust; I think you should avoid any suspicion, Yanran, given your close relationship with Mr. Chen Changluo," Zhao Qianze stood her ground.

The guests were also whispering among themselves.

"Miss Song Yanran wants to pose the challenge? Alright, I accept!"

Bai Xiaosheng laughed heartily, "This way, Brother Chen will be utterly convinced if he loses!"

This statement caused Chen Changluo's expression to turn slightly unnatural.

"You've given your word, so no regrets later!" Song Yanran said.

Bai Xiaosheng seemed indifferent.

Zhao Qianze was both angry and annoyed at his attitude.

Song Yanran certainly knew what Chen Changluo excelled at; her challenge would clearly favor him.

"Or could it be that Bai Xiaosheng intends to lose this match deliberately?" Zhao Qianze suddenly wondered, suspecting, "In order to ease the tension with the Chen Family Members."

On the contrary, Bai Xiaosheng wanted to win!

"I didn't expect that the greatest gain from visiting Chen Mansion this time would not be the five million, nor the UE Country orchestra, but something stemming from Chen Changluo!" Bai Xiaosheng's eyes held a concealed delight.

Chen Changluo might indeed be a breakthrough.

Chapter 708 I'll Choose the Judges_1

Song Yanran waved to summon two servants and gave them some quiet instructions.

The servants hurried away.

After a short while, they each returned, shouldering an item.

The guests were momentarily startled by the sight.

What test was this?

The two servants brought out two easels, and they propped them up back to back.

"Interesting, it's turned into a literary gathering today, from music to art," someone joked with a laugh.

A burst of laughter echoed from the crowd.

Song Yanran picked up two paintbrushes and handed one to Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changluo, positioning them in front of their respective easels; then she took the microphone, gesturing for silence and announced, "Now, let me explain the contents of the competition!"

The crowd immediately fell silent.

Song Yanran began leisurely, "All of you here are senior management talents. You all understand what we, as general managers, compete with: ability, literacy and knowledge reserves! These are paramount to our professional careers and the development of our companies. Hence, many people study, and those in higher positions are even more motivated to learn. Some study management, some philosophy, others calligraphy, and yet others foreign languages."

Her words had many heads nodding in agreement.

Indeed, they dared not slack off.

The corporate competitive pressure was immense, and standing still meant falling behind, with so many people eyeing each position.

Song Yanran went on, "In a moment, I'll name three books: one on management, one on economics, and one on interpersonal relations—three classics, and I will announce their titles in the languages of their authors' respective countries for the two participants to write down. In addition, I will recite some famous phrases in philosophy, humanities, and management studies in Chinese, and you'll need to either name the author, share your understanding, or complete the sentence when I give the first half. In total, there will be ten questions!"

The guests were immediately amazed.

The content of this knowledge assessment was far from simple!

It involved multiple languages, reading comprehension, and knowledge reserves, as well as the competitors' mindset and blackboard skills!

Zhao Qianze was also surprised.

She had not expected Song Yanran to go to such lengths.

"However, these should be Chen Changluo's forte; although Bai is talented and versatile, he may not be as proficient in these areas!"

Zhao Qianze grew somewhat anxious, her palms sweating.

By now, the competition was about to start, and she could not stop it.

Although she felt Bai Xiaosheng might be willing to lose, it didn't entirely seem that way to her.

Bai Xiaosheng was full of energy, looking serious.

He did not appear to be taking it lightly.

"We'll start now, so please everyone step back and don't crowd around, so as not to affect their emotions or performance," Song Yanran said.

The easels were actually set up beside the band, not in the center of the venue, so some people had moved closer, wanting a better look.

Really, Song Yanran's words were directed more at Zhao Qianze.

She feared Zhao Qianze might secretly help Bai Xiaosheng.

"For fairness, I'll step back too!"

Song Yanran said this and then stepped forward three paces, turning her back to Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changluo.

Seeing this, others followed Song Yanran's lead and did not advance any further, including a helpless Zhao Qianze who distanced herself as well.

The crowd moved away.

Only then did Chen Changluo, with a smug smile, lean in and whisper to Bai Xiaosheng, "Brother Bai, try not to lose too disgracefully!"

"Within this week, I'll send someone over, so make arrangements then," Bai Xiaosheng replied with a smile.

Chen Changluo blinked, confused.

"If you lose to me and owe me half a year's service, naturally I'll need to send someone with the materials for you to get to work," Bai Xiaosheng said matter-of-factly.

"You!" Chen Changluo, now understanding, felt a surge of anger, "Alright, let's wait and see who wins and who loses!"

"Attention, gentlemen, we're about to begin!" Song Yanran called out.

The two competitors promptly focused, waiting intently.

Song Yanran's voice emitted a string of odd sounds.

After five seconds, she switched to a second language, and after another five, to a third.

Three book titles, three languages.

Read only once, with only five seconds of pause!

Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changluo both wrote furiously, but what they wrote remained invisible to the onlookers.

Having finished reading out the titles, Song Yanran paused for a moment before continuing.

"Where does the saying 'What is valued above will be followed below' come from, and what does it mean?"

"Life is a never-ending factory where there is no place for the lazy. Work! Create! Who said this, and what other famous sayings did he have? Write down one of them at random."

...

Song Yanran then asked seven more questions, including three book titles, making a total of ten test questions.

Everyone craned their necks, trying to see what those two were writing, but unfortunately, either the angle was wrong, or the distance was too far, and they couldn't see clearly.

However, seeing Chen Changluo's excited and confident face, it was clear he was more assured.

"I bet Chen Changluo will win this time!"

"Yeah, Miss Song has a special relationship with him, so naturally she would ask something he's good at."

"But still, you can't say Chen Changluo's victory would be undeserved, these questions are indeed not simple!"

"Maybe, Bai Xiaosheng agreed to let Miss Song set the questions because he intended to lose on purpose, after all, Chen Changluo is a Chen Family Member..."

Everyone was abuzz with conjecture.

Zhao Qianze was somewhat helpless.

Chen Jiutian and Chen Jiuzheng, however, slightly furrowed their brows, they didn't want Chen Changluo to win, him losing would be to their advantage!

Mu Beichen thought the same.

Zheng Qinghong, on the other hand, was somewhat hopeful, he wanted to see Bai Xiaosheng lose.

In a corner, there was someone who also wanted Bai Xiaosheng to win—Chen Changqing.

Just now, seeing Chen Changluo's discomfiture upon losing, he was extremely pleased.

Minutes later, Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changluo both stopped writing at the same time.

Song Yanran turned around, glanced at them, and pronounced the Chinese translations of the three books, then said to them, "Please turn your drawing boards around, facing everyone."

The moment of truth had come.

"Hold on, not so fast!"

Chen Changluo was eager, but Bai Xiaosheng suddenly spoke up, stopping him.

Chen Changluo was taken aback for a moment.

Unhurried, Bai Xiaosheng smiled and said to everyone, "I don't mind the person who set the questions, but I have a suggestion for the final judge!"

Chen Changluo became immediately vigilant, "Isn't it better for everyone to judge together! Unless, you want Miss Zhao to be the judge, then wouldn't you be sure to win!"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and spoke for himself, "Here, Mr. Chen Jiutian is the most authoritative, so, I would like to invite him to be the first judge! Also, I would like to invite Mr. Zheng Qinghong from our training class to be the second judge! And finally, I would like to invite a trusted colleague, who is also a Chen Family Member, Mr. Chen Changqing, to be the third judge!"

As Bai Xiaosheng named these three people, the whole place was shocked.

Chen Changluo stared in astonishment.

Song Yanran and Zhao Qianze were also incredulous.

Three judges, with two being Chen Family Members!

"Do you agree?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

As if Chen Changluo would disagree!

Even if it were Zheng Qinghong, he was Bai Xiaosheng's adversary!

"I agree to your proposal!" Chen Changluo even said impatiently.

Bai Xiaosheng, you really intend to concede! Zhao Qianze sighed.

Chen Jiutian, Zheng Qinghong, and Chen Changqing, all three were surprised by Bai Xiaosheng's suggestion but agreed to be the judges.

They immediately left their seats and stepped forward.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at Chen Changluo and smiled.

Chen Changluo, you've rejoiced too soon.

You might not have noticed, but I saw it—your family's uncle, Uncle, is extremely anxious about you winning.

It's in his interest for you to lose!

Of course, it's more in my interest!

Your cousin Chen Changqing has such hostility in his eyes when he looks at you, he's likely been oppressed by you, now's his chance!

Even if he doesn't seek revenge, if I let Chen Jiutian start speaking, would he dare to contradict Chen Jiutian's opinion?

As for Zheng Qinghong, his opinion doesn't matter.

Bai Xiaosheng tossed his pen and said with a smile, "Let's reveal the answers now!"

The outcome held no suspense for him!

Chapter 709: Returning Full-Loaded_1

Once the three judges were seated, Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Changluo positioned their drawing boards properly to show everyone.

The titles of the three books had already been said in Chinese by Song Yanran, so everyone was naturally aware of the answers.

Displayed on the two drawing boards were three names.

All correct!

This meant that both of them were fluent in three languages!

Song Yanran looked at Bai Xiaosheng incredulously.

Same answers, different characters.

Chen Changluo's handwriting was quite good, but Bai Xiaosheng's was surprisingly beautiful!

"What beautiful characters!"

Even Chen Jiutian couldn't help exclaiming in admiration.

"Yes, beautiful characters!"

"Truly beautiful, what is this script, regular script?"

"You can tell this is practiced, it's of a high standard!"

Everyone had nothing but praise for Bai Xiaosheng's handwriting.

"The brushwork is bold and the structure is unique! These characters are all top-notch work!" Chen Jiutian said.

Judging the writing, not the person. He had studied calligraphy himself and truly admired these characters.

With Mr. Chen Jiutian giving such high praise, everyone else was even more lavish in their compliments.

Chen Changluo's expression became difficult to maintain, and he cleared his throat, "No matter how good the handwriting is, the answers are what matter. This is a draw, a draw!"

Unfortunately, no one paid him any attention.

Even Song Yanran's eyes widened as she stared at Bai Xiaosheng's writing, her gaze gradually growing obsessed.

Bai Xiaosheng's proficiency in so many languages and his deep understanding of calligraphy astonished her.

Losing once and then again is embarrassing. Winning once and then again is a crushing victory; the gap is so wide that it commands respect.

At that moment, Song Yanran was beginning to be won over by Bai Xiaosheng.

Zhao Qianze couldn't contain his excitement.

Next, everyone looked at each item in turn.

Apart from the three judges – Chen Jiutian, Zheng Qinghong, and Chen Changqing – Song Yanran also acted as a consultant.

After all, she was the quizmaster and naturally knew a lot.

Among the ten questions, some had fixed answers, while others tested comprehension and the ability to perceive and feel.

For the fixed answers, both were much the same, completely correct.

However, it was Bai Xiaosheng's calligraphy that charmed everyone along the way.

Chen Changluo felt even more awkward listening to this.

For the questions without fixed answers, people had differing opinions.

But the general feeling was that Bai Xiaosheng still had the upper hand!

"All right, everyone quiet down," Chen Jiutian cleared his throat and raised his voice, "I believe Mr. Bai Xiaosheng is the victor!"

Regardless of the outcome, Bai Xiaosheng had to win in his eyes!

Moreover, given Bai Xiaosheng's answers, his victory was well-deserved!

"Damn, Uncle, even if he wanted to avoid suspicion and be humble, would let the man named Bai win!"

Chen Changluo's heart skipped a beat, suddenly feeling as if he had fallen into Bai Xiaosheng's trap!

"Then let me also announce my conclusion," Zheng Qinghong quickly followed, "I believe Mr. Chen Changluo is the victor."

Zheng Qinghong's support gave Chen Changluo some relief.

One loss, one win.

It all came down to the last judge now!

Chen Changluo turned his gaze to Chen Changqing's face.

"I win, it's me who wins!" Chen Changluo conveyed with his eyes repeatedly.

Unfortunately, he didn't see that Chen Jiuzheng was standing right behind Chen Changqing, having already given any necessary hints.

Chen Changqing had no intention of supporting him at all!

Let alone the hints from Uncle!

However, before Chen Changqing spoke, he still offered Chen Changluo a warm smile.

This smile eased Chen Changluo's heart.

"I choose Bai Xiaosheng!" Chen Changqing laughed and spoke directly.

Bai Xiaosheng!

These three words made Zhao Qianze unable to hold back a cheer, which led to a round of applause.

Chen Changluo's face was filled with disbelief.

"Sorry Brother Chen, you've lost!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a chuckle.

Because the result had already been set!

"Impossible, how is my answer worse than his!"

Chen Changluo glared at Chen Changqing, seeing the mockery in his cousin's eyes, he felt like he had received an unfair treatment, and suddenly yelled, "This is unfair! Bai Xiaosheng, the judge you chose is biased! I don't accept this, I want another competition!"

Being unyielding is a good quality, but pettiness in the face of defeat is simply despicable.

Even Song Yanran frowned, unable to help feeling a trace of disdain.

This expression, when caught by Chen Changluo, drove him mad. Song Yanran had encouraged him to compete again, and now she gave him such a look!

Chen Changluo exploded in an instant.

"Mr. Bai, I still want to compete with you!" Chen Changluo kicked over the easel with a single foot.

This startled everyone.

The crowd stared at Chen Changluo as if he were a madman.

"Chen Changluo, watch your behavior!" Chen Jiutian shouted angrily, not wanting any more waves to be made.

With this shout, Chen Changluo calmed down a bit.

He looked around at the disdainful eyes and faced his uncle's fury, which led him to regain his reason.

"Uncle, no, Mr. Chen... I was just agitated, I should be just as good as him!" Chen Changluo stammered.

"Just as good? Brother Chen, one can refuse to accept defeat, but must have some self-awareness."

Bai Xiaosheng looked at him and spoke slowly.

"If I got someone to make questions, you might not be able to match me at all. I have been forbearing, do you really think you are better than me? If you don't accept the result, let's continue competing, until you are convinced. I'd happily play along! But for every round we bet, five million! Are you interested?" Bai Xiaosheng said with overwhelming dominance.

Chen Changluo suddenly deflated.

He dared not bet so recklessly.

In that moment, Bai Xiaosheng's resoluteness overshadowed Chen Changluo.

This made the people around him unable to help feeling a sense of awe.

"All right, let's put an end to this matter, everyone return to your seats, the banquet will continue! Whoever causes more trouble is disrespecting me!"

Chen Jiutian walked away, his sleeves fluttering.

Chen Changluo, with a crestfallen face, slouched back to his seat as if wilted by frost.

The rest of the guests returned to their seats, excited.

Zheng Qinghong looked on eagerly, while Zhao Qianze was ecstatic, walking beside Bai Xiaosheng, her face filled with excitement and helplessness.

"Chen Changluo is really useless," Zheng Qinghong sighed.

"Begin the banquet!"

At Chen Jiutian's signal, a servant called out.

The banquet started.

Dish after dish was served in succession, bottles of fragrant wine wafted through the air.

With toasting and laughter, the atmosphere was warm, until the banquet gradually came to an end with the high lamps lighting up the night, without further incidents.

After being busy with social engagements, Bai Xiaosheng said his goodbyes and left.

On the car back to Zhongjing, Bai Xiaosheng sat inside and pulled out a check, flicking it.

This money was sent over by Chen Jiutian, including Chen Changluo's share as well.

Bai Xiaosheng was quite satisfied, "It feels really good to have money," he said to himself.

"Yegor's orchestra was also an unexpected gain, not bad at all!"

"Moreover, on this trip, I intended to see if there were any pets in the Chen family that I could use to showcase the skills I employed back in Tiannan, to have them help me search for some secrets. However, upon reflection, this method seemed too naive. Against an opponent like the Chen family, such methods would probably be ineffective."

"Luckily, Chen Changluo came to me on his own! Chen Jiutian and Chen Jiuzheng probably wanted to use this opportunity to obtain some information from Zhongjing Media."

Bai Xiaosheng returned the check to his pocket, leaned back comfortably, his eyes barely open, and with the buzz of alcohol, whispered to himself a phrase only he could hear— "Then, as you wish!"

Chapter 710 After the Banquet_1

After the Chen Family banquet ended, that evening, as all the guests had been sent away, Chen Jiutian and Chen Jiuzheng immediately summoned their nephew Chen Changluo and scolded him severely, with harsh words, even threatening to remove his position as general manager.

Chen Changluo was in a sorry state, repeatedly apologizing to his two uncles and promising to never again be so rash.

But from beginning to end, he was utterly confused.

"Though I did lose face at the banquet, it was my own reputation, not the Chen Family's, that suffered. Besides, most of the guests were our own people; who would dare to mock my Chen Family!"

On the surface, Chen Changluo appeared obedient, but inwardly, he felt quite unreconciled.

Little did he know, Chen Jiutian and Chen Jiuzheng weren't angry because he had embarrassed himself but because he had provoked Bai Xiaosheng, nearly ruining their big plans!

"Enough, as long as you have some sense, that's fine!" Chen Jiutian was also tired of scolding, and heaved a long sigh, "Remember from now on, to speak and act cautiously, to be less aggressive and more tolerant. You, your cultivation is still not enough! You should strive more in this aspect from here on out!"

"Yes, yes, Uncle, I will reflect upon myself and definitely improve my cultivation," Chen Changluo responded.

Chen Changluo nodded like a pecking chicken.

It was a pity, he had said these words nearly eight or ten times just before.

Chen Jiutian couldn't be bothered to respond.

Chen Jiuzheng sighed softly, his tone easing, "Changluo, we're saying all this for your own good! There are some things we still can't tell you. Just remember, it doesn't hurt you to be more reserved."

"Also, since you've lost to Bai Xiaosheng and now owe them half a year's financial services, I'll send a few people to your company later on. Make arrangements for them as if they were your own staff, and let them handle this matter," Chen Jiuzheng said.

This was also one of the important reasons for their talk with Chen Changluo.

"Uncle, there's no need, no need, we have enough staff on my side," Chen Changluo hurriedly declined.

Chen Jiutian couldn't help but roll his eyes.

Why did he ever think his idiot nephew was clever!

"We have our own intentions for arranging people, you don't have to worry about it!" Chen Jiuzheng said, "Alright, go and rest for now, we'll talk about these things later."

"Yes, yes!" Chen Changluo quickly nodded.

Seeing Chen Jiutian's displeased expression, the poor man had no idea what part of his words were inappropriate.

Chen Changluo was dizzy and didn't want to stay a moment longer; he left as if fleeing.

After he had gone, a person came out from the inner room, and it was Mu Beichen.

Regarding Mu Beichen's identity, Chen Changqing knew, but Chen Changluo did not.

Compared to Chen Changluo, Chen Changqing was better at keeping secrets.

"How can he be so foolish!" Chen Jiutian sighed, holding a grudge against Chen Changluo's performance.

Mu Beichen, however, smiled.

"It's because you were angered by him, there's also a 'dark under the lamp's effect'. I sneaked a peek, and I saw it clearly. When Changluo hesitated to accept brother Zheng's personnel arrangements, there was a flicker of panic in his eyes. I'm afraid, there might be some problems with his company's accounts. I guess, as soon as he returns, he'll certainly call someone to handle things in advance."

Upon hearing Mu Beichen's observation, Chen Jiutian and Chen Jiuzheng suddenly looked at each other in astonishment.

They had indeed not noticed, just as Mu Beichen had said.

"This bastard, even calculating against me," Chen Jiutian murmured to himself.

He had been fooled right under their noses.

"Forget it, these are all minor issues," Mu Beichen shook his head and continued, "I am actually more concerned about Bai Xiaosheng's performance! He ranked first in all three assessments of the training camp, and though luck played a part, along with some opportunism, today it seems he indeed has concealed something! We shall see. If he still comes out on top in the final assessment of the first stage, then I'll have to consider, whether we need to take some special measures ahead of time!"

Mu Beichen's voice was cold,

Chen Jiutian and Chen Jiuzheng exchanged glances and nodded.

...

Meanwhile, Feng drove Bai Xiaosheng straight home.

By the time he got home, it was almost nine in the evening.

After freshening up, Bai Xiaosheng flopped onto his bed, pulled the blanket over himself, and comfortably drifted off to sleep.

It was an uneventful night.

The next day, Bai Xiaosheng went to work full of vitality.

While enjoying the lavish breakfast prepared by Lin Weiwei, Bai Xiaosheng suddenly looked up at her and said, "Weiwei, could you please let Lei Ying know that I'll be treating you two to dinner tonight?"

"Huh?" Lin Weiwei was puzzled and laughed, "It's not a holiday or any special occasion. What made you think of treating us to dinner?"

"Of course, there's a good reason."

Bai Xiaosheng wiped his hands and pulled out a check and a bank card from his pocket, "Later, can you make a trip to the bank and deposit this money for me?"

Lin Weiwei took the check, puzzled. She looked at it and was startled, "Five million!"

That was no small sum.

Seeing the signature, she was taken aback, "Chen Jiuzheng?"

Bai Xiaosheng didn't hide anything and described what had happened the previous night. Lin Weiwei couldn't stop laughing.

"The Chen Family really has such a generous fool! If only I had known, I would have gone to see for myself," Lin Weiwei laughed.

"There will be a chance!" Bai Xiaosheng said meaningfully.

"Okay, leave it to me," Lin Weiwei took Bai Xiaosheng's check and card and left the office.

Bai Xiaosheng was very confident in her, considering her as trusted as a confidante, as well as Lei Ying.

They were the kind of people that money couldn't buy, and Bai Xiaosheng truly regarded them as friends.

After Lin Weiwei left, Bai Xiaosheng finished his breakfast and was drinking tea when he received a call from Zhao Qianze.

"Little Brother Bai, why did you sneak off on your own last night? I searched for you for ages!" Zhao Qianze complained over the phone.

"Zhao, you were surrounded by a bunch of people at the time. I couldn't make my way over, and besides, if I had told you, you would have wanted to leave too, then I would've been hated to death by those people," Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

Indeed, if Bai Xiaosheng had told Zhao Qianze, she would surely have left with him to return to Zhongjing.

"Hmph, you sure have your reasons!" Zhao Qianze huffed, then quickly changed the subject, "Yesterday, after you competed with Chen Changluo, my friend Song Yanran became unexpectedly interested in you. And strangely, it seems like her hostility towards you evaporated into thin air. Isn't that odd?"

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but touch his nose.

Song Yanran was a weird character, with a bit of a pathological pride.

Such a woman, once conquered, would be submissive and would do whatever was asked of her.

However, Bai Xiaosheng did not want to provoke her; on the contrary, he wished to keep his distance.

In the following conversation, Zhao Qianze talked with Bai Xiaosheng for a good half hour before hanging up.

Bai Xiaosheng put down the phone and buried himself in organizing some documents.

These were extremely important papers for Chen Changluo's financial company.

"It can't be all true, nor can it be all fake. They have experts over there," Bai Xiaosheng muttered as he worked.

With Red Lotus's assistance, mixing seven parts truth with three parts fiction, even professionals wouldn't detect it.

Closer to noon, Bai Xiaosheng stretched lazily, "Finally finished. Now to wait for the fish to bite!"