

## Two Trillion 711

### Chapter 711: Start from the Melon and Trace Up the Vine\_1

By noon, Lin Weiwei finally returned and handed the bank card over to Bai Xiaosheng.

"Finally finished," Lin Weiwei said with sweat on her forehead and a trace of fatigue on her face.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at her with surprise, not understanding how Lin Weiwei could be so exhausted.

Lin Weiwei briefly reported her morning schedule to him.

"I went to look for Lei Ying first. He had some matters to deal with and couldn't leave, so he asked me to tell you 'he knows.'"

"Since it was on the way, I stopped by the New Media Department. Some work needed to be accepted there, and I thought it wouldn't take too long."

"But who would have thought, in the middle of it all, someone from the Patent Department called me over. There were urgent matters that needed handling."

"One thing led to another, and I ended up going to the bank last, which is why I'm late."

Lin Weiwei's face showed a hint of apology.

"You worked so hard!" Bai Xiaosheng now understood why she looked so tired.

"Quick, sit down and take a rest!"

Bai Xiaosheng stood up and poured Lin Weiwei a glass of water, apologizing, "The company's kept you busier than me, which was negligent of me. I should have arranged for a few assistants for you!"

"It's nothing. Song Yiming and the others are just as busy," Lin Weiwei said with a sweet smile.

Actually, just having Bai Xiaosheng's words was enough for her.

After resting for a while, Lin Weiwei went back to being busy.

And Bai Xiaosheng didn't rest either. He went through the documents he had prepared that morning several times, carefully scrutinizing and verifying to find any minor flaws.

This was no small task, and without Red Lotus's real-time help, Bai Xiaosheng might not have been able to finish it.

In the end, he finally felt satisfied.

In the blink of an eye, a few hours passed, and it was almost time to leave work.

Just as Bai Xiaosheng finished printing the summary of the materials, there was a knock on the office door.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying walked in one after the other.

"Pretty punctual, both of you," Bai Xiaosheng said, picking up his stuff with a smile, "Come on, I'm taking you two out for a big meal!"

The two of them also smiled.

The restaurant where they were going to eat was quite close to where Bai Xiaosheng lived. It was a luxurious restaurant.

They got a private room, and after they went in, Bai Xiaosheng let them order whatever they wanted, then he added four or five dishes himself.

"We can't eat this much!" Lin Weiwei was startled.

"You used to say you wanted to treat me to an expensive meal, but now you're reluctant to spend the money," Bai Xiaosheng teased.

The restaurant was not only good in taste but also impressively quick in serving, especially for the customers in the private rooms. In half an hour, all the dishes were served.

Which made all three of them click their tongues in admiration.

They poured the wine, and as they ate, they talked about recent situations, discussing work and life.

Lei Ying had been with the company for a while now, and according to Lin Weiwei, he caught on very quickly to many tasks, and in terms of interpersonal relationships, there was a tremendous change.

"Even several female colleagues have been asking me about Lei Ying in secret, thinking they might be interested in him," Lin Weiwei said with a teasing smile.

Lei Ying grinned, looking a bit embarrassed.

"I still remember when he first joined the company, he was assertive, loud, and fierce, and even made female colleagues cry," Bai Xiaosheng seized the opportunity to bring up old stories.

"Haha," Lin Weiwei immediately burst into laughter.

"Those are old stories, let's not bring them up, let's leave the past in the past!" Lei Ying, the rough man, blushed slightly, looking a bit shy.

"Back then, I lived life on the edge, never even dreaming that one day I'd step into a big company and do a legitimate job. To put it bluntly, I should thank you, Bai Xiaosheng!"

As Lei Ying murmured, he raised his glass with a solemn expression towards Bai Xiaosheng.

"No need to be so polite," Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

"I must!" Lei Ying insisted earnestly, "Without you, maybe I'd still be working for my enemies, collecting and lending money, doing those inhumane things. Maybe I'd be wanted by now. It's all possible! It was you who gave me a completely different life. Now, when I call home or send money, they're all happy for me and remind me to repay my debts of gratitude! Thanks to you, I can face my parents and the heavens without shame. I'll acknowledge you, Bai Xiaosheng, for a lifetime!"

His words were heartfelt and genuine.

Bai Xiaosheng's smile faded slightly, and he raised his glass earnestly, "Having you as a friend is my honor too! Cheers!"

"Cheers!"

Moved by their emotions, they drank the liquor in their glasses.

Lin Weiwei smiled and filled their glasses.

Her life had also been changed because of Bai Xiaosheng.

That little meeting service attendant from back then would have never imagined commanding the various departments, with the director respectfully calling her "Sister Lin."

She was also filled with emotion.

"I want to drink with you as well, Xiaosheng!" Lin Weiwei took the initiative and picked up her glass.

Seeing the look in her eyes, Bai Xiaosheng instantly grinned, lifted his glass, and downed his drink.

And so, the three of them drank heartily and chatted for a while.

It was only after a few drinks that Bai Xiaosheng put down his glass and said, "I invited you here today to chat, but also because I have something to ask of you."

Upon hearing this, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying set down their chopsticks.

"Just say the word, Xiaosheng, and I'll make sure it's taken care of!" Lin Weiwei said seriously.

"To go through fire and water for you is the least I could do!"

Lei Ying was crisp and straightforward, his words still resonating with boldness.

"Don't make it sound so serious!" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but smile with a mix of amusement and exasperation at Lei Ying, "Otherwise, I feel like a simple meal is going to demand life and death from you, then I'd be really inhumane."

Lin Weiwei let out a giggle.

Lei Ying laughed as well.

"Actually, there are some things I've already discussed with Weiwei but haven't had the chance to tell you." Bai Xiaosheng looked at Lei Ying.

Then he shared the grudges with the Chen Family, his involvement in the corporate assessment, the future departure from Zhongjing Media, and other matters he could mention, with Lei Ying.

Lei Ying nodded frequently.

Lei Ying would naturally keep what he heard to himself, considering Bai Xiaosheng told him these things out of trust.

"I've already invited Lin Weiwei, and now I want to formally invite you. When I leave, will you..."

"I'll go with you!" Lei Ying responded decisively.

Bai Xiaosheng immediately smiled.

Lin Weiwei smiled too.

"Now, there is something else I need to discuss with you."

Bai Xiaosheng took out the printed summary of materials and handed it to both of them. He recounted in detail his encounter at the Chen Mansion the day before.

"Next, I want you two to take these materials to Chen Changluo's company, ostensibly to claim services according to the contract and act as supervisors. In reality, I'd like you to start with Chen Changluo to find any clues and investigate the Chen Family's fraudulent practices!"

"They say 'follow the vine to get to the melon,' but what you have to do is the opposite. Start with the melon and trace back to the vine. This time, one of you will be in the open, the other in the dark. Lei Ying, if necessary, you'll need to find some people and use extraordinary measures!" Bai Xiaosheng declared decisively.

He wasn't a stickler for outdated principles.

If possible, just like in Tiannan, stealing evidence would also be an option!

Chapter 712: Nagging Bai Xiaosheng\_1

After hearing what Bai Xiaosheng said, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying nodded in succession.

"For brothers like Chen Jiutian, these millennium-old foxes definitely wouldn't let an arrogant junior like Chen Changluo get in touch with any core stuff. However, Chen Changluo is still a trusted member of their own family, so there must be some shoddy connections, like strands of spider silk; thin, yet ultimately connecting a large web."

Lin Weiwei, ever gentle and virtuous, immediately paraphrased based on her understanding.

"What we need to do is start from this thin strand to find the web and then clarify what's at the center of the web," Lin Weiwei said with a smile. "Interesting, it feels a bit like spy warfare."

"Now that you say that, I get it! This is a good approach!"

Lei Ying laughed heartily, "Tracking and seeking clues is my natural forte. Besides, I don't need to look for help. When I was a mercenary, I was a top special operator—tracking, reconnaissance, infiltration, stealth entry, lock-picking, every aspect was the best. Surely the Chen Family's territory can't be more dangerous than a war-torn zone!"

The cruelty of the battlefield naturally shouldn't be mentioned in the same breath as a peaceful environment.

To Lei Ying, this all seemed trivial.

"What Weiwei said is correct. But this is not some kind of spy game. Society has laws, and we have principles. Even for your sakes, we absolutely cannot cross the line!" Bai Xiaosheng reminded them solemnly, and specifically looked at Lei Ying with a serious gaze. "Also, you must never underestimate any person or any matter because of your own strength!"

"It will lead to losses!" Bai Xiaosheng said gravely.

When Lei Ying saw the look in Bai Xiaosheng's eyes, his expression grew serious, and he couldn't help responding, "Yes!"

His reply was resounding and powerful, like a soldier's, and then he laughed.

"My goodness, just now, the tone of your voice and the look in your eyes were exactly like those of the instructor who used to train me, it really startled me," said Lei Ying. "That's right! That's what he taught me too. Survival on the battlefield: Never be complacent about your strength, even a lion uses its full force when hunting a rabbit! I've always remembered that. But in this long-lasting peace, I did forget a bit, and that's my mistake!"

Lei Ying was someone who didn't need much warning. Once he recognized something, he would never make the same mistake again.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

"Lastly, I want to emphasize that nothing is worth compromising your safety over! I'd rather give up on Chen Changluo than see any of you get into trouble! Lei Ying, one reason I'm having you go with Weiwei is to ensure her safety!"

Chen Changluo was known to have violent tendencies and should not be taken lightly.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng showing such concern for her, Lin Weiwei smiled sweetly.

"Weiwei, I also want to remind you, never act recklessly. If there's trouble, call for Lei Ying immediately. Don't act alone as a girl; it's dangerous. If you disobey and I find out, the next time I leave, I'll have you stay at Zhongjing Media as a director to live a stable life!" Bai Xiaosheng threatened.

Lin Weiwei stuck out her tongue, indicating she understood.

Only then did Bai Xiaosheng smile and say to the two of them, "This time you two are going over there, we're the client and they're the contractors. If you have demands, you make them; if you're not satisfied, you speak up. As long as the reasoning is sound, I fully support making some trouble for them. Don't be polite with them. If Chen Changluo dares to give you a hard time, I'll deal with him!"

"Consider this trip a benefit! Eat well, enjoy yourselves! Whether or not you make any gains really doesn't matter!"

"Anyway, it was just a whim of mine. I have no expectations!"

Bai Xiaosheng tirelessly repeated this to them.

This seemingly fussing behavior warmed the hearts of Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

"Don't worry, Xiaosheng. I've taken note of all you said!" Lin Weiwei said with a smile as she picked up her wine glass.

"No need for further words, everything is in the wine!" Lei Ying also picked up his wine glass.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and picked up his wine glass as well.

"Cheers!" "Cheers!" "Cheers!"

The three glasses clinked together, and the trio drank up.

After that, Bai Xiaosheng and the others didn't talk about the matter again, instead, they chatted about amusing occurrences at work and in life.

The sound of laughter continued in the private room.

The small gathering didn't break up until eight o'clock in the evening.

Surprisingly, Bai Xiaosheng was the only one who got slightly intoxicated, while Lei Ying seemed unaffected, and Lin Weiwei even more so.

Bai Xiaosheng declined the offer to be walked home by the other two; after all, the place where he lived was quite close by, and it would take only three to five minutes to walk back.

Persisting on his decision, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying had no choice but to let it be.

After leaving, Bai Xiaosheng slowly walked back in the evening breeze.

"When it comes down to it, there's one more assessment for the training class, after which, it might no longer exist."

"I also don't know when Feng Li will return to start the final assessment."

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but stretch his arms in a yawn.

"Also, should I try to rank first one more time?"

At this very moment, Bai Xiaosheng unintentionally started thinking and muttering about Feng Li.

Currently, she was in the Greater China Region Headquarters, in Xiahou Qi's office, talking with the president of the Greater China Region.

"I'll return to Zhongjing in two weeks to conduct my final assessment for this phase. I wonder who will take over and be responsible for the second phase?" Feng Li asked curiously, precisely as this topic came up.

Xiahou Qi let out a sly chuckle, his smile somewhat wicked.

If it were someone else asking this question, he might not necessarily disclose the answer.

Feng Li was considered half his disciple, steady in disposition, adhering to principles, and would never reveal even half a word to others.

Therefore, Xiahou Qi didn't conceal it and directly spoke a name.

"Him!"

Feng Li's eyes widened in surprise.

This person's thoughts could be rather bizarre...

"Didn't see that coming, did you?" Xiahou Qi said proudly, "When the time comes, those candidates are going to have a tough time. Also, he shared some of his ideas with me, and I found them quite interesting."

Xiahou Qi revealed a bit more.

Feng Li's expression changed slightly, and she laughed, "That's really like him to think of such things that normal people would probably never consider! It's just that..."

She was somewhat worried.

"True gold is not afraid of fire; those who are truly talented will surely withstand it," Xiahou Qi muttered.

Half an hour later, Feng Li walked out of Xiahou Qi's office and headed back.

Thinking about the Affairs Officer in charge of the next stage of assessments, Feng Li couldn't help but frown slightly, repeatedly muttering under her breath in an almost inaudible voice.

"Bai Xiaosheng might suffer a big loss this time. Wouldn't it be wrong for me to sit idly by!"

"Yet according to my principles, I shouldn't intervene in this matter."

"However, he has been of great assistance to my teacher, Huo Dong, and has even saved Qian Xun. By rights, it's a favor I owe him!"

"But public is public, and private is private. They should not be confused. Furthermore, Elder Xia told me it was a sign of his trust in me! How could I betray Elder Xia's trust!"

Feng Li stopped in her tracks, feeling agitated.

"So should I, or shouldn't I give you a hand, Bai Xiaosheng!"

Chapter 713 Someone Asked Me to Have You Treat\_1

Three days later, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying would set off for Gaocheng.

Gaocheng is the city where Chen Changluo's company is located. Its economic level and development status rank at the forefront in Anjiang.

Before departing, the two made a special trip to say farewell to Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng had already discussed with them the matters to pay attention to during this trip over the past three days.

One very important point that Bai Xiaosheng set for Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying was a deadline—two months.

In two months, regardless of whether they had any gains, they had to return with the work results from there.

The materials they took would eventually become an investment risk assessment report involving several major items.

Two months was the approximate completion time.

It was the fastest standard in the industry estimated by Bai Xiaosheng, which he unceremoniously imposed on Chen Changluo's company.

"After you get there, if you are not satisfied, pick on them, urge them to speed up the progress after a couple of months, and keep urging them. They might become annoyed or angry, but by doing so, they will not suspect that you have other motives," Bai Xiaosheng had also admonished them.

Lin Weiwei's eyes curved like crescent moons, and she couldn't help but chuckle, imagining the indignant expressions of the others.

"It's a pity that no matter how hard they try, we won't use what they produce," Lei Ying said with a laugh.

"You're wrong about that, why wouldn't we use it?" Bai Xiaosheng smiled and countered, "It's all the hard work of professionals, I naturally have to respect their labor results."

"However, while we will use it, it's not about directly using it. It needs to be adjusted, since the materials I provided are incorrect. Of course, I can't guarantee that they haven't done anything to it. Compared to creating a meticulous report from scratch and adjusting one that can be used, which is easier? If you think adjusting is difficult, that actually means the data is hard to confirm, but to me, data problems are not an issue!"

Bai Xiaosheng had the assistance of Red Lotus. Those problems naturally weren't an issue.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, seeing Bai Xiaosheng so confident, nodded continually.

They didn't know about the existence of Red Lotus and thought Bai Xiaosheng's confidence came from the Ron Team. After all, the Ron Team was once Europe's best consulting and data analysis team, and their services were indeed reassuring.

As the three were chatting, the door to the office was knocked.

Then, Feng entered the room, smiling at Bai Xiaosheng and the others, "Mr. Bai, the car is ready. When will these two depart?"

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at the time, "It's about time."

"I wish you all the best!" Bai Xiaosheng said solemnly as he bade farewell to Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

"Then we're off!" Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying declared, leaving with Feng.

Bai Xiaosheng stood up and went to the doorway of his office, watching them go and seeing them enter the elevator.

It was a long while before Bai Xiaosheng returned to his desk and sat down again.

When Bai Xiaosheng saw the steaming, fragrant tea that Lin Weiwei had brewed for him on his desk, he couldn't help but sigh, feeling a slight sense of emptiness inside.

"Smooth sailing," Bai Xiaosheng murmured to himself.

After that, there were three calm days in a row.

Initially, Bai Xiaosheng was a bit uneasy and made several calls to Lin Weiwei to inquire about their situation.

Upon learning that Chen Changluo treated them with courtesy and they had high-level arrangements for food and accommodation, he then felt relieved.

Another whole week passed, and Bai Xiaosheng didn't disturb them again; frequent contact might stress them, which was not what Bai Xiaosheng wanted.

Although there hadn't been any progress from their side for half a month, Bai Xiaosheng was not in a hurry.

As he had told Lin Weiwei, the lead on Chen Changluo was an accidental find; it would be great to have a harvest, but it was not a big deal if they didn't.

And "fishing" calls for patience and endurance.

Setting aside other matters, Bai Xiaosheng sorted through the issues at hand.

Right now, the most important thing was the selection process for the regional industry leader.

But two weeks had passed since Feng Li left, and there was still no news.

"I don't even know on which day the final assessment will be," Bai Xiaosheng was curious.

However, when he had nothing better to do, Bai Xiaosheng would patiently find things to do, planning on what materials to bring to Chen Changluo next time Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying set off.

"A free financial consultancy isn't to be missed. Anyway, correcting errors and filling in the blanks is simple for me," Bai Xiaosheng found joy in it.

Just when he thought he'd have a few more leisurely days, that afternoon, just before closing time, he received a phone call.

Seeing the name on the caller ID, Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback.

Answering the phone, Bai Xiaosheng laughed, "Mr. Huo, how do you have time to call me?"

The caller was Huo Qianxun.

"Oh, the college has been busy with assessments recently, and I've been so exhausted," Huo Qianxun's voice carried weariness as she grumbled resentfully, "All these useless assessments, just think about it, they waste this lady's energy and prime years!"

Listening to her complaints, Bai Xiaosheng smiled without a word.

Whether the assessments at Zhongjing University were a façade or not, he didn't know the details, and naturally couldn't comment.

"So, you're calling me just to criticize your dean?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with a laugh.

"Of course not!"

Huo Qianxun said cheerfully, "I have some free time tonight, how about you treat me to dinner?"

She said it as if it were the most natural thing in the world, which made Bai Xiaosheng pause, almost thinking he'd misheard.

He certainly didn't intend to pursue her.

"Hey! You got that backwards, shouldn't you be asking if I'm free and then treating me to dinner? After all, I am your 'lifesaver'," Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

Calling himself a lifesaver was admittedly an exaggeration.

Originally, when Zhang Zhihao had Huo Qianxun taken away, he wouldn't have done anything outrageous to her.

It was him who thought she was in danger, chasing her to Zhang Family territory and causing a big scene.

Speaking of the Zhang Family of Zhongjing, Bai Xiaosheng had heard some news these days; they had sold off some of their shady properties and had made a series of big moves, engaging in charity work and doing some good deeds.

As Bai Xiaosheng was pondering this, he heard a snort from the other end of the line.

"Would you really let a poor college teacher like me treat you? You're a general manager; you wouldn't care about that little money," Huo Qianxun began indignantly but ended up laughing, "I'm not eating this meal for free."

"What, is it somehow going to benefit me?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with a chuckle.

Only she could talk about inviting someone to dinner and sound so righteous about it.

"I'm eating on someone else's behalf!" Huo Qianxun said earnestly, "Someone asked me to have you invite me for dinner, and they wanted me to pass on a few words to you, how could I refuse?"

"Who is it?" Bai Xiaosheng wanted to hear.

"Feng Li!"

Chapter 714: When a tree stands out in the forest, it is bound to be destroyed by the wind\_1

Deep Sea Style, a seafood buffet restaurant.

After meeting with Huo Qianxun, she said she wanted to have a big meal, but once she led Bai Xiaosheng there, seeing the big sign left him somewhat astonished.

"Is this the 'very luxurious place' you mentioned on the phone?" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but ask.

"Yeah, this is the place!"

Huo Qianxun, eyeing the sign, nearly drooled with eager anticipation, rubbing her hands together as if preparing to feast to her heart's content shortly.

"I thought you'd go to a Michelin three-star restaurant or something," Bai Xiaosheng murmured.

With Mr. Huo's attire, she looked the very image of a stylish beauty. Shouldn't someone with such refined tastes favor more boutique spots?

"You can't get full in those places, not like the satisfying meal you can have here. Let me tell you, their seafood is super fresh. Besides, it's six hundred per person here, isn't that luxurious? Seems like you're the boss, you have the money, but I'm just a poor teacher."

Huo Qianxun urged Bai Xiaosheng to hurry inside.

After paying and walking in, Bai Xiaosheng also felt that it was a nice place!

Compared to the noisy atmosphere of ordinary buffet restaurants, this place's quietness was admirable.

If not for knowing it was a buffet, Bai Xiaosheng might have thought it was a marine-themed restaurant, given its uniquely stylish decorations.

There was even a band inside, playing live to enhance the ambiance with soft music.

"This place isn't bad at all," Bai Xiaosheng started to like it here a bit too.

"Not bad, right? I picked it, so how could it be?" Huo Qianxun, following the waiter's directions to their table, hurriedly put down her purse, and in her high heels, dashed off, only calling back, "Keep an eye on our spot for me, I'm going to grab some food!"

Bai Xiaosheng shook his head with a smile upon seeing this.

While the waiter had the grill and hot pot adjusted to perfection, Huo Qianxun came back with two full plates, one in each hand.

One plate was raw, with sashimi, sweet shrimp from the Arctic, dragonfish slices, crab legs, Arctic scallops, oysters, and abalone; the other had cooked dishes, like honey-roasted eel, smoked salmon, French baked oysters, Hawaiian baked scallops, roast beef tongue...

Bai Xiaosheng was amazed.

"Now it's your turn, don't forget to bring me a glass of lemon juice," Huo Qianxun said unabashedly.

With a smile, Bai Xiaosheng stood up to get his own preferred food.

When he returned, seeing Huo Qianxun eating so delightfully, Bai Xiaosheng felt hungry too and immediately dove into the meal.

By the end, both of them were almost full, and only then did they take their time eating some fruit.

"Now, you can finally tell me. What did Officer Feng Li want to convey to me?" Bai Xiaosheng sipped his fruit juice and asked.

Huo Qianxun wiped her hands and said, "She mentioned that later tonight, she'll send a message informing you about the last assessment of the first phase happening tomorrow."

Bai Xiaosheng waited to hear more, but Huo Qianxun remained silent.

"That's it?" Bai Xiaosheng probed.

"That's all," Huo Qianxun replied matter-of-factly.

"You lured me to a seafood buffet with such a trivial message?" Bai Xiaosheng felt it was a bit much.

When he heard Feng Li had a message for him, he thought it was some significant news. But this was it?

DID he really need Huo Qianxun to tell him, when he was naturally going to receive the message later?

"Doing this is really unethical, you know," Bai Xiaosheng said with a mix of laughter and frustration.

Huo Qianxun chuckled, "Alright, alright, I won't tease you anymore. There's another part to it."

Only then did Bai Xiaosheng breathe a sigh of relief, his gaze tender yet reproachful towards her. If it turned out to be nonsense again, he would definitely have to deal with this girl.

"She said that the second phase will be overseen by an examiner with quite a temper, and she asked me to tell you, 'When a tree stands out in the forest, the wind will definitely bring it down,'" Huo Qianxun said earnestly.

"The stars will twinkle in the vast sky," Bai Xiaosheng murmured the line.

After pondering for a moment, he nodded, "Got it! And indeed, Officer Feng Li has had it tough!"

He knew that Feng Li was a person of unwavering principles. For her to have someone pass on such a message was truly remarkable!

He etched this kindness into his heart.

"So, was this sentence worth the meal?" Huo Qianxun asked with a smile.

"Absolutely!" Bai Xiaosheng laughed, "I even made a profit!"

As the two of them were talking, they suddenly heard a woman's sharp voice coming from next door, "Yo, isn't that Mr. Huo there!"

Bai Xiaosheng and Huo Qianxun looked up.

A young woman with a great figure, an oval face, and a pointed chin was sizing them up and down, her lips curving into a smirk that didn't quite reach her eyes.

"Zhang Li." Huo Qianxun's brow furrowed slightly.

Is she an acquaintance? Bai Xiaosheng wondered internally.

However, given her unfriendly expression and Huo Qianxun's lack of a pleasant demeanor, it seemed there was some bad blood between them.

"It's quite rare to see you here," Zhang Li walked over, slammed her plate onto the table, and sat down with a chair pulled out, her legs sheathed in black stockings. She crossed one leg over the other, pointing her foot, provocative and alluring, deliberately displaying it for Bai Xiaosheng's side to see.

"It's been a long time indeed, but as far as I remember, I didn't invite you over," Huo Qianxun said, slightly annoyed.

Zhang Li chuckled softly, "Relax, this is a self-service restaurant, I'm not eating your food. No need to be so petty. Besides, it's because of you that I left Zhongjing University. Don't you feel a bit sorry about that!"

"My old classmate!"

Zhang Li's last words came with a chilling look in her eyes.

Turns out she was Huo Qianxun's classmate, Bai Xiaosheng was surprised.

However, he too had endured a rather unpleasant past during his university days and didn't hold much regard for university classmates.

As for Zhang Li's seductive allure, it might be tempting to others, but Bai Xiaosheng had seen all types of beauties. Such looks hardly piqued his interest.

"You might think of me as your old classmate, but I certainly don't think of you!"

Huo Qianxun snapped in anger, "Zhang Li, you know best what you did! We were supposed to compete fairly for a position at the university! Yet, you slandered and framed me and even tainted my father's reputation. If my dad had really been selfish, then tell me, how could you possibly compete with me!"

Huo Qianxun was seething with rage; she wasn't as forbearing as Officer Feng Li.

She had a fiery temper, and once provoked, it would burst forth.

Zhang Li, however, crossed her arms, tilted her head slightly and scrutinized her with a scoff, "You don't acknowledge me as a classmate? I'm embarrassed to acknowledge you! Thankfully, you made it possible for me to leave Zhongjing University. An old university teacher doesn't make much in a month. The clothes you're wearing don't even match the value of my high-heeled shoes. What, did you save up for a long time just to afford a meal here?"

Then, she glanced at Bai Xiaosheng, who was still silent and expressionless, "Oh, this must be your boyfriend, huh? Quite handsome. But nowadays, what matters is money, status. Ah, we're just not on the same level anymore, I'd say you wouldn't understand."

Zhang Li sneered, "Just a commoner!"

"You!" Huo Qianxun was so furious she clenched her teeth, then spit out, "You're no different, you commoner, aren't you here eating as well!"

"That's different!" Zhang Li laughed out loud, "This restaurant belongs to my boyfriend, and if I see fit, I could throw you out at any time!"

As she said this, she grew even more smug, acting as if she was the owner's wife.

While they were talking, a man came over with a jovial laugh, "Lili, you've got friends here?"

"Yes, my dear. But they're just some nobodies," Zhang Li cooed.

Bai Xiaosheng raised his head and met the man's gaze.

Upon seeing Bai Xiaosheng, the man's face filled with terror, as if he had seen a ghost, and he blurted out, "It's you!"

"Long time no see," Bai Xiaosheng watched him calmly, a smile forming, "Your leg seems to have healed!"

Chapter 715: Reunion with Yin\_1

"Honey, do you know him?"

Zhang Li looked at Bai Xiaosheng, who appeared utterly unruffled, then back at her boyfriend, only to be startled. "What happened to you!"

Her boyfriend was sweating profusely as if he were in a sauna. His forehead was instantly beaded with sweat, his breathing was rapid, and his eyes were bulging out in sheer terror.

Huo Qianxun also noticed and was immediately taken aback. "Is he sick?!"

"You're the one who's sick! Watch how you talk!"

Zhang Li retorted angrily, and quickly stood up to support Yin Donglei.

"He's not sick; he's perfectly fine. It's just some unpleasant memories," Bai Xiaosheng said slowly, smiling at him, "I'm right, aren't I, Mr. Yin Donglei."

Zhang Li's boyfriend was none other than Yin Donglei.

At this moment, Yin Donglei's legs were shaking uncontrollably, and his face mixed expressions of crying and laughing, somewhat twisted.

Bai Xiaosheng! He was actually here!

Yin Donglei didn't even know what to say anymore.

To make amends to the Bais, his old man had broken his leg, and that wasn't all—the old man even had to apologize to the Bais.

To say that Yin Donglei didn't hate Bai Xiaosheng would be a lie.

But as time passed, the hatred faded away.

The reason was simple.

In Zhongjing, others were worse off, not just him!

And one point was universally recognized in the circle: Bai Xiaosheng was not someone you could afford to offend!

If Bai Xiaosheng couldn't be offended, what use was there in harboring hatred?

Therefore, all Yin Donglei hoped for was never to encounter him again.

This pestilential Bai, one encounter could bring ten years of bad luck!

However, Yin Donglei's father, Yin Haoran, seemed to think it was a blessing in disguise and even felt somewhat thankful to Bai Xiaosheng. His good-for-nothing son had become restrained after the incident, no longer arrogant and domineering outside, and even wanted to do some proper business.

As a result, Yin Haoran set up this seafood buffet restaurant and handed it over to Yin Donglei to manage.

Yin Donglei had indeed managed it quite well.

Who would have thought.

Today, right here, he would encounter Bai Xiaosheng once more!

Yin Donglei couldn't quite pinpoint his current feelings, only feeling pain in his leg.

"You know my Lei?" Zhang Li looked at Bai Xiaosheng with suspicion and a touch of displeasure, "Then you should know he's the young master of the Yin Family in Zhongjing. You sure are sitting pretty! Get up! If it weren't for my Lei's better temper now, he would have broken your legs!"

Zhang Li was still trying to show off her power, but Yin Donglei's complexion changed abruptly.

"Oh, is that so? You want to break my legs?" Bai Xiaosheng asked Yin Donglei with a smile.

"No, no, Mr. Bai, I didn't say that. It was her..."

Yin Donglei pushed Zhang Li away and pointed at her nose, shouting angrily, "You damn woman, shut your filthy mouth! Or I'll slap you!"

Zhang Li was shocked, staring at Yin Donglei in astonishment, not understanding what was going on.

This shouting immediately attracted the attention of two burly men.

"Lei!"

"Lei, is someone causing trouble?"

The two men thought Bai Xiaosheng was making a disturbance.

Yin Donglei ignored the others, pointing at Zhang Li, "Damn it, from now on, if you speak any more nonsense, I'll break your legs first!"

Under the threat, Zhang Li's face was filled with terror.

Huo Qianxun looked at him in surprise and then at Bai Xiaosheng, thinking in amazement, "Does Bai Xiaosheng have that much clout? This man seems really afraid of him!"

The two burly men beside her were stunned, exchanging glances.

Zhang Li looked at Yin Donglei in fear, at a loss.

"Do you know how my leg got broken initially? Because I was oblivious! You've offended this gentleman; you really don't know what's good for you!" Yin Donglei cursed and then glanced at Bai Xiaosheng with submissive eyes, "I had no idea you were here. If she has offended you in any way, just say the word, and I'll follow through!"

Yin Donglei's behavior astonished everyone around. His words were even more startling.

Yin Donglei's leg, broken for offending this man?

But why is Yin Donglei so obsequious and fearful!

Who is this person!

Zhang Li watched Bai Xiaosheng in horror, the seemingly ordinary man who had just displayed such command.

"She didn't offend me, but rather she offended my companion," Bai Xiaosheng said nonchalantly. "Originally, it was your fault for kidnapping my female assistant. Hence, breaking your leg was your due punishment. Do you accept this?"

"I accept! I accept!" Yin Donglei hastily replied.

"Now, this woman has publicly insulted me and my companion. It's not your intent, but you can't say it has nothing to do with you," Bai Xiaosheng said. "Here's the deal, if I ever see her bad-mouthing near my companion again, I will come for you, for your Yin Family!"

Bai Xiaosheng's calm yet grim words stunned Yin Donglei.

"This, how can this be, Mr. Bai, this..."

"Let's go," Bai Xiaosheng said, not listening to Yin Donglei. He jerked his chin up at Huo Qianxun and stood up.

Huo Qianxun had never seen such a side of Bai Xiaosheng before—a single word, a glance from him exuded a supreme and chilling authority.

Such a man, also exceptionally charismatic, involuntarily caused her to exclaim "Ah," as she obediently rose to her feet to follow him.

Bai Xiaosheng left with Huo Qianxun in tow, while Yin Donglei scurried alongside like a lackey, sweating profusely and repeatedly trying to explain himself, to no avail.

The two menacing-looking strong men were dumbfounded.

Zhang Li was also stupefied.

A moment later, Yin Donglei came back, his face the picture of deflation.

"Lei?" Zhang Li approached ingratiatingly.

"Damn it!"

Upon seeing her, Yin Donglei's expression turned savage, and he slapped her fiercely, eliciting a scream from Zhang Li as she nearly fell.

"You're great, having such an impressive classmate you should have been sucking up to, not mocking. What are you, daring to provoke that person? I'll let you suffer!" Yin Donglei raged. "Now, he's spoken. I'm telling you, Zhang Li, if you ever approach your classmate again, don't blame me for not being nice. Do you want to experience what it feels like to have a broken leg?!"

Zhang Li covered her face in terror, daring not to make a sound.

The two strong men were at a loss what to do.

After Yin Donglei unleashed his fury, one finally asked cautiously, "Mr. Lei, who is that guy, so untouchable?"

"I just glared at him a moment ago, could I be in danger..." the other said, genuinely anxious.

...

Bai Xiaosheng and Huo Qianxun left the seafood buffet.

Huo Qianxun couldn't stop looking at him.

"What's up?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with a smile.

"I've never seen you angry before. It was quite scary just now, but, it was very manly," Huo Qianxun said cheerfully. "Also, thank you for teaching that Zhang Li a lesson for me."

"It was nothing. How could a mere fly be allowed to disturb us, Zhongjing University's young and beautiful, erudite and talented Mr. Huo?" Bai Xiaosheng joked.

This time, Huo Qianxun, uncharacteristically, blushed shyly instead of ranting.

Bai Xiaosheng hailed a car, "Come on, I'll take you home."

After dropping Huo Qianxun off at Zhongjing University, Bai Xiaosheng took the car back to his residence.

On the way, he received a message from the corporate affairs department.

Tomorrow at Zhongjing University, the first stage of the final assessment would take place.

"The tree that stands out in the forest is the one most likely to be cut down."

Bai Xiaosheng put away his phone, reciting the words Feng Li had Huo Qianxun deliver to him.

"It seems my scores in the first three tests were too high, making me stand out too much; indeed, very dangerous. Zheng Qinghong might stay silent, but Mu Beichen will certainly not sit idly by as I triumph all the way. Also, the implication in Feng Li's message, the next examiner will increase the difficulty for those with high scores." Bai Xiaosheng speculated.

"It seems in tomorrow's assessment, I can't take first place!"

"But I must lose naturally, not causing trouble for myself or for Feng Li..."

"What a pain, how can I lose gracefully..."

Bai Xiaosheng lamented.

Others strive to win, yet he sought to lose.

Chapter 716 Group Assessment?\_1

The next morning, Bai Xiaosheng arrived at Zhongjing University on time.

It was only after he entered the tiered classroom that he realized he must be among the last batch to arrive. At most, there were only one or two people who came after him.

As soon as Bai Xiaosheng walked in, more than twenty pairs of eyes looked his way.

Today was the last examination of the first stage and perhaps, the training class would be disbanded!

Who the second stage examiner would be, what method would be used, and how many rounds of assessment there would be, were all unknown.

Everyone was worried about the present but anxious about the future.

At this moment, when everyone saw Bai Xiaosheng, their gazes held a hint of difference.

Bai Xiaosheng, now a genuine celebrity in the training class!

If his success in the first assessment could be attributed to luck, and the second to craftiness, then the third time, everyone had no choice but to admit that Bai Xiaosheng relied on actual ability!

Moreover, at the Chen Family, Bai Xiaosheng's defeat of Chen Changluo and the knowledge and learning he displayed, won him admiration!

It could be said that he was the biggest stumbling block for everyone aspiring to the position of "Provincial Industry Director"!

Meeting those gazes head-on, Bai Xiaosheng paused, feeling a sense of strangeness within.

He had become the "public enemy"!

"A tree that stands out in the forest is easily brought down by the wind."

Muttering to himself the words Officer Feng Li relayed, Bai Xiaosheng felt a chilling determination!

Suddenly, he was very glad that he'd been forewarned and had made a decision.

If he truly became everyone's stumbling block, those out to get him would not just include Mu Beichen and Zheng Qinghong!

But everyone!

"Bai, why are you so late?" Zhao Qianze greeted him with a smile as she saw him.

Out of everyone in the room, probably only Zhao Qianze didn't regard him as an enemy.

Bai Xiaosheng could see this from the eye contact honed by his system.

"Late? I think it's fine, isn't it usually this time?" Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

"It's not the same as other days. Today is the final assessment and moreover..." Zhao Qianze glanced back at the others and when she turned her head again, her expression contained a weight of complexity, "five more people from among these will be gone!"

In the classroom, there were only twenty-five people left, five had already been eliminated.

Feng Li had also said that her task was to reduce the number by ten!

The thought that today, one-fifth, twenty percent of the people, would be eliminated, also weighed heavily on her.

The cruelty of competition became more daunting as it reached further stages.

"Zhao, with your gentle and virtuous nature, you stand out among them. I'm sure you'll make it to the end," Bai Xiaosheng consoled her.

"I hope your words bring luck," Zhao Qianze said with a smile.

She had already told Bai Xiaosheng that her goal in coming here was to strive for the top five, so she could try for her future at the Affairs Office.

The two chatted as they walked towards their seats.

Zheng Qinghong watched them with a furrowed brow, his gaze shadowed with gloom.

A little further away, Mu Beichen took in his expression and Bai Xiaosheng's retreating figure with full attention.

"If this Bai is still the first this time, with the accumulation of the entire first stage, he will have a major lead over me! Then, I will have to resort to some drastic measures!"

A hint of ruthlessness flickered in the depths of Mu Beichen's eyes.

"However, I can join forces with Zheng Qinghong. That way, even if something goes wrong, there will be someone to share the blame!" Mu Beichen decided.

Time ticked by, second by second.

Everyone in the training class had arrived.

But Feng Li was still nowhere to be seen.

The crowd waited anxiously, and it was practically the final minute when Feng Li pushed the door open, holding a roster in her hand.

Feng Li strode up to the lectern, glanced around at everyone, and looked deeply at Bai Xiaosheng before saying with a smile, "You must be eager, it's been a while. It seems everyone is in good spirits, very well, today we're going to hold the last assessment of the first stage!"

Everyone tensed, watching her closely.

They had no idea how this assessment was going to be conducted!

Last time, at least they had brought test papers, but this time, there was nothing?

Feng Li wasted no time, opened the roll call, and said, "Next, you will be divided into groups and proceed to the assessment. Five people per group. I will read out your names; remember the group you belong to."

Feng Li paused, glanced at everyone, and then began reading directly, "First group, Fang Tianchen, Wang Gang... Second group, Mu Beichen, Xu Ying... Third group, Zheng Qinghong, Song Yunmu..."

Feng Li read out the names one by one.

The whole classroom was dead silent, everyone listening quietly.

Bai Xiaosheng was in the fourth group.

He also realized that the top five performers had been assigned to five different groups.

After reading the names, Feng Li clapped the roll call shut with a "snap" and declared loudly, "Now, go upstairs. There are five classrooms there, with numbers posted on the doors. Enter according to your group number."

"The assessment begins!"

With these words, Feng Li did not bother to explain further and left.

The members of the training class looked at each other uncertainly.

"An assessment in groups of five? What are we being tested on, teamwork?"

"Then how will individual scores be determined!"

"Could it be that the elimination is by group? They're eliminating five people this round, and each group has exactly five people!"

"That's, that's not fair!"

...

There was an uproar among the crowd.

Bai Xiaosheng frowned slightly.

"Bai, what do you think!"

In their anxiety, Zhao Qianze also seemed somewhat concerned.

"I think it certainly won't be as simple or as crude as that, let's go over and see," Bai Xiaosheng said.

"That's the only thing we can do now!"

With a sigh and a wry smile, Zhao Qianze said, "I heard that Officer Feng Li is fairly by the book, not a person with wildly leaping thoughts, but look at these assessments, which one is simple! I worry about what other sorts of challenges the examiners will come up with later!"

Bai Xiaosheng said nothing, stood up, and walked toward the door, "Worrying now is redundant and meaningless. Let's go."

All twenty-five people filed out of the lecture hall and went straight up the stairs. It was just one floor, after all.

At the top of the stairs, there were small classrooms on both sides, each with a red paper posted on the door with numbers written in brushstroke.

Everyone remembered the numbers called by Feng Li and promptly gathered at the door of the classroom they were supposed to enter.

Bai Xiaosheng stood in front of the door with two people on each side.

These people all looked to Bai Xiaosheng expectantly.

After all, this was the man who had scored first in three consecutive rounds, and his performance during the third assessment with the Chen Family was even more commendable. If he were a teammate, he would certainly be very trustworthy!

Unconsciously, everyone regarded Bai Xiaosheng with respect.

In fact, it wasn't just them.

The other groups also naturally deferred to the top five ranked individuals in their own groups.

They subconsciously formed a sense of competition and confrontation between groups.

"Could it be this simple? If so, Feng Li wouldn't have had someone deliver that message to me!"

Bai Xiaosheng took a deep breath, steadying his emotions, and knocked on the door.

"Come in!"

The voice from inside startled both Bai Xiaosheng and the people around him.

Chapter 717 Scenario Simulation\_1

Mr. Bai Xiaosheng knocked on the door, and a woman's voice came from inside; it was actually Feng Li's.

How could this be? Was Officer Feng Li really in their scenario?

Everyone looked surprised, and Bai Xiaosheng was also slightly taken aback.

However, this was just a fleeting feeling. Afterward, Bai Xiaosheng pushed the door open and went in, with the others quickly following behind.

The last person to enter conscientiously closed the door behind them.

Bai Xiaosheng surveyed the room before him.

It was nothing more than an ordinary classroom.

Except that the first row of desks was kept in place, and aligned in a row, opposite sat five people.

In the middle was Feng Li, flanked by both men and women.

From the second to fourth rows, desks and chairs were removed to clear a large space, and five chairs were loosely arranged, facing those five people.

"Please go over and take a seat wherever you like," said a man next to Feng Li.

Bai Xiaosheng and the others walked over, the four people trailing behind Bai Xiaosheng, seemingly intent on letting him sit in the middle.

Unexpectedly, Bai Xiaosheng went straight to the far left and sat at the edge.

The others paused for a moment but said nothing, taking their seats in turn.

Once they were seated, Feng Li began to speak with a serious expression, "Now we will start the assessment, let me explain the rules!"

"Starting now, each round will last fifteen minutes."

"In each round, one of you will play the role of the regional industry head, another the deputy, while the remaining three will still be general managers."

"In each round, I will act as the chief examiner and set a situational challenge. The person chosen to be the regional industry head must make corresponding decisions, while the others react to these decisions and elaborate on their reasoning!"

"The person temporarily playing the regional industry head can take slightly longer to think, while the others are limited to one minute of thinking time! As for the remaining time, we, the examiners, will take turns asking one of you questions, with a minute to answer!"

"I would like to remind you that simple agreement will reduce our impression of you!"

"But rambling too much will also result in a deduction of points."

"And more..." Feng Li went on to list the precautions.

Who would have thought the assessment would be like this!

Several people couldn't help swallowing nervously, and even Bai Xiaosheng was a little shocked.

This format, he had never encountered before—somewhat like an improvisational scene play without scripts or lines, all dependent on spontaneous performance.

Plus, with a round every fifteen minutes and at least three changes of role, such high-intensity simulation truly tested one's abilities and endurance.

Bai Xiaosheng was somewhat impressed.

He couldn't help but wonder if Feng Li had spent the last half-month pondering how to assess them.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at the others; they were all serious and vigilant, readying themselves to outshine the others with energetic enthusiasm.

Involuntarily, Bai Xiaosheng smiled bitterly to himself.

He still had to think about how to score low!

Of course, this low score couldn't be too bad, nor could he appear too inept!

After all, there were four others assisting Officer Feng Li with the assessment.

Pursuing an excessively low profile could likely end with him being deemed unsuitable to take on the role of regional industry head.

That would be an even bigger loss!

"Why does it feel like among everyone, I have the most difficult task," Bai Xiaosheng sighed inwardly.

At the examiner's desk, Officer Feng Li gave Bai Xiaosheng a deep look and then swept her gaze over everyone before speaking, "Does anyone else have questions? I'll give you five minutes. If there are no questions, we will start now!"

Everyone exchanged glances, silent for a moment until someone suddenly asked, "Officer Feng Li, I would like to ask, if our group's overall score falls behind the other groups, will our entire group be eliminated?"

This was a concern for everyone.

"No."

Feng Li stated calmly, "The final evaluation will be on each individual. The elimination will only involve the bottom five scorers."

Everyone breathed a sigh of relief.

"Of course, during the situational simulation, your group will constitute an entire leadership team. Your performance and that of the team will impact the scores, and vice versa," Feng Li added.

"I have another question," someone else said.

However, they spoke with caution, "Since you are overseeing our session, surely the scrutiny will be more stringent, isn't this unfair to us? After all, other sessions don't have an Affairs Officer overseeing them!"

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but glance at this person.

Quite courageous, to openly question the fairness of Officer Feng Li!

"Every assessment has its standards, but, unfortunately, I cannot reveal them to you," Feng Li replied unperturbed, patiently explaining, "What I can say is that all these assistants I've borrowed from various Affairs Officers are outstanding individuals from previous talent selections, known for their integrity—they certainly won't go easy or deliberately cause trouble. Does this satisfy you?"

"Satisfied, satisfied," the person responded, shrinking back slightly.

Mr. Bai Xiaosheng scanned the people beside Feng Li, noting they were all individuals of notable demeanor.

It seemed that even the humble Affairs Officer Assistants were likely once general managers of subsidiary companies!

After all, an Affairs Officer was equivalent to a provincial industry head, and their assistants were not below the level of subsidiary company general managers!

Even more so, they had brighter prospects for the future!

"Are there any more questions? Feel free to ask, there are two minutes remaining," Feng Li said with a light smile.

No one had any further questions.

Feng Li still waited out the time, seeing that no one else had questions, she then glanced at the people on either side of her and nodded.

"Now, starting from the left to the right, the first person will be the provincial industry head, the person next to them, the deputy, and the other three are general managers. After that, in turn, each one will have the chance to be the provincial industry head, with the person next to them as the deputy. Do you understand?"

Everyone nodded.

"Let's begin!"

Since Bai Xiaosheng was seated in the first spot from the left, he naturally assumed the role of the "first" provincial industry head!

Officer Feng Li looked at him deeply, while Bai Xiaosheng remained calm, with a faint smile.

"Qian Xun said she has conveyed the message, so with Mr. Bai Xiaosheng's intelligence and quick-wittedness, he will certainly understand my intention," Feng Li thought to herself. "However, I won't be lenient with him just for that reason! And since I've sent him a message out of the ordinary, it's only right I raise the bar here, or I wouldn't be at peace!"

Feng Li steadied her mind and then addressed Mr. Bai Xiaosheng.

"Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, now you are the provincial industry head, and your deputies Wei Long, general managers Jiang Yun, Sun Xiaqiu, and Zhao Shuangping have reported to the affairs department, accusing you of being autocratic during your tenure, cultivating your own clique of loyal managers, and suspected of using your power for personal gain, embezzling corporate assets."

"In three days, the investigation officer from the corporate affairs department will arrive to investigate you!"

"Meanwhile, several companies under your jurisdiction, including those of Jiang Yun, Sun Xiaqiu, and Zhao Shuangping, are facing severe operational issues and may go bankrupt within a few days! You are to resolve this as quickly as possible, and they may not necessarily obey your orders!"

"Please give your response!"

Feng Li finished in one breath.

Everyone listened with alarm.

Bai Xiaosheng also took a sharp breath.

"Damn, this lady is really playing me! Such crafty troubles!"

Chapter 718

As soon as Feng Li spoke, she laid out the entire scenario, and it was this type of "lawsuit" setup, with an added crisis under her jurisdiction!

Not to mention Bai Xiaosheng, the four people beside him were so astounded their eyes were glued to the scene.

Truly worthy of an examiner from the Affairs Department, daring to throw anything at them!

This setup was anything but harmonious or pleasant!

Just moments ago, everyone was wondering if it would be some scenario like "Five people working together, building a bright future," and they were considering what to say, so everyone could benefit.

But then, Feng Li completely caught them off guard!

In the scenario, Wei Long, Jiang Yun, Sun Xiaqiu, and Zhao Shuangping were seated right next to Bai Xiaosheng.

All four of them had a change in expression and couldn't help but put themselves in Bai Xiaosheng's "position," pondering those issues.

Subordinates reporting wrongdoing, corporate investigations, crisis within one's jurisdiction.

Bai Xiaosheng, as the "Regional Industry Head," had it quite rough, facing three major issues right off the bat.

The other examiners also couldn't help but steal a glance at Feng Li.

They knew all five scenario setups, but they never expected that right from the start, Feng Li would throw out the toughest one.

Will this scare these general managers?

In fact, in this setup, it wasn't just Bai Xiaosheng facing several challenges.

The others had it no easier!

They faced issues like poor management, accusing superiors, using power for personal gain, and their explanations for these were no less strenuous!

The four of them quickly realized the challenges they would face, and immediately focused, thinking first about how they would respond.

Bai Xiaosheng pondered for two minutes.

Feng Li and the others watched quietly.

"Time's up, Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, please make your decision!" an examiner reminded.

This reminder made Wei Long, Jiang Yun, and the other four turn their heads toward Bai Xiaosheng in unison.

Earlier, Feng Li had made it clear in her follow-up that the first person to speak would affect the "scenario" and cause it to change, cautioning them to be vigilant.

"We should prioritize preparing the materials for when the Affairs Officer arrives, so we can make our defense!"

"We should dispel the rumors by presenting evidence against each accusation before the Affairs Department arrives."

"We should first communicate with those individuals, seek a compromise, have them withdraw their accusations, and then provide them with support to overcome this difficulty!"

"We should appeal to higher authorities and protest, requesting an investigation into my deputy and those two managers, as they, too, have management issues!"

Four people, four different thoughts.

Defending oneself, proving innocence, compromising, accusing.

In such a situation, these were the only responses.

They looked toward Bai Xiaosheng, guessing that his answer would be similar, perhaps combining several approaches.

With a serene smile, Bai Xiaosheng looked at the examiners and said leisurely,

"I resign."

"What?" The simple three words took everyone aback.

Even the examiners were taken aback, and Feng Li was incredibly surprised.

Wei Long, Jiang Yun, and the others looked at Bai Xiaosheng, their faces filled with disbelief.

How could his response be so unexpected?

"You're saying you want to resign to take responsibility?" Feng Li asked, furrowing her brow, "Is that your answer?"

She felt a hint of disappointment.

She wanted Bai Xiaosheng to keep a low profile, but not to the extent of scoring so low. Didn't he want to earn points anymore?

The examiners by her side were also somewhat disappointed.

Is this the person with the highest scores in the first three rounds?

Ridiculous, just knowing how to avoid problems. How could such a person be fit to be the head of a provincial industry sector!

The examiners scribbled in their notebooks.

The atmosphere suddenly became a bit oppressive.

"In this scenario, I must not be newly appointed, or else, with all their slander, they'd have to be idiots. If the Affairs Department believed it, it wouldn't be necessary at all."

Bai Xiaosheng smiled leisurely, "So, I must have been in office for a long time."

"If I have been in office for so long and haven't noticed the malice from my deputy, haven't realized the losses in so many subordinate companies, then I must be a complete fool."

"If I don't resign, then what else am I here for!"

"Moreover, if I became the head of the provincial industry sector, the first thing I would do is to understand the staff and business conditions of the subordinate enterprises!"

"Kick out those who are incompetent and deceitful first thing! I am very good at this, and if you are interested, you can look up everything I have done at Zhongjing Media!"

"If I can't pull together a solid team at the outset, then there will be endless problems later on!"

"The capable go up, the useless go down. The people I choose must be from the original company, the most capable and virtuous. Those who are removed and want to play cunning tricks have to contend not just with me, the head of the provincial industry sector, but also against the majority from the original company!"

"Would they dare! Even if they dared, it would not be my concern. There would be a lot of people proving my case for me!"

"As for the deputy positions."

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at Wei Long beside him and gave a chilling smile, "I still hope for someone of integrity. Then we can discuss different opinions, and any conflicts, I can resolve properly!"

"If it's someone deceitful, I think I might make the first move!"

Seeing the profound chilling intent in Bai Xiaosheng's eyes, Wei Long couldn't help but shiver, gulped down his saliva and barely managed a smile, "Mr. Bai, it's all fake, this is just a scenario, don't look at me like that!"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and his gaze softened.

His torrent of words left the examiners, led by Feng Li, stunned and speechless.

They originally thought he was avoiding the issue, giving up, but now it seemed this young man's considerations were incredibly terrifying!

Such a person indeed has the ability to control the overall situation!

"If you really wanted to use your power for personal gain, then wouldn't we all be unable to control you!"

An examiner couldn't help but say to Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng grinned.

"It's just a scenario simulation, sir examiner. Surely you're not taking it seriously. I'm just answering Officer Feng Li's question. Moreover, even the fiercest beasts, the craftiest foxes, cannot escape from the hunters. The Affairs Department is not a vegetarian!"

Feng Li couldn't help but let out a sigh and gave him a look.

"This Bai Xiaosheng even flattered us."

The speaking examiner also exhaled, "That's true."

Then the examiners leaned in towards Feng Li and exchanged whispers in low voices.

"This Bai Xiaosheng is really formidable, with such tricky logic."

"This case must be from ten years ago when the supervisory system was imperfect, and many problems emerged, which led to the establishment of the Affairs Department and the reinforcement of inspection teams."

"I actually think the management methods he mentioned just now are pretty good!"

"If he really were the head of the provincial industry, he would be qualified!"

Feng Li listened to the examiners' praises and nodded.

Yet inside, she sighed to herself.

"Outstanding as ever! Bai Xiaosheng, have you really not listened to the words I had Qian Xun pass on to you!"

Chapter 719 Two Drama Queens!\_1

Bai Xiaosheng took a rather unorthodox approach in the first round of scenario simulation. Through a verbal fencing match, he actually made a few examiners see him in a new light.

This set a precedent for Wei Long, Jiang Yun, Sun Xiaqiu, and Zhao Shuangping.

When it was Wei Long's turn, he also spoke with conviction, "If I, as a deputy, fail to identify and solve problems in a timely manner, and only report them when the enterprises are already suffering losses, then I might as well resign..."

Playing this game, are we?

Feng Li watched him with a poker face, and, with a cold glance, also peeked at Bai Xiaosheng.

What a nice precedent you have set!

Bai Xiaosheng wore an innocent expression.

After all, having finished his own answer, he surely couldn't be expected to control whether others used the same tactic.

Feng Li raised her hand, knocked on the table with her knuckles, and interrupted Wei Long's impassioned speech.

"Resigning again?" Feng Li scoffed, "The corporation chose you for key positions, not to play at resigning! If you want to resign, I can satisfy that request right now! At the very least, I can put you on the elimination list!"

Wei Long's face turned pale immediately.

"No, Officer Feng, is there a problem with what I said? But Bai Xiaosheng, he, he had the same idea and you seemed supportive. Is repetition not allowed?" Wei Long looked somewhat unconvinced and glanced at Bai Xiaosheng.

"General Wei, don't just see the 'meat and wine pass through, but the Buddha stays in your heart'. There's also the latter half of that saying, 'If the common folk try to emulate me, it is as if they are entering the path of demons!'" Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, teasingly, "How do you know the examiners are all satisfied? Maybe Officer Feng Li is still holding back points!"

As he spoke, Bai Xiaosheng gave Officer Feng Li a deep look.

"Well said!" Feng Li pointed at Bai Xiaosheng and said to the people around her, "For disrupting the order of the examination room, deduct twenty percent of the points he just earned!"

Bai Xiaosheng's expression immediately soured.

Wei Long and the others were taken aback.

"I am giving you a chance now, Mr. Wei Long, whether you choose to speak again, or end up like him!" Officer Feng asked.

Wei Long looked at the examiners in horror as they changed the scores.

This damn Bai Xiaosheng, getting into a squabble with Officer Feng Li, looking for trouble! Better not to follow in his footsteps!

"I'm willing to change!" Wei Long immediately said.

"You have one minute. Speak!" Officer Feng huffed and glanced at Bai Xiaosheng, a thought crossing her mind.

This guy... was he perhaps doing it on purpose just now, aiming to stand out while giving a pretext to deduct points?

The words from before also carried an implied message!

Officer Feng Li looked deeply at Bai Xiaosheng, who gave her an ambiguous smile in return.

"How cunning of you, Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, not to give me prior notice and to hint at me on the spot!"

Officer Feng Li was more certain now and internally snorted. She really wanted to leave him alone, to let him score high and be sternly reprimanded by the next examiner!

Of course, that was just what Officer Feng Li thought in her mind.

Nevertheless, such help was possible to provide.

While Officer Feng Li pondered, Wei Long hastily revised his opinions, thinking on his feet, which naturally wasn't going to be particularly impressive.

The examiners shook their heads slightly, evidently not very satisfied.

Wei Long's expression was pained, and he looked at Bai Xiaosheng with a distressed frown.

All because of him, leading himself into a mess!

The remaining three, Jiang Yun, Sun Xiaqiu, Zhao Shuangping, with the lesson of Wei Long before them, didn't dare to give answers that were too unconventional, speaking in a standard manner, each feeling somewhat uneasy.

"Good, now Wei Long, you are the head of the regional industry; Jiang Yun, you are the deputy; and the rest of you are general managers!"

Officer Feng Li began to have everyone switch roles.

"Listen up now..."

Following that, Officer Feng Li set up another scenario.

Compared to the first one, it was much simpler.

Wei Long thought for a moment, then spoke confidently. Excluding Officer Feng Li, two of the four examiners nodded in agreement. Another showed satisfaction in their eyes.

"Not bad. Jiang Yun, continue," Officer Feng Li also said.

Jiang Yun made his case, and an examiner nodded in approval. Then came Sun Xiaqiu and Zhao Shuangping, who were designated as the deputy manager and general manager, respectively, before it was finally Bai Xiaosheng's turn.

"I don't agree with their handling; I think we can be more nuanced and not make sweeping generalizations." Bai Xiaosheng spoke freely, criticizing Wei Long's handling and Jiang Yun's viewpoint and was about to continue.

Officer Feng Li frowned and tapped on the table.

"Did I ask you to critique what others have said? It seems you have no new perspective! In that case, I consider you in agreement with the others!"

As she spoke, Officer Feng Li coldly instructed someone nearby, "According to the rules, give him the lowest score!"

"But..." The examiners exchanged glances.

Indeed, what Bai Xiaosheng had just said did build on the points of others, but it really wasn't just parroting somebody else's wisdom!

Even the examiners felt that Bai Xiaosheng had some highlights, some merit in his words.

"Isn't that a bit too much," said an examiner next to Officer Feng Li with a forced smile. "Just now, Mr. Wei Long was given a chance to restate his point. Perhaps we could also give Mr. Bai Xiaosheng a minute to restate his case."

This assistant Affairs Officer was always a nice guy.

"No way! If everyone who didn't do well got to repeat, what would be the point of having rules!" Officer Feng Li adamantly refused, casting a cold glance around the room, "Remember, Wei Long's restatement was a one-time thing! There were reasons for it!"

Officer Feng Li spoke sternly, and the examiners immediately fell silent.

Wei Long and the others couldn't help but look at Bai Xiaosheng with sympathy, but inside, they were secretly delighted.

"Bai Xiaosheng, you always show off, and I knew you'd eventually hit a snag, and now it's come true!"

"Winning three rounds in a row, do you really expect to be first in the entire first phase? I think you're done for in this round!"

"Officer Feng Li seems fed up with him, too, not showing an ounce of favoritism!"

"So strict! I must be cautious and take Bai Xiaosheng as a warning; I can't be as foolish as him!"

Wei Long and the others had various thoughts.

"Continue, now, Jiang Yun, you are the head of the provincial industry, Sun Xiaqiu the deputy, and the rest as general managers!" After speaking, Officer Feng Li didn't forget to throw a cold glance at Bai Xiaosheng, her eyes filled with a threatening air.

This inadvertently made everyone a bit more apprehensive.

Officer Feng Li, it turned out, showed no mercy when angry!

Everyone became even more cautious, with even the examiners waiting with bated breath.

Bai Xiaosheng saw this and couldn't help but chuckle inwardly, "Quite the act, quite the talent for performance!"

It was also thanks to Feng Li being so "Gentle and Virtuous" that Bai Xiaosheng didn't dare to be so presumptuous with anyone else, suggesting things off the cuff.

Thus, the more than one-hour long evaluation came to an end.

Officer Feng Li had shown everyone what it meant to be meticulous and uncompromising, instilling reverence in the hearts of both the candidates and the examiners present.

As for Bai Xiaosheng, with mistakes in three out of five rounds, even a serious response at the end couldn't reverse his downturn.

In contrast, the others were all smiles, very satisfied with their own performance.

"Bai Xiaosheng, do you know? In this evaluation, you're the very bottom," Officer Feng Li picked up the examiners' scores, glanced at them, and sighed deeply, "It seems in this evaluation you're also one of the lower middle ranks among everyone. And I thought so highly of you!"

Bai Xiaosheng looked dejected but couldn't help inwardly laughing, "Drama queen!"

Chapter 720 I'm the Happiest\_1

Feng Li packed up her things, glanced at Bai Xiaosheng with disappointment, and left without looking back.

Wei Long and the others sneaked glances, Bai Xiaosheng still managed to maintain his composure, but his complexion had obviously turned quite ugly.

Who would have thought, we would have a day when we could outshine this "capable person"! Wei Long and the others couldn't help but wear a look of joy on their faces.

"Alright, you all should head back to the classroom to wait," an examiner, having packed up, smiled at everyone and said.

The way he looked at Bai Xiaosheng was complicated, with sympathy, regret, and a touch of disappointment.

The other examiners felt the same way.

After the examiners had left first, Wei Long and his group gave Bai Xiaosheng a look and hurried off.

They needed to rush back to share the sensational news with everyone!

To let everyone rejoice together!

Bai Xiaosheng wore a dejected expression on his face, until the very last person left, then quietly revealed a hint of a smile.

"Who knows if the score is low enough, after all, I was first in the previous three rounds! Three times first, one in the middle, on average, I'm still probably dominant."

"But, the look in Feng Li's eyes when she left tells me, there's no problem, maybe her final ranking calculation is different from what I thought,"

Bai Xiaosheng muttered to himself and then shrugged, laughing.

"Forget it, not going to think about it anymore, heading back! I trust Wei Long and the others have already brought this 'good news' to the others, letting them have their fun, consider it a good deed done."

Bai Xiaosheng's smile faded, his face adopting a mask of silence, as he stood up and made his way downstairs to the tiered classroom.

Once he reached the door of the tiered classroom,

Bai Xiaosheng could hear the lively noise inside.

"What did you say, Bai Xiaosheng flunked this time! He even got harsh criticism from Officer Feng Li!"

"Even Officer Feng Li, who is usually so good-tempered, blew her top; it looks like Bai Xiaosheng really crossed the line this time!"

"He managed to make even the Affairs Officer lose her temper; is he stupid or what!"

"He got points deducted too? How did he manage that! Our group has never had such an incident!"

"Yeah, yeah, tell us more!"

Those voices sounded unbelievably excited.

So, I'm this popular, huh! Bai Xiaosheng chuckled inwardly.

Pushing the door open, Bai Xiaosheng's expression was solemn, his face heavy with weight, his steps slightly dragging, as he entered with a trace of a defeated air.

As soon as he came in, the rowdy noise inside suddenly hushed.

More than twenty pairs of eyes stared at him.

Mockery, ridicule, excitement, pleasure—all were in abundance.

"Bai!" Zhao Qianze rushed over, her eyes brimming with a pained look, and deep incomprehension.

She didn't understand how such an outstanding Bai Xiaosheng could possibly fail so suddenly; there must be many reasons behind it.

However, the facts were established, and with a light sigh, she accepted them.

"Zhao," Bai Xiaosheng managed a weak smile, "Let's not ask or talk about this topic anymore, okay?"

He just couldn't be bothered to make up excuses for this intelligent woman.

"OK, OK, I won't ask, come on, go take a seat," Zhao Qianze said gently, "You were first in three rounds, even if you performed unexpectedly this time, it doesn't matter, you are still among the top!"

Such consolation made Bai Xiaosheng smile wryly and nod.

The others looked at them, at Bai Xiaosheng who seemed somewhat defeated, and had various thoughts.

"You deserved this backlash, this is just the beginning of your bad luck! Maybe in the second stage, you'll be completely kicked out, and then, it'll just be me accompanying Qianze!"

Zheng Qinghong's eyes inevitably showed contentment.

Mu Beichen too watched Bai Xiaosheng, his lips curving into a smile.

If Bai Xiaosheng had suddenly underperformed, he would've been suspicious, but according to Wei Long, Bai Xiaosheng had been trying his hardest, especially in the last two rounds, a pity that he angered Feng Li and was helpless to recover!

Mu Beichen's performance today was outstanding, to the point where the examiners outright said that not only was he the first in his group, but he might also be the very first in all of today's assessments!

Mu Beichen was overjoyed, even feeling a bit elated.

"Bai Xiaosheng, you are ultimately not my match. Your luck ends here!" Mu Beichen's eyes held a trace of disdain.

Bai Xiaosheng had arrived, so naturally, people didn't speak openly of his defeat.

They whispered instead.

More discussions centered on who performed better.

"Our group's Zheng Qinghong was marvelous in every round. The examiners think highly of him! I believe his score will be the first place!"

"Our group's Mu Beichen is not far behind, he nearly received praise from all five examiners in every round, making the rest of us just a backdrop!"

"Fang Tianchen, 'Old Fang,' also excelled this time!"

"Miss Zhao Qianze did very well too!"

...

Everyone buzzed with discussion, each backing the leading figure of their group.

Of course, some were silent.

Their responses in this session weren't remarkable, and combined with their mediocre performances in previous ones, it wasn't hard to guess what they would soon face!

Elimination weighed heavily on each of their minds, like a stone pressing down on them to an unbearable degree.

Bai Xiaosheng sat there, silent as a stone.

Next to him, Zhao Qianze offered company, trying and failing to console him, then just sat quietly by his side.

Unknowingly, half an hour passed, and the door of the lecture theater suddenly creaked.

Officer Feng Li strode in and headed straight for the podium.

The crowd, hearing the noise and seeing her, sharply focused their gaze.

The entire lecture theater, without needing a reminder, fell instantly silent, and you could hear a pin drop.

"Please take your seats, I will now announce the final rankings for this phase!" Feng Li surveyed the crowd, "I will only read the first twenty names. Those whom I don't mention, I'm sorry, but your journey ends here."

Her words made many hearts tighten.

The agony of awaiting the revelation and facing a "life-or-death" outcome was torturous.

"Before I read the names, I want to explain the scoring system to everyone," Feng Li said. "Out of the four assessments, we take only the highest and the lowest scores, and then average them. This is your current score. The reason is, we wanted a score that reflects your best and worst states evened out!"

Such a scoring method!

The crowd looked at each other in disbelief.

"Alright, now for the rankings."

"First place, Zheng Qinghong!"

"Second place, Mu Beichen! Just one point behind the first!"

"Third place, Fang Tianchen!"

"Fourth place, Han Yinnian!"

"Fifth place, Zhao Qianze!"

Each name announced from the top five stirred exclamations.

Those whose names were called showed a degree of pride.

Mu Beichen was satisfied, even though he was just one point behind Zheng Qinghong.

Zheng Qinghong, on the other hand, wasn't concerned with his own rank; instead, he looked at Bai Xiaosheng, his ears perked attentively for his score.

"Seventh place, Bai Xiaosheng!"

Finally, Feng Li called out Bai Xiaosheng's name!

Only the seventh, a mere seventh place, that was it!

Zheng Qinghong was pleased, Mu Beichen was happy!

Bai Xiaosheng looked ashen-faced, yet inside he was happier than any of them!

He had truly gotten his wish!