

Two Trillion 81

Chapter 81 Language Conversion_1

Bai Xiaosheng and Zhengdong Province had polished off an entire barrel of beer.

The table was a chaotic mix of plates and dishes, lined underneath with piles of bamboo skewers, peanut shells, edamame skins, and on top, there were still many leftovers of various meat skewers.

Both of them were a bit drunk.

"Waiter, come, pack, pack these up!" Zheng Dong ordered the waiter with a slurred speech, then turned to Bai Xiaosheng and shouted, "Bai, let's, let's continue drinking when we get back!"

"Look at you, can you, can you even make it back?" Bai Xiaosheng laughed and scolded.

He was also a bit slurred but much better than Pangzi.

"My place is close; you're staying at mine tonight."

"Okay, let's go to your place and continue drinking!" Zheng Pangzi still couldn't forget about drinking.

Being this drunk, the waiter was also worried they might start a drunken ruckus, so they quickly packed the skewers into boxes and brought the bill for the two men.

Bai Xiaosheng took out his bank card, but it was snatched away by Zheng Pangzi and shoved back into his pocket.

"Come on, for this little amount, you're still pulling out your salary card... I, the principal, am treating you!"

Zhengdong took out several hundred-yuan bills, unable to count them properly with his squinting eyes, and simply handed them all to the waiter.

"No need for change, the rest is tip!"

Now, the waiter was grinning from ear to ear and eagerly helped the brothers out the door.

Outside, the night was perfect, the evening breeze cool.

Bai Xiaosheng and Zheng Dong each carried a take-out bag, walking along the street with a metallic stride.

They didn't seem to know where they were going, but it was definitely not in the direction of home.

As the two chatted and meandered, they sobered up quite a bit.

Coming to a street that was not very crowded, Zheng Pangzi spotted a public toilet from a distance, hastily stuffed his bag into Bai Xiaosheng's hands, and dashed off.

"I'll go first, I'm in a hurry, wait for me to come back and then it's your turn!" Zheng Pangzi called out as he ran.

As if I was competing with you!

Bai Xiaosheng felt both annoyed and amused.

He watched as Pangzi, in his rush, tripped over himself and fell flat on his face.

Bai Xiaosheng jerked in fright, about to shout to ask if he was okay, when he saw the chubby man roll on the spot, get up, and continue running; the movement was smooth as flowing water, incredibly agile, seamless.

Bai Xiaosheng was dumbstruck.

Carrying two take-out bags, Bai Xiaosheng walked under a streetlamp and waited there.

After a while, Bai Xiaosheng suddenly noticed someone heading straight for him from the opposite direction; by their build, they were tall and strong!

Bai Xiaosheng's brow furrowed, and he immediately became alert.

This place was scarcely populated; could it be a robbery?

As the person got closer, Bai Xiaosheng realized it was a foreigner. Although the foreigner looked sturdy, there was no ferocity in his face; instead, there was anxiety, and upon seeing Bai, he seemed relieved.

This refined foreign man held a large piece of paper in his hands. As he got closer, Bai Xiaosheng saw clearly that it was a map in the foreigner's hand.

A lost foreigner asking for directions?

Bai Xiaosheng guessed so, and as the foreigner came up to him, the foreigner's expression changed to a frown, likely smelling the alcohol on Bai Xiaosheng, hesitating slightly but still raised the map, mumbling something, gesturing, seemingly indeed asking for directions.

Was he not speaking English?

Bai Xiaosheng was startled.

"Detected a need from the host; activating the second auxiliary function—language translation."

"Analysis complete, the language spoken by the other party is French, Provençal dialect, initiating translation..."

The voice of Red Lotus rang out.

Almost at the same time, Bai Xiaosheng heard authentic Mandarin in his ears, still in the foreigner's tone.

"I want to go to the Tiannan Hotel; how do I get there? The map says it's nearby, but I have not been able to find it. Can you help me?" the foreigner repeated, then sighed and shook his head a bit disappointedly, "Alright, my friend, it seems you don't understand my language."

"The Tiannan Hotel is just one street away, very close." Bai Xiaosheng finally spoke.

It was actually a string of French.

Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback.

The foreigner was also taken aback, his eyes suddenly lighting up.

"My god, your... French is so authentic, it's from my hometown!"

The foreigner was as excited as if he'd met an old friend in a foreign land.

Bai Xiaosheng hesitated for a moment, then understood.

It seemed that once he activated language translation, he could freely speak the other person's language.

This wasn't bad at all!

This foreigner was pretty lucky too!

Bai Xiaosheng pointed in a direction, patiently telling the foreigner how to go, and the other nodded like a pecking chicken. He couldn't stop praising Bai Xiaosheng's "exquisite" French.

After sending off the foreigner, Bai Xiaosheng still found it quite amusing. He had become an invisible master of languages, seeing that the language database allowed him to use five thousand languages. With this tool alone, he could switch careers to translation for the next half of his life and not have to worry about food and drink.

Just as he was thinking about this, he heard some noise behind him.

Woof, woof woof.

Bai Xiaosheng turned around and saw a stray mutt barking at him.

A dog?

Bai Xiaosheng subconsciously remembered that there was an option for animal languages in the language database, including canine. Could this also be translated?

"Host's needs detected, initiating language translation. Search complete, the language used by the subject is canid, of the rural dog branch... Translation activated!"

Almost instantly, Bai Xiaosheng heard.

"I'm so hungry, give me food!"

The dog's bark was short, but when combined with emotions, and translated into human language, it didn't have to be.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at the thin rural dog in amazement.

"Give it to me quick, or I won't be nice, I'll snatch it!" The dog was already preparing to pounce.

"Wait, you want food, I'll give it to you!" thought Bai Xiaosheng, intending to say so.

However, the sound he made was.

"Woof, woof woof, woof woof woof!"

How come it was the sound of a dog barking!

Bai Xiaosheng himself jumped in fright.

It seemed that this language translation really needed some getting used to, and should be used with caution!

The stray rural dog, which had been quite fierce, also jumped in fright, staring at Bai Xiaosheng with wide eyes, even shivering a bit.

Bai Xiaosheng was speechless, he opened two takeout bags on the ground, gesturing to the dog that it could eat. In order to reassure it, Bai Xiaosheng turned and walked away.

Walking a good distance away, Bai Xiaosheng looked back and saw the dog greedily eating, yet still warily keeping an eye on him.

Bai Xiaosheng shook his head, turned his face, and saw Zheng Pangzi staring blankly at him from a distance.

"You okay?" Bai Xiaosheng walked over, waving his hand in front of Zheng Pangzi's eyes.

"I might have a problem!" Zheng Pangzi blinked desperately, "I, I think I just saw you talking to a dog."

The fat man had seen it!

Bai Xiaosheng thought for a moment, realizing he couldn't explain this.

Bai Xiaosheng patted Zheng Pangzi's shoulder, "You're drunk, you can't hold your liquor, drink less in the future!"

"Is that so?" Zhengdong Province was puzzled.

"Right, I'm treating this round, you didn't bring money, remember to treat me back next time." Bai Xiaosheng said earnestly, then walked away.

"I didn't bring money? How come I remember it was me who spent it." Zheng Pangzi watched Bai Xiaosheng's retreating figure, took out his wallet, opened it, and found it was completely empty.

"Really not a penny left, did I truly not bring money?"

Chapter 82: What a Small World_1

Early on Saturday morning, Bai Xiaosheng was startled awake by a series of knocking sounds, but by the time he opened his eyes, the knocking had stopped.

He wasn't sure if it was a dream or reality.

In his confusion, Bai Xiaosheng realized he was sleeping on the floor.

On his huge double bed lay a fat man.

"I must've been kicked off by the damn fatty!" Bai Xiaosheng rubbed his temples, still feeling a little groggy.

Suddenly, an alarm clock rang. It came from the bedside, Zheng Pangzi's cellphone.

Bai Xiaosheng witnessed a surprising scene.

The one who had been sleeping like a dead pig, Zhengdong Province, suddenly sat up, frantically searching for his clothes.

"My clothes, where are my clothes!"

"You're wearing your clothes!" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but remind him.

Zheng Pangzi was stunned for two seconds, looked at himself, let out a sigh of relief, then turned to Bai Xiaosheng with a look of surprise, "Bai, what are you doing here?"

"This is my house!" Bai Xiaosheng replied helplessly.

Zheng Pangzi blinked, took a good look around and then grinned sheepishly.

"Hey, I've got to say, you are impressive! The alarm goes off and you're up like it's reveille, such perseverance is commendable!" For this, Bai Xiaosheng was truly impressed.

Zheng Pangzi gave a bitter smile.

"It's a habit I've developed in recent years. How do you think I became a school principal? I've earned it through hard work; I've even lost a good twenty pounds of fat!"

As Zheng Pangzi spoke, there seemed to be a real bite to his words. It was as if the lost fat caused him significant sorrow.

Bai Xiaosheng scratched his head, not feeling like the fat man seemed any slimmer than the one in his memory... let alone by twenty pounds...

That meant that since leaving school, Zhengdong Province had actually gotten fatter...

Now that both of them were fully awake and no longer sleepy...

Bai Xiaosheng headed to freshen up first.

Zheng Pangzi, leaning against the bathroom door frame, chatted idly with Bai Xiaosheng inside.

"Who paid the bill yesterday?"

"Be honest, did you get wasted and start barking in the streets?"

"Before the alarm rang, I vaguely remember someone knocking on the door!"

Before the last sentence was finished, there was a knock at the door again.

This time it was real, not a dream.

Bai Xiaosheng poked his head out from the bathroom, toothpaste foam all around his mouth.

"It's my breakfast delivery; can you get it for me?"

Bai Xiaosheng pointed to the keys on the table.

"Wow, you even ordered breakfast. So fancy." Learning there was food, Zheng Pangzi perked up, hurried over, and grabbed the keys to open the door.

After rinsing his mouth and wiping it with a towel, Bai Xiaosheng walked out.

He intended to show off his attractive female neighbor to Zheng Pangzi; after all, she also made him breakfast. Bai Xiaosheng thought it was a good opportunity to brag a bit.

"Why did you take so long to open the door? I knocked several times, and I even went back to heat it up. Hurry up..."

The door wasn't opened yet, but the voice coming from outside was already audible, a gentle and melodious female voice, very pleasant to the ear.

Zheng Pangzi's expression suddenly became a bit strange.

When the door fully opened, both Zheng Pangzi and the woman outside, Wei Xuelian, were taken aback.

Just as Bai Xiaosheng was about to introduce them, he sensed something amiss.

"Xuelian!"

"Principal!"

The two exclaimed in unison; they knew each other.

Bai Xiaosheng instantly understood and couldn't help but let out a dry chuckle.

"I was just saying, one became a training instructor and the other started a training class; what a coincidence!" Bai Xiaosheng exclaimed, "It's a small world!"

Zheng Pangzi was the very person, the boss of Wei Xuelian, whom Bai Xiaosheng had cursed countless times.

"You, coming to bring Bai breakfast?" Zheng Pangzi was somewhat incredulous.

"You're Bai Xiaosheng's friend?" Wei Xuelian was also full of disbelief.

"Iron buddies!" Zheng Pangzi took the plate and didn't forget to turn back and ask Bai Xiaosheng, "Between us, who's older?"

Bai Xiaosheng was stunned.

Should I call her sister-in-law or junior sister.

Zhengdong Province exaggeratedly compared lip shapes.

"Alright, you two talk first, I'll take my leave. I have class today and need to get there right away," Wei Xuelian said with a smile, turning to leave.

She had walked a few steps, then she came back.

"Principal Zheng, that training tomorrow is very important, are you really not going?" Wei Xuelian asked.

"Not tomorrow," Zheng Pangzi shook his head, glancing at Bai Xiaosheng, "Tomorrow, we have something even more important!"

He Yanbing, class reunion.

A grudge of many years, it was time to settle it!

"Then alright, I'm leaving first," Wei Xuelian said with a smile, closing the door behind them.

Zhengdong Province quickly put the breakfast on the table and, gossiping eagerly, rushed to Bai Xiaosheng's side with a cheeky and mischievous demeanor.

"Spill it, how far have you two gotten, how come you're not living together yet? Stop pretending, you've already started sending breakfast..."

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't be bothered with him and just sipped his coffee.

Zheng Pangzi wasn't shy either, grabbing toast and starting to eat, continuing to prod as he munched.

As they were talking, the door was knocked again.

"Could it be that for this boss, there's also a breakfast delivery!" Zheng Pangzi was overjoyed, getting up to open the door.

Bai Xiaosheng took a sip of coffee.

"Bai Xiaosheng, are you home? It's the weekend and we've got nothing else to do, why don't you come hang out at the team's place?" Another woman's voice came from outside the door, not as gentle as Wei Xuelian's but with a crispness like that of a silver bell.

Bai Xiaosheng spat out his coffee.

It was all because he had carelessly agreed to help Zhengdong compete in some match, and now this woman was sticking to him, always coming over during holidays to see if he wanted to hang out at the team's place.

Of course not!

Bai Xiaosheng really had no way of dealing with her.

"Pangzi, just tell her I'm not here!" Bai Xiaosheng whispered desperately to Zhengdong Province.

"Shuying Great God!" Zhengdong Province recognized the voice outside, his eyes lighting up as he gestured to Bai Xiaosheng, "Go hide in the bathroom, keep quiet, don't ruin my precious moment with my idol!"

For the first time, Bai Xiaosheng obediently did as told and slipped into the restroom.

Zhengdong Province hurriedly put down the toast in his hand, wiped the crumbs from the corner of his mouth, suddenly feeling both sad and angry.

"Ah, this bastard Bai, how can he be so lucky with women! Damn it, is he going to play two-timing? So despicable... My Shuying Great God... I'm so envious!"

Zheng Pangzi excitedly went to open the door.

With his back against the restroom door, Bai Xiaosheng faintly overheard Zheng Pangzi chatting with Han Shuying outside.

He himself drank his coffee, his gaze landing on a spot.

In one corner of the restroom, there were two green bricks.

These were what Zheng Pangzi insisted on bringing back last night, saying they were prepared for He Yanbing.

Bai Xiaosheng's gaze darkened.

In the past, he too had thought more than once about hitting He Yanbing with a brick. But those were the choices of last resort under the pressure of inadequate strength!

Now it was different!

"Red Lotus, time to start work!" Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

"Always ready!"

The voice of Red Lotus was always pleasant.

It was time to prepare for tomorrow!

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes narrowed fiercely.

This time, he would make He Yanbing suffer a punishment a hundred times worse than physical pain!

Chapter 83 Before the Banquet_1

After seeing off Han Shuying and having breakfast, Zhengdong Province didn't leave either.

Tomorrow was the class reunion. He had been nagging Bai Xiaosheng incessantly about how to get justice from He Yanbing for what had happened back then!

Zhengdong Province had a special affection for those two bricks he'd picked up in the restroom.

"I plan to carry a backpack tomorrow, put them inside, and at the right moment, I'll smash them on He Yanbing's head," Zhengdong Province said earnestly without a hint of joking and even asked Bai Xiaosheng, "What do you think?"

"Not good at all! Does revenge have to involve violence? If you kill him, you'll end up in jail. It's not worth it for a scumbag!" Bai Xiaosheng shook his head, then added another line.

"The most crucial thing is, it's not cruel enough!"

Enough? Of course, it wasn't enough!

Their lives had almost been destroyed; just because He Yanbing's head was bloodied, they were supposed to call it even?

No way!

Bai Xiaosheng always considered himself a lazy person, sometimes even too lazy to hold a grudge.

But his hatred towards He Yanbing, he would never forget until his death!

Looking at Zhengdong Province, Bai Xiaosheng was reminded of that super easy-going, easy to bully chubby guy from their university days.

Back then, Zhengdong Province was always laughing and joking, never got angry or fell out with anyone, and even when he was pranked, he laughed harder than the prankster.

Such a carefree fat man, now wanted to use a brick to crack someone's skull!

Bai Xiaosheng, understood.

In the university, their last days were like hell on earth for him and the fat man!

As long as they were on campus, no matter where they went, they would be poked in the spine, mocked, and insulted.

Many friends turned into strangers.

Many opportunities turned into mere illusions.

The indelible stain in their records would follow them for life without any surprises, becoming an everlasting blemish.

During his university years, Bai Xiaosheng was outstanding, whether in academics or organizational skills, he was among the very best, and some even predicted he was sure to secure a stable job.

But with a 'misappropriation of public funds' stain and such a sanction, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't even think of taking the civil service examination!

Not only that, his degree certificate was withheld by the school for "misconduct" and he couldn't even get his diploma.

Bai Xiaosheng was angry and even made a fuss about it, but in the end, all he got was an additional sanction.

Eventually, it was Zhengdong Province who said he had a way and could try.

On the day Bai Xiaosheng was to leave the university, Zhengdong Province actually managed to get his diploma. Holding that certificate, Bai Xiaosheng cried bitterly in Zhengdong Province's arms.

The degree certificate was still an impossibility.

But Bai Xiaosheng didn't care anymore!

To celebrate, he took Zhengdong Province out to eat.

It was one of those small street-front eateries, with what they called a 'private room' that was both dirty and shabby.

Hidden away inside, they ordered two bottles of strong spirits and cheap dishes and just started drinking.

For the first time in their lives, they got drunk to the point of tears.

Bai Xiaosheng remembered clearly.

He remembered the scene of Zhengdong Province pouring the 52-degree liquor down his throat.

He remembered clearly, at that time, the words the fat man had shouted——

"I, Zhengdong Province, swear, whether it takes five years or ten, I must make something of myself and repay these pains tenfold to He Yanbing!"

The alcohol mixed with tears, flowing wildly.

At that moment, Bai Xiaosheng snatched the bottle, gulped down the remaining liquor, and then smashed the bottle on the ground with all his might.

"I swear by this, I will have my revenge!"

Back then, they had cried like dogs, huddled in a corner where no one could see them, howling and licking their wounds.

There was no direction in life, not even the illusion of a future.

Bai Xiaosheng shook his head with a wry smile.

Back then, they were too young, and their celebration was clearly premature.

After receiving his diploma, Bai Xiaosheng had also thought about not leaving the campus because there was a big job fair that very day.

But even with his diploma in hand, Bai Xiaosheng was still rejected and couldn't participate in the recruitment event hosted by the school.

That day, Bai Xiaosheng left, and apart from a few people from Zhengdong Province, he cut off all contact with everyone else.

Only in recent years had he slowly reconnected with some of them.

Because he lacked a degree certificate and his file was tainted, he couldn't go to large enterprises. He could only join a smaller company with lower requirements like Tian Hai Media to build up his work experience.

Over the years, Bai Xiaosheng had carefully recorded all the hardships and suffering he had endured, daring not to forget.

Now, he was finally going to meet He Yanbing again.

His thoughts returned to the present.

Reflecting on the various pieces of information Red Lotus collected for him the day before, his eyes flickered, cold and sharp as a knife.

"Thirty years in Hedong, thirty years in Hexi. I'm coming for you. Are you ready, He Yanbing?" he muttered under his breath.

In fact, after having breakfast, Bai Xiaosheng had already started to get "busy."

He made several phone calls one after the other, each lasting a considerable amount of time. He did this away from Zhengdong Province, planning to leave some big "surprises" for Zheng Pangzi the next day!

A good play is not afraid of being late.

Similarly, revenge requires patience!

Crushing an opponent outright is meaningless; the true essence of revenge is the slow cutting of flesh with a blunt knife!

Unlike Bai Xiaosheng, from noon onwards, Zhengdong Province started receiving numerous phone calls.

When Bai Xiaosheng went to the balcony, he went to the bathroom. When Bai Xiaosheng went to the bathroom, he went to the balcony.

Bai Xiaosheng was curious and noticed that Zheng Pangzi's complexion seemed off. However, whenever he faced Bai Xiaosheng, Zheng Pangzi would act as if nothing was wrong.

Bai Xiaosheng thought about it but didn't ask.

Everyone has their own secrets, and even the best of friends need some distance and space.

If Zhengdong Province wanted him to know, he would tell him.

Altogether, it was a day filled with frequent phone calls where both men were busy.

It wasn't until dinner time that they finally took a break.

They ordered food and beer. The two sat across from each other in silence, eating and drinking.

Suddenly, Zheng Pangzi looked up and stared seriously at Bai Xiaosheng.

"Bai, did you know? He Yanbing is doing better than both of us. I've heard he's a vice president at a rather famous company, and he's even started his own business!"

Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

He knew all this!

Zhengdong Province was silent, drinking an entire can of beer with difficulty, then said firmly,

"We might not be as successful as him, but I'm still going! Even if it lands me in jail, I have to claim some interest!"

"Pangzi, do you trust me?" Bai Xiaosheng looked directly at Zhengdong Province, asking seriously.

Zhengdong Province was taken aback, then smiled.

"Nonsense!"

Beyond wondering why Bai Xiaosheng would ask such a question, Zhengdong Province's answer was without hesitation.

Whether in university or now!

This trust warmed Bai Xiaosheng's heart.

No matter how many hardships, it's a blessing to have a brother.

"I've got everything prepared for tomorrow. When you come with me, I don't want you to lift a finger. I want you to watch how I make He Yanbing pay back what he owes!"

Bai Xiaosheng's last four words were fierce and powerful!

Chapter 84 You, the smell of scum_1

Early on Sunday, Bai Xiaosheng went home and changed into formal attire.

"Clothes make the man, just as gold makes the Buddha."

Bai Xiaosheng looked quite proper, exuding a certain air of authority.

Bai Xiaosheng laughed and simply picked out a clean set of casual clothes to wear.

"You're wearing that?" Bai Xiaosheng looked a bit startled.

"What's wrong? Should I have dressed up specifically for this reunion? This is fine. If things stay peaceful, there won't be any need for a fight, but if a fight does break out, how convenient would this be?" Bai Xiaosheng teased the plump one.

Hearing this, Bai Xiaosheng immediately wanted to change back as well.

"Alright, alright, you stick with that outfit. I don't have any appropriate clothes, and buying a new set just to impress others would be a joke. You look great, you can back me up," Bai Xiaosheng stopped him.

Seeing no other choice, Bai Xiaosheng gave up.

As the time approached, the two descended the stairs and set off in Bai Xiaosheng's car, a thirty-thousand or so business model.

The reunion was set to take place in the center of Tiannan City, Tiannan's tallest building—the two hundred and eighty meter tall Tiannan Pearl Tower, a five-star hotel.

They encountered no traffic jams along the way and reached the outer plaza of Mingzhu Tower in just over half an hour.

"Look at that person, isn't that Han Dongxu?" Bai Xiaosheng suddenly narrowed his eyes and gestured forward with his mouth.

Bai Xiaosheng looked over.

Several people were standing at the entrance of Mingzhu Tower.

The one in the lead was quite tall, impeccably dressed in a suit, and his characteristic smile was quite distinctive as he kept grinning. Yet, it seemed his smile was a constant expression.

Indeed, it was Han Dongxu!

Once, just like Bai Xiaosheng, he was one of the four vice-presidents of the student association, a staunch supporter of He Yanbing.

Because of his unique smile, he also had a nickname, Smiling Tiger.

Han Dongxu was waiting there with several people. Cars were passing by and stopping from time to time. Han Dongxu greeted them warmly—it seemed he was in charge of welcoming guests.

Bai Xiaosheng's gaze was cold. This man, he remembered well too.

The first to leap out, swearing to everyone that it was Bai Xiaosheng who embezzled and misused public funds.

The first to throw a punch, severely beating Bai Xiaosheng.

Now, with He Yanbing organizing this reunion, was he here to play the host?

Bai Xiaosheng stared fiercely at Han Dongxu, looking as if he wanted to devour him.

"Relax a bit, we haven't even seen the main character yet. There's no need for this. After all, he's just a dog," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smirk, "Some people, indeed, are not even as good as dogs."

"Just a dog, huh?" Bai Xiaosheng laughed, feeling a bit relaxed, and began to joke with Bai Xiaosheng. "You're insulting dogs so much, the Dog Lover's Association would sue you if they knew!"

As they talked, they drove past, slowly stopping in front of Han Dongxu.

Han Dongxu peered inside.

The previous car had just passed, and he hadn't noticed who was behind it.

The car window rolled down.

"Long time no see, Han Dongxu!" Bai Xiaosheng said, emphasizing the name heavily.

The smile on Han Dongxu's face slightly stiffened, and his eyes shifted, but it was only for an instant before his expression returned to normal.

"It turns out to be you... Bai Xiaosheng, Bai Xiaosheng!"

Han Dongxu uttered these two names, the smile at the corners of his mouth growing even larger.

"It's great that you could come, really great!" Han Dongxu's smile was beaming.

These brothers, back in the day, sure gave them a rough time.

Especially Bai Xiaosheng, who was dubbed the top talent of the department and vice president of the student council—he even became the target of everyone’s wrath on campus!

In these matters, Han Dongxu had been very active!

Over the years, every time he thought back on it, he felt immense satisfaction and pleasure, feelings that even women couldn’t provide!

And now, they had finally come!

Actually, Han Dongxu went through a lot of trouble behind the scenes just so they would come, going through seven twists and eight turns to send someone to invite Zhengdong Province.

If Zhengdong Province came, Bai Xiaosheng would also come.

This time he guessed right again!

This reunion is going to be fun!

"Doing pretty well, aren’t you, fatty? You’ve even got a car now. This must have cost you two or three hundred thousand," Han Dongxu leaned on the car window, rudely slapped the glass, and even bumped the car door with his knee.

On his face, he made no attempt to hide his disdain and mockery.

"I’ve been picking people up all day, and your car is quite the rarity. After all, there aren’t many who end up like this," Han Dongxu said with glee.

Zhengdong Province looked at him coldly.

"Hey, nice suit. Where did you buy it, from Taobao or Xisan City?" Han Dongxu reached out and tugged at Zhengdong Province's suit collar.

Xisan City, the largest counterfeit market in Tiannan, is a hub for fake and inferior goods.

Zhengdong Province's jaw muscles tightened, but remembering Bai Xiaosheng's earlier advice, he bore it once more.

"Yo, isn't this our department's genius?" Han Dongxu's gaze fell on Bai Xiaosheng.

Zhengdong Province was just a side dish, Bai Xiaosheng was the main course.

"The poor wear fur, the rich wear cotton, and bosses dress casually. Dressed in casual wear, you seem to be doing well!" Han Dongxu couldn't help but burst into laughter, "I can't compare, working for someone else, my clothes are just a few thousand bucks. I was thinking, when Mr. He arrives, should I personally get chummy with you, huh?"

Bai Xiaosheng looked at Han Dongxu indifferently and smiled.

"If your Mr. He doesn't get chummy with me, I should take the initiative to find him, never forgetting his past kindness towards us."

Bai Xiaosheng casually picked up a can of air freshener from Zhengdong Province's car and leisurely sprayed it towards Han Dongxu's face.

Han Dongxu, caught off guard, yelped and backed away.

"The smog has been bad outdoors recently, better close your car windows. I wouldn't want the stench of scum drifting in." Bai Xiaosheng handed the freshener to the fat man.

Zhengdong Province got the message, gathered his strength, and threw it at Han Dongxu's face.

Han Dongxu let out another yelp.

"No worries, spray a bit more, the scent's too strong. Just remember to stay away from us when we go up later!" Zhengdong Province deliberately laughed out loud and sped away.

"You piece of crap!" Zhengdong Province said, thrilled, to Bai Xiaosheng, "When it comes to wit, you could take them all down with words alone. Good, you handle the taunting, and I'll handle the fighting. Together we'll sweep them away!"

Bai Xiaosheng shrugged his shoulders.

"Just now, you were pretty patient. I would've exploded had I been called up, but I didn't say you had to put up with him!" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't hold back, "And why are you throwing things? Don't things cost money?"

"Ah, so that's not what you meant."

...

"Never mind, as long as you're happy," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

Over there.

Han Dongxu was frantically rubbing his eyes in a fluster.

Around him, several people bustled about, yet none could offer any help.

Somebody finally suggested using water to wash his eyes, but with no bottled water available, they gave up the idea.

With his eyes rubbed red as rotten peaches, Han Dongxu no longer had his trademark smile on his face but rather a vicious expression.

He thought Bai Xiaosheng, tormented by life for several years, had lost his edge.

But now he realized Bai Xiaosheng was still the same as before.

The one with extraordinary eloquence and unmatched bravery, who had fought against a dozen men, falling down again and again, only to stand back up, a tough guy through and through.

Amid his hatred, Han Dongxu's eyes flashed with a perverse excitement.

This version of Bai Xiaosheng was worth confronting.

Years ago, I helped He Yanbing destroy you. Years later, I will destroy you again!

Chapter 85: Entering the Door is Not Easy_1

Bai Xiaosheng and Zhengdong Province parked their car, and walked back to the entrance of Mingzhu Tower.

From a distance, Zhengdong Province saw Han Dongxu with eyes swollen like red peaches. The fatty couldn't help bursting into a series of loud laughs, even merrier than the laugh Han Dongxu had earlier.

A few classmates around Han Dongxu were somewhat embarrassed.

Some nodded and waved their hands discreetly from behind, as a form of greeting.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded slightly.

To these people, who simply followed the crowd, neither Bai Xiaosheng nor Zhengdong Province paid much attention, nor held any grudge.

"I'd say, Peach... oh, sorry, Han Dongxu, you look much more handsome after the fix!" Zhengdong Province said affirmatively, giving a thumbs-up.

Han Dongxu's eyes practically shot daggers, but he still managed to keep a smile on his face, which was quite a complex expression to pull off.

"The top floor, Qingyun Pavilion, is our reserved private room, you two may head up," Han Dongxu said.

Qingyun Pavilion, sounded like some sort of novel sect, but Bai Xiaosheng had done some inquiries through Red Lotus.

Qingyun, actually derived from the saying "to ascend to the skies in one step," catered to the rich's mindset, showcased an antique style, and highlighted the height of Mingzhu Tower as if one were standing at the cloud level on the top floor.

Ascend to the skies in one step, huh? Bai Xiaosheng chuckled.

Perhaps I'll tumble down from the clouds soon!

As Bai Xiaosheng pondered, he suddenly caught a sly glint in Han Dongxu's eyes.

What malicious trick is this kid cooking up now?

"Then we will head up, and you just enjoy guarding the gate down here—aha!" Zhengdong Province laughed heartily.

Dogs are indeed suitable for gatekeeping!

Han Dongxu caught the insinuation behind the fatty's words, his gaze flickered with anger, but he forcibly suppressed it, pretending not to hear.

Ignoring Han Dongxu, Bai Xiaosheng and Zhengdong Province moved towards the inside of Mingzhu Tower, only to be stopped by two security guards at the entrance of the lobby.

"Sir, you cannot enter." One of the guards spoke bluntly to Bai Xiaosheng.

"Hmm? Why can't we enter?" Zhengdong Province was astonished.

"You can, but, he can't," another guard pointed at Bai Xiaosheng, "We have rules here. Above the eighty-eighth floor, guests must be in formal attire, and this gentleman's clothing does not comply."

Bai Xiaosheng's mind raced.

Red Lotus immediately searched.

Indeed, above the eighty-eighth floor of Mingzhu Tower were premium business establishments and top-end hotels, and this was the rule.

"Whose rule is this?" Zhengdong Province couldn't help but shout, then his eyes flickered, "How do you know we're going above the eighty-eighth floor? Perhaps we..."

"You're heading to the top floor. That gentleman alerted us," one of the guards pointed to Han Dongxu.

Zhengdong Province ran out of arguments, he turned around, glaring furiously at Han Dongxu.

He was slightly irate and said to the guard with a scowl, "We are consumers, clients, how can you treat us like this! If the mayor visited without formal attire, would you block him too?"

"That we wouldn't stop," the guard replied lazily, "Are you the mayor?"

"You!" Zhengdong Province was livid.

"Forget it, fatty. Even if we got into the lobby, there are people specifically responsible for the lift, and they surely won't let me pass dressed like this," Bai Xiaosheng had just finished researching the rules, so he was, naturally, well aware of them, "Going back to change is out of question, we need to think of something else."

As Bai Xiaosheng spoke, he glanced at the guards.

The two guards snickered, their contempt evident.

In terms of regulations, Mingzhu Tower had always enforced them sternly; there were many who wanted special treatment, but few succeeded.

Outside, Han Dongxu watched Bai Xiaosheng and Zhengdong Province being turned away, and he could hardly contain his delight.

Wait until you come out with your tails between your legs; then I'll help you out. The reunion is meaningless without you two, Han Dongxu thought to himself.

In his car, he actually had a suit stashed away.

This was just his way of using the rules to assert dominance over Bai Xiaosheng and Zhengdong Province.

"Hey, this Bai Xiaosheng, he doesn't even wear formal attire. Isn't that just asking for trouble?"

"Exactly! But look at how he's dressed; does he seem like he's doing well? I bet he's hardly ever worn formal attire."

"Such a top student, but ended up like this... sigh..."

The classmates standing behind Han Dongxu couldn't help but whisper among themselves.

Over there.

"Bai, don't panic, we've got people too, just wait a moment!"

Zhengdong Province glared at the security guard, took out his phone in a hurry, and ran off to the side to start dialing.

The two security guards exchanged a knowing smile, with a hint of mockery in their smiles.

They had seen this scene often enough, everyone thinking that just by knowing a couple of people, they could move heaven and earth.

Bai Xiaosheng slightly furrowed his brow, also thinking of a plan. Suddenly, his phone rang, and to his surprise, it was Master Song Kai.

After the banquet that day, the old man had given him a private number.

Bai Xiaosheng ran to the side and answered the call.

"Kid, do you have some time, come out and chat, have a cup of tea,"

Master Song Kai invited him.

"I'm sorry, Master, I'm currently at a class reunion and probably can't get away," Bai Xiaosheng said regretfully.

"No worries, when you're free we'll talk," Master Song Kai said, also a bit regretful.

To turn down the Master for a class reunion!

If Shang Wenshu and the others heard this, they would certainly be beating their chests and stomping their feet.

Yet the Master, having been turned down, showed not the slightest displeasure.

If District Chief Wu knew this, he would undoubtedly be stunned.

"By the way, Master, could you do me a favor?" Bai Xiaosheng quickly asked.

...

After hanging up the phone,

Bai Xiaosheng returned to the two security guards, his expression calm and unhurried.

Zhengdong Province rushed back, wiping the sweat off his forehead, and proudly said to Bai Xiaosheng, "All sorted out, all sorted! Our headmaster has broad connections. He's contacted the leader here, relax, we'll be in shortly!"

The two security guards let out another light laugh.

However, after just a moment, each one of them pressed their earpieces and frowned as they listened.

"Housekeeping Mrs. Wang, says bring them through..."

"Then take them there and avoid the crowd."

The two security guards seemed reluctant, murmured a few words, and reluctantly agreed.

"Come with me," one security guard said with a very stiff tone.

Zhengdong Province, still able to gain entry, was overjoyed, not minding the situation at all, and even flashed Bai Xiaosheng a proud smile.

Bai Xiaosheng gave his plump friend a thumbs up.

The two followed the security guard inside.

"They've gone in!"

Over at Han Dongxu's side, someone exclaimed in surprise.

Han Dongxu himself was taken aback, somewhat in disbelief.

"Looks like Zhengdong Province, this fat pig, still has some tricks up his sleeve!" Han Dongxu muttered, then sneered, "Well, the more capable he is, the more satisfying it will be when I take him down!"

Bai Xiaosheng and his companion had just left.

A middle-aged man with a head full of gray hair but a remarkably youthful face hurried over.

The security guards, who had been nonchalant before, were startled upon seeing this person, quickly straightened up, and were about to salute.

The middle-aged man waved them off, asking anxiously,

"Where are they, the two people who just got stopped by you guys here?"

"It was, it was Mrs. Wang from housekeeping, she demanded we let them through, they've just been taken inside!" The security guard turned pale, stuttering, yet didn't dare to lie.

The middle-aged man frowned, falling silent for a moment.

"Your security department and logistics department have been neglectful, abused their authority; this month's bonus is gone! Also, tell that old Wang from logistics to roll over to the front gate and stand guard for a month!"

The middle-aged man huffed coldly and turned to leave.

The security guards broke out in a cold sweat.

Chapter 86 Chen Ming_1

The security guard led Bai Xiaosheng and Zhengdong Province to an elevator and coldly gave them a card, instructed them briefly, and then turned and left.

The card was a temporary access permit from the security department; with it, they could reach the top floor by operating the elevator.

On his way back to the entrance, the security guard suddenly furrowed his eyebrows, one hand on his earpiece as if he had heard something unbelievable, his face showing a flicker of shock.

Then, he saw the middle-aged man with a head of "granny grey" hair coming toward him, his expression stern and somewhat impatient.

The guard's face turned pale, and he quickly ran to meet him.

"Where are they!" the middle-aged man demanded without waiting for the guard to speak.

"Over there!" the guard quickly pointed.

Far away, Bai Xiaosheng and Zhengdong Province were still waiting.

The middle-aged man ignored the guard and strode quickly toward them.

The guard swallowed his saliva nervously and glanced around a couple of times with a look of unsettled alarm before quickly fleeing the scene.

In the Tiannan Pearl Tower, there are over a dozen elevator lobbies, and the one Bai Xiaosheng and Zhengdong Province were waiting at was exclusively for senior-level personnel.

Due to the Mingzhu Tower's policy, everyone waiting for the elevator here was dressed formally, so his attire stood out starkly.

Zhengdong Province was boasting to Bai Xiaosheng about his network in Tiannan, full of pride. Bai Xiaosheng smiled and played the role of a good listener.

"Excuse me, are you Mr. Bai Xiaosheng?" Suddenly, a voice came from behind him.

Bai Xiaosheng turned around.

He saw a middle-aged man with a head full of grey hair but skin fair like that of a man in his thirties or forties, wearing a warm smile. He appeared very cultured, but the aura emanating from the corners of his eyes and brows was even stronger than that of Shang Wenshu.

"Who are you?" Bai Xiaosheng asked curiously.

He was certain he had never seen such a person before.

"I'm here on behalf of Master Song Kai. I apologize for being a step late!" The middle-aged man said with a smile, full of affability, introducing himself, "My name is Chen Ming."

Chen Ming?

At the same time Bai Xiaosheng heard the name, his mind spun, and Red Lotus swiftly searched for all the information on "Mingzhu Tower, Chen Ming."

When he found the information, Bai Xiaosheng took a sharp breath.

Chen Ming, the overall person in charge of Tiannan Pearl Tower, vice president of the development company, and, given that the development company was state-owned, he was even more powerful than Shang Wenshu!

What astonished Bai Xiaosheng was—

From Chen Ming's tone, he even called Master Song Kai his teacher!

Were the disciples of Master Song Kai really this formidable?

Bai Xiaosheng now had a renewed recognition of the master.

No wonder Shang Wenshu and Wang Ye were so respectful, even more cautious than when dealing with the mayor.

"May I have a word with you in private?" Chen Ming made a gesture inviting him aside.

Bai Xiaosheng followed him to a quieter area.

Zhengdong Province stayed back, knowing to give them space.

To be honest, Chen Ming was also surprised by Bai Xiaosheng's youth. The person his own teacher admired turned out to be such a young man.

However, beyond the surprise, there was not a hint of condescension on Chen Ming's face.

After a few words of conversation, Bai Xiaosheng's natural speech and polite demeanor greatly impressed Chen Ming.

"In our teacher's eyes, you're really someone special! He repeatedly emphasized to me that you must not be neglected!"

Chen Ming's smile was warm, and he conversed with Bai Xiaosheng as if they were friends, treating him as an equal.

"Your gathering is at Qingyun Pavilion? That's a small private room. I'll change it to a larger private room for you right now and prepare another banquet. All expenses will be on me, don't argue with me about this. You should give this face to your elder brother!"

Chen Ming's tone was nearly indisputable.

"Then I'll climb on the shoulders of a giant and call you Elder Brother," Bai Xiaosheng replied with a genuine smile, not wanting to be artificial, "Elder Brother Chen, I appreciate your generosity, but this classmates meeting is not hosted by me. Besides, the person who invited me... we have quite a significant conflict!"

Bai Xiaosheng didn't elaborate, but his eyes turned cold.

Chen Ming, being who he was, understood immediately and said with an unchanged smile, "Alright, we'll forget about it this time."

Chen Ming paused, then continued, "Here, my words still hold weight. It's not bad for young people to seek pleasure in friendship and grudge!"

Chen Ming said no more.

Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

"Then I thank Elder Chen!"

"No need, just bring your teacher to visit me more often when you have time," Chen Ming said with a smile.

By the time Bai Xiaosheng returned, Zhengdong Province had become a bit impatient.

"We've missed several elevators already. Hey, was that your friend just now?" Zhengdong Province asked.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded and directly motioned for him to follow in another direction.

"Not waiting for the elevator? It will be here in a few more minutes," Zhengdong Province called out.

Bai Xiaosheng made a silencing gesture, glanced at the people nearby, and whispered to Zhengdong Province, "My friend just told me there's a seldom-used one over there, and it's available right now, let's hurry."

Such a good deal?

Zhengdong Province hurriedly followed behind Bai Xiaosheng. They turned a corner and pushed open a door, and indeed, inside was an elevator.

The operator wasn't the middle-aged woman from outside but a very young and beautiful woman, like a movie star, dressed in a white blouse, a skirt that didn't go past the knees, black stockings, and high heels, her smile sweet and her appearance sexy.

"Are all elevator operators this good-looking now?" Zhengdong Province said, amazed.

The two entered the elevator, and Bai Xiaosheng, pretending to act normally, handed over the slip of paper given by the security guard. The secretary-like beauty took it with a continuous smile, and pressed the button for the top floor.

The elevator was fast and stable. Zhengdong Province was even lingering in the scent of the beautiful woman's high-end perfume when suddenly they had arrived.

"Walk straight down this corridor to the end, and on your left hand side, you'll find Qingyun Pavilion," said the beauty with a sweet voice and a cheerful smile.

Zhengdong Province was somewhat reluctant to leave, but Bai Xiaosheng dragged him away forcefully.

The corridor on the top floor was extremely spacious, several meters in height, offering a grand and open view, comparable to the lobby of a five-star hotel.

Doors sat spaced far apart on either side.

"Chongshan Pavilion," "Fengyue Building," "Chunshui Crossing"...

All were names with individual character or poetic charm.

There were some people coming and going, entering and exiting the various private rooms, and Zhengdong Province wanted to take a peek inside but didn't want to appear uncouth, so he refrained.

Finally, they arrived in front of Qingyun Pavilion.

Before they could push the door open, it was opened from the inside by a frail, tall man.

Upon seeing Bai Xiaosheng and his companion, both sides were stunned.

"Bai, Zheng!" the man said, overjoyed.

"Lu Nan!" Bai Xiaosheng and Zhengdong Province were also surprised and delighted.

In their last year of college, not everyone shunned Bai Xiaosheng and his brother like a plague, fearing to avoid them.

Some always believed in their character and even went to great lengths to help them.

Lu Nan was one of them!

As the three reunited, they were surprised and delighted, feeling as if there were so many things to say.

"Look at you, kid, you're doing pretty well, must be making a fortune," laughed Zhengdong Province.

"So-so," Lu Nan said with a smile, shaking his head, his face seemingly shaded with slight worries, which he then concealed, "Who doesn't have ups and downs in life, if there are no ravines and potholes, can it still be called living?"

Lu Nan looked at Bai Xiaosheng.

Dressed casually, no brand could be seen, yet his demeanor was relaxed and carefree.

The most outstanding of his peers had actually come to this!

Lu Nan couldn't help feeling a bit melancholic.

"Come on, let's go inside and talk!"

Lu Nan held the door open for Bai Xiaosheng, who gave a slight smile and stepped inside.

I'm here!

Chapter 87 Old Friends Meet Again_1

Qingyun Pavilion.

Chen Ming had mentioned it was a small private room.

So Bai Xiaosheng didn't pay much attention at first, but when he pushed the door open, even he was slightly taken aback.

This room was not small at all!

It could easily accommodate a meeting of four or five hundred people without feeling crowded!

Opposite the entrance were towering floor-to-ceiling windows providing a panoramic view over Tiannan. The room was divided into various areas, specially designated for banquets, rest, and a stage—almost anything one could need. Moreover, the furnishings were all in antique style, giving off a quaint and ancient charm.

At first glance, Bai Xiaosheng really thought he had traveled back in time.

Is this what they call a "small" private room in Mingzhu Tower?

Bai Xiaosheng was a bit astonished, it seemed that Elder Chen was too modest.

Now he was genuinely curious about what the grand private rooms would look like.

Zhengdong Province was also surprised.

There were already dozens of people in the room, and even with them scattered around, it still felt incredibly spacious.

As Bai Xiaosheng and his group entered, those people took notice.

Upon seeing them, the people couldn't help but whisper amongst themselves.

"Isn't that Bai Xiaosheng? And Zhengdong Province too!"

"What are they doing here!"

"Tsk tsk, the two big scumbags from Tiannan University, truly nauseating!"

"Look at what Bai Xiaosheng is wearing, what a mess, they said he was a top talent before, all nonsense."

"Exactly, especially compared to He Yanbing, he looks practically like a beggar."

"Haha, aren't they shamelessly here to freeload a meal now."

The various whispering voices, those that Bai Xiaosheng and Zhengdong Province could already hear, were extremely unpleasant to the ear, not to mention those they couldn't hear.

Zheng Pangzi's face turned sour, and he started rolling up his sleeves, ready to confront those who were making harsh remarks.

Bai Xiaosheng grabbed hold of him and shook his head slightly.

Zheng Pangzi's forehead was throbbing with veins, but after one look at Bai Xiaosheng, he managed to suppress his anger.

"You guys really shouldn't have come," Lu Nan said with a bitter smile. "I'm almost regretting coming here myself. A reunion, you say, but look at the kind of people who have shown up!"

Bai Xiaosheng gave Lu Nan a reassuring smile and whispered to him, "In a moment, don't sit with us."

This was also a form of protection.

Bai Xiaosheng led Zheng Pangzi toward a vacant area of the rest zone.

Lu Nan watched their retreating backs and followed.

Lu Nan knew Bai Xiaosheng meant well, but he was not afraid. He would have stood by them even back in their school days.

When Bai Xiaosheng and Zheng Pangzi sat down, Lu Nan also took his seat.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled appreciatively.

Zheng Pangzi grinned broadly.

Some friendships, through storms and the passage of time, remain as solid as ever.

"You, Lu Nan, have been our good friend in the past, and you will remain so in the future. If you're ever in trouble, I, Bai Xiaosheng, will definitely help you," Bai Xiaosheng said earnestly.

With something troubling Lu Nan, Bai Xiaosheng didn't press him for answers. All he could offer was a promise. After this reunion, Lu Nan would understand that Bai Xiaosheng had the strength to back up his words!

Lu Nan nodded with a smile.

He didn't look down on Bai Xiaosheng's simple clothes and average success and took his words seriously.

"I believe you, Bai Xiaosheng, are a dragon among men, and you won't remain in obscurity forever!"

Lu Nan poured a cup of tea for Bai Xiaosheng, then for Zheng Pangzi, and finally for himself.

Around them, some murmuring voices carried over.

"Why is Lu Nan sitting together with Bai Xiaosheng and Zhengdong Province?"

"They were always birds of a feather, flocking together!"

"I heard Lu Nan has recently run into some business problems, he's looking for help..."

"As if He Yanbing and the others would help him..."

Despite these comments, Lu Nan's expression remained unchanged.

"Do you remember our favorite song from the university days?"

Suddenly smiling, Lu Nan began to hum.

"Yesterday, all the glory became distant memories, having toiled through half my life, tonight I step back into the storm..."

"I cannot drift with the waves, for the loved ones I cherish, no matter how hard or tough, I must stay strong, for those expectant gazes..."

With a faraway look in his eyes, Zheng Pangzi couldn't help but hum along.

"As long as the heart persists, dreams will follow, between heaven and earth, there's still true love, viewing success and failure with boldness, it's merely starting over!"

Bai Xiaosheng joined them in singing out loud.

The three men, amidst the surrounding looks of contempt, condescension, or ridicule, began to raise their voices gradually.

In a corner, a pair of eyes watched them intently.

Once Bai Xiaosheng and the others finished singing, the owner of those eyes stood up, strode over with eagerness and excitement in their gaze.

"Bai Xiaosheng, Zhengdong Province, it really is you, long time no see! I was busy with some messages and didn't realize you'd arrived!" The man sat down beside Lu Nan, his smile sincere.

He wasn't very tall, his hair meticulously combed, wearing gold-rimmed glasses, still with the demeanor of a gentle and refined scholar.

"Song Yiping." Bai Xiaosheng turned slightly and called out his name with a smile.

"Oh, look who it is, bookworm, you're here too!" exclaimed Zheng Pangzi in surprise. Song Yiping was essentially his henchman during their university days. Song Yiping was quite meek and often bullied, and since he was the roommate of the chubby one, it was always Zheng Pangzi who stood up for him.

Zheng Pangzi, known for his good nature, had often gone out of his way to support the much weaker Song Yiping.

Before Bai Xiaosheng and Zhengdong Province ran into trouble, Song Yiping had always been their little follower.

After their troubles, Song Yiping disappeared from their sights.

To protect himself, this was understandable.

Bai Xiaosheng and Zhengdong Province didn't hold a grudge against him; not everyone can be like Lu Nan.

Seeing Song Yiping sit down, Lu Nan's smile receded slightly, his eyes somewhat cold.

He didn't have much fondness for Song Yiping.

Yet, Song Yiping retained his smile towards Lu Nan.

"Bai Xiaosheng, where are you making your fortune now?" Song Yiping surveyed Bai Xiaosheng and chuckled, "Dressed so casually and comfortably, I'm quite envious of you, you're just brimming with personality."

At these words, Zheng Pangzi felt displeased.

"Hey, listen up, bookworm. It was one thing to call us by our first names just now, but why are you doing it again? Back in university, you used to call us Brother Bai, Brother Zheng. It seems that now that you're successful, you don't take us seriously anymore."

The comment was blunt.

Song Yiping's smile stiffened, then he nodded eagerly.

"Yeah, it's been so many years since I last called those names, it feels strange. Brother Zheng, don't mind it, Brother Bai, I'm just concerned about you."

Bai Xiaosheng smiled indifferently.

He didn't mind.

"Oh, that's right, I forgot to introduce myself." Song Yiping stood up and took out a business card, handing one to each man.

"Tiannan City Bank, Ludong Sub-branch, Client Manager," Zheng Pangzi read the position aloud, somewhat surprised, "Not bad, bookworm, you're a bank manager now, can you give us a loan?"

"Of course, if you have a need," Song Yiping responded with a smile.

Tiannan City Bank, huh?

In Bai Xiaosheng's wallet, there was still a golden business card from Ouyang Fu, the bank president of Tiannan City Bank.

That, too, was a chess piece!

Chapter 88 Trouble for the Fat Guy_1

Zhengdong Province and Song Yiping chatted warmly.

Lu Nan stood by, silent.

Bai Xiaosheng was also silent, but this didn't mean he had any particular attitude towards Song Yiping; rather, he was thinking about some other things.

Song Yiping talked with Zhengdong Province about the past and the present.

After initially addressing him directly by his name, Song Yiping now completely changed his tone, calling him "Zheng Ge" affectionately.

During the conversation, Song Yiping consistently paid attention to Bai Xiaosheng, trying to draw him into the chat, but Bai Xiaosheng was preoccupied and his responses were vague and perfunctory.

After several unsuccessful attempts, Song Yiping gave up.

"Where is my brother Bai working now?" Song Yiping asked Zhengdong Province after realizing he couldn't get anything out of Bai Xiaosheng.

"That, I'm not sure, probably planning for some project," Zhengdong Province replied, not brushing off the question but genuinely unaware and not having asked.

Furthermore, why should he care? Whether Bai Xiaosheng was an employee or a leader, wasn't he still a brother to Zhengdong Province?

"Hey, bookworm, you're a client manager now, right? You have the authority to approve loans, don't you? What are the limits and interest rates?" Zhengdong Province had his own concerns.

"What, Brother Zheng, are you thinking of taking out a loan?" Song Yiping keenly picked up on this.

"I'm just asking casually; who knows if I might need it one day," said Zhengdong Province, sitting up straight and glancing at Bai Xiaosheng before scratching his face and mumbling.

"Then you could have come to me directly, aren't we brothers? If it's doable, I'll do it for you; if not, I'll find someone to do it!" Song Yiping patted his chest with gusto, "Now, tell me what you want to know, and I'll explain it to you!"

At these words, Zhengdong Province became excited and really started to ask.

About loans, Zheng Pangzi didn't even have half a clue; he only knew that one could borrow money from banks.

Song Yiping patiently explained, starting with types of loans, what are self-employed loans, trust loans, specific loans, what are credit loans, secured loans, bill discount loans, commodity mortgage loans...

Zhengdong Province listened, not quite understanding, but fascinated, feeling that Song Yiping was inscrutably profound.

Lu Nan watched coldly from the sidelines.

Several times, he deliberately kicked Zhengdong Province's foot under the table, but to no avail; the chubby man simply shifted positions if the kick hurt too much, still listening seriously to Song Yiping's animated explanations like an earnest primary school student.

Lu Nan eventually gave up.

On the other side, Bai Xiaosheng was completely uninterested in the conversation between Song Yiping and Zhengdong Province; glancing at his phone, the corners of his mouth slowly curved into a faint smile, deep with meaning and brimming with boundless confidence.

Lu Nan's eyes brightened at that smile, so familiar to him.

During their college days, when Bai Xiaosheng won various competition championships, he had the same irresistibly charming, confident smile when victory was in his hands.

"You guys keep talking, I'm going to the restroom."

Bai Xiaosheng stood up.

"Go ahead, no need to tell us," Zhengdong Province hurriedly waved his hand at Bai Xiaosheng after seeing Song Yiping pause, before pulling Song Yiping back into their discussion.

The private dining room had its own restroom, which Bai Xiaosheng had noticed when he came in; now he headed there.

Lu Nan glanced at the two who were chatting eagerly, quietly stood up, and followed without a word.

The restroom in the private dining room was quite large, after all, the entire place could accommodate hundreds of people, and a small restroom wouldn't meet the demand.

Bai Xiaosheng had just entered when Lu Nan followed right behind.

"What's up, Lu Nan, do you have something to tell me?" Bai Xiaosheng stopped and peered inside.

There was no one else in the bathroom.

Lu Nan nodded, hesitated slightly, but still moved closer and lowered his voice.

"Be careful with Song Yiping, he's not good news!" Lu Nan said seriously, then felt as if he was just gossiping.

"I know who to keep close and who to distance myself from!" Bai Xiaosheng smiled at him, seemingly murmuring to himself, "Pangzi is too loyal, naturally simple-minded, always sees the good in people first... People change, there's no such thing as an expiration date on the human heart! These things, they are no use telling him, but I will look after him!"

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes were sharp.

Lu Nan felt reassured, turned, and was about to leave the bathroom.

"Lu Nan."

As he was about to step out, Bai Xiaosheng stopped him.

Lu Nan turned his head back, puzzled.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "I consider you a good brother, just as important as Zheng Pangzi. I wish you all the best, and hope to help you. If one day, you know I'm capable, please ask for my help, and give me the opportunity to lend a hand."

Bai Xiaosheng emphasized his message, showing how much he valued Lu Nan.

Lu Nan's eyes warmed, and he nodded emphatically before walking out.

Bai Xiaosheng went over, locked the bathroom door, then took out his phone and dialed a number.

"Hello, this is Bai Xiaosheng, let's set up a time..."

After Bai Xiaosheng and Lu Nan left, in Zhengdong Province who was keenly listening to Song Yiping talk about loan knowledge, glanced toward the direction of the bathroom and then restrained his smile, putting a stop to Song Yiping's endless chatter.

His face showed a trace of melancholy and a hint of weariness.

"Zheng brother, what's wrong with you?" Having become a bank customer manager, Song Yiping had become quite adept at reading people and immediately asked in a lowered, careful voice.

Zhengdong Province massaged his face, looking at him seriously.

"Bookworm, the truth is... I really need a loan!"

Song Yiping's eyes lit up just a bit.

Zhengdong Province kneaded his temples, explaining, "You might not know, I established a training institution, and it has been developing well. But recently... there's been a cash flow crisis! I'm short of

money, may need three million, and if I can't raise the funds within a month, the years of effort I've put in will be for naught! I'll really be back to square one!"

"Ah, is it that serious? Does, does Bai know?" Song Yiping asked tentatively.

"I haven't told him, what use is there in telling him about this!" Zhengdong Province let go of his hand with a smile, "Frankly, I came here today to support him! You understand! If I tell him now, my situation is doomed! How would Bai remain calm today to face Mr. He then? We are brothers, I can't possibly tell him even if it kills me!"

"Yes, Zheng brother, you really are amazing!" Song Yiping adjusted his glasses and gave a thumbs up.

"It's a good thing I ran into you today!" Zhengdong Province said feelingly as he reached out and patted Song Yiping on the shoulder, "Can you ponder on it, help a brother out with a loan of three million? Or even two million will do!"

Song Yiping looked down and thought for a moment, then smiled, "No problem at all, Zheng brother helped me out a lot in college, this is nothing."

"You're a lifesaver!"

Zhengdong Province smiled, seemingly relieved.

As Lu Nan came over from the bathroom, Zhengdong Province quickly changed his expression and grabbed Song Yiping, continuing to eagerly seek advice.

The door to the private room suddenly split open to both sides, and a crowd poured in.

Leading the way, Han Dongxu strode to the front and shouted at the people inside the room.

"Mr. He Yanbing has arrived! Let's give him a warm welcome!"

Chapter 89: That Kneel_1

Han Dongxu respectfully requested the person behind him to step forward.

The man came forward with a slight smile, his handsome features exuding charm, and as he walked, he seemed to carry the aura of a leader on an inspection.

It was indeed He Yanbing!

In a flash, the men and women scattered around the private room stood up one after another, many with eager and enthusiastic smiles on their faces, walking over.

"Mr. He!"

"He!"

"Chairman He!"

Various titles burst forth, each suffused with warmth.

He Yanbing, with a friendly smile, nodded to each individual and greeted everyone.

Upon seeing He Yanbing,

the brow of Zhengdong Province furrowed into a knot, one hand clenched into a fist, the veins on the back of his hand standing out.

Song Yiping had already stood up, only to be glared at sharply by Zhengdong Province. Noticing Pangzi's clenched fist, Song hesitated for a moment before awkwardly sitting back down.

He Yanbing saw Zhengdong Province; after all, in the entire private room, the only other person still seated upon his entrance was visible there.

"This fatso seems to be doing quite well for himself,"

muttered He Yanbing, a hint of imperceptible mockery playing at the corner of his mouth. Before coming over, Han Dongxu had described him. Judging by the car Zhengdong Province drove, that level of achievement was truly insignificant in the eyes of He Yanbing.

Where is that person...?

He Yanbing scanned the room but did not find Bai Xiaosheng.

He Yanbing couldn't forget Bai Xiaosheng!

Bai Xiaosheng was the first person in his life to force him to his knees; even though there weren't a fourth person present at the time, He Yanbing forever harbored an indelible shadow in his heart.

He would remember that kneel for the rest of his life!

Within the depths of He Yanbing's eyes flickered a trace of resentment detectable only by the most observant.

At this moment, many people were crowding around He Yanbing, and those who hadn't approached mostly considered themselves a bit above the fray, but still beamed smiles from a distance.

He Yanbing's gaze finally settled on a cold, indifferent face—Lu Nan.

Behind Lu Nan, the door of the restroom opened, and a figure emerged.

He Yanbing's eyes narrowed.

There stood Bai Xiaosheng, his gaze meeting He Yanbing's across the void.

The grievances of years past, the hatred cultivated over the years.

They had finally encountered each other once more!

After a few seconds of eye contact, Zhengdong Province already had the glass ashtray from the table in his hand, waiting for the signal from Bai Xiaosheng's side to spring into action.

Song Yiping looked at Zhengdong Province with terror, his complexion turning somewhat pale.

The others also noticed the staring match between the two men and consequently shut their mouths.

The atmosphere quieted down to an eerie level.

"Haha, Bai Xiaosheng, long time no see!" He Yanbing broke the silence, laughing as he strode towards Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng also smiled, but his smile was brimming with coldness.

"Chairman He, with your connections reaching to the heavens, long time no see!" Bai Xiaosheng walked over as well.

Their mutual animosity was once widely known.

The people in the private room tensed up immediately.

Han Dongxu, Zhengdong Province, and Lu Nan watched closely, ready to spring into action at the first sign of conflict!

Contrary to everyone's expectations, when He Yanbing and Bai Xiaosheng were just two meters apart, they simultaneously stopped, each wearing a smile.

"I didn't expect you'd come, but now that you're here, I'm truly delighted from the bottom of my heart!" He Yanbing said, smiling.

"How could I not come when you're the host!" Bai Xiaosheng responded with a smile.

The two men smiled at each other, making small talk.

Yet the atmosphere was incredibly eerie.

People in the distance couldn't help but whisper among themselves.

"Mr. He, what could he possibly have to talk about with that Bai Xiaosheng!"

"Exactly, that Bai Xiaosheng is scum. Didn't you know, he embezzled money from the student council back in school!"

"And look at that guy from Zhengdong Province beside him. His eyes light up at the sight of a woman. He even had the audacity to go to the girls' dormitory and act like a hooligan!"

"Birds of a feather flock together, all the rotten ones hang out in the same crowd!"

"Look at them now, one on top of the world and the other a bottom-dwelling scoundrel, what a difference..."

The murmuring made Han Dongxu's smile when looking at Bai Xiaosheng fill with a touch of cold contempt and satisfaction.

Zheng Pangzi turned pale with anger, about to stand up, but was heavily pressed down by a hand.

Lu Nan shook his head slightly.

He Yanbing took two more steps forward, with a smile on his face and in a lowered voice, he said, "Vice Chairman Bai, I didn't expect you to be so famous! After all these years, they still remember your deeds vividly. I reckon even in ten years, you'll still be a celebrity of our school. Congratulations!"

"Perhaps, but you might not be around to see that day." Bai Xiaosheng reached into his pocket, pulling something out.

He Yanbing's face changed suddenly, and he stepped back two steps quickly.

"What are you trying to do, I'm telling you, don't do anything rash!"

Bai Xiaosheng looked at him indifferently and took out a cellphone to check the newest text message.

The content made Bai Xiaosheng smile.

He Yanbing's face began to look ugly.

In terms of imposing presence, he was still far from a match for this Bai Xiaosheng, even after all these years, even though he was now doing a thousand times better than this wretch!

This made He Yanbing feel uncomfortable and angry!

Years ago, it was he who ruthlessly betrayed Bai Xiaosheng, but every time he felt triumphant, he would remember that scene in the grove where he kneeled down.

He begged for mercy, to Bai Xiaosheng, even to worthless people like Zheng Pangzi. This humiliation, accompanied by his moments of pleasure, always attacked He Yanbing at the same time.

Over the years, he had been unable to forget!

That's why he organized this class reunion; by all means necessary, he wanted to invite Bai Xiaosheng over.

This time, he wanted to thoroughly crush Bai Xiaosheng!

But he never expected to be thrown off balance just by a small gesture from Bai Xiaosheng!

He Yanbing's expression turned dark as he began to drop his pretense.

"Bai Xiaosheng, all these years, you've been a thorn in my side. That kneel down from back then, you need to return it to me, and do it publicly in front of everyone!"

He Yanbing approached once again, lowering his voice and speaking fiercely to Bai Xiaosheng, his eyes exceedingly sharp.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at He Yanbing, also in a lowered voice. "The way you kneeled down back then was quite good, quite standard. But I've kind of forgotten. Maybe if you demonstrate it again, I might remember."

"We'll see about that!" He Yanbing bared his white teeth as he spoke.

After speaking, He Yanbing seemed to think of something and let out a dark chuckle.

"Actually, there's a secret I've been wanting to tell you for a long time, but I never had the chance."

Bai Xiaosheng raised an eyebrow slightly.

"Do you know why you were able to get that graduation certificate back then?"

Bai Xiaosheng's brows furrowed slightly.

Back then, the graduation certificate was supposed to be withheld. It was Zheng Pangzi who had intervened on his behalf to retrieve it.

How it was retrieved, Zheng Pangzi didn't say, and Bai Xiaosheng never asked.

But now thinking about it, there was a big problem!

Bai Xiaosheng stared intently at He Yanbing.

This expression gave He Yanbing a sense of satisfaction.

"Let me tell you then, back then, that fat jerk stole yours while no one was looking, taking it out pretending it was his own. After giving it to you, you left the school, and nobody could contact you. Afterwards, there was a punishment for him as well, you didn't know that, did you!

Zheng Pangzi was the one who had both his graduation certificate and degree revoked!

One could say it was because of you that his life was ruined!

Also, back then he begged me to let you go. That kneel down he did, you didn't see it, but everyone present was a witness!"

Chapter 90 Unparalleled Scenery_1

He Yanbing's words left Bai Xiaosheng stunned.

He had always thought that he was the most miserable one, but he never imagined Zhengdong Province had endured so much more than him!

And Zhengdong Province had never mentioned a word about it to him!

Bai Xiaosheng clenched his fists, his eyes becoming extremely terrifying.

He Yanbing let out a cold laugh and took the opportunity to retreat, increasing the distance from Bai Xiaosheng. By the time Bai Xiaosheng came back to his senses, He Yanbing had already returned to the crowd with a smile on his face, looking at Bai Xiaosheng with a sense of satisfaction in his eyes.

Without saying a word, Bai Xiaosheng turned around and went back to sit across from the fat man, where Zhengdong Province and the others were.

"Lao Bai, what did He Yanbing say to you?" Zhengdong Province asked, noticing Bai Xiaosheng's unsightly face.

Bai Xiaosheng was silent for a moment, then gave Zhengdong Province a smile.

"He didn't say anything."

Zhengdong Province had no reason to doubt Bai Xiaosheng's words, but Lu Nan gave Bai Xiaosheng a deep look.

"Whenever you want to make your move, just say the word. I'm ready!" Zhengdong Province grinned, showing Bai Xiaosheng the glass ashtray he was holding in his hand.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled at him and waved his hand.

"Be patient, the best is yet to come," Bai Xiaosheng whispered, "This time, I think the principal with interest is not enough!"

Bai Xiaosheng's voice was very soft, but it was even more chilling than the cold air of an ice cave.

Song Yiping couldn't help but shiver, his complexion slightly unnatural.

"Brother Bai, do you have a plan?" Song Yiping asked tentatively.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at him calmly and smiled indifferently without saying a word.

Song Yiping felt awkward and had no choice but to let it go.

In the Mingzhu Tower's kitchen, Chen Ming went straight to the chef in charge.

"Is the food for Qingyun Pavilion prepared?" Chen Ming asked.

"It's all ready and can be served at any time," the chef replied respectfully.

"Let me check."

Following the chef's guidance, Chen Ming inspected the dishes, frowning slightly.

The boss had repeated several times, saying that Bai Xiaosheng's visit was like his own; it was their first time, and they had to give plenty of face.

"Don't serve these anymore, use the luxury suite standard," Chen Ming instructed.

"The luxury suite standard?" The chef was surprised, "But the price difference is huge. Just the dishes alone are enough to cover all expenses for the standard suite, this..."

Chen Ming cast a cold glance at the chef.

The chef immediately shrank back and lowered his head.

"Prepare it now and don't delay me a minute. Otherwise, you know the consequences," Chen Ming dropped the words and left.

The chef couldn't help wiping the sweat from his forehead.

This "General Manager", truly autocratic, often followed disagreements with extremely terrifying punishments!

However, in terms of rewards, it was also exceedingly generous. The treatment at Mingzhu Tower was considered "terrifying" by outsiders; many people were desperate to get in but couldn't.

Those inside would fight tooth and nail not to leave.

The chef dared not neglect the task and hurriedly signaled his subordinates to start working together, even temporarily using ingredients reserved for other luxury suites if need be.

Inside Qingyun Pavilion.

A round table large enough for forty people had been set up, with everyone seated around it.

In other star-rated hotels, a twenty-person table was already quite large.

Such an extravagantly large table was probably only available here.

He Yanbing and Bai Xiaosheng took their seats, facing each other.

Most people jostled to be closer to He Yanbing, trying to stay as far from Bai Xiaosheng as possible. If they happened to be seated near him, they would even shift their seats to leave a gap, indicating their allegiance to He Yanbing and that they were not on Bai Xiaosheng's side.

Only Zhengdong Province, Lu Nan, and Song Yiping, who was seated next to Zhengdong Province, were by Bai Xiaosheng's side.

Han Dongxu stood next to He Yanbing, his face flushed with success, speaking enthusiastically.

"For this reunion, we must first and foremost thank, indeed, the person who deserves our greatest thanks, our own Mr. He Yanbing, also our student union chairman!" Han Dongxu's enthusiasm bubbled over, "Mr. He was exceptional during his college days, a true hero among men! Everyone knows this, so I won't bother introducing him further."

"Yes, Brother He is outstanding, talented, and has always been our idol."

"I used to have such a crush on Chairman He; it's just that he never noticed me. Ah, it really broke my heart."

"In the whole department, no, the entire school, I'm afraid there's no man who can match up to Brother Bing."

Men and women alike were flattering almost to the point of worship.

Bai Xiaosheng looked on calmly while Zhengdong province sneered and Lu Nan said nothing.

Han Dongxu surveyed his surroundings, casting a glance at Bai Xiaosheng and his group, his eyes filled with disdain.

"Next, I'd like to highlight to everyone Mr. He's brilliant achievements recently," Han Dongxu said with pride.

"Not to mention the distant past, just this month, Mr. He helped his company secure several million-dollar deals with big companies in the city, including Ai's Group, totaling over twenty million!"

A month, deals worth twenty million!

Everyone gasped in awe.

He Yanbing wore a smile, his expression extremely proud.

Bai Xiaosheng had a faint smile on his face.

He had only found out about this news through Red Lotus yesterday.

"Ladies and gentlemen, do you know how much commission Mr. He earned this month?" Han Dongxu looked around at the crowd.

Around him, there was a chorus of swallowing noises.

"I think Zhengdong should know since the money Mr. He made in a month is enough to buy him two cars. Just how long did old Zheng save to buy his car, several years?" Han Dongxu laughed heartily.

Laughter erupted from those around them.

Zhengdong's face turned green.

"That's nothing, just yesterday, Mr. He received not one, but two pieces of great news!" Han Dongxu shouted with excitement.

"What good news?"

The crowd's eyes sparkled, wondering what could possibly be more impressive than securing twenty million in deals.

"First, yesterday at noon, the boss of Century Construction, Shang Wenshu, personally called to indicate his consent to accept Mr. He's 'partner' plan, allowing his own private company to invest, and they signed a letter of intent that very evening!" Han Dongxu couldn't help swallowing saliva.

Besides being a deputy general manager of a company, He Yanbing also owned a quite profitable private company.

"Century Construction? That's a huge company!"

"I heard it's a wholly-owned subsidiary of a big group, they're rolling in money!"

"Exactly, officials from the city government often visit for inspections!"

The crowd erupted into a lively discussion.

Even Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but be filled with emotion, having learned just yesterday about He Yanbing's negotiations with several large enterprises for a 'partner' plan, including Century Construction, he too was astonished.

This He Yanbing, his ambitions reached the sky!

"However, the company demanded twice the valuation of Mr. He's private company to invest," Han Dongxu continued.

The crowd marveled at the strict demands of the big company.

"So, Mr. He proposed a mortgage loan to the city bank that day and discussed with the bank president, negotiating for exceptional treatment!"

Those present inhaled sharply, with Song Yiping's eyes revealing a flicker of brightness.

"Was it successful?" someone nervously asked.

Han Dongxu's smile bloomed.

"Of course it was successful, do you know who Mr. He is?" Han Dongxu declared proudly, "That's the second big happy event!"

"But, to sign a letter of intent and receive the loan within one day, is that possible?" someone questioned.

Exceptional treatment, could it really mean a loan within one day?

Han Dongxu looked at the person and scoffed, "Mr. He has plenty of friends, is it a problem to borrow some short-term funds? Once the bank makes the loan, you just pay back the borrowed money, that's all there is to it."

Borrowing a small amount is, of course, not an issue, but for a large capital, He Yanbing must have borrowed from social capital — high-interest loans.

"Impressive, Mr. He!"

"Congratulations to Mr. He for making a fortune!"

The crowd around them was abuzz.

He Yanbing was unmatched in his glory, laughing proudly at Bai Xiaosheng.

See that, Bai Xiaosheng? This is the power of He Yanbing! Within a single day, finance, politics, and business open the green lights for me!

Can you, Bai Xiaosheng, do it?

