

Two Trillion 871

Chapter 871 I Want to Snatch This Order

Bai Xiaosheng and his two companions hailed a taxi and left. In the car, Lin Weiwei said, "That person just now was truly outspoken. Such a person would probably suffer in the workplace!"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled upon hearing this.

"Weiwei, do you think humans are simple creatures?"

"Huh?" Lin Weiwei was startled and muttered, "Some people have said that humans are advanced animals."

While speaking, Lin Weiwei had an idea and said, "Are you trying to say that the human heart is complex, and what he lets you see is only what you think you see?"

"It's not as dramatic as you say. What you're talking about sounds a bit like a conspiracy theory," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile and a distant look, "However, he isn't someone who can't adapt, who's straightforward to a fault."

"Later on, we both praised each other. A truly outspoken and naive person wouldn't change their stance so quickly."

"Plus, I could see from his eyes—he was very confident! If we did things his way, he could come up with a hundred methods to save that person from trouble and achieve his goal. And I, too, have many ways to achieve my goal in my own manner."

Bai Xiaosheng spoke as though he held Lin Yu in high regard.

This was the first time he had ever thought so highly of a peer on his journey so far.

Lin Weiwei was somewhat skeptical and muttered, "You two are both so impressive it's unbelievable, then why didn't you guys continue the conversation at that time?"

Bai Xiaosheng gave a wry smile, "That wasn't our candidate for giving advice. He was already down for the count. Arguing would have been pointless!"

"Even if that person wasn't drunk, us two self-proclaimed smart people probably couldn't have helped him," Bai Xiaosheng sighed. "Even the best plan and strategy need to be executed well by someone. That drunkard couldn't do it!"

"That person, from the way he drowned his sorrows in alcohol, vented his grievances to strangers while drunk, yet still dared not curse his boss and even didn't dare to mention names, it's clear—he's been repressed for too long, and his fear of his boss is deeply ingrained. Even drunk, his subconscious was still filled with fear. How could such a person possibly carry out any plan of retaliation?" Bai Xiaosheng shook his head.

Lin Weiwei seemed to realize something and then nodded, "So from what you're saying, Xiaosheng, your method would have been more suitable for that person!"

"Let it be, it's pointless to talk about it now." Bai Xiaosheng smiled and said no more.

Quite coincidentally.

At that very moment, Shen Peishen was also discussing the same topic with Lin Yu.

Shen Peishen's views were in agreement with Bai Xiaosheng's.

"Lin Yu, you overlooked something. No matter how good the plan, what's crucial is the executor's ability to carry it out. I know you have many ways to help that drunkard protect himself and even blow the whistle, and you've even taken the timing into consideration. However, you missed one thing— that drunkard could never fully implement what you envisioned. It would be difficult to even get thirty percent done," Shen Peishen lamented. "In this regard, you are indeed not as good as that young man. He was calculating, knew the right timing, and more importantly, he knew how to move people's hearts!"

Lin Yu nodded.

Despite nodding, there was a flicker of unwillingness in his eyes.

Hearing his teacher say he was inferior, he felt a sense of defiance.

Shen Peishen saw it in a glance, smiled, and said, "You know about Jing Ke's assassination attempt on the King of Qin, right? During the Warring States period, Jing Ke, armed with the map of Yan and the head of Fan Yuqi, along with Qin Wuyang, went to Qin to assassinate King Ying Zheng. Qin Wuyang is recorded in 'The Biographies of the Assassin-Retainers' of the Historical Records as 'A warrior from Yan named Qin Wuyang, who at thirteen, killed a man, and none dared to cross him.' But what happened when he saw King Ying Zheng? He trembled with fear, which made King Ying Zheng suspicious, leading to the order that only Jing Ke should come forward to present the map. One could say the assassination's failure was tied to him."

"A good plan improves the result," Shen Peishen chuckled. "The right plan allows the executor to achieve their maximum potential and reach a satisfactory outcome."

"The difference between you and that young man is precisely the difference between a 'good plan' and the 'right plan'."

After Shen Peishen's words, Lin Yu nodded, "I've learned my lesson, teacher!"

While the mentor and student were talking, the assistants who had taken the drunk to the hotel hurried back.

"Zhang, what took you so long?" Lin Yu couldn't help but ask.

The assistant called Zhang was Shen Peishen's assistant, Zhang Yu.

"I helped get the person settled into a room." Zhang Yu replied, then added, "Also, we found out some news!"

"Oh?"

Such words from Zhang Yu surprised Lin Yu.

Zhang Yu wouldn't delay without good reason.

"That drunkard is a vice president of Yunfeng Business Management! Yunfeng is a subsidiary of the group and is very powerful locally," Zhang Yu said.

Lin Yu was somewhat startled and couldn't help but exchange a glance with Shen Peishen beside him.

"After knowing his identity, his drunken words concerned me, so I made a call to headquarters to inquire," he said.

Zhang Yu, being an assistant to Shen Peishen, was highly shrewd and perceptive, always investigating issues thoroughly at first suspicion.

"Go on," Shen Peishen said.

"The news from headquarters is that Officer Lin Ke's assistant has uncovered a problem at Yunfeng Business Management, an issue with the accounts. It seems someone will come to investigate in the next two days," Zhang Yu said, "Using your authority, I acquired the report of the problem that was submitted at the time. Have a look!"

Zhang Yu handed over the phone displaying the problem report submitted to headquarters by Lin Ke's assistant.

The problems were clearly laid out.

However, there was no evidence.

"Also, I asked Officer Lin Ke's side about it, and it appears there are problems with the evidence and materials they've collected, which are still being sorted out. It will take another two days," Zhang Yu continued.

Now it was clear.

Lin Yu nodded.

Shen Peishen laughed, "This really is a serendipitous opportunity. But it seems there's no need for us to worry. Officer Lin Ke is still reliable in handling matters."

"Yes," Lin Yu nodded as well. He had a lot of respect for this young lady from his own family.

"Oh, right, there's more," Zhang Yu went on, "We also learned from Officer Lin Ke that she has entrusted someone else to take over. This person, I believe, will interest both of you."

"Who is it?" Shen Peishen asked casually.

Officer Bai Xiaosheng!" Zhang Yu said.

"Bai Xiaosheng?!" Both Shen Peishen and Lin Yu were taken aback, somewhat surprised.

Lin Yu had been discussing this person over dinner and wanted to meet him. He hadn't expected the opportunity to arise so soon!

A light of excitement and a fighting spirit seemed to radiate from Lin Yu's eyes.

Have you asked Officer Lin Ke if all the materials are in order, what are the chances of making the other party confess?" Lin Yu asked.

"Not high, forty percent. Officer Lin Ke said that the rest of the issues need to be tackled by Officer Bai Xiaosheng himself," Zhang Yu replied.

Lin Yu clenched his fists in excitement and turned to Shen Peishen, "It seems that that drunken vice president misspoke! The people coming to investigate—Officer Bai Xiaosheng and his team—won't be making a move until two days later."

"Teacher, this time, I'd like to compete with him!" Lin Yu said excitedly and earnestly. "I want to take this case!"

Shen Peishen looked at his student without surprise and smiled, "Are you serious?"

Lin Yu nodded.

"Then have some fun, consider it a sparring match between you young people!"

Chapter 872 - : Striking at the Same Time

Bai Xiaosheng and his two companions arrived at Junyu Hotel. While they were asking about their reserved room at the front desk, a man walked over, looked at Bai Xiaosheng, who was leading the group, and smiled, "Are you Officer Bai Xiaosheng?"

Bai Xiaosheng sized up the man.

The man appeared to be around forty, of average build, and had a plain and unremarkable face, just like any low-level employee in a company.

"Who are you?"

"I'm an investigator working with Officer Lin Ke. My name is Zhang Hao." The man smiled, "I've been waiting for you!"

"Great, let's go talk in the room," Bai Xiaosheng smiled back at him.

The room was actually booked by Zhang Hao, who naturally knew the way and led Bai Xiaosheng and the others there.

The hotel had a cooperation agreement with the affairs department, and all of the information about Bai Xiaosheng and his colleagues was on file with the department, making the reservation process very simple.

Not only here, but in every city, there is a group of high-standard hotels with which agreements are signed, available for use by the dispatched personnel of the affairs department.

Having arrived at the room, Bai Xiaosheng and his companions had a detailed chat with Zhang Hao.

"So, all the evidence and materials are in place, and there's only a forty percent certainty?" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but laugh, "Lin Ke didn't put it that way to me. She said she was doing me a huge favor and even mentioned that I would owe her."

Zhang Hao smiled, "Officer Bai, this exactly shows Officer Lin Ke's trust in you. Moreover, you have a far-reaching reputation at headquarters. These issues, for someone like you, are surely just a matter of reaching out and grabbing, aren't they?"

Zhang Hao's words were not simply flattery; his eyes revealed a gleam of eagerness when he looked at Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng truly was someone known to everybody and unknown to none at the Greater China Region Headquarters.

A New-type Affairs Officer, with significant power, able to hold accountable his peers and even question a Senior Affairs Officer's actions.

Moreover, upon assuming his role, Bai Xiaosheng achieved what ninety-nine percent of other affairs officers would find difficult to accomplish in their entire careers—he brought down both a regional chief and a provincial industrial chief.

This was an unprecedented performance, one that was likely unsurpassable in the future.

In the eyes of many, Bai Xiaosheng was already a legendary figure.

To have the opportunity to sit and discuss matters with such a person made Zhang Hao feel proud, as if he had gained a lot of conversational capital.

"By the way, I have a document here outlining all the issues that were discovered at the time. Although we don't have the evidence, you can take a look first." Zhang Hao handed a USB drive to Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng took it, nodded, and passed it to Lin Weiwei.

Actually, just having the issues was enough; with those, they could gradually corner the opposition.

"Also, Zhang Kai, the general manager of Yunfeng Business Management, is hosting a networking dinner two days from now to welcome the investigators from above, your group," Zhang Hao said with a smile, "I heard it's an informal gathering and some people from outside have also been invited to participate."

Bai Xiaosheng nodded, not particularly concerned.

"It's at a restaurant called 'Song Time'," Zhang Hao continued.

Song Time!

Bai Xiaosheng was instantly taken aback.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying also wore expressions of disbelief.

"What's the matter?" Seeing their faces, Zhang Hao was momentarily stunned and asked.

"Nothing," Bai Xiaosheng gave him a smile, "We had lunch there at noon."

"What a coincidence!" Zhang Hao exclaimed in surprise.

"We even ran into the vice president of Yunfeng Business Management!" Bai Xiaosheng added.

"Ah!" Zhang Hao was also surprised.

The world was really too small. Bai Xiaosheng marveled.

Who could have thought that the drunk was actually the deputy general manager of Yunfeng Business Management, and those fabricated documents were just to dupe them.

It seemed that Zhang Kai and the others had also sensed the severity of the situation. Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

Actually, it might have been Lin Ke who let the cat out of the bag, wanting to either "knock the mountain to shock the tiger" or "beat the grass to startle the snake."

"No matter if the other party is a tiger or a snake, now that we are here, there's nowhere for him to run!" Bai Xiaosheng silently vowed.

After some more chatter, Zhang Hao glanced at the time and stood up with a smile, "Officer Bai, it's time for me to leave. If it gets any later, I'm afraid I might miss the train."

"Alright, I wish you a smooth journey." Bai Xiaosheng stood up to lead the way and shook hands with Zhang Hao.

Zhang Hao felt somewhat flattered.

After seeing him off, Lin Weiwei joked, "Xiaosheng, I think you've underestimated yourself."

"Underestimated what?" Bai Xiaosheng asked, puzzled.

"You underestimated yourself! Didn't you notice how Zhang Hao, though he spoke with a relaxed tone and his words were quite normal, sat with utmost respect? His admiration for you was clear for all to see!" Lin Weiwei said, somewhat proudly.

"Really?" Bai Xiaosheng expressed in surprise.

He hadn't noticed it, or perhaps his attention was on the information rather than on Zhang Hao himself.

"Anyway, you're a celebrity now!" Lin Weiwei laughed.

"What's the use of that? Whether I'm a celebrity or a nobody, there's work to be done." Bai Xiaosheng smiled, nodding towards the USB drive in Lin Weiwei's hand, "Let's first look at the issue and discuss where to start our investigation from."

"We can't rely solely on those pieces of evidence and materials; we need to practice our skills so that when we spot a problem, we can strike directly and leave the opponent with no place to hide!" Bai Xiaosheng declared.

This was an opportunity, an opportunity for training, to train Lin Weiwei, to train Lei Ying, and also himself.

"It feels like quite a challenge." Lei Ying patted his neck, twisting it so that the joints popped.

He had never imagined that one day, he would be so engrossed in corporate affairs rather than in martial arts.

"Let's start." Lin Weiwei ran to get her laptop and connected it to power and the internet.

The three of them sat together and began to examine the document on the USB drive that Zhang Hao had given them, delving into the issues.

For each issue, Bai Xiaosheng painstakingly dissected and discussed it with the two others, trying to approach it from different angles to "breach the fortress."

During this process, Bai Xiaosheng encouraged the two to share their own views and feelings.

Even if Lei Ying's contributions were somewhat rough and sometimes off-topic.

Bai Xiaosheng patiently provided guidance, affirming what was worthy and then leading the discussion.

In turn, under Lin Weiwei's inspiration, he continuously expanded his own thinking.

That day, right up until dinner, the three of them were engrossed in their research, almost forgetting to eat and sleep.

Meanwhile, Shen Peishen and Lin Yu were also diligently studying.

Shen Peishen would offer advice, sometimes with just a single phrase, but with his abilities, it often opened up a new direction.

Additionally, with the privileges Shen Peishen held in the Affairs Office, whenever Lin Yu needed any relevant information, such as past accounts, it was a trivial matter.

In the following two days, both Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Yu, in their own ways, strived to overcome their adversary.

Zhang Kai of Yunfeng Business Management could never have expected that a mere manager of one of his subsidiaries could mobilize two of the most outstanding officers from the Affairs Department to expend so much effort on him.

If he knew, he might have no regrets.

Two days later.

The welcoming cocktail party that Zhang Kai had arranged for the investigation committee was about to begin.

Chapter 873: Sun Zicheng with a Brilliant Plan

At 6 p.m., in a guest room, Su Lingyu was resting.

She had arrived in JinPing with Jiang Yue yesterday, dragged by Jiang Yue to attend a cocktail party.

They were currently staying at Jiang Yue's aunt's house.

Jiang Yue burst into the room, gleefully showing off her outfit, "Does it look good!"

The red lace umbrella dress, paired with the hairstyle Jiang Yue had gotten done during the day, made her look very elegant and feminine.

Jiang Yue's makeup was also exceptionally exquisite, making her look cuter than ever.

"Not bad." Su Lingyu gave a faint smile.

"Just 'not bad'?!" Jiang Yue seemed dissatisfied with such plain praise, "You should say 'Stunningly beautiful, you enchanting little fairy.' You know, when you compliment someone, can't you be a bit more serious!"

Su Lingyu chuckled, shrugged her shoulders, "I'll remember for next time."

"Are you still thinking about that guy who left without even leaving his contact information?" Jiang Yue sighed, sat down beside Su Lingyu, hesitated but still said, "Actually, there's something I've wanted to say. Actually, I... I like him quite a lot too."

Jiang Yue's tone was somewhat sheepish.

Su Lingyu smiled, "I know."

"You know?" Jiang Yue looked at Su Lingyu in surprise.

"Whatever's in your heart shows on your face, how can I not see it?" Su Lingyu said with a smile, "But what of it? Just because I like him doesn't mean you can't. If that were so, I'd be far too domineering."

Jiang Yue couldn't help but wrap her arm around Su Lingyu's.

Childhood friend, best girlfriend, her dear sister Su Lingyu was truly a blessing in her life.

"But, that guy said he also has someone he likes!" Jiang Yue sighed softly.

Su Lingyu fell silent.

"Alright, don't think about it anymore. If it's meant to be, we'll meet him again, and we can talk then! Besides, he's not married, so neither law nor morality forbids us from pursuing happiness," Jiang Yue said with a smile. "And remember, we're going to my uncle's company party tonight, so let's be happy and look pretty."

Jiang Yue got up as she spoke, looked at herself in the mirror, and exclaimed, "My brows seem a bit off, can you fix them for me, auntie?"

After shouting out, Jiang Yue dashed off like the wind.

Su Lingyu couldn't help but smile, stood up, and looked at herself in the mirror, took a deep breath, and then slowly exhaled.

"Be happy!" Su Lingyu told her reflection.

In the living room.

Jiang Yue was having her brows done by a plump woman with round cheeks.

The woman was all smiles, "Oh my, you're already beautiful, my little fairy. Tonight, you plan to steal the spotlight from all the women, don't you?"

This woman was Jiang Yue's aunt, Jiang Yuxiu.

"How could that be? I can't match auntie's grace!" Jiang Yue said with a playful smile, before rushing back to show her newly-done brows to her best friend.

"Wife, come help me with my tie," a voice sounded from the study.

"Coming." Jiang Yuxiu shouted back and went to the study.

Inside the study, a man was adjusting his tie in the mirror.

If Bai Xiaosheng saw him, he would be amazed. This uncle of Jiang Yue's was none other than the drunk he had seen, and he was also one of the vice presidents of Yunfeng Business Management, Sun Zicheng.

"This looks quite good as it is, why fuss over it?" Jiang Yuxiu looked it over and found it satisfactory.

"Better to make it perfect, today's occasion is quite important," Sun Zicheng muttered.

Two days earlier, in a strange incident, he felt as if he had fallen into a drunken dream.

In the dream, two people whose faces he couldn't see were whispering in his ear, giving him advice.

Sun Zicheng was befuddled, catching only the gist of it.

One voice told him to report his findings, to denounce the general manager.

That was an absolute impossibility, even if it killed him he wouldn't have the courage!

Another voice suggested he communicate with the general manager and take the fall willingly.

They say that inside a person's mind, there are two little figures who start fussing and fuming whenever a difficult situation arises.

Sun Zicheng felt that it might have been their doing.

But upon waking up and thinking it over, the stuff was indeed gone, and if he didn't proactively shoulder the blame, that black pot would still be his to bear.

So Sun Zicheng rushed to the general manager's side, determined to take responsibility for the issue in one breath.

Somehow, after the initial shock, General Manager Zhang Kai didn't berate or threaten him like before; instead, he said they would take it one step at a time and that he would try his best to protect him.

At this point, Sun Zicheng had nothing more to say.

However, under long-term "oppression," Sun Zicheng had also thought of a "brilliant plan" to change the situation.

This banquet was an opportunity, and he was going to use that "brilliant plan" to win over General Manager Zhang Kai!

Come to think of it, he had even suggested this move to his good friend Su Dazhong before.

That is—arranged marriage!

Su Lingyu and Jiang Yue were good friends, and naturally, their fathers also got along well. By a stroke of fate, Sun Zicheng got to know Su Dazhong.

Both were elites in their careers, both looking to expand their circle of friends. Moreover, though Sun Zicheng's company had no direct dealings with Su Dazhong's, they were still under the same conglomerate, which meant they were related.

Therefore, after back and forth interactions, Sun Zicheng and Su Dazhong naturally became friends.

Because of their similar situations, Sun Zicheng and Su Dazhong became "good" friends who could talk about anything.

Back then, Su Dazhong simply thought that Han Xuancheng was being harsh on him because of work and felt that the Han Family wasn't too bad. Han Chen had the looks, which was why he thought of matchmaking them.

If Su Dazhong had known then what kind of men Han Xuancheng and his son were, how they'd go to any lengths against him, he would have never agreed to hurt his own daughter.

Of course, in the end, the arranged marriage between the Su and Han families failed.

Sun Zicheng only found out yesterday when the two girls came over.

However, Su Dazhong's misfortune turned into a blessing, which could not help but make him envious.

"This is truly a case of comparison leading to frustration!" Sun Zicheng couldn't help but sigh.

The only unlucky one left was himself.

But the fact that Su Dazhong's arranged marriage failed doesn't mean the tactic itself wasn't effective!

Throughout history, so many marriages have been arranged, whether among the wealthy, the royal families, or even between countries, this tactic has been frequently employed.

Therefore, Sun Zicheng firmly believed it was feasible.

Only, he had encouraged Su Dazhong to use this tactic with his own daughter.

Whereas the one he was going to use was—Jiang Yuxiu's niece, Jiang Yue!

Jiang Yue could probably never imagine that her aunt and uncle inviting her so warmly to attend the banquet, even repeatedly inviting her over, and afterwards, her aunt Jiang Yuxiu taking her to get her hair done and shopping for clothes, was all for the purpose of—setting up an arranged marriage with her!

Of course, it wouldn't be appropriate to talk about arranged marriages in this day and age, so they should use a different term—matchmaking!

Jiang Yue couldn't even begin to fathom that her beautiful photos had already been sent to General Manager Zhang Kai by Sun Zicheng a few days before.

This time, even though Sun Zicheng made a big mistake, Zhang Kai didn't rebuke him too harshly.

On one hand, it was because Sun Zicheng took the initiative to bear the blame, and on the other, Zhang Kai had seriously looked over Jiang Yue's photos these past few days.

And he liked her, a lot!

Moreover, yesterday Zhang Kai had made it a special point to remind Sun Zicheng that he must bring her along.

"Is it really going to be okay to just take her up to the banquet like that? After all, you're introducing her as a potential match, shouldn't you speak to Yue about it first?" Jiang Yuxiu couldn't help but say while helping her husband get ready.

She always felt that she was doing a good deed, that this was a good thing; she was seeking happiness for her niece.

Of course, it would also conveniently help her husband out of a difficult situation.

"Don't you meddle! When the General Manager interacts with your niece, there's a better chance sparks will fly. If you mention matchmaking, the young lady might not take kindly to it!" Sun Zicheng flatly rejected.

He was afraid that Jiang Yue would get angry and develop a resistant attitude.

"Our General Manager is a handsome and wealthy man, could a young girl possibly resist the charm of a successful man?" Sun Zicheng laughed, "Don't worry, this is going to work out for sure!"

Chapter 874: Just a Guest Today

At seven in the evening, there was still one hour until the official start of the cocktail party.

The restaurant called "Song Time" had been booked for the cocktail party venue.

The cocktail party was on the first floor, and a dinner was prepared on the second floor. Both the cocktail party and the banquet were planned without interference from each other.

The lobby on the first floor was already set up, with the band and lighting in place, and many guests had even arrived.

Among these guests were those from Yunfeng Business Management as well as local dignitaries.

Entry required an invitation, and there was someone at the door to check.

It can be said that those who could enter were of extraordinary status, even the seemingly youthful ones had significant backing that should not be underestimated.

Bai Xiaosheng sat in a corner, smiling with a glass of sweet wine, sipping it occasionally.

He had arrived a quarter of an hour ago, naturally by invitation.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were not present. They were the "investigators" sent by the higher-ups, going directly to Yunfeng Business Management, where they would be received with great honor and attended as the main figures.

Today, Bai Xiaosheng was merely a "guest."

As a distinguished Affairs Officer, and a New-type Affairs Officer at that, he could not possibly lead a team personally to investigate a subsidiary's general manager. That would be giving too much honor to the latter and devaluing his own status.

Hence, he went directly to the venue.

If all went as expected, the entirety of the investigation would be conducted by Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, with him orchestrating from behind the scenes.

As for where the invitation came from, that was too easy.

If Bai Xiaosheng wished, securing not just one but ten or eight invitations was no big deal.

For now, listening to elegant music and tasting delicious cocktails, Bai Xiaosheng was like a spectator, waiting for the exciting performance to unfold.

Of course, he did not plan to show his power directly at the cocktail party.

After all, not everyone here was from his own camp; there were outsiders present, and as the saying goes, "family disgrace should not be aired publicly."

"Once the cocktail party is over, we will begin the interrogation of Zhang Kai." Bai Xiaosheng, looking at the enticing liquid in his glass, thought to himself.

At this very moment, at the headquarters of Yunfeng Business Management.

A business car drove up and stopped at the entrance. This was the vehicle Yunfeng Business Management used to pick up people from the high-speed train station.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying had also "just arrived" in JinPeng today.

Downstairs at the headquarters of Yunfeng Business Management, a slightly bald, well-built man was smiling broadly. Seeing the car come to a stop, he hurriedly led people forward to greet them.

He was Zhang Kai, the general manager of Yunfeng Business Management.

Despite being bald, Zhang Kai had an above-average appearance. Because he was the general manager, he even had a certain demeanor that made him quite presentable.

When Lin Weiwei stepped out of the car wearing sunglasses, Zhang Kai's eyes lit up.

He hadn't expected a beautiful woman to be sent from above.

However, when Lin Weiwei took off her sunglasses and greeted him, Zhang Kai abandoned any inappropriate thoughts.

This woman was strikingly beautiful and aristocratic, an elite from above, not someone he, a mere local company's general manager, could conquer.

The man who exited the vehicle after her gave Zhang Kai a start.

Instead of calling him a colleague of the beauty, he might better be described as her bodyguard, given his formidable build.

Zhang Kai warmly welcomed Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying and took them to his office to sit for a while.

After chatting for a while, and seeing that the time was almost right, Zhang Kai invited them to the cocktail party.

"Mr. Zhang could go ahead, we should first settle our belongings at the hotel," Lin Weiwei suggested.

To "show" that they had just arrived, they still had their luggage with them.

"Actually, I could have someone take your belongings there for you," Zhang Kai suggested with a smile.

"No need," Lin Weiwei declined politely.

Considering the guests might be carrying valuable items and needed to settle them personally, Zhang Kai did not insist.

"Very well, I'll have someone take you both to the hotel. I'll head to the banquet first and await your arrival there," Zhang Kai said.

Lin Weiwei nodded in agreement.

Subsequently, Zhang Kai arranged for a car to take them, while he himself took another vehicle to the banquet.

About fifteen minutes later, Zhang Kai's car stopped in the parking lot of the "Song Time" hotel.

As he got out, he suddenly heard a woman's voice nearby, "Mr. Zhang, you just arrived?!"

Zhang Kai looked over.

Next to a car, Jiang Yuxiu was all smiles, greeting him.

The company had held a get-together before, and the executives had brought their families, so they all knew each other.

"Sister-in-law, did you just arrive too?" Facing Jiang Yuxiu, Zhang Kai greeted her cheerfully and appeared quite amiable.

More importantly, he knew who would be coming with Jiang Yuxiu.

Zhang Kai stared at the car door, and sure enough, two girls emerged from it.

One had delicate features like a lotus in clear water, graceful yet her figure was flawless.

The other was not a bit less striking, her face adorned with a smile, adding a touch of playfulness and vivacity.

Zhang Kai's eyes immediately brightened.

The playful-looking girl was the one Sun Zicheng had shown him a photo of, named Jiang Yue!

The other one seemed even better.

However, catching the interest of either would definitely be a delightful affair.

Zhang Kai was pleased, extremely pleased indeed.

"I had no idea, Sun Zicheng, this guy, had such gorgeous relatives. Great, that's really great! If he really facilitates a marriage for me, I indeed owe him big time," Zhang Kai thought to himself.

Seeing the change in his expression, Jiang Yuxiu couldn't help but chuckle.

The man was utterly satisfied!

As for Jiang Yue, her mom had told her early on to watch out for a wealthy husband, and here he was.

Although Zhang Kai was older and had been divorced, he was the general manager of a large company and had no children. Being older, he would know better how to cherish her.

Jiang Yuxiu now felt that she was treating her niece exceptionally well.

Handing her niece a potential diamond bachelor and a happy future was like placing it right into Jiang Yue's hands.

"You brat, when you become a rich lady, you better not forget your aunt," Jiang Yuxiu thought as she saw Jiang Yue glancing at Zhang Kai, whispering giggly to Su Lingyu, looking shy and timid, assuming the girl might also be interested in him.

After all, Zhang Kai was handsome and had arrived in an Audi A8, clearly looking both handsome and wealthy!

Jiang Yuxiu had no idea what Jiang Yue and Su Lingyu were actually discussing—

"Do you think that guy's head looks like a hairy boiled egg?"

Trying not to laugh, Su Lingyu rolled her eyes at her friend and whispered in a mosquito-like voice, "You and your weird comments, stop it, someone might hear us. This guy is your aunt's boss!"

"Come, let me introduce you, this is Mr. Zhang Kai, the general manager of Yunfeng Business Management!"

"Mr. Zhang, this is my niece Jiang Yue, and next to her is her best friend. They've come together to the banquet!"

Jiang Yuxiu introduced them enthusiastically.

Zhang Kai walked over with a smile, and in what he imagined to be his most elegant and gentlemanly manner, said to the two women, "It's an honor to meet such beautiful ladies. Please, this way inside."

Zhang Kai, seeing the two women constantly smiling at him, immediately felt he was damn handsome and definitely had a way with women!

Little did he know, the image of a hairy boiled egg was what was on the girls' minds.

After exchanging greetings, the group walked inside together.

Chapter 875: If You're Willing, Then Go!

"Miss Jiang, your outfit today is very fitting and really enhances your aura," Zhang Kai complimented Jiang Yue as they walked.

"Really? Mr. Zhang is too kind!" Jiang Yue couldn't help but break into a radiant smile.

The girl had already taken a disliking to Su Lingyu's insincere flattery but was naturally delighted to receive sincere compliments.

Su Lingyu couldn't help but shake her head with a laugh.

"Miss Su looks beautiful today too!" Zhang Kai then praised Su Lingyu.

"Thank you," Su Lingyu replied with a light smile and polite response.

"So, who is prettier in the end, her or me?" Jiang Yue asked, arm in arm with Su Lingyu.

This was a classic question women often asked, a gimme if done right, but potentially deadly if mishandled.

Jiang Yuxiu, being a woman, naturally understood and immediately became nervous.

"Miss Jiang is like a peony, charming and bright. Miss Su is like a lotus, fresh and elegant. Each has her own beauty, competing in splendor without overshadowing the other's grace!" Zhang Kai, a seasoned player in the game of love, responded deftly.

And very skillfully.

A woman comparing herself to her girlfriend to her face, while joking, certainly doesn't want to lose, but the question she asked shouldn't embarrass her friend either.

As for the response "equally beautiful" or "just as pretty," they felt it was dismissive.

That's why men often find women to be the most troublesome creatures.

Zhang Kai's genius lay in pointing out each person's unique qualities while clearly stating that neither hid the other's brilliance.

An excellent answer indeed! Jiang Yuxiu couldn't help but nod in agreement.

Jiang Yue and Su Lingyu exchanged glances and also felt it was a good response.

Zhang Kai, seeing their approval, couldn't help feeling secretly pleased.

Seizing the opportunity, Jiang Yuxiu said, "Mr. Zhang is successful in business, understands the subtleties of romance, and is still single. With such attributes, if he were out in society, he would surely have throngs of young ladies throwing themselves at him. It remains to be seen who would be so fortunate to tie the knot with him."

"Mr. Zhang is still single?" Jiang Yue also seemed surprised.

What she meant behind those words was: You're aging and going bald and still single?

Zhang Kai and Jiang Yuxiu, however, thought Jiang Yue meant that someone with his qualifications being single must be too picky.

Sun Zicheng had told Zhang Kai to get a look at Jiang Yue in person and, if satisfied with her in reality, proceed with the matchmaking.

Zhang Kai guessed that this young lady was still unaware of his intentions.

That was fine; a direct encounter and disclosure from his own lips always beat a secondhand account that could lose something in translation.

"Actually, I'm not very demanding when it comes to my other half. Just reasonably good-looking and preferably with some temperament," Zhang Kai said with a beaming smile.

"Yes, Mr. Zhang had a past failed relationship, so he values fate and physical attraction," Jiang Yuxiu added hastily.

"Isn't that the truth? But sometimes, fate comes quietly and irresistibly," Zhang Kai laughed. "Perhaps it has already arrived today."

The two of them bantered back and forth, each responding to the other.

Su Lingyu couldn't help but give Jiang Yue a glance.

As her best friend, she understood Jiang Yue's thoughts the best and knew what Jiang Yue meant.

Seeing the implicit, peculiar undertones of what Zhang Kai and Jiang Yuxiu were saying,

Could it be that Mr. Zhang has taken a fancy to Jiang Yue?

Su Lingyu thought to herself that Jiang Yue, the eldest miss, seemed to be steering the conversation towards matchmaking.

Jiang Yue also exchanged a suspicious look with her, sensing the same feeling.

Zhang Kai and Jiang Yuxiu exchanged a few well-coordinated remarks, noted the girls' silent response, and could not discern any particular expression from them.

They promptly dropped the subject.

"Can't push too hard, don't want to come off as too domineering, and besides, young ladies are thin-skinned; better let her aunt do the persuading," Zhang Kai thought to himself.

The three of them walked into the restaurant together.

"This place is really nice!" Jiang Yue couldn't help but praise as she looked around the Chinese-style antique hall, decorated with modern elements, with good lighting and comfortable music, creating a unique atmosphere.

"Indeed, it's quite nice!" Su Lingyu also couldn't help but express her admiration.

"I'm glad the two beauties like it; this is the design I chose. Your satisfaction is my honor," Zhang Kai boasted, then added with a smile, "I have some matters to attend to, so I'll step away for a bit. Feel free to look around, see you later."

He wanted to excuse himself briefly to let Jiang Yuxiu do the matchmaking.

With that, he gave Jiang Yuxiu a look.

Jiang Yuxiu, catching Zhang Kai's glance, immediately understood and smiled, "Of course, Mr. Zhang, you go ahead and busy yourself. I'll take these two girls for a stroll and chat awhile."

Seeing that Jiang Yuxiu got his hint, Zhang Kai smiled contentedly and left with his assistant.

Jiang Yue and Su Lingyu felt relieved when he left.

"Come on, let's go have some drinks and snacks," Jiang Yue said cheerfully, heading straight for the bar.

Su Lingyu couldn't help but smile and followed closely behind.

Jiang Yuxiu followed as well.

At the bar, they each ordered their preferred cocktails. Jiang Yuxiu looked at her niece, Jiang Yue, and smiled, "Yue, what do you think of Mr. Zhang just now?"

"Him? He seems pretty good," Jiang Yue casually said, focusing on her drink.

Su Lingyu couldn't help but glance at Jiang Yuxiu.

Was she about to start matchmaking?

"Let me tell you, Mr. Zhang is just forty-one years old this year, and he's already the general manager of a big company, with an annual salary of over a million! Normally, he likes things that are a bit posh, is into fitness—you saw him, he's in great shape," Jiang Yuxiu went on.

Sun Zicheng had specifically organized this information for her to memorize.

"Oh," Jiang Yue responded noncommittally, looking around.

Jiang Yuxiu continued, "Mr. Zhang had one failed marriage due to incompatible feelings, but he has no children! At home, he has a 400 square meter villa, plus two cars, both high-end—one Mercedes, one BMW, and also..."

"Stop there, Auntie," Jiang Yue interrupted her directly, chuckling, "Why are you telling me this? I'm not the census. Even if Mr. Zhang is rich, what's that to me? Considering his wealth, I think what he needs to do right now is spend some money on hair restoration, to avoid sporting that egghead and affecting his second spring in life. Lingyu, am I right?"

Su Lingyu couldn't help but snicker.

This best friend of hers could really dish out the zingers.

"Yue, how can you say that about someone!" Jiang Yuxiu was startled and her expression changed; she quickly looked around, relieved to see no one from Yunfeng Business Management was around.

Jiang Yue picked up Su Lingyu's drink and sipped a bit, "Hey, yours tastes even better."

This girl, always joking around, must know exactly what's going on!

She, her auntie... really seemed intent on pairing her with that eggheaded Mr. Zhang!

Su Lingyu thought to herself.

"Don't just focus on drinking, listen to me, okay! Let me tell you..." Jiang Yuxiu wasn't giving up and continued.

Bang!

Jiang Yue slapped the table, not too loudly, but enough to attract attention from those nearby.

It also gave Jiang Yuxiu a start.

"What are you doing?!" Jiang Yuxiu couldn't help but pat her chest and say.

Jiang Yue looked sternly at her aunt, "Auntie, please, stop it! So what if that Mr. Zhang is wealthy and has status?"

"Do you people of your generation all think that we young women are money-crazed, gold-diggers, desperate to marry a rich man?"

"Let me tell you! I, Jiang Yue, do not fancy rich men!"

"I ask you, if you had a daughter who was twenty, would you set her up with a forty-year-old dad?"

"If you're so fond of Mr. Zhang, sure, you divorce and marry him yourself!"

"If you like it, you go ahead!"

"As for your niece, I'm not interested!"

Chapter 876: I'll Go Talk Myself

Jiang Yue decisively refused Jiang Yuxiu's "good intentions" of matchmaking and didn't hesitate to rebuke her aunt sharply.

"How can you speak like that, you child!" Jiang Yuxiu was a bit infuriated, as if her great kindness had been taken for granted.

Jiang Yue's interrogation made her face turn red with embarrassment and annoyance.

"After all I did, taking you to get your hair done, buying you clothes, treating you like my own daughter, this is how you treat me, you ungrateful girl!" Jiang Yuxiu scolded.

Su Lingyu felt very awkward.

She felt that she should say something to ease the situation, but she didn't know what to say.

Faced with such a scene, she really wasn't good at mediating, so she could only subtly nudge Jiang Yue.

After all, they were family, and it wasn't good to cause a scene.

Jiang Yue ignored Su Lingyu; she leisurely finished her cocktail while listening to her aunt scolding her.

It was a full five minutes before Jiang Yue looked at Jiang Yuxiu with a grin, "Auntie, are you relieved now? See, I didn't even talk back. I haven't even given my own mom this much face!"

Jiang Yue had better not have mentioned her mother, for that reminded Jiang Yuxiu of more things to say.

"You mention her, but wasn't it your mom who asked me to keep an eye out for potential matches for you? Someone rich, handsome, and who has a house and car. Wasn't it tough for me to find Mr. Zhang for you? So what if he is a bit older? Doesn't he meet all your mom's criteria..."

Jiang Yue immediately gestured for her to stop and gave Jiang Yuxiu a dry smile.

"My dear aunt, ever since I was young, whenever our opinions differed, I never listened to my mom. She couldn't do anything about it, so your mission is over. I thank you on behalf of my mom, ah!" Jiang Yue patted Jiang Yuxiu's arm, smiled at the bartender, and pointed to Su Lingyu's glass, "Another one of these for me, please."

Jiang Yuxiu's attempt at matchmaking failed.

As much as she was unwilling, she could no longer continue.

The last thing she wanted was for Jiang Yue to get annoyed; that would be even more troublesome.

As Jiang Yuxiu was pondering if there was a way to indirectly continue, Su Lingyu glanced in a certain direction and smiled, "Aunt Jiang, isn't Uncle Sun calling you?"

Jiang Yuxiu followed the direction Su Lingyu was pointing.

Her husband, Sun Zicheng, was talking with Zhang Kai, occasionally glancing over.

Catching each other's eyes, Sun Zicheng even waved at her.

"You stay here for a while; I'll go see what's going on," Jiang Yuxiu picked up her purse and walked over.

With her departure, Su Lingyu also sighed in relief, leaned in, and whispered to Jiang Yue with a laugh, "What a great aunt, trying to get you into a wealthy family. Hey, you're really not considering it?"

"Su Lingyu!" Jiang Yue glared at her, "Are you making fun of me, or think, perhaps next time you meet him, you'll have one less competitor?"

Su Lingyu could not help but chuckle, "Remember how you were when your dad introduced you to Han Chen? Now you know how annoying it is?"

"Petty!" Jiang Yue muttered, then added, "Actually, I felt something was off right from the start. My aunt took me to get my hair done, buy clothes, even helped with my makeup. Most tellingly, while doing all that, she kept laying the groundwork, talking about this person who married rich and now rides in luxury cars and lives in mansions, or that person who married an older man and ended up living happily."

"Humph, so she was waiting for me here!"

Jiang Yue scoffed, "Getting me for my uncle's boss, to smooth his own career path. So much for family loyalty!"

"If you knew something was wrong, why did you still come?" Su Lingyu exclaimed in surprise.

"Why wouldn't I come when someone else is paying for my hair, clothes, and inviting me to a party? That's a good deal. As for the matchmaking, pfft, I admit, yes, sometimes I am money-minded, often fantasize about marrying into wealth, and even mock you, taking shots at that Mr. Bai. But at crucial moments, my stance is firm!" Jiang Yue declared resolutely.

As they were speaking, Sun Zicheng and Zhang Kai were also having a chat.

"Mr. Zhang, with your qualifications, taking an interest in our Jiang Yue is absolutely her good fortune!"

"My partner tried to match you two. Her eloquence is reliable, and with your qualifications, this is a sure deal!"

"However, if you do succeed, you'll need to be more devoted. After all, she's a young girl who loves romance. A little rose here, some fireworks there, and she'll be utterly enchanted."

Sun Zicheng warmly suggested, "If you don't want to play those juvenile games, you could take her out for French cuisine a couple of times or to a concert..."

Zhang Kai gave him a look.

"Of course, I'm not here to tell you how to do things!" Sun Zicheng quickly added a smile, saying, "Only you can tell me what to do, what I'm offering are just suggestions!"

"I know all that," Zhang Kai said patronizingly. "Women, well, they need to be pampered. Once she's with me, she'll naturally live a life unlike her previous one—a life of quality! Could my woman ever have anything less?"

"Yes, yes," Sun Zicheng hurriedly replied.

Glancing at Jiang Yuxiu, who was walking towards them, Zhang Kai smiled and said, "With what I offer, not to brag, but the line of young girls who want to be with me could stretch across JinPing."

"If your Jiang Yue truly refuses, now that would be surprising."

"After this, we're going to be one family! Just work hard at the company, and I guarantee you'll live comfortably!"

"The day when I step up to a higher position, this general manager position, you know!"

Zhang Kai spoke with immense confidence, even bordering on narcissism.

He wasn't the least bit concerned about the investigation from the higher-ups.

Just some issue with the accounts—it used to be that Sun Zicheng would take the fall.

This time, since Sun Zicheng had become "one of us," someone else would take the fall.

After all, there were two other vice-presidents in the company. As long as he ensured their safety and promised them benefits, he believed they wouldn't betray him.

Zhang Kai's words left Sun Zicheng feeling both flattered and alarmed.

As Jiang Yuxiu approached, Sun Zicheng couldn't wait to ask, "How did it go? Did Yue agree right away? Was she thrilled?"

Zhang Kai also looked at Jiang Yuxiu with a beaming smile, eager to hear the good news.

"Jiang Yue, Jiang Yue said she needs to think about it," Jiang Yuxiu stuttered a bit, "She hasn't agreed yet."

She didn't dare mention that Jiang Yue had flat out refused and even mocked her.

Even so, Sun Zicheng's face changed as he couldn't help but glance at Zhang Kai.

Zhang Kai's smile faded, "What, she doesn't agree?"

"How could she not agree!" Sun Zicheng hurriedly said.

"She didn't disagree. Maybe it was just too sudden to bring up this topic the first time they met," Jiang Yuxiu hastily said.

"Or perhaps it was because I had someone else talk to her. That's too insincere. What kind of time are we living in? Matchmaking is so outdated! Especially with young people, they would find it old-fashioned!" Zhang Kai pondered for a moment and felt his analysis was very reasonable.

He laughed first, "Yes, it's my fault! If you like someone, you should say it yourself! Who says you can't express admiration the first time you meet? That's what they call love at first sight, haha!"

Saying so, Zhang Kai started walking towards Jiang Yue, "I'll say it myself!"

Suddenly, Jiang Yuxiu was at a loss.

Saying it himself would blow their cover! But she was powerless to stop it!

Meanwhile, over there.

Su Lingyu was sitting by the bar, casually scanning around, when she suddenly froze.

At a corner of the hotel lobby, she saw a very familiar figure, which made her heart race.

"What is he doing here?!"

Chapter 877 Who is that guy!

Zhang Kai strode toward the bar, adjusting his expression along the way to what he imagined was "the best."

Passionate yet composed, elegant and confident.

In Zhang Kai's view, this was the expression a mature man should have upon seeing a woman he liked.

Noble and gentlemanly, bound to make a young girl's heart flutter at first sight!

To render himself capable of conquering and returning with a grand victory!

Zhang Kai, who had always had smooth sailing in his career, had gradually developed an inexplicable, incomparably strong self-confidence.

This confidence permeated every aspect of his life, to the extent that even when he was deceiving his supervisor and lining his own pockets, and despite being investigated by his superiors, he remained fearless and even found time to court a young lady.

Zhang Kai was confident, but Sun Zicheng following behind him was not brimming with the same confidence.

Sun Zicheng was unclear about the outcome of the conversation between Jiang Yuxiu and Jiang Yue, nor did he fully understand this great-niece's temperament.

However, he understood his own wife very well.

If there were good news, Jiang Yuxiu would have reported it with excitement at the earliest opportunity, exaggerating "a bit" into "a lot."

He had told Zhang Kai his wife had a way with words.

How so? Just like this!

Put nicely, she was eloquent, but to put it less nicely, she could blow smoke without paying taxes—Jiang Yuxiu could do it for more than ten billion.

"What's the situation, exactly? Can't you give me a clear answer!" Sun Zicheng asked from behind in a voice audible only to the two of them.

"Haven't I said it already? She hasn't agreed yet," Jiang Yuxiu murmured, seemingly ashamed of her failure.

Seeing her hesitating like this, Sun Zicheng felt as if he were being tormented in a frying pan.

"Don't feed me any nonsense, I want the truth!" Sun Zicheng snapped angrily.

Jiang Yuxiu was startled and said with embarrassment, "Jiang Yue didn't... didn't agree, and she... she scolded me severely."

Ah!

Sun Zicheng's legs went weak, almost unsure of which one to move forward with.

The young girl didn't agree! And she even scolded her own aunt!

Was this a mere disagreement? This was a complete breakdown!

Yet, his wife had the nerve to say that Jiang Yue was giving it some thought, that Jiang Yue was being shy...

You old woman, not bad...

Sun Zicheng really didn't know what to say to his wife.

If Zhang Kai went over now, would he not just be inviting a scolding from the young lady? Would he even survive it!

Sun Zicheng felt darkness before his eyes and dizziness, as he grabbed Jiang Yuxiu's hand with a grim expression, "You prodigal woman, and your unlucky niece, you... you're going to get me killed!"

"So what do we do, what can I possibly do or say!" Jiang Yuxiu felt extremely wronged.

"What are you still staring at, hurry up and go stop him! Otherwise, prepare to be fired along with me and join me in facing the bitter winds!" Sun Zicheng couldn't move anymore and collapsed onto a nearby seat.

His legs were weak, and he dared not go and watch.

Jiang Yuxiu grew a bit frightened as well, "Oh, then you rest here, husband. I'll go and take a look!"

Jiang Yuxiu hurriedly followed as Sun Zicheng weakly waved his hand.

At this moment, Jiang Yue also noticed the smiling Zhang Kai heading straight for her.

"Yo, this pickled egg wants to take the field himself. Xiaoyu, should I spare him some face or go all out?" Jiang Yue asked Su Lingyu beside her.

After waiting for a moment without a response, Jiang Yue looked toward Su Lingyu, "Say something."

"Look who that is!" Su Lingyu finally spoke, not only speaking but also pointing in a certain direction.

"Who is it? Do you know someone here?" Jiang Yue said nonchalantly.

Looking in the direction Su Lingyu was pointing, Jiang Yue was taken aback.

In an inconspicuous corner of the hall, a young man was sitting leisurely with a drink in hand, gazing toward the band area.

Wasn't that Bai Xiaosheng!

"What is that kid doing here!" Jiang Yue couldn't help but exclaim in surprise.

"Yeah, how is he here!" Su Lingyu's voice was filled with joy.

The quietly departing Bai Xiaosheng, meeting again, was only separated by two days—how small this world is!

Or is it fate?

Su Lingyu couldn't help but recall the night before last, after her father had dinner, he had nothing to do, and, unusually, did not go to his study to work, but sat on the sofa with her, chatting for a bit.

"That Bai Xiaosheng... the kid is quite good! If you're friends with him, keep it that way. If you can get even closer, Dad will fully support it!" Su Dazhong had said at the time.

"Jiang Yue seems to like him too—should I compete?" Su Lingyu had joked then.

She still remembered her dad's response, "If you like him, you must fight for him, especially him!"

At that time, she had been quite puzzled.

She always felt there was a deeper meaning to her father's words "especially him," but Su Dazhong seemed to feel he had said something wrong, chuckled, and escaped into the study, and she didn't ask any further.

Now, fate had come again!

Su Lingyu even felt her heart skip a beat.

"Great, enemies on a narrow road, let us go over there and teach him a good lesson, to see if he dares to leave without saying goodbye!" Jiang Yue's eyes sparkled eagerly as she jumped down from the bar stool, ready to head over.

It was clear that she was also very happy, an excitement no less than Su Lingyu's.

"Miss Jiang Yue!"

Just as Jiang Yue and Su Lingyu were about to head over, a call suddenly came from the side.

Jiang Yue looked in surprise, only to see Zhang Kai standing in front of her with a beaming smile, his gaze filled with eagerness.

"Mr. Zhang, are you calling me?" Jiang Yue grabbed Su Lingyu's arm and forced her to stay, while she politely said, "What is it?"

Su Lingyu kept looking in that direction.

"Mr. Zhang wants to talk to you about something, Yue, you need to... think it through before answering, don't be abrupt!"

Jiang Yuxiu hurried over, quickly giving Jiang Yue a preemptive warning, her eyes even carrying a hint of a covert plea.

Zhang Kai suspiciously glanced at Jiang Yuxiu, then said to Jiang Yue with a smile, "That's the thing, Miss Jiang."

"I've actually known about you for a long time and seen your picture. But the moment I saw you in person, I thought you were very beautiful, very charming, and you made my heart flutter. I would like to be friends with Miss Jiang, the kind that can develop further, if you are willing..."

"Sorry, I don't have time right now, I'm going to meet a friend." Faced with Zhang Kai's passionate words, Jiang Yue truly felt a chill; out of respect for her aunt, she gave a modicum of courtesy and said so.

Zhang Kai was stunned.

He had been full of enthusiasm, only to be treated like this.

He was confessing his feelings, and she rated some friend over him?

"Maybe I wasn't direct enough; actually, I lik..." Zhang Kai decided to be more straightforward.

"Sorry, we'll talk another time, Mr. Zhang." Jiang Yue felt Su Lingyu was about to leave, and she wanted to leave as well.

Leaving Zhang Kai with a comment, the two young and beautiful women with distinct charms rushed off in one direction.

Zhang Kai was left dumbfounded.

He had not finished speaking, and they had already left!

It was clear she didn't want to listen; it was clear that... she wasn't interested in him!

Or rather, she was looking down on him!

Shocked, Zhang Kai felt that everyone around was watching and even talking about him; his face turned extremely ugly.

He had never been so embarrassed!

Watching the direction Jiang Yue and Su Lingyu ran towards, there was a man sitting over there, a young man?!

"Mr... Mr. Zhang?" Jiang Yuxiu called out fearfully.

Zhang Kai didn't respond, his face dark as he strode toward that spot.

"I have to see who this kid is, who dares to take the woman that Zhang Kai has set his sights on!"

Chapter 878: Today, You're Destined Not to Get Rid of Me!

Bai Xiaosheng sat in a corner, sipping his cocktail alone, enjoying the band's performance.

To be specific, he was appreciating the pianist, a foreign beauty with fair skin, blonde hair, and blue eyes.

She was beautiful, with graceful movements and lively expressions.

The piece she was playing was also good, the music like a gentle breeze over water, brushing the heart, bringing a rare sense of tranquility and comfort.

The pianist noticed Bai Xiaosheng's gaze and gave him a slight smile as if to greet him.

Bai Xiaosheng raised his glass to her in response.

"Wow, taking it easy, are we? Still flirting with young girls, don't you know you have a girlfriend?"

A mocking voice came through, shattering Bai Xiaosheng's peace.

Bai Xiaosheng looked over in astonishment.

The voice was incredibly familiar; he hadn't managed to forget her in just two short days.

Jiang Yue was standing not far away, looking at him with a cold smile, accompanied by Su Lingyu.

Su Lingyu, on the other hand, had a soft, sweet smile.

"Is it you guys?" Bai Xiaosheng exclaimed in surprise.

How did these two girls end up here!

"What, we can't be here if you can?" Jiang Yue huffed.

"Of course, you can!" Bai Xiaosheng smiled and stood up, "What a coincidence, meeting again."

"It's rare that you remember us, that you didn't pretend not to know us," Jiang Yue continued with a cold smile.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng, she was happy, but too embarrassed to show it.

All this mockery and sarcasm were just her disguise.

"Jiang Yue!" Su Lingyu tugged at her, then, blinking her lovely eyes, smiled at Bai Xiaosheng, "Didn't expect to see you here!"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled back at her, then said to the two of them, "Come on, come sit."

Jiang Yue, holding Su Lingyu, walked over.

Just as the three of them were about to sit down, a very abrupt and discordant voice came from nearby.

"Miss Jiang, did you come here to meet him?!"

Bai Xiaosheng looked over in astonishment.

He saw a bald man, frowning and looking at him somewhat coldly.

The look in his eyes was clearly one of annoyance and hostility.

Zhang Kai?!

Bai Xiaosheng was startled.

Why had he come over? And why was he... harboring hostility towards him?

"Sir, you seem unfamiliar. Are you also a guest here?"

Zhang Kai asked with an air of condescension.

"Mr. Zhang, what do you mean by that? If he can enter, then he's a guest here. That's not very polite of you to say!" Jiang Yue frowned and said unhappily.

Jiang Yue might pick on Bai Xiaosheng when they were alone,

But when someone else came looking for trouble with Bai Xiaosheng, she was the first to speak up for him.

"Oh, Yue, Mr. Zhang is asking him. You should talk less," Jiang Yuxiu, who had come with Zhang Kai, said nervously.

Jiang Yue ignored her own aunt, making it clear she wasn't giving any face.

However, her speaking up to defend Bai Xiaosheng only added fuel to the fire, and Zhang Kai's hostility towards Bai Xiaosheng increased.

From the scene unfolding before him, if Bai Xiaosheng failed to understand, then he would be a fool. With the perception and thinking abilities honed by his system, it would truly be a waste if he couldn't get it.

"That woman behind Zhang Kai seems to be Jiang Yue's elder, and she appears to be quite familiar with Zhang Kai?"

"That could explain why Su Lingyu and Jiang Yue are here — they were invited."

"Seeing Zhang Kai like this, the jealousy is strong. Because of me? The way he looks at Jiang Yue is clearly different; he obviously has feelings for Jiang Yue!"

"Jiang Yue's way of addressing him is distant, and her tone doesn't have a hint of familiarity."

"So, can I interpret that Zhang Kai's acquaintance is this woman, and she happens to be Jiang Yue's relative who invited Jiang Yue to this cocktail party, possibly to set her up with Zhang Kai!"

With one thought, Bai Xiaosheng guessed the truth more or less.

Of course, what he didn't know was that the real person wanting to set up Jiang Yue with Zhang Kai was Sun Zicheng, Jiang Yue's uncle-in-law, the drunkard they had run into the other day.

This Zhang Kai must be forty by now, right? An old cow eating tender grass, is that appropriate?

Bai Xiaosheng sized up Zhang Kai, thinking to himself.

From Jiang Yue's impatient look, it was clear she was not pleased.

As soon as Jiang Yue realized he was there, she came over.

And of course, Zhang Kai showed up too!

I'm getting a "love rival" for no reason, Bai Xiaosheng was speechless.

He even said he wanted to keep a low profile today...

Zhang Kai looked over Bai Xiaosheng coldly and said, "Miss Jiang, you don't know, the guests who can enter here, I determine the list! They are all notable figures, and even so, they must have my permission!"

Zhang Kai's words were utterly arrogant.

He not only considered himself the host of the wine party but also the "ruler" of this place!

"This young friend, you look very unfamiliar, I don't think you qualify to receive my invitation!"

"If I sent it to your family, tell me, who are your parents!"

"Sending someone as young as you to such an important event, isn't that nonsense? Have you no respect for me, Zhang!"

Zhang Kai spoke sternly.

He was trying to intimidate Bai Xiaosheng and also flex his muscle.

If one relied on their family's power to attend the wine party, they would certainly fear offending Zhang Kai; he intended to put Bai Xiaosheng back in his place.

In my eyes, this kid isn't worth a fart! Jiang Yue, let me show you what authority is, Zhang Kai thought to himself.

"Mr. Zhang, that's a bit too much!"

"Mr. Zhang, please maintain your gentlemanly demeanor!"

Before Bai Xiaosheng could speak, Jiang Yue and Su Lingyu, both women, reproached almost simultaneously.

Initially trying to impress, Zhang Kai was first startled, then his expression turned exceedingly ugly.

Jiang Yuxiu was like someone who had received a fright, looking at Jiang Yue and then at Zhang Kai, wanting to say something, but the usually eloquent her dared not speak a word now.

First, Jiang Yue wouldn't listen to her, and second, with the situation being awkward, she was afraid Zhang Kai would notice her and take his anger out on her.

"Mr. Zhang, this is my invitation. There's nothing wrong with that, right?" Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, not getting into an argument with Zhang Kai, and instead showed him the invitation he had placed aside.

"No name? Who knows if you're just using someone else's." Zhang Kai said with a cold face.

Su Lingyu frowned, unable to hold back from speaking out.

Jiang Yue stepped up next to Bai Xiaosheng and locked arms with him, "I brought him in, okay? Not okay? Then we'll leave!"

That was a tough move!

Zhang Kai froze, watching Jiang Yue's intimate gesture with Bai Xiaosheng, his gaze was practically murderous.

Jiang Yuxiu was completely terrified, murmuring to herself so only she could hear, "It's over, it's definitely over this time!"

Su Lingyu moved to Bai Xiaosheng's other side and also hooked his arm, calmly stating, "The two of us brought him here!"

These two women were blatantly lying just to defend this pretty boy. Zhang Kai was so angry his hands trembled.

Su Lingyu's verbal stab was even more critical.

"Mr. Zhang, do you think that all handsome guys are here to freeload? Look over there, there's another one, you go catch him," Jiang Yue said with a cold laugh, pointing in that direction.

Zhang Kai didn't look that way.

However, Bai Xiaosheng followed her hint and glanced over, only to be startled, surprised, "Huh? How come he's here too!"

Bai Xiaosheng saw a familiar figure.

"Security!" Zhang Kai's face was ashen as he shouted.

No matter what happened today, he was determined to throw this man out.

Security didn't show up, but there was a commotion at the door.

Someone hurried over saying to Zhang Kai, "Mr. Zhang, the group's people have arrived!"

At this critical moment, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying arrived!

"Mr. Zhang, you might as well go and welcome your guests first. Today, you're destined not to kick me out!"

Bai Xiaosheng's smile was annoying yet meaningful.

Chapter 879: Disaster Brought by a Beauty

Facing Bai Xiaosheng's provocation, Zhang Kai gnashed his teeth in hatred and wanted to have security throw him out without a second thought, like chasing away a dog.

But he couldn't do that anymore.

Zhang Kai looked back and saw people already running to the door to welcome the visitor.

Although he didn't care about the investigation, that didn't mean he dared to slight the investigators to their face.

That was a huge taboo, and he didn't have the guts to do so.

Zhang Kai gave Bai Xiaosheng a nod and left him with a vicious look that said, "You just wait, once I'm free, I'll make sure you regret this."

After showing his stance, Zhang Kai shot Jiang Yue one last deep look and left with a flick of his sleeve.

That woman was truly blind! To choose a pretty boy over his favorable conditions. Modern women are so superficial!

Zhang Kai cursed inwardly, but that didn't mean he intended to give up on Jiang Yue.

On the contrary, his desire for Jiang Yue only grew stronger.

"I'm going to have her. I will make her bow to me and lay like a female dog at my feet," Zhang Kai thought viciously.

However, for now, he quickly gathered his composure and adjusted his emotions to go to the door and welcome the honored guest.

As Zhang Kai was about to leave, Jiang Yuxiu slipped away first.

She wanted to inform her husband about the situation first.

Even if it was terrible news, it was better to know ahead and be prepared.

Sun Zicheng had been waiting there all along, even ignoring the commotion at the door.

Seeing Jiang Yuxiu approaching, Sun Zicheng hurried to lower his voice and asked, "How did it go?"

In his eyes, there was still a glimmer of hope.

"We've offended someone!"

This time, Jiang Yuxiu didn't dare to withhold anything, and she reported the situation frankly and succinctly.

Sun Zicheng slapped his thigh and said nothing.

That's how people are before they get bad news. The anxiety and nervousness can be overwhelming.

But once they know the situation is as bad as it gets, they somehow feel a bit more at ease.

Jiang Yuxiu, in a low voice, described what happened to Sun Zicheng using the briefest words possible.

"What? Jiang Yue fell for a pretty boy?"

"What? Mr. Zhang wanted to deal with that pretty boy and was stopped by Jiang Yue?"

Sun Zicheng had never heard his wife speak with such explanatory power.

A few sentences and the whole situation was clear, totally unlike her previous style.

"What's Mr. Zhang's attitude towards Jiang Yue?" Sun Zicheng suddenly asked.

Based on his understanding of Zhang Kai, he felt the situation wasn't entirely hopeless.

"What attitude? There was no particular attitude. No outburst, no scolding," Jiang Yuxiu couldn't help but say.

But Sun Zicheng's eyes lit up.

Zhang Kai was not the type to hold any woman in high regard. If he hadn't lost his temper, it meant he still had expectations for Jiang Yue.

"Indeed, it's the unattainable that's the most desirable!" Sun Zicheng couldn't help but sigh, then whispered, "There's still hope for this. Later, I'll meet that Jiang Yue, and the boy, too!"

What was Sun Zicheng going to do? Convince Jiang Yue, or threaten the boy?

Jiang Yuxiu didn't know.

But her husband seemed to have regained some spirit, and that was a good thing, after all.

"I'll join you later," Jiang Yuxiu said.

After the couple had finished their whisperings, and seeing that Zhang Kai had already gone to greet the guests, Sun Zicheng quickly got up and ran over, with Jiang Yuxiu following behind at a distance.

Over to Bai Xiaosheng and his group.

"It seems like some big shot is coming. Shouldn't we go over and take a look?" Jiang Yue looked towards the door from afar and couldn't help but ask.

Bai Xiaosheng showed no particular reaction.

"What's there to see? We're not people from this company," Su Lingyu said with a smile.

"You two sit first, I'm going to meet someone!" Bai Xiaosheng said, leaving those words behind as he walked in a different direction.

Meet someone, meet who?

Jiang Yue and Su Lingyu exchanged glances. Neither of them sat down, instead, they followed him.

Bai Xiaosheng wasn't heading towards the entrance, but another direction.

There, on the sofa, a young man sat sipping a cocktail leisurely.

He was Lin Yu.

His teacher Shen Peishen feared a bad influence and left JinPing first, after all, it wouldn't sound good to encourage students to "snatch orders," and it could have a negative impact.

Before Shen Peishen left, he made it clear that by a margin of victory, Lin Yu would have to return the achievement to the other party.

After all, it was the other party's case one was following, "Leave a line when doing things, for you may meet again some day."

Lin Yu took his teacher's advice and appeared at the venue low-key; his two assistants, a man and a woman, were also present at the venue, just not with him.

Lin Yu was looking at the entrance, his gaze also filled with fervor.

Officer Lin Ke passed the case to Officer Bai Xiaosheng, and it was said that Officer Bai Xiaosheng was coming to JinPing.

But whether he would appear here, Lin Yu felt unsure.

Of course, he was looking forward to Bai Xiaosheng's arrival!

"Being able to witness the style of a New-type Affairs Officer, this trip is worth it!" Lin Yu thought to himself.

As he was thinking, Bai had already walked over with a wine glass, his face beaming with a smile, "Hi, we meet again!"

Lin Yu came to his senses and, seeing Bai, was startled, "It's you!"

Having said that, Lin Yu stood up.

"What a coincidence!" Bai said with a smile, clinking his glass lightly with the other's.

Just as the two were about to chat, Su Lingyu and Jiang Yue came to Bai's side, one on the left and one on the right.

Lin Yu thought they were Bai's companions and was about to greet them.

Unexpectedly, when he saw Su Lingyu, he was stunned and blurted out, "Lingyu?!"

Upon hearing the other party call her name, Su Lingyu was also startled and examined Lin Yu for a moment, surprised, "Lin Yu, senior!"

"What, you know each other?" Bai asked surprisingly.

The world was too small, first bumping into Su Lingyu and Jiang Yue here, and then seeing this outstanding peer again.

And the craziest part was that Su Lingyu knew him.

Listening in, they were classmates.

What is this, writing a novel? Bai thought to himself.

"Senior?" Jiang Yue said in surprise, "You were classmates?"

She had never heard Su Lingyu mention having such a handsome senior.

Especially not in JinPing.

"This is my university senior, Lin Yu. He was two grades above me. We were in different departments, but both in the student council. I was in charge of the school journal while he was the student council president. Back then, he was essentially my boss," Su Lingyu said with a smile.

But in her eyes, there was a hint of something unusual.

"It's not that simple, is it?" Jiang Yue said meaningfully with a mischievous smile at Su Lingyu.

Then she looked Lin Yu over and said with a cheeky grin, "This senior, so handsome!"

To Jiang Yue, Lin Yu's reaction was also not quite "normal."

He gazed at Su Lingyu with eagerness in his eyes.

"Don't tell me you have feelings for Xiaoyu!" The thought popped into Jiang Yue's mind, making her eyes light up involuntarily.

The characteristic of women's love for gossip was particularly evident in Jiang Yue.

And her intuition as a woman was extremely sharp.

Jiang Yue had guessed it right!

Lin Yu indeed held great affection for his junior, Su Lingyu!

Only, back then Lin Yu's family circumstances were poor, and he felt too inferior to confess his feelings.

He always thought that one day, once he'd made something of himself, he would seek out Su Lingyu.

However, after graduation, everyone lost contact.

Lin Yu was truly happy and thrilled to meet her again.

The affection he had sealed in his heart was like a liquor that had been fermenting for a long time; once unsealed, it made him intoxicated.

Just that...

Lin Yu glanced at Bai Xiaosheng.

Su Lingyu stood very close to this man, their attitude towards each other ambiguous!

Who is this guy?

Suddenly, Lin Yu's eyes turned cautious, and Bai Xiaosheng, equally outstanding, immediately gave him a sense of crisis.

Bai himself probably would not have thought that meeting Jiang Yue and Su Lingyu again wouldn't bring him any good fortune!

Instead, he had gained "rivals" at every moment, not just one but two!

This really confirmed the saying, "Beauty brings troubles"...

Chapter 880 An Unintentional Blow is the Most Lethal

"Come, everyone, sit down and chat!" Lin Yu said with a smile to Bai Xiaosheng and the other two.

Actually, what he really wanted was to have a private chat with his junior, Su Lingyu.

It was just that, at the moment, Su Lingyu wasn't alone, so naturally, he couldn't just ask Bai Xiaosheng and Jiang Yue to leave.

"Sure."

Bai Xiaosheng smiled. He noticed that the other man was interested in Su Lingyu, and that Su Lingyu was not interested in him, so he felt no need to leave.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Yu sat facing each other.

After sitting down, Lin Yu smiled and looked up, then his smile stiffened.

There sat Bai Xiaosheng, with Jiang Yue on his left and Su Lingyu on his right, both women quite close to him.

Then he looked at himself, all alone.

Lin Yu felt somewhat uncomfortable inside.

But he was well-cultured. No matter what he thought inside, his expression remained calm, and he nodded politely at Bai Xiaosheng and Jiang Yue, then smiled at Su Lingyu.

At this moment, he was eager to speak with Su Lingyu, to quench his years of longing.

"Lingyu, how have you been these years, alright?" Lin Yu asked, suppressing his emotions, with a smile.

This greeting made Jiang Yue purse her lips and quickly pretended to drink to cover it up.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but take a sip of his drink, too.

The words sounded like something out of a romance drama, where the male and female leads speak after many years of separation, the kind who had "loved" each other in the past.

Su Lingyu smiled lightly and very politely replied, "Well, I've been fine. I just didn't join a big company or pursue a career path, but work as a clerk in a small company, and it's quite nice. You must find it amusing, senior."

Su Lingyu's reply was incredibly adroit; without correcting or avoiding, she naturally shifted the concept, turning Lin Yu's personal concern into a concern for her career.

Lin Yu nodded with a smile.

In reality, Su Lingyu was avoiding the subject.

He caught this, of course, and felt even more uncomfortable inside.

Back then, if he had been willing to take that step, maybe things wouldn't be this way.

And now, with his accomplished career and esteemed status, facing the person he liked gave him a sense of being close yet worlds apart.

Lin Yu watched as Su Lingyu glanced at Bai Xiaosheng and felt a sudden chill in his heart.

He truly had lost his composure, not even knowing if Su Lingyu was married or had a boyfriend!

Could it be this person?

Lin Yu couldn't help but glance at Bai Xiaosheng, and with forced casualness smiled at Su Lingyu, pointing at them, "What's, what's your relationship with each other?"

Lin Yu was extremely anxious, dreading to hear Su Lingyu say that Bai Xiaosheng was her husband or boyfriend.

"Just friends!" Jiang Yue blurted out quickly, "Xiaoyu is still single, with no boyfriend! Senior, are you single as well?"

"Yes, I am single!" Lin Yu was suddenly a bit excited.

Jiang Yue smirked with a meaningful smile.

Bai Xiaosheng felt that he couldn't join in the conversation and continued to silently drink.

Su Lingyu quietly glared at Jiang Yue, who winked mischievously at her when no one was looking.

"Does Senior Lin Yu not have someone he likes?" Su Lingyu asked leisurely.

"No!" Lin Yu replied hastily.

Su Lingyu smiled faintly, sipped a little drink, letting the liquor gently soak her tongue, and then said slowly, "I do!"

As she spoke, she glanced at Bai Xiaosheng, seemingly unintentionally.

With just those two words and a "casual" look, Lin Yu's heart plunged from heaven to hell, his smile now somewhat strained, and his gaze at Bai Xiaosheng carried a hint of something different.

After all, for Officer Lin to have reached such career heights, his control over his emotions was definitely beyond ordinary.

But now, he was struggling to maintain that control.

Bai Xiaosheng, too, noticed this scene and wanted to explain, but felt it was inappropriate, as it would leave Su Lingyu in an awkward position.

"Forget it, it's not my fault to be liked by others, after all," Bai Xiaosheng comforted himself in his heart. "Senior Lin Yu doesn't seem to be the type of person who would take his anger out on me."

In just a few moments, Lin Yu had regained his composure, his expression and smile returning to calm.

As they spoke here, over there Lei Ying and Lin Weiwei were already being welcomed in by Zhang Kai and others, like stars surrounded by the moon.

Lin Yu did not see them.

At the moment, he was in no mood to meet with Officer Bai Xiaosheng.

Lin Yu's two assistants, one male and one female, were also at the reception.

The male was named Gao Peng, and the female, Liu Yan.

They watched the entrance closely.

Seeing Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying being welcomed in, they both were taken aback, even exchanging surprised glances.

Weren't they just two of the group they had encountered dining here two days ago!

"I didn't expect them... to be part of our affairs department!" Gao Peng exclaimed in surprise.

Liu Yan pondered, "That day, they were attendants for someone else! And today, they came with Officer Bai Xiaosheng. Could it be..."

With her comment, Gao Peng's eyes also narrowed.

Gao Peng couldn't help but exchange a look with her.

That young man they saw that day was Officer Bai Xiaosheng!

"No wonder! Even Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng can't stop praising him! He's not an ordinary character!" Gao Peng said in a lowered voice.

"But I haven't seen Officer Bai Xiaosheng appear," Liu Yan said.

"After all, Yunfeng Business Management, even as the leading company in the city, is an ordinary player compared to provincial enterprises. And if you compare it with all the regional industrial groups, or with national businesses, then it probably counts for very little. Do they really need an affairs officer to investigate it in person, let alone the fact that Officer Bai Xiaosheng is such an extraordinary presence!" Gao Peng couldn't help but say.

Just hearing about Officer Bai Xiaosheng's accomplishments made him admire, feeling that even Officer Lin Yu could be his equal!

"Now is not the time to be astonished; we should hurry and tell Officer Lin!" Liu Yan said.

Gao Peng nodded.

The two of them were about to go over when they both stopped in their tracks, staring in astonishment at the other side.

"The one sitting opposite Officer Lin, isn't that..."

"Officer Bai Xiaosheng!"

The two of them were shocked.

They had thought Officer Bai Xiaosheng would not appear, but there he was, having arrived at the venue early just like them.

Now, he was sitting with Lin Yu.

"Do we still go over now..."

"Do you think it's still necessary..."

After a moment of contemplation, they each got a new glass of wine.

Better not to disturb the two big shots.

There, Lin Yu adjusted his mood inwardly, comforting himself that just being liked means nothing. Didn't he see the guy opposite showing no reaction at all?

That implies...

He doesn't like Su Lingyu? What right does he have not to like Su Lingyu!

The thought alone made Lin Yu's mood explode with agitation!

In his eyes, Su Lingyu was gentle and kind, talented above all, a gem among women. Yet that guy didn't like her?

Also, what's up with the woman next to him? Why does she seem so close to him too?

Lin Yu glanced at Jiang Yue.

It seemed both women had an interest in this kid, yet this kid...

Remained completely indifferent!

The calm in Lin Yu's heart shattered instantly into tiny fragments.

He felt an unprecedented blow to his life, along with a deep sense of defeat!