

Two Trillion 931

Chapter 931: The Beacon Fire Ignites Suddenly

At the Han Family, Han Dong received a message. Half an hour later, Han Chengren and Han Chengyi were summoned, and Han Minghao was also called over.

"Dad, what's the matter? I was only halfway through a company meeting when you asked me to hurry over without explaining what happened," Han Chengren couldn't help but grumble a little.

Han Chengyi was also somewhat curious.

He didn't have anything pressing, but ever since Bai Xiaosheng had shown his power at Yunhai, and he had honestly reported it, he had been arranged by the Senior Affairs Officer he followed to closely monitor changes in the situation here.

But it has been a week, and Officer Bai Xiaosheng hasn't shown any signs of activity.

It was very abnormal!

His own family's elder had also sent over a lot of information, yet there was still no action observed from the other party.

Every time Han Chengyi reported, he felt increasingly tormented, feeling that the Senior Affairs Officer's satisfaction with him was fading away!

It's not that I am incompetent! The issue is, all of Officer Bai Xiaosheng's activities are eating, drinking, and having fun; what can I do, report what they eat and play with? I am helpless too!

Han Chengyi was bitterly aware of his own predicament.

However, his family's elder urgently summoning them now, he wondered what it could be about.

Perhaps there would finally be some action from Officer Bai Xiaosheng's side!

Han Chengyi secretly hoped so in his heart.

As for Han Minghao, he was very puzzled.

Under such severe circumstances from his grandfather, it must definitely be a significant matter.

But major issues generally had nothing to do with him.

Why call me this time?

Han Minghao was full of confusion.

"There is something I need to discuss with you all first!" Seeing everyone present, Han Dong spoke with a solemn expression.

The three, Han Chengren, were instantly all ears.

"I just received news that tomorrow, representatives from Qifeng Group will be coming to Yunhai!" Han Dong said with a frown.

"Qifeng Group?" Han Chengyi curiously glanced at his elder brother.

"A behemoth with a wide range of business sectors. Their financial strength is on par with the sum of the top ten companies under the Yunhai Enterprise Federation our father oversees," Han Chengren paused as if to give himself a breather before continuing, "added together!"

One enterprise on par with the combined strength of the top ten of the Yunhai Enterprise Federation!

Han Chengyi couldn't help but inhale sharply.

With such scale, they would also have a place on the list of subsidiaries in the Greater China Region!

However, why was the old man so anxious and serious about the representatives from Qifeng Group coming?

Having been away from Yunhai for a long time, Han Chengyi was not familiar with these matters.

"Previously, Qifeng Group had already sent people to talk with our father, stating they wanted to be the market leader in multiple markets here in Yunhai! They intend to redraw the market share!" Han Chengren said gravely.

Han Chengyi was stunned.

When a company wants to enter a market, they come; if they aim to seize a market share, they just do it.

Who would go directly to the local Enterprise Association to declare their targets?

That was just too brazen!

Having seen many things in his career, Han Chengyi had never encountered such audacity, and even he found it unbelievable.

After Han Chengren finished speaking, Han Dong continued, "You know, not all businesses in Yunhai have joined the Enterprise Association. The 'Yunhai Private Enterprise Top Ten' ranking is just something we've selected for promotional purposes! The Enterprise Association I oversee does have rivals, indeed, and not just one, but two!"

Building local enterprise brands and establishing various rankings is only effective if there's some perceived absolute authority.

They're all self-made rankings, promoted through paid media spots.

"Due to the media channels and market share here, we hold a significant advantage. Those two Enterprise Associations have long been dissatisfied. Ever since Qifeng Group sent people over, I've received word that they plan to ally against us!"

"Who they're targeting and whose pie they're going to slice, I don't need to say, do I?" Han Dong's voice was somewhat chilly.

Naturally, they were targeting the Yunhai Enterprise Federation!

Although it wasn't directed solely at Han Family Enterprise, as a leading member and having long-standing connections with many other businesses, particularly Yunyu Industrial, they would suffer together!

If the conglomerate enterprises were to suffer losses, the group could infuse capital to turn the tide; however, should Han Family Enterprise take a severe hit, it would likely be a survival crisis!

"Chengyi, is it possible to request assistance from your headquarters? After all, there's a significant number of your group enterprises here that would be seriously affected!" Han Dong couldn't help but ask Han Chengyi.

However, his gaze contained little in the way of hope.

For one thing, it's not easy to obtain approval by donning a straw cape before the rain, taking precautions before signs of trouble.

Secondly, even if those conglomerate enterprises were to prepare, the Han Family would still be severely damaged in the impact.

This path was merely an inquiry from Han Dong.

Unless Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region took the initiative, launching a pre-emptive strike before Qifeng Group could attack, but was that likely?

Han Dong himself thought it unlikely.

"I'm afraid... that will be difficult!" Han Chengyi replied with a wry smile, "The style at headquarters is to require concrete details. We can't just inject capital and send people based on rumors—it doesn't adhere to protocol. Furthermore..."

"Even if all conglomerate enterprises were to suffer a catastrophic attack, and of course, this is an extreme assumption..." Han Chengyi took a deep breath and slowly exhaled a murky cloud of air, "with our group's capabilities, as long as the shell remains, we could rebuild a massive entity in minutes and counterattack with ease. However..."

"It's just that by then, Han Family Enterprise would already be drained." Han Chengren said with a rueful smile.

Han Dong let out a long sigh.

The situation was far from optimistic, even Han Minghao, who was listening to the side, turned waxen pale.

Born into a wealthy family, he had enjoyed luxury and comfort.

Han Minghao had sometimes thought about taking the reins of the enterprise, pulling it back from the brink.

But when the real tempest approached, he discovered how frail and powerless he was.

Han Minghao couldn't help but clench his fists.

"What would he do in this situation?"

The image of Bai Xiaosheng unwittingly sprang to Han Minghao's mind.

"Isn't Officer Bai Xiaosheng around? Otherwise, why don't we ask for his help?" Han Chengren couldn't help but suggest.

Han Dong and Han Chengyi fell into silence.

An Affairs Officer is responsible for internal matters, not external ones.

Even if they informed him, what then?

Could they really expect Bai Xiaosheng to lead them in repelling the enemy?

Han Chengren also realized this and immediately gave a wry smile.

"We still have to inform him," Han Dong slowly said, "But first, we need to understand the intentions of Qifeng Group and the other two Enterprise Association organizations!"

The three of them nodded in agreement.

"Tomorrow, representatives of Qifeng Group will be hosting a banquet at the Nanhui Star Hotel, and they have also invited us," Han Dong said, "This time, we need to send someone! As for whom, I have a plan—listen to this..."

Before Han Dong could continue, his mobile phone suddenly rang.

Picking up the phone, his expression tightened, "Officer Bai Xiaosheng!"

Han Dong answered the call.

After exchanging pleasantries, Bai Xiaosheng got straight to the point on the phone, "Is this Old Mr. Han? Tomorrow, I'd like to host a banquet for all the group enterprise leaders and would like you to attend."

"The location will be at the Nanhui Star Hotel."

Chapter 932 Unparalleled Anticipation

"What did you say!" Han Dong lost his voice instantaneously upon hearing Bai Xiaosheng's words.

Even for an old city dweller like him, a cry of surprise involuntarily escaped his lips.

Bai Xiaosheng was hosting a banquet, inviting all the enterprise heads in Yunhai belonging to the group, and he was invited too?

It was tomorrow, at the Nanhui Star Hotel too!

This was just too coincidental!

"What's wrong, Old Mr. Han?" over the phone, Bai Xiaosheng asked curiously, "Are you, perhaps, not available?"

"No no, no!" Han Dong hurriedly repeated three 'no's, "Nothing! Tomorrow, right? Okay, I will attend. Just, when do you plan to gather everyone?"

Whether it was external enemies or Officer Bai Xiaosheng, Han Dong could not afford to offend either.

Tomorrow was destined to be a tormenting day!

Now, Han Dong only hoped that their timings wouldn't clash.

"Tomorrow, at noon," Bai Xiaosheng said, "I've reserved table 501 at the hotel, and by the way, I will treat you all to a meal!"

Officer Bai Xiaosheng, treating subordinates to a meal!

If this news were to spread, it would definitely be explosive.

However, those enterprise heads would definitely not be anticipating it, only feeling tense.

Who knew if this superior would take the opportunity to raise the "slaughter knife" during the meal?

This was a Hongmen Banquet!

"Noon! 501!" Han Dong repeated the details heavily with a somber voice.

It couldn't be just a coincidence, could it?

Qifeng Group was hosting its banquet at room 502 of the Nanhui Star Hotel, also at noon.

The two "Hongmen Banquets" were only divided by a single wall!

Lucky for Han Dong, despite his age, he was a fitness enthusiast. The old man's body was sturdy, his muscles robust, especially his strong heart.

Anyone else might not have been able to withstand such a shock.

"Old Mr. Han?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with surprise.

One shock after another, Bai Xiaosheng found Han Dong's reactions very strange.

What was going on with Han Dong today; there seemed to be something amiss.

"Oh, no, nothing! Good, I will be there on time!" Han Dong quickly composed himself and replied to Bai Xiaosheng.

After hanging up, Han Dong was still lost in thought for a long time.

"What's wrong, Dad!" Han Chengren asked anxiously.

In fact, from the bits and pieces of the conversation, they had already grasped the gist of the content.

Han Dong sighed softly and roughly recounted the content of his conversation with Bai Xiaosheng to everyone present.

Han Chengren, Han Chengyi, and Han Minghao were simply stunned.

How could it be such a coincidence!

How could it be this coincidental!

"The fact is, it's just that coincidental!" Han Dong said with a bitter smile.

This was indeed a troublesome time.

"Dad, you agree to Officer Bai Xiaosheng's invitation to tomorrow's luncheon, and since my brother is the general manager of Yunyu Industrial, he must go too. Then who will attend the banquet at Qifeng Group?" Han Chengyi couldn't help asking.

This was a major issue!

Han Chengyi couldn't help. There was no reason for him to attend.

Han Chengren immediately furrowed his brows.

"Regarding Qifeng Group's side, no matter who attends from our side, I think, the outcome will be the same!" Han Dong said with gravity, "So, this time I have an idea!"

Han Chengren and Han Chengyi exchanged glances, unable to resist looking towards their father.

"Let Minghao go!" Han Dong directed his gaze towards Han Minghao and decided firmly.

"What?"

"Minghao!"

With those words, the Han brothers were stunned.

In recent years, although they had focused on cultivating Han Minghao, he was used to a wild life and had never attended such an important occasion!

Was this decision too hasty?

Han Minghao himself was incredulous.

"It's just a representative, it doesn't matter who goes. The other party didn't specify it had to be me alone; I plan to have key businesses send a representative each, and this time Minghao will represent the Han Family Enterprise. Moreover, the visitors are from the younger generation of Qifeng Group, if an old man like me were to go, it would only honor them!" Han Dong sneered, "Even if we lose in the end, we lose the battle, not our dignity!"

Having said this, Han Dong looked at Han Minghao with a significant tone, "Minghao, ever since you met Officer Bai Xiaosheng, I've noticed considerable changes in you, which is great! The Han Family Enterprise will eventually fall into your hands!"

"Look at your peer, Officer Bai Xiaosheng, who can be described as 'below one person and above ten thousand' from those novels. With a wave of his hand, general managers of various businesses show their utmost respect! Don't you envy that, don't you desire that!"

"Although you've been reckless for over a decade, we haven't been overly strict with you. But it's time to wake up!"

"Tomorrow, you will be the representative for the Han Family, to witness the style of your peers!"

"I plan to suggest to the Fu and Liu families to have Fu Yunwei and Mr. Liu accompany you. Your generation can support each other in the future and must grow together!"

Han Dong's words were full of anticipation.

Han Chengren and Han Chengyi nodded slightly, their gazes filled with expectation as they looked at Han Minghao.

A surge of enthusiasm filled Han Minghao's heart, and he couldn't help but nod vigorously.

"Don't worry, Grandpa. Don't worry, Dad, Uncle! I'll work hard!" Han Minghao clenched his fists.

People eventually grow up, especially after experiencing some things, realizing the absurdity of the past and seeing the vast possibilities of the future.

Such a future for Han Minghao was indeed full of brightness.

The gaze of the three Hans was very expectant.

Meanwhile, elsewhere.

After Bai Xiaosheng hung up the phone, he pondered for a moment.

"What's wrong?" Lin Ke asked curiously.

The Affairs Officer inviting subordinates to eat was an unprecedented act. In the eyes of other Affairs Officers, it might seem like losing face, but since Bai Xiaosheng did it, she had nothing to say.

However, after inviting Han Dong, Bai Xiaosheng fell silent.

"Something seems to be going on with Han Dong," Bai Xiaosheng said, "His demeanor was quite unusual."

"Oh?" Lin Ke asked curiously, "Will it affect us?"

"It shouldn't, he has also agreed to come. When the time comes, I'll look for an opportunity to ask him," Bai Xiaosheng said.

Then, he turned to Lin Weiwei, "How are things at the hotel?"

"Everything is ready!" Lin Weiwei said, "I'll make a call in a bit and notify each party."

Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

He was confident in Lin Weiwei's capabilities.

"I really don't understand what you're trying to do. The report is out, and there's no decision to hold any particular business accountable, so why gather them together? What are you planning?" Lin Ke couldn't help but ask.

"Of course, to carry through with the deterrence!" Bai Xiaosheng smiled, then added, "Also, I've been called up by Mayor Chu of Yunhai twice these days; I've also gained some insights!"

Lin Ke naturally knew this.

"What insights?" Lin Ke couldn't help but ask.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled without answering, only saying, "As one of the top executives, I naturally have to have the group's interests in mind. Tomorrow, I will also provide those people with a big benefit!"

"What benefit?" Lin Ke asked again.

Bai Xiaosheng just smiled, "You'll know tomorrow!"

This secretive guy really keeps everything under wraps, just short of saying "I won't tell, even under torture."

"I'm not going tomorrow!" Lin Ke gave him a stern look and said petulantly.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and shrugged his shoulders.

Still not telling!

As for tomorrow's meeting, in Bai Xiaosheng's view, there should be deterrence, but also benefits.

Not only to fulfill what Xiahou Qi entrusted him with, but also to cover all the bases.

This time, it could truly be the best of both worlds, and even Bai Xiaosheng himself was quite satisfied.

"Even I am somewhat looking forward to tomorrow," Bai Xiaosheng mused.

His eyes too were filled with anticipation!

Looking forward to the meeting tomorrow, eagerly awaiting the results!

Chapter 933: You're Blocking the Way!

The next day, nearing noon, at the Nanhui Star Hotel.

Lin Weiwei was busy managing the entrance of the large reserved room, with everyone on site taking orders being brought in by Lin Ke.

Ten young men and women, efficient in their work and thorough in their etiquette, Lin Weiwei found them quite easy to work with.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Ke were also at the hotel, but they were drinking coffee at the Sky Coffee Shop on the top floor, overlooking Yunhai.

Lin Ke had just told Bai Xiaosheng about something.

It was the message received by Han Dong.

Although it wasn't reported upwards, the channels of information in the Affairs Department were also very well-informed.

"Among the local corporate groups in Yunhai, this should also cause some disturbance, but still not enough to reach Elder Xia," Lin Ke shrugged, "Moreover, although our group is large, we are not engaged in monopolizing, nor can we forcefully prevent others from entering, that would make enemies all over. Even if we knew, it's unlikely we'd take any measures against it."

Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

"Qifeng Group, huh?" Bai Xiaosheng pondered, then smiled, "What a coincidence! Their banquet is just next to ours!"

"You said yesterday that Han Dong's wording was a bit unusual, as if something was on his mind, probably this very issue," Lin Ke continued.

Bai Xiaosheng agreed with Lin Ke's statement.

"However, since Han Dong didn't mention it, he must have his own plans in mind, so we need not rush to show concern," Bai Xiaosheng casually remarked.

However, his face bore a contemplative expression, and he remained silent for two or three minutes.

"What are you thinking about?!" Lin Ke saw a faint, subtle smile in Bai Xiaosheng's eyes, and she asked skeptically, "Are you plotting something naughty?"

Bai Xiaosheng was startled and smiled at her, "Do I look like a bad guy to you, speaking of me like that?"

"Not at all!" Lin Ke declared assertively, "You absolutely are!"

"Even if I were a bad guy, it's only towards outsiders. To our own people, it's never a bad thing," Bai Xiaosheng said warmly, sipping his tea gently while still deep in thought.

Lin Ke did not interrupt him, but silently gazed at him, her eyes too, carrying a trace of a smile.

She always thought men looked so handsome when they were seriously working or thinking about something!

Half an hour later, Bai Xiaosheng's phone vibrated, with a message from Lin Weiwei.

Bai Xiaosheng checked it and laughed, "It's eleven o'clock now, and quite a few people have already arrived."

"That's expected, all are corporate groups, those general managers wouldn't dare delay when meeting an Affairs Officer! Plus, you are the host; even if they are nervous, they must give me a brimming smile and come early," Lin Ke scoffed.

An Affairs Officer personally hosting them was a great honor, no one dared to be negligent.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "Let's wait until almost everyone has arrived before we head down."

"Actually, I would prefer we delay half an hour more, just to make them wait," Lin Ke muttered.

"That's unnecessary. Making others wait means we are also waiting," Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

At this moment, at the entrance of room 501.

Lin Weiwei was dressed in a plain long dress, standing there poised and graceful, smiling elegantly, looking every bit the goddess.

Not only the guests, but even the ten helpers sent by Lin Ke couldn't help but gaze at her repeatedly.

Women admired her, men were charmed.

"That one, is she Assistant to Officer Bai Xiaosheng? Truly gentle and graceful, superior in demeanor—far surpassing our Yunhai socialites in both temperament and presence," Han Dong praised unceasingly as he looked at Lin Weiwei at the door from inside the room.

Han Chengren couldn't help but nod in agreement.

Being an assistant to an Affairs Officer, even he, a subsidiary company's general manager, felt somewhat envious.

"That place next door..."

Han Chengren noted quite a few people passing by the door and realizing the place next door was the Qifeng Group's venue, he leaned closer to Han Dong and lowered his voice.

Han Dong stopped him with a look and shook his head slightly.

"This isn't appropriate for this setting, at this place."

"Over there, let's leave it to Han Minghao and the young fellows. Moreover, several companies have sent their calm and steady senior executives. They should be able to handle it."

"Let's just hope everything goes smoothly today," Han Dong responded almost inaudibly.

Han Chengren nodded.

"President Han!"

"You've arrived early, President Han!"

"Mr. Han."

Several new arrivals came over to greet him, and Han Dong responded with a smile.

At the entrance, Lin Weiwei was checking names with a female assistant responsible for registration when a burst of noise came from down the corridor.

Lin Weiwei instinctively looked up in that direction.

The noise was coming from the elevator area. A group of around thirty people approached, many of them in sharp suits and wearing sunglasses, evidently bodyguards.

In the center of the crowd were a man and a woman.

The man, appearing to be about thirty, was strikingly handsome, tall, and carried himself with a subtle arrogance amid his calm demeanor.

The woman by his side was young and beautiful, dressed lavishly. Just her handbag alone was worth tens of thousands.

Despite many fawning people around them, the pair seemed to pay no attention to anyone else, merely conversing and smiling among themselves.

"Although Yunhai is no major city, the air quality is still good, and the hot springs are nice. Weiwei, you should go for a SPA; it's good for a woman's skin," the young man said tenderly.

He seemed quite devoted to the woman.

"Is the air quality better than in Europe? No way, just domestic. And the hot springs? If compared to those in Japan, they're just too low. Only the unworldly locals would flock to them," the young woman scoffed dismissively.

However, she then cooingly said, "Let's quickly wrap up the business and take a walk outside. I really can't stand staying here any longer."

Even though the woman was quite kind towards the man, there was still a slightly more arrogant tone in her voice.

"Of course, of course, anything you say," the man laughed, although there was a flicker of displeasure deep in his eyes.

After all, being publicly contradicted by a woman had cost him some face.

Of course, he dared not let his mood show.

This man was Yu Zhongtian, Director of Qifeng Group, and the woman beside him was his fiancée, Song Yao.

This group walked straight to door 501.

Seeing Lin Weiwei, so beautiful, standing there as a "greeter," Yu Zhongtian couldn't help but have a gleam in his eye, thinking to himself, "This woman is really beautiful! What a fine demeanor she has!"

The moment Song Yao, who was talking to Yu Zhongtian, saw it, her brows furrowed instantly.

Immediately afterward, she coldly glanced at Lin Weiwei, irritation clear in her eyes.

"Hey, you, the doorkeeper! I'm talking to you!" Song Yao stamped her foot, tilted her head, and looked askance at Lin Weiwei, "Why aren't you rushing over to greet us as we approach?"

Many people were entering through this door; clearly, Song Yao believed this was their meeting venue.

Not just her, Yu Zhongtian also thought so.

Seeing Song Yao's capriciousness, Yu Zhongtian parted his lips slightly, then closed them without speaking a word.

It wasn't anything else; he knew the character of his fiancée. If he tried to stop her, she would only become more unreasonable.

Moreover, alienating Song Yao for the sake of an unrelated woman, albeit one resembling a goddess, was not worth the consequences.

Especially since, starting from last month, the largest shareholder of Qifeng Group was the Song Family.

Confronted with Song Yao's arrogant questioning, Lin Weiwei frowned slightly, then with utmost elegance and the gentlest tone, she said — "Miss, please step aside!"

"You're in the way!"

Chapter 934 "Scram" in One Word

Lin Weiwei was one hundred and twenty percent certain that guests like Song Yao were not on the list!

Because she had checked the guest list herself one by one.

Moreover, in a scene presided by Bai Xiaosheng, none of the attendees present dared to show such an attitude!

Not to mention the general managers of the companies below, even if an Affairs Officer or Senior Affairs Officer came, they would not speak in such a manner!

Lin Weiwei knew Bai Xiaosheng's personality well and was aware that he disliked groveling the most and hated being arrogantly oppressed by others.

Since Bai Xiaosheng was a deputy general manager, he feared no one.

Back then, as a deputy general manager, he never bowed his head even in the presence of someone far superior in rank like Chen Jiuzheng or Chen Jiutian.

Every time she thought of it, just for that, Lin Weiwei regarded Bai Xiaosheng as an idol for life.

Humble yet disdainful of the lowly, daring to draw his sword, courageous in counterattacking.

Lin Weiwei always kept it in mind, treating it as a creed.

She behaved like this even with the real higher-ups of her own conglomerate, so naturally, Lin Weiwei would not give face to this unknown woman throwing her weight around!

How to strike at someone who held themselves in high regard and also came from an extraordinary background?

Bai Xiaosheng, when bored, had told her and Lei Ying this joke—the solution was to ignore them completely!

To treat their arrogance with utter disregard, not even deigning to look at them properly, and to directly tell them to roll away and stop being an eyesore.

It meant, you think so highly of yourself, but here in my presence, you're less than trash.

This way, the blow to such people hit right where it hurt the most.

"You!" Song Yao's face indeed changed color, she hadn't expected this woman to dare speak to her in such a way.

In her own family, Song Yao was as proud as a princess, and within her social circle, she was the boss lady.

When she was out, she was surrounded by dozens of people on all sides, as if she were a queen.

She had never been treated like this before!

"You actually speak to me like this!" Song Yao looked at Lin Weiwei furiously.

Lin Weiwei glanced at her indifferently and gestured to the side, "Please step aside!"

"Do you know who I am, you... you'll regret this!" Song Yao said angrily, turning to Yu Zhongtian, "Zhongtian, did you hear that? She was rude to me, which makes me very unhappy, you need to deal with it right now!"

Song Yao crossed her arms and looked away arrogantly.

In Song Yao's eyes, even in Yunhai, many businesses had to look up to them and wouldn't dare to offend.

Otherwise, once their group set up shop, there would be no good outcomes for the other parties!

Yu Zhongtian's expression subtly changed, and he couldn't help looking at Lin Weiwei, trying to speak in as mild a tone as possible, "Miss, you might not be aware of our identities, but ignorance is no excuse! Have you heard of Qifeng Group? We represent Qifeng Group, and Weiwei is even more so the precious daughter of Qifeng Group's major director. The way you've treated her is very impolite, and the consequences could be quite severe. Please apologize to Weiwei right now."

Yu Zhongtian thought he was being kind.

At one time in another city, a senior manager, a woman, had angered Song Yao.

The Song Family actually exerted pressure across cities to have that person fired.

The Song Family cherished this daughter greatly.

At the moment, Yu Zhongtian thought that if Lin Weiwei just apologized, she might keep her job, considering it his duty to help.

Song Yao frowned and gave Yu Zhongtian a glance.

In her view, Yu Zhongtian was simply favoring this woman.

She felt a surge of jealousy and when she looked at Lin Weiwei again, her disdain increased twofold.

"Qifeng Group?" Lin Weiwei pondered.

"Beautiful lady, Qifeng Group is a super large enterprise. This time coming to Yunhai, even the city government will send representatives. This lady here is an esteemed guest, someone you can't compare with and cannot afford to offend, so hurry up and apologize!"

"Exactly, Miss Song comes from such a noble background, she wouldn't bother with someone of your status, so just apologize."

"If you don't apologize, you might not even be able to keep your job, no matter which company you're from..."

The people accompanying Yu Zhongtian and Song Yao chimed in one after another.

The commotion at the door immediately drew the attention of the people in the private rooms.

Han Chengren watched for a while, his face showing a subtle change, and he looked towards Han Dong.

Han Dong subtly shook his head.

They couldn't go out and mediate at the moment, and even if they did, it would not help but only expose them to mockery.

Officer Bai Xiaosheng's people should have the ability to handle this small matter, Han Dong thought to himself.

At the entrance, Lin Weiwei looked coldly at the people in front of her and said earnestly, "This is private room 501. I don't know where you intend to go, but this is not your place. Please leave. You're blocking the way!"

Lin Weiwei remained restrained, neither humble nor arrogant.

Bai Xiaosheng had said that one should always start with courtesy before resorting to force.

If civility is exhausted and faces are not saved, then if we resort to the knife, don't blame us for not showing mercy.

"Private room 501?" Yu Zhongtian was stunned for a moment and glanced at the door number.

Indeed, it was!

The room 502 was on the other side of the corner.

It was they who were making trouble at someone else's doorstep.

"This is not our room," Yu Zhongtian couldn't help but whisper to Song Yao, "Yao Yao, let's go!"

"Just because it's not our room, does she think she can get away without apologizing? I didn't know that in this shabby place of Yunhai, there are such bold people!" Song Yao said, huffing with anger.

In her view, Yu Zhongtian's apologetic glance at Lin Weiwei just now was simply a sign of his interest in that woman.

Furthermore, given Lin Weiwei's attitude towards her, Song Yao refused to let it go.

In her opinion, as long as Qifeng Group made a move, no matter which unit that woman belonged to, she wouldn't be able to walk away unscathed.

"What's going on here!" Suddenly, a cold shout came.

From behind Yu Zhongtian and his group, a person approached, tall and strong, moving swiftly as if treading on wind.

He pushed his way through the crowd blocking the way, as if they were mere chicks.

"Who is this person!" "What are you doing?!"

The four bodyguards accompanying Yu Zhongtian immediately became alert upon seeing this.

Someone was barging in; it was their time to shine.

Stripped of clothing, these men would also show off a body full of muscle lumps.

Usually boasting an overbearing attitude, they regarded ordinary people as if they were made of clay.

Now, as the four of them stepped forward together, they felt as if even a bull could be stopped in its tracks.

Yu Zhongtian and Song Yao looked on.

Subsequently, they saw those four burly bodyguards being brushed aside like mere chicks by someone.

One bodyguard, who didn't give in, was even lifted up and thrown out.

To pick up and throw a burly man of over one meter eighty?

What kind of monster was this!

Yu Zhongtian and Song Yao were dumbfounded.

They watched as the intruder, as if no one else was present, walked straight up to Lin Weiwei and asked, "Is someone causing trouble?"

The person who had arrived was Lei Ying.

As he spoke, his gaze swept over coldly.

He was the God of Killing who had descended from the battlefield, and although many years had passed and his temperament had greatly changed, the moment hostility toward a person rose, that look in his eyes could still send shivers down one's spine.

This was called a killing aura.

Yu Zhongtian, Song Yao, and the others felt a chill run down their spines, and their hairs stood on end.

Lin Weiwei summarized the situation briefly in a low voice.

Lei Ying was refreshingly decisive, staring at Yu Zhongtian and Song Yao for two seconds as if committing them to memory, and then he uttered just one word—"Leave!"

This low and deep voice sounded almost like a terrifying edict.

Yu Zhongtian, realizing the bodyguards were cowering, swallowed dryly and dared not make eye contact.

"You just wait!" Song Yao, her face slightly pale, dropped a threatening line and hurriedly left.

She was scared of the other party, but still unwilling to back down.

Once Song Yao left, Yu Zhongtian and the others hastened away.

The farce seemed to have come to an end.

However, in Song Yao's eyes, this was the beginning of a grudge.

She was determined to get revenge on that arrogant little hussy!

Chapter 935: Let Me Do the Math with Everyone

"Vulgar, barbaric, nothing but stinking hooligans!"

After walking away, Song Yao's face turned ashen with rage, and she kept cursing at Yu Zhongtian all the way. "I never expected everyone here in Yunhai to be like this! It's true what they say, 'the land shapes its people.' Just look at them, resorting to violence at the drop of a hat. What kind of people are these? Scum!"

When she badmouthed Lei Ying like that, the faces of the Yunhai people following by her side immediately turned somewhat ugly.

Everyone values their reputation.

This missy started with a scattergun approach, dragging them all down as scum.

In reality, the reason they started with violence wasn't it because you were unreasonable! the crowd murmured inwardly.

Of course, no one dared to say this out loud.

"Alright, Yao Yao, calm down a bit." Yu Zhongtian could only try to soothe her.

"Calm down, how can I calm down!"

Song Yao fumed, "Just look at the people you brought—what a bunch of failures! Four of them went up and got laid out in less than half a minute, and the rest instantly lost their nerve. They're a complete waste of space! If I had known, I would've brought our family's bodyguards. They would never be such losers!"

Song Yao glared at the bodyguards beside her.

The bodyguards all hung their heads in low spirits, silent.

You eat from the bowl you're given, you follow the house you serve.

Their own employer didn't dare to utter a word, so all they could do was listen.

Furthermore, they really had been ineffective just now.

"Okay, okay, don't be angry. They did their best," Yu Zhongtian continued, trying to ease the situation; he felt somewhat embarrassed too.

Not because he was embarrassed by Lei Ying's intimidating exit, but because of Song Yao's scolding.

She was his fiancée, after all. Couldn't she give him some face in public?

Yu Zhongtian felt aggrieved but didn't dare to voice it.

If he spoke too lightly or too severely, and Song Yao went back to complain, the Song Family might force his father to make him apologize.

By then, he would lose even more face.

Yu Zhongtian could only do his utmost to placate Song Yao.

Song Yao kept grumbling about them as they entered the private room, eventually tiring herself out.

However, the resentment in her beautiful eyes never faded.

She wouldn't swallow this indignity so easily!

Meanwhile.

Lei Ying's impressively domineering entrance had everyone present astonished.

One man overpowered a group.

Though, at that moment, only four bodyguards had reacted and charged out.

Yet those tall and burly men got laid out by Lei Ying in less than ten seconds.

It was as if he was playing with children. Such might— who could compare!

In the end, he even intimidated them into leaving in a dismal retreat.

Even the imperious woman didn't dare to swagger anymore. Now that was impressive!

The men watched, their blood boiling with excitement, while the women stared in a daze, their gazes adoring.

Lei Ying, entirely indifferent to the admiring eyes around him, stood beside Lin Weiwei, casting a cold gaze at the retreating figures, and asked in a low voice, "Do you want me to teach them a lesson?"

To think of bullying his own people on his turf!

Lei Ying was not pleased.

"No need," Lin Weiwei said with an indifferent smile. "Today is Xiaosheng's banquet, and it's not worth starting another commotion over some irrelevant people."

Hearing Lin Weiwei speak thus, Lei Ying had no choice but to let it go.

"Let's get back to work. We have just over half an hour before the party starts," Lin Weiwei said with a smile.

Lei Ying nodded.

They continued with the preparations.

Half an hour later, Bai Xiaosheng arrived on that floor with Lin Ke.

Seeing them coming, Lin Weiwei took graceful steps, smiling as she went to greet them.

"Wow, Weiwei, you really look like a goddess today!" Lin Ke couldn't help but exclaim in admiration, having not seen Lin Weiwei in this dress before.

With just a touch of makeup, Lin Weiwei was nothing short of a disaster of beauty.

Seeing Lin Ke was almost drooling, Bai Xiaosheng joked, "Officer Lin, mind your image. Also, you're making me doubt your personal preferences."

With no one else around, Bai Xiaosheng even started to tease, "Weiwei, be careful around her."

Lin Weiwei wanted to laugh.

"Get lost!" Lin Ke lowered her voice and gave Bai Xiaosheng a glare, "I like macho men, you know."

"Here comes a macho man," Bai Xiaosheng nudged his chin and laughed.

Lei Ying was approaching.

But as he got closer, he noticed everyone looking at him.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei wore smiles in their eyes, Lin Ke was glaring fiercely at Bai Xiaosheng and also at him.

Lei Ying was utterly confused and couldn't help but look down at himself, "What's going on? Why is everyone looking at me like this?"

Two minutes later. Bai Xiaosheng walked into the hall with Lin Ke and the others.

As soon as Han Dong saw him, he immediately stood up, beaming with smiles, and took the initiative to greet him, "Affairs Officer Bai!"

"Affairs Officer Bai!" Han Chengren followed suit right after.

Seeing this, others hurriedly stood up and started greeting Bai Xiaosheng one after another.

It was quite interesting, as Bai Xiaosheng, a high-level executive officer of the group, was not recognized by over eighty percent of the general managers present.

They had all heard the name but had never met the person.

In fact, many people in the Affairs Department had only seen Bai Xiaosheng once. Possibly, if Bai Xiaosheng were to return after more than a month, many people might not recognize him and might even discuss Bai Xiaosheng right in front of him.

At this moment, the general managers present were inspecting this legendary New-type Affairs Officer and couldn't help but be astonished.

He was so young!

The phrase "young and promising" severely understated him!

Bai Xiaosheng's achievements at his age were enough to make these middle-aged, successful general managers feel both admiration and shame.

"Hello everyone." Bai Xiaosheng greeted each person with a nod and a smile, very gentle and polite.

If someone wanted to shake hands, Bai Xiaosheng would shake hands, and he always managed to smile and call out their information.

"Mr. Zhang Lei from Jiayun Business Management, hello!"

"Mr. Liu Qingcheng from Fangyu Media, hello!"

...

Bai Xiaosheng acted as if he knew everyone.

To those meeting him for the first time, this was both respectful and somewhat astonishing.

Some even began to feel uneasy.

Did this mean Officer Bai Xiaosheng was familiar with every detail about each of them?

Or that he held all of their "secrets"?

Deep down, none of the people present was completely open and fearless.

Some might play favorites, some might overstep their boundaries.

These issues, while not enough to land them in serious trouble or even if reported, would merely result in some criticism.

But ultimately, they could affect one's career prospects!

After greeting everyone, as Bai Xiaosheng walked to his seat, the eyes behind him were filled with a vague sense of fear.

This was essentially a "feast with a trap"!

Who knew if Officer Bai Xiaosheng would take this occasion to raise the "executioner's blade" against one of them, or perhaps—slash them all out!

After all, this Officer Bai Xiaosheng was someone who dared to act against provincial industry leaders and regional heads, even unseating some of them.

His capabilities, his maneuvering, his background, all of it was terrifying beyond measure!

To him, what did these dozen or so subsidiary general managers amount to?

Truly wanting to clean them all out was not impossible!

It seemed not even troublesome...

As Bai Xiaosheng reached his seat, he looked around with a smile and said, "I've been in Yunhai for some time now. Inviting everyone to a meal today has no other purpose, just pure communication."

This statement slightly eased everyone's mind.

Maybe they were overthinking it, or perhaps the rumors were exaggerated, look at how gentle and amiable Affairs Officer Bai was.

Many people thought to themselves.

With an amiable smile, Bai Xiaosheng said, "Additionally, I want to settle an account with everyone!"

Chapter 936 You all have a problem!

Lin Ke was standing next to Bai Xiaosheng, with a reserved spot for her.

From the moment Bai Xiaosheng walked in, greeting everyone one by one, several changes had occurred on the faces of the attendees within just these ten minutes.

Surprise, shock, caution, relief, anxiety.

Most likely, the emotions of most people were no different from riding a roller coaster.

Lin Ke couldn't help but want to laugh, and when she looked at Bai Xiaosheng, she felt a bit of admiration.

These affairs officers, which one of them didn't come wrapped in dignity, ending everything with decisive actions?

These non-direct subsidiary general managers only had the part of receiving assignments.

However, it was indeed quick for them.

Bai Xiaosheng was clearly toughening people's hearts.

Recalling the conversation she had with him earlier at the Sky Coffee Shop on the top floor, Lin Ke reminisced.

"The people who came today have been long in their general manager positions, seemingly respectable but stuck in place, neither moving nor advancing. Over time, they naturally grow weary, and even start acting out of self-interest, not wholly adhering to rules, though never touching the bottom line."

"What should be done with them?"

"You issue a public criticism, hoping for a minor punishment to serve as a major warning, but they won't feel the acute pain, and thinking their prospects have already been affected, they might as well become increasingly slack."

"If you execute one to warn the others, or simply demote or reassign everyone, on one hand, the punishment is too severe, cooling their hearts. On the other hand, remember 'where the water is too pure, there are no fish.' Moreover, who can guarantee that the next batch will be more capable than them! "

"Of course, leaving them unchecked isn't an option either! Do not take a minor evil lightly; one small misstep could eventually lead them completely astray."

"So, I must give them a profound memory, to remind them that people are watching, the heavens are watching, and the Affairs Department is watching their actions!"

"But under a big stick, you also need to offer a carrot, letting them experience pain and pleasure together!"

Bai Xiaosheng's words were indeed interesting.

Lin Ke was also watching with eager anticipation.

Bai Xiaosheng's phrase "Let's settle some accounts," suddenly made the atmosphere in the private room much tenser.

Many people had very forced smiles.

To them, it was clear that this young New-type Affairs Officer was about to display his power!

In Han Dong and Han Chengren's eyes, there was a bit of seriousness, but they were not overly afraid.

After all, they had already submitted all their materials to Bai Xiaosheng, asserting their innocence!

The Han Family Enterprise and Yunyu Industrial were just cooperating normally, legally profiting. At most, they might gain a bit more convenience, but the quality and quantity of the goods were definitely guaranteed!

It must be said that Han Dong had foresight.

This money might be less, but peace of mind is preferred, as both his sons worked in the Zhenbei Group and he had to be cautious, leaving a way out and also preparing for a day of reckoning.

Now, Han Chengren thought about his father's persistence and started to admire him; after all, the older ginger is indeed spicier.

Without Han Dong's persistence, he really could have made mistakes; how else could he be so calm at this moment?

"Affairs Officer Bai, what exactly are we settling here?" someone asked with a forced smile.

This person felt that his issues were minor, so he dared to speak up first.

"Luoxin E-commerce, Mr. Chen." Bai Xiaosheng looked at him with a smile, "Your company's performance this year has been good. Among the companies present, it ranks seventh."

Bai Xiaosheng's public praise made Mr. Chen's smile brighten.

Just as he was about to modestly deflect, he heard Bai Xiaosheng continue, "However, this year's new business venture, initiated without prior reporting, is suspected of being unauthorized, not because the opportunity was fleeting, but because it coincided with your annual performance review period, and you had personal interests involved. Though the report was thorough and well considered, it still does not demonstrate the behaviour expected of a qualified manager!"

Bai Xiaosheng spoke calmly, his gaze and expression tranquil, merely stating facts without a hint of reproach.

Mr. Chen's face turned pale.

This was a very subtle issue, and he had also submitted a detailed explanation afterward. The Affairs Department had accepted his reasons for the delayed report, yet this Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng had noticed it!

Mr. Chen suddenly felt extremely uncomfortable.

Seeing him like this, others couldn't help swallowing hard in secret.

Those familiar with Mr. Chen knew he was meticulous; if he handled something, it was bound to be watertight, but who would have thought that Bai Xiaosheng would not let even this kind of issue slide?

Looking at it this way, had Officer Bai Xiaosheng gotten a clear understanding of their issues!

"About this matter, there might be some misunderstanding. Affairs Officer Bai, you might not be fully aware, but I have already reported the reasons to the department," Mr. Chen still tried to argue.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and glanced at Lin Weiwei.

Lin Weiwei walked over, smiling elegantly as she opened a document and pulled out a sheet of paper for Mr. Chen to see.

Mr. Chen took it with a puzzled look, scanned it briefly, and his eyes bulged.

What Bai Xiaosheng had mentioned was just a minor issue of his; the other issues were listed clearly, and evidence was duly noted.

Those, Bai Xiaosheng had not read out!

Mr. Chen's face turned deathly pale, his eyes faintly desperate, feeling like he was the chicken to be slaughtered to scare the monkeys that day.

Lin Weiwei very politely took back the sheet of paper and clipped it in the folder.

Everyone watched Mr. Chen's reaction, feeling a chill in their hearts.

Chen was also considered composed, still daring to rebut, but why such an expression after seeing that sheet of paper?

The issues listed on it were probably much more severe than spoken!

As one person was targeted, everyone else breathed a sigh of relief, feeling they might escape unscathed.

Bai Xiaosheng looked around at everyone and smiled, "I also have something to show all of you!"

As he finished speaking, Lin Weiwei was already distributing sheets of paper one by one; the faces of those who received them suddenly changed.

Within just a few minutes, the atmosphere in the room had become completely tense.

A stifling heat was spreading among the people.

Sweat beads appeared on everyone's forehead.

Lei Ying waited two minutes, then started collecting the documents from the first manager and moved on to everyone else.

Everyone's expression looked terrible.

The situation was much more serious than any of them had imagined.

Based on these "evidences," they were all likely to be demoted or face substantive sanctions.

It was far more severe than just a simple notification and reprimand as previously thought!

Was this Bai Xiaosheng's "account"?

He really was capable of settling accounts with everyone!

Han Chengren also received a sheet; the issues were clearly listed though his issues were less severe than others, and some of those issues seemed far-fetched.

The Han father and son both had a somber look, but deep inside, they were filled with gratitude toward Bai Xiaosheng.

After all, having everyone's issues unveiled except theirs would invite suspicion.

Many clues concerning the people present had been provided by the Han family.

That Han Chengren was included in this reckoning truly meant that Bai Xiaosheng was providing cover for them, as well as protection.

"Gentlemen, is there anything else you would like to say?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with a light smile.

No one spoke a word.

All of them hung their heads in dejection.

In their view, this was already "conclusive evidence"; once reported, the figures behind them would also be hard to intervene.

After all, they were being watched by Bai Xiaosheng!

"Regarding the Yunhai Industrial issue report, I have already submitted it," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, "The content does not involve any specific enterprises, nor any specific individuals. It addresses matters, not people."

At this statement, everyone could not help but look toward Bai Xiaosheng.

They were all astonished, all puzzled.

Addressing matters, not people? Why was this?

Chapter 937 Thank You Affairs Officer Bai!

Bai Xiaosheng presented material evidence to the general managers of these Yunhai subsidiary groups.

Not a single person present was spared!

Each was found out, more or less!

Everyone was utterly shocked.

Hadn't they said that this Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng had done nothing during this week, just indulging in the mountains and rivers of Yunhai?

When did he conduct the investigation?

And so thoroughly at that!

Everyone was puzzled.

However, they all, without exception, did not ponder about any "mole" issues, but thought it was only "expected"!

After all, to them, the position of Affairs Officer was a terrifying entity.

In the past week, the more information these people gathered through various channels, the more unprecedented fear they felt toward Officer Bai Xiaosheng.

He had been "demonized" to such an extent.

Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng was known for his decisive and swift actions, often accomplishing astonishing feats in unbelievably short timespans.

He was an entity that couldn't be measured by normal standards!

Right now, for Bai Xiaosheng to investigate everyone so quickly, they found it to be normal.

If even the big shots couldn't withstand Bai Xiaosheng's investigation, how much time would he need for them...

However, with the conclusive evidence, Bai Xiaosheng could have swept away all of these people, although the businesses they managed were not large enterprises, yet clearing up all the group industries in a city at once was no small feat either!

Yet Bai Xiaosheng said that the content he reported did not involve any specific businesses, nor any specific individuals?

Was this showing leniency or sparing them?

Rumors had it that the new appointee, eager to "set thirty fires," was actually not interested in this achievement?

If one were to say Bai Xiaosheng feared the powerful backers behind them, that would be an overestimation; not one of the people Bai Xiaosheng targeted was a minor figure!

Everyone looked at Bai Xiaosheng in confusion.

"Yunhai is a good place," Bai Xiaosheng said, looking at the many pairs of eyes, unhurriedly, "Not only is it a beautiful city, but it's also the city with the most potential! The group has placed each of your enterprises here after careful selection, and you being in control of these enterprises signifies the group's trust in you!"

Bai Xiaosheng continued, "It can be said that each one of you is a valued manager. To put it frankly, you have more potential than the general managers in other places, and the group is also willing to give you more opportunities. After all, you have problems, but not enough to ruin your futures!"

Bai Xiaosheng was essentially flattering these people while also providing a tranquilizer and a bolstering shot.

Lin Ke thought to himself that if it were any other time, facing these seasoned careerists, these general managers, who would have been fooled by such platitudes?

The key was, Bai Xiaosheng was clever!

He first delivered a shock to everyone, making them fearful and thinking it was the end and then he provided the comforting platitudes.

It was like giving a lifebuoy to someone drowning, moreover, Bai Xiaosheng provided a much sturdier lifeline.

Indeed, all the general managers nodded in agreement, seemingly moved on their faces.

"Affairs Officer Bai is young, yet his mastery of winning hearts is truly exceptional!" Han Dong might be the only person other than Lin who noticed this, and he couldn't help but inwardly exclaim in admiration.

"Then I must lend him a helping hand!" Han Dong thought to himself and gave his son Han Chengren a meaningful look.

Han Chengren was also touched by Bai Xiaosheng's words, but seeing the glance from his father, he was initially startled, then immediately understood.

It was time to show cooperation!

"Affairs Officer Bai, you're truly willing to give us a chance, for which I am grateful!" Han Chengren spoke up, his expression somewhat stirred, "Everyone knows you handle affairs decisively, without favoritism. But this time, you focused on the issue, not the people, just giving us a warning instead of punishment. It clearly shows your intentions. I, Han Chengren, promise to restrain my desires and stay loyal to my duties from now on!"

As Han Chengren took the lead, Bai Xiaosheng looked toward him, his eyes showing a bit of approval, and he also glanced at Han Dong surreptitiously.

The Han father and son were indeed good at seizing the moment, and their coordination was impressive.

With Han Chengren taking the lead, all the general managers present, not willing to be outdone, spoke up one after another.

"We are grateful for Affairs Officer Bai's consideration and will surely reflect on ourselves, daring not to overstep again."

"Yes, from now on, we will use our performance to repay your trust in us."

"After this event, we will certainly learn from shame and become more courageous, making a change from the past!"

Each of these general managers spoke with vigorous articulation.

However, Lin Ke was well aware that it was hard to say how many of them were truly moved.

Perhaps at the beginning, they were indeed affected, but these figures, nearing middle age and having been in the workplace for many years, had already seen plenty of storms.

Their statements were likely three parts true, seven parts false.

Lin Ke also understood that Bai Xiaosheng was not naive enough to believe them, for at the Sky Coffee Shop, Bai Xiaosheng had said—

He only wanted them to remember the lesson!

He only wanted them to know that their fate was still in his hands!

When people have something to fear, they will follow the rules.

Show them the "big stick," and even when it's withdrawn, it's still a "big stick," as long as it can deter them, that's enough!

Amid a tide of voices expressing "sincere" gratitude, Bai Xiaosheng smiled and gestured with his hands pressed down.

He had expected this scene all along.

Bai Xiaosheng also appeared quite pleased, as if he was touched by everyone's gestures.

Mutually acting, his acting skills were no worse than these middle-aged individuals.

"I believe everyone is sincere, and that's great," said Bai Xiaosheng, "I did not come to Yunhai to investigate anyone. On one hand, I am here on vacation, and on the other hand, I am also working hard for you all. Now, I can share some good news with you all!"

Bai Xiaosheng's words made everyone's expression turn curious.

They didn't know what good news it could be, whether it might be as shocking as the earlier announcement...

"After multiple discussions with Mayor Chu of Yunhai, we've decided to involve the Yunhai Enterprise Federation in the next stage of Yunhai city's development process. Soon, you will receive a significant number of large orders facilitated by the city government or through connections with the city government!" Bai Xiaosheng announced.

With that statement, the entire audience fell silent in an instant, and every general manager's eyes widened.

This was something they had not expected!

And not just them, even Han Dong was taken aback; he hadn't expected it either!

Bai Xiaosheng had indeed kept an ace up his sleeve!

Cooperating with the city government, participating in the city development process, was a supreme way to gain access to the city government's information!

In today's society, what's valuable? Information is valuable!

To make an inappropriate analogy, if they knew the city government's next phase of development and direction for the city, wouldn't these companies follow along and make a fortune!

At that moment, everyone in the room felt an intense fervor inside them.

The awe of Bai Xiaosheng might have made them afraid.

The benefits provided by Bai Xiaosheng drove them to frenzy!

"Thank you, Affairs Officer Bai!"

No one knew who shouted first, but then these uncles, these seasoned men, shouted together with passionate cheers, "Thank you, Affairs Officer Bai!"

Amidst the roar, the atmosphere was electric!

This time their gratitude was heartfelt, utterly sincere.

Chapter 938: Not Friends, Then Enemies!

The calls for Bai Xiaosheng's group were deafening, while next door, another scene unfolded.

The adjacent private room was named the "Empire" banquet hall.

The spacious room featured a large, custom-made table at the center, with thirty seats.

It was filled with people, giving a sense of a roundtable meeting.

At the moment, the head seat was empty; even Yu Zhongtian sat only at the side, with Song Yao beside him.

Currently, twenty-two people had taken their seats, leaving only eight vacant.

Apart from Yu Zhongtian and Song Yao, the twenty people present ranged in age from their mid-twenties to their fifties or sixties, representatives of every age group. Regardless of gender or age, they were all dressed to the nines, their gazes fervent as they watched Yu Zhongtian, watched Song Yao.

These individuals were representatives of two civilian enterprise alliances in Yunhai City.

Each of them represented a business, and no matter the size of the enterprise, it had a place here.

Those yet to arrive were only from Han Dong's Yunhai Enterprise Federation.

Yu Zhongtian and Song Yao had been there for half an hour, and the compliments they received hadn't ceased for a moment.

"Mr. Yu truly is the epitome of talent, a dragon amongst men!"

"Such demeanor cannot be matched by any of us!"

"That comment is somewhat superfluous. Mr. Yu, after all, is set to be the future helmsman of Qifeng Group, second to none, leading thousands. We're not in the same league!"

"Exactly! The power of the Qifeng Group alone surpasses any of our alliances! Their willingness to come and discuss matters with us is nothing short of an honor!"

"Indeed, an honor!"

"I heard the city government is going to invite important figures, and whose honor will that be for? Qifeng Group's!"

"I don't know who the big shot will be, but it must be significant. After all, Qifeng Group's increased investments in various fields will bolster the development of Yunhai City!"

The crowd's discussion grew more animated.

Yu Zhongtian smiled without uttering a word, nor did he show any modesty.

Looking at the empty seat beside him, his eyes also held a fervent gleam.

Having nearly exhausted their praises for Yu Zhongtian, the men at the table left no stone unturned. The women present, all savvy with high emotional intelligence, turned their attention to Song Yao.

As women, they had a keen intuition, sensing that Yu Zhongtian's affection for Song Yao had an undertone of wariness.

As business elites, they had investigated beforehand; Song Yao's family held major shares in Qifeng Group.

The women started to plot curvilinear attacks, lavishing endless compliments on Song Yao.

"Miss Song, your skin is truly exquisite, and you're so beautiful. This poise, I think, is quite comparable to the newly risen star Wei Moran!"

"Absolutely, Miss Song comes from a reputable family, fortunate enough to not have to lift a finger. Unlike us, who are weather-beaten and toil endlessly."

"I heard Miss Song studied for her MBA in California, a Master of Business Administration. She's beautiful with substance. How will there be room left for people like us to survive?"

"Aye, there's no point in comparing ourselves with Miss Song. It's like comparing the earth to the sky, no need to ask for humiliation."

As compliments swirled abundantly, hearing so many made Song Yao feel quite pleased, significantly soothing the resentment she had felt earlier.

As they were talking, the door of the private room opened and a group of ten people, led by the waiter, walked in.

At the forefront was Han Minghao, followed by Fu Yunwei and Mr. Liu, with other business representatives behind them.

As these people entered, they were all taken aback.

They had arrived as promised, but why were there so many people already here?

"Oh, isn't this the Yunhai Enterprise Federation? Finally here!"

"Playing the big card, eh? Arriving even later than Mr. Yu, are you the grand finale?"

"The Yunhai Enterprise Federation calls the shots in Yunhai! Didn't you hear the media list the top ten private enterprises? They are all theirs."

"Tsk, how can our enterprises compare with theirs? We can't even make it to the top ten!"

It seemed deliberate.

As the people from the Yunhai Enterprise Federation arrived, everyone present released a stream of cold mockery and scathing ridicule.

Indeed, these enterprises and organizations had been crushed by the Federation in recent years, losing a significant portion of the market and promotional resources to it.

These people had long harbored resentment and, having heard about the recent discord between Qifeng Group and the Federation, they intentionally stirred up trouble.

The continuous barrage of derisive comments caused Han Minghao's brows to furrow.

Han Minghao, the proud and reckless playboy of previous days, now, even if the prodigal son had turned over a new leaf and was wholeheartedly devoted to business, how could he endure such treatment without any prior experience?

Fu Yunwei and Mr. Liu couldn't help but cast worried glances at their boss, ready to pull him back at any moment.

Today's occasion was unlike any other!

The identity they represented was also unlike any other, and they could not afford to act rashly!

Yu Zhongtian watched Han Minghao with an expressionless face, "Indeed, you gentlemen have not come early."

Song Yao, by his side, gave a cold glance and then looked away, as if too lazy to gaze upon these people.

"Mr. Yu, the notification we received said this time is neither early nor late," Han Minghao said, suppressing his emotions and speaking in a measured tone.

He was neither servile nor overbearing.

The people by Han Minghao's side couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief.

After all, the young master Han had held back.

How rare!

"Oh, is that so?" Yu Zhongtian smiled, "Then don't you know if you've carefully looked over the invitation? The time stated on it is certainly not now."

"Invitation, what invitation?" Han Minghao was stunned.

He had not seen any invitation.

"It's an invitation just like this one here, how come? You don't need an invitation to attend such a high-class banquet?"

"If you haven't seen it, I can show mine to you. Take a close look—you are late!"

"I think it's clearly intentional, showing off their distinctiveness as the Yunhai Enterprise Federation."

Many sneered and laughed, pulling out embossed invitations to show Han Minghao and the others.

Han Minghao's complexion changed, and those behind him couldn't help but widen their eyes in astonishment.

They had not received any invitation at all!

"We have no invitations!"

"Yes, we never got one!"

Behind Han Minghao, the crowd voiced their disbelief one after another, their expressions filled with shock and anger.

Not sending invitations, just verbally notifying them of the time and then accusing them of being late—that was playing them for fools!

Even as opponents, such low and mean tactics were too much!

"Mr. Yu, we really did not receive that invitation!" Han Minghao exclaimed with indignation.

Yu Zhongtian smiled insincerely, tilting his head to look at him, and said lazily, "That can't be right, you mean to say we didn't send them to you. The couple of bucks it cost to print those invitations—is still within Qifeng Group's budget."

"Could it be that you didn't regard the invitation highly and didn't even bother to bring it with you?" Yu Zhongtian said with a laugh.

From the beginning, Yu Zhongtian's tone had been somewhat sarcastic.

He came not to give face to the Yunhai Enterprise Federation that day, for those fellows had shown no appreciation for previous interactions!

If they weren't friends, then they were enemies!

In front of so many people at that moment, Yu Zhongtian was openly confronting them!

Chapter 939: Repeated Humiliation

"Mr. Yu said they deliberately didn't bring an invitation, and it's very likely. Who has the Yunhai Enterprise Federation ever bothered to consider?"

"Exactly, and after dominating the market for so many years, they naturally resent the entrance of Qifeng Group."

"So they deliberately arrived late, and then blamed it on not receiving an invitation."

"Heh, what a foolish excuse. Qifeng Group, at its level, would miss sending a few invitations?"

Yu Zhongtian's mockery immediately resonated with the people present.

Although they were local enterprises, they had long harbored grievances against the Yunhai Enterprise Federation.

At this moment, they were even less inclined to pull punches.

"You!" It was clear bullying, and Han Minghao's anger surged as he looked at Yu Zhongtian.

Fu Yunwei, Mr. Liu hurriedly held him back.

They were also furious.

However, this scene was, in fact, anticipated before arrival, since interactions with Qifeng Group had always been unpleasant.

Yet, they could not afford not to come. Today was not only about meeting with Qifeng Group, but also about discussions with two other enterprise associations, attended by a key figure from the Yunhai City Government Office.

They had to come, and it wasn't an option to just leave after a disagreement.

Yu Zhongtian of Qifeng Group was banking on this.

"Quite the temper, if you didn't want to come, no one forced you! If you want to leave, no one's stopping you!" Next to Yu Zhongtian, Song Yao spoke with a sneer.

This woman, once she spoke, made people's anger intensify.

"Just endure it, little Mr. Han."

"Yeah, Brother Hao."

"Don't be rash, Minghao."

Many people whispered their advice.

Han Minghao's face turned an iron blue, his fists clenched, nails digging into flesh, but in the end, he held back his retort.

"Can we take our seats now? Even if we arrived a bit late, we are still guests of Mr. Yu!" Han Minghao spoke, his voice cool.

Yu Zhongtian smiled and shrugged his shoulders, making a welcoming gesture.

However, as soon as Han Minghao stepped forward,

Yu Zhongtian spoke up again, "Before taking your seat, wouldn't you make a self-introduction? My friend! You look like the leader, so who are you representing?"

Han Minghao paused mid-step, looking at Yu Zhongtian, "I am Han Minghao, representing the Yunhai Han Family, attending in place of my grandfather, Han Dong..."

"You're representing the Han Family? What, is Han Dong so busy that he can't come?" Yu Zhongtian played with a cup, his smile brimming, "If he doesn't come, there are many things I'd reluctantly discuss with Han Chengren. Han Chengren isn't coming either? Your Han Family is really not giving face!"

By directly naming Han Minghao's grandfather and father, and mentioning Han Chengren with a tone of 'reluctant to talk,' Yu Zhongtian seemed to regard even Han Chengren as scarcely worth his notice.

"You can talk to me, I am the future helmsman of the Han Family," Han Minghao glared back at him.

"You? Ha ha!" Yu Zhongtian seemed to hear something amusing and let out a prolonged laugh.

His laughter set off a wave of laughter from the others, and various scornful looks converged on Han Minghao.

Yu Zhongtian shook his head while laughing, "What are you, anyway!"

Such words, such contempt, made veins stand out on Han Minghao's forehead.

Yet, he was left speechless!

Qifeng Group was more than ten times stronger than his Han Family; being humiliated by a peer and unable to retaliate was intolerable!

The worst part was that he could not just turn around and leave!

In the midst of countless jeers, Han Minghao suddenly remembered something his grandfather, Han Dong, had said before.

His grandfather had said that this was a test for him.

He might encounter an "obstacle" beyond his imagination.

"This obstacle is the biggest hurdle on your path to maturity! Dignity! If you can set it aside, yet not abandon it, press it into your heart like a heavy stone forever perched on the tip of your soul, driving you to strive relentlessly and move forward, then you will have crossed it. Your future will have limitless possibilities!"

At the time, Han Dong had said these words.

Han Minghao had listened attentively at the time, nodding repeatedly, though not deeply affected.

But now, being publicly questioned as to what he amounted to, Han Minghao suddenly thought of his grandfather's words.

Suddenly, he felt an epiphany.

Right then, he faced that "obstacle."

The indignities of today were the dignities of tomorrow.

He should remember it for his whole life and bear the burden!

Just as Fu Yunwei, Mr. Liu, and the others were worrying, Han Minghao slowly exhaled a breath of murky air.

"I'm really sorry, Mr. Yu. My grandfather, my father, they have to meet a very important person! They can't get away! Me being here should be enough! No matter how Mr. Yu views it, I am still destined to be the future helmsman of the Han Family!" Han Minghao's response was crisp and decisive, with a hint of counter-attack.

It didn't seem like him at all!

Fu Yunwei and Mr. Liu were both secretly shocked.

Yu Zhongtian was greatly surprised.

He had investigated before, and this Han Minghao was not this type of character!

He didn't expect Han Dong could endure, and even spit out such graceful words.

"Can we take our seats now?" Han Minghao asked.

Seeing his own response shock many present, and even stop their mockery, Han Minghao knew, his transformation was correct.

Neither servile nor overbearing.

These four words are easy to say, difficult to do, and even harder to grasp under adverse conditions.

However, once you comprehend the knack, not only can you maintain your dignity, but you can also fight back!

Seeing Yu Zhongtian nod subconsciously, Han Minghao led people over.

There were only eight seats left, and obviously, the main seat couldn't be taken, as it was reserved for the Yunhai City Government Office.

That left only seven seats, and they had brought ten people.

Was this deliberate difficulty?

Han Minghao didn't bother with it and directly called the waiter to add seats.

"I'm sorry, sir, but you can't add seats here," the waiter stated bluntly.

Can't add seats?

Han Minghao frowned.

"I'm truly sorry, this private room is only this big, this table only has thirty seats, since you've arrived late, I think you'll just have to make do. Those who can't sit down can take a seat on the sofa over there, don't worry, when the dishes are served, we can arrange some to be brought over there, after all, you're here to eat, Qifeng Group wouldn't let someone go back hungry, right?" Yu Zhongtian smiled, "As for who stays and who goes, you all discuss it amongst yourselves."

Yu Zhongtian was intentionally causing internal division within their group.

The faces of the people behind Han Minghao turned ugly.

This was too much, way too much!

It was one thing to cause trouble time and again, but now to not even provide enough seats!

This was a humiliation to them.

And a provocation!

The people from Yunhai Enterprise Federation represented not only themselves but each of their enterprises!

The loss wasn't personal face, but the face of their enterprises!

"Just three seats short, we'll think of a solution!"

At this moment, Han Minghao, on the contrary, calmed his own people.

"You're short by not just three seats. Could the dignitaries from the government office come without entourage? We need to reserve seats for them; at most, you'll have five seats!" Song Yao suddenly spoke up, her smile full of mockery.

Only five seats, half the enterprises couldn't sit at the table!

The complexions of those enterprise representatives immediately worsened.

This time, they could hardly restrain themselves!

"How could this be possible!"

"This is going too far!"

"Time and again, you're going too far!"

Many voiced their indignation.

"Silence!" Han Minghao barked, looking at those people, "Let's not allow others to watch and laugh at us! Is it just about not getting a table? The Han Family is willing to give up seats!"

Han Minghao voluntarily gave up a seat from his family.

Afterward, Han Minghao turned to look at Yu Zhongtian, and very seriously said, "Mr. Yu, you're quite imposing today."

"But your methods of throwing around your weight are simply crude!"

"These days, I have come to know a peer, and you're not on his level!"

"You're far from it!"

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Han Minghao, while giving up his own seat, also "struck back" against Yu Zhongtian.

He clearly stated that Yu Zhongtian was far inferior compared to another individual.

And that person, Han Minghao said, was also one of their contemporaries.

This caused everyone present to be startled.

These people had not expected Han Minghao to openly make such a statement!

In fact, from the brief time they had been sitting together and chatting, everyone could sense Yu Zhongtian's prideful demeanor.

That air of "looking down on everyone" was even stronger in his fiancée.

However, they had the right to be proud.

Yu Zhongtian was the Director of Qifeng Group, after all!

In the entirety of Yunhai, there was no large enterprise that could rival Qifeng Group.

Could Han Minghao really see anyone in Yunhai who was more powerful than Yu Zhongtian, let alone someone of the same age?

That was impossible!

"Utter nonsense!" Song Yao's eyebrows shot up as she couldn't help exclaiming.

Anyone speaking ill of Yu Zhongtian, Song Yao would be the first to object.

Yu Zhongtian also looked coldly at Han Minghao, his eyes sharp.

Yet Han Minghao just smiled, feeling somewhat pleased within, and without replying, turned and walked toward a sofa on the side.

"You stop right there!" Song Yao shouted angrily.

"I wasn't planning on leaving," Han Minghao sat down on the sofa, crossing his legs, "I just didn't want to stand. Since there was no seat for me, I'll sit here, it's soft and comfortable. If Miss Song wants to talk, then come over and talk!"

Han Minghao's mind recalled Bai Xiaosheng's words and actions, adopting Bai Xiaosheng's confrontational demeanor.

Seeing Yu Zhongtian's and even more so, Song Yao's sour faces, Han Minghao couldn't help but feel pleased.

So this is how exhilarating it is to confront others!

So one could feel such pleasure in rivalry without using fists!

Officer Bai Xiaosheng, you are truly my mentor! Han Minghao silently paid his respects.

"I, from the Fu Family, also give up my seat!"

"So do I, from the Liu Family!"

Fu Yunwei and Mr. Liu echoed in succession.

Then, they turned and sat down beside Han Minghao.

Facing his good brothers, Han Minghao exchanged smiles with the two men, who also smiled back at him.

True brothers, who could either fall together or join forces in solidarity!

The three of them left their seats in succession.

The remaining seven people glanced at each other, and the one leading was the Vice President of Yunyu Industrial.

A composed middle-aged man from the old city.

He nodded towards Yu Zhongtian and the others seated around the table, saying, "You might not be aware, but the remaining enterprises here all belong to one group."

"Together we enter, together we leave! We never abandon each other!"

"Since Qifeng Group hasn't prepared enough seats, we take it as the host's intention is good but resources fell short, no worries!"

The Vice President then turned towards the sofa, "Let's go sit there!"

The other six followed unanimously.

Seeing this scene unfold, Han Minghao smiled at the Vice President.

The Vice President smiled back.

Today, based on experience and enterprise scale, it should have been him leading the group.

However, the Chairman of the Enterprise Association, Han Dong, along with the General Manager of his own enterprise, had pleaded with him to give Han Minghao a chance to prove himself, hence letting the young man take the lead.

If Han Minghao didn't do well, he would take over.

Yet, Han Minghao's performance today had greatly satisfied the Vice President.

"You all!" Seeing Han Minghao show no regard and others joining him in succession, Song Yao's face turned frosty.

She was about to call for security.

Might as well throw them all out!

Yu Zhongtian was also very annoyed, even wanting to confront Han Minghao—

Where is that peer stronger than him?

But seeing that Song Yao was about to lose her temper, he immediately decided to first stabilize this lady.

Business warfare can involve covert and overt schemes, constant pressure, and verbal aggressiveness, but it should never resort to physical violence.

That would be breaking the rules!

Yu Zhongtian's exaggerated behavior today was merely an attempt to pressure the Yunhai Enterprise Federation, lead to divisions, and directly target the Han Family, causing them to crumble.

But once it escalates to full-blown combat, that would be a heavy hammer, also smashing those enterprises of considerable strength into one.

If the entire Yunhai Enterprise Federation were to band together, even their Qifeng Group would have to exert a lot of effort.

However, these issues clearly couldn't be discussed with this lady.

Her MBA was merely ornamental, not much substance, and her temper reached the skies.

He needed to stabilize this ticking bomb!

"Yao Yao, don't stoop to their level, they are merely stirring trouble deliberately!" Yu Zhongtian consoled.

The people nearby also hurriedly joined in persuading her.

"Mr. Yu is right, Miss Song, they are just talking nonsense!"

"Exactly, in Yunhai we have no enterprises that can compare with the Qifeng Group, and no peers are on par with Mr. Yu!"

"Yes, please don't get angry, anger is bad for the skin."

"Han Minghao was just speaking out of frustration, everything he said was false!"

With such persuasions, Song Yao finally calmed down a bit, but still glared fiercely over there.

In her view, coming to Yunhai today was truly problematic.

Within a day, she encountered all these unpleasant people!

Having soothed Song Yao, Yu Zhongtian looked over at the ten people sitting on the sofa, also feeling a great headache.

When people from the City Government arrive soon, how would he explain this situation?

It also affects the image of the Qifeng Group!

"Friends from the Yunhai Enterprise Federation, please come and sit here. I can adjust the seating!" Yu Zhongtian said.

Considering his oversight, and that the divide-and-conquer strategy had misfired, Yu Zhongtian immediately adjusted his approach, even somewhat yielding.

In his view, by saying this, those people would certainly feel victorious and thus step down gracefully, happy all around.

After all, the officials from Yunhai City Government would be arriving soon!

However, after Yu Zhongtian finished speaking, the ten people on the other side acted as if they didn't hear a thing and did not move at all.

Yu Zhongtian also frowned slightly.

His play seemed a bit too much, as those people really seemed to have banded together.

"However, even if they band together, when it comes to personal interests, this alliance will also collapse instantly. It seems I need to work on dividing and winning them over!" Yu Zhongtian thought to himself.

As the Director of Qifeng Group, he was not someone simple!

Just as Yu Zhongtian was about to persuade again, an attendant came hurrying over, wanting to whisper something to Yu Zhongtian.

Yu Zhongtian had no time at the moment, and casually waved his hand, asking the person to wait beside him.

Song Yao glanced at the person and asked, "What's the matter?"

The person hesitated slightly, and Song Yao immediately glared, "Speak! Speak loudly!"

It was outrageous, even the servants dared not listen to her.

With Song Yao's anger surfacing, the person immediately shivered, knowing they couldn't afford to offend her, and immediately said, "In room 501 next door, leaders of all the companies within the Yunhai Enterprise Federation are present, including the President Han Dong and Vice President Han Chengren, said to be hosted by a young man."

These words were not supposed to be said publicly.

But under Song Yao's threat, the person slipped up in the moment.

Next door!

Hearing these two words, Song Yao instantly thought of Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying and was furious!

A young man!

Yu Zhongtian instantly recalled what Han Minghao had said.

Seeing that Yu Zhongtian had become aware, Han Minghao found it pointless to hide.

Looking at Yu Zhongtian, Han Minghao admitted—

"That's right, Mr. Yu, the peer stronger than you is right next door!"