

War God 121

Chapter 121: I am the Boss!

Early the next morning, Guan Chengye called.

One month later, the River City Martial Arts Conference would be held. Seizing this opportunity, Liu Xianhe had also challenged Guan Chengye, hoping to end their decade-long grudge with a single battle.

Guan Chengye's call was, of course, to ask if Lin Mu would agree.

Without a second thought, Lin Mu had Guan Chengye accept the challenge, guaranteeing he would fight in his place when the time came. At the same time, Lin Mu also took the opportunity to ask what exactly the River City Martial Arts Conference entailed.

Guan Chengye explained that every few years, the Martial Arts World would hold countless martial arts competitions, both large and small. Aside from the grand Martial Arts Convention held by the Martial Alliance every ten years, various other powerful factions also organized their own competitions. These events could even determine the distribution of resources and influence within a region.

Although the Guan Family had no significant business ventures in River City, Elder Guan's special status meant he was invited by all factions to observe the matches as a judge. Moreover, the Martial Arts Alliance hoped this year's conference in River City would proceed without any major disturbances, so they entrusted the matter to Guan Chengye. After all, the Martial Arts Alliance was under the purview of the Military Department, and the Guan Family was also under the Military Department's direct jurisdiction.

Given that Liu Xianhe had issued the challenge, Guan Chengye had no choice but to accept.

After understanding these intricacies, Lin Mu didn't dwell on it. He simply told Guan Chengye to notify him when the conference was about to begin.

Today, however, he had to visit Boheng Corp.

Although Lin Mu was now the company's legal representative, he had been too busy over the past few days to check on it. So, early in the morning, he hailed a taxi and headed to Boheng Corp.

Even though Boheng Corp was a small company in River City, its annual profit was as high as tens of millions. This was because Boheng Pharma was owned by the Su Family, and the Su Family, in turn, had the backing of the Meng Family. With the Meng Family's support, Boheng Pharma's business naturally thrived.

However, since the Meng Family's sudden overnight collapse, Boheng Corp had been severely impacted, even undergoing several investigations. Back when Su Ming was making things difficult for Lin Mu, he had no idea that his family's company was already in a precarious position, or that the Meng Family was already under investigation. With the Guan Family personally taking action, no information had been leaked. By the time the Su Family found out, it was far too late. This was also why Ning Xian had managed to acquire Boheng Corp without breaking a sweat.

These past few days, Liu Hong had been completely overwhelmed. He was the sales manager for Boheng Pharma, responsible for all of the company's pharmaceutical sales. For some unknown reason, a large number of previously signed orders were being canceled one after another, causing a sharp decline in the company's performance.

What's more, the boss hadn't shown up for days, and Liu Hong couldn't get in touch with him no matter how many times he tried. The two managers above him had also vanished as if by prior arrangement.

This left Liu Hong deeply frustrated. The company's downturn would directly affect his salary and bonus.

After compiling his documents, Liu Hong decided to seek out the only other person in charge at the company, Su Ke'er. After all, not only was she the president's niece and a member of the Su Family, but she also wielded real power within the company.

If we don't come up with a plan soon, this company is finished.

Liu Hong picked up the documents and headed toward Su Ke'er's office. He even found himself thinking that after they discussed business, he could casually ask her to dinner to continue their in-depth discussion on company affairs. After all, Su Ke'er was the number-one beauty in the company.

A top graduate from a prestigious university, she had joined the company as an intern. In just three short months, she showcased exceptional business acumen and leadership skills, earning an unprecedented promotion to Vice President from the president himself. However, Su Ke'er was aloof and proud—a pragmatist who was extremely strict with her subordinates, which meant she wasn't particularly well-liked.

Of course, this didn't stop many male employees from harboring secret crushes on the ice queen; some even reveled in their unrequited admiration. It just meant that, generally, people preferred not to approach her with work-related problems.

As a key member of the company, Liu Hong had been smitten with the beautiful Vice President from the moment he saw her, but he had never found the right opportunity to say anything. Now, with several of the company's leaders unreachable and only Su Ke'er consistently present, he felt this was his best chance to shine.

Liu Hong was unaware that the Vice President he so admired was currently glaring at the young man before her with an icy expression.

Su Ke'er was very beautiful, but her coldness was different from Qin Luoli's. If Qin Luoli was an iceberg on the surface with a passionate heart within, Su Ke'er's coldness emanated from her very bones. This was a result of her childhood.

At the age of seven, her parents divorced, and her father quickly remarried. Naturally, her stepmother felt no affection for her, so she went to live with her birth mother. But after just six months, her mother died in a car accident. Su Ke'er returned to the Su Family, where she was welcomed even less than before. If not for her precociousness and high intelligence, which earned her early admission to a prestigious university, her life in the Su Family would have been nearly impossible.

The Su Family was only a minor clan in River City, but it was rife with its own share of scheming and intrigue. Therefore, once she became an adult, Su Ke'er moved away to study. Only after graduating did she return to River City to gain experience at her uncle's company.

For ten years, she never contacted her father, not even once. She would find any reason or excuse to miss family gatherings, just to avoid seeing those two despicable people.

However, she was still grateful to and respected her uncle, Su Weihai. He had always looked out for her when she was growing up and had even paid for her school fees. She had taken the job at Boheng Pharma specifically to repay him.

But lately, the Su Family had been in turmoil. Her uncle's in-laws, the Meng Family, had collapsed overnight. This led to numerous investigations into Boheng Pharma, causing immense damage to the company. Even her cousin, Su Ming, had been beaten so badly he was left disabled and had been sent abroad for treatment by his family.

Before leaving River City, her uncle had told her that the company had been sold. She could stay if she wanted, or she could find a new job.

Boheng Pharma was finished.

Su Ke'er chose to stay. No matter what, she was determined to save Boheng Pharma. She even began reaching out through multiple channels to find out who had acquired the company, planning to negotiate with them to get it back.

Just as Su Ke'er had started to uncover a few clues, the man in front of her walked straight into her office and uttered a single sentence.

"Go and notify all departments to prepare for a meeting."

Chapter 122 I advise you not to do this!

SMACK!

Su Ke'er slammed her palm on the table. "On what grounds?" she demanded. "Just because you say we're having a meeting, we're having one? Who do you think you are?!"

"On what grounds?" Lin Mu repeated, casually cleaning his nails. "On the grounds that I'm the owner of this company."

"Shameless!"

Su Ke'er was so furious her chest heaved. Glaring at Lin Mu, she snapped, "Get out, or don't blame me for calling security!"

In her eyes, the young man before her was a lunatic. Yes, a complete lunatic!

Lin Mu sighed and stood up. "Since you don't believe me, there's nothing I can do."

Seeing him walk toward the door, Su Ke'er was taken aback. "What are you doing?"

"Didn't you tell me to get out?" Lin Mu said, a wry smile on his face. "You don't seriously expect me to roll out, do you?"

He paused. "Sorry, but I don't know how. Why don't... you teach me?"

"You..." Su Ke'er felt an urge to kill him. This shameless bastard was pushing things too far.

Ignoring her, Lin Mu slowly walked out.

The moment he stepped out of the office, Liu Hong blocked his path.

"Kid, leaving just like that? That doesn't seem right, does it?"

He had overheard part of their conversation. This brat had dared to anger Su Ke'er, a truly heinous offense. Naturally, Liu Hong wouldn't let him off so easily.

"Then what do you propose?" Lin Mu asked calmly, a faint smile playing on his lips as he looked at Liu Hong.

Liu Hong felt as if he had just thrown a powerful punch into a ball of cotton, leaving him incredibly frustrated. Lin Mu's voice wasn't loud; it was perfectly serene. That was precisely what made Liu Hong feel even worse. If Lin Mu had spat threats, Liu Hong had plenty of ways to make the kid suffer. But since the man neither made threats nor got physical, Liu Hong had no pretext to make trouble for him.

With that, Liu Hong glanced at Su Ke'er, then had a flash of inspiration. "Who are you? What are you doing in our company? If you can't give me a straight answer, believe me, I'll call security to deal with you right now."

With his hands clasped behind his back, Lin Mu looked at Liu Hong and stated seriously, "I'm the owner of this company. Do I need your permission to be here?"

"What?"

Liu Hong thought he had misheard. What on earth was this guy talking about? He was the owner of this company? Ridiculous!

"Kid, don't spout such nonsense. I, Liu Hong, have been at Boheng for many years. While I might not know every single employee, I can name most of them. I've never seen you before; you are definitely not from this company! For you to claim you're the owner is a direct insult to my intelligence!"

Lin Mu glanced at him. "You have intelligence? I failed to notice."

PFFT!

That wasn't the sound of Liu Hong choking on his rage, but of Su Ke'er laughing in her office.

Where did this guy even come from? He's infuriating. But she had always been annoyed by Liu Hong, so seeing him get put in his place made her unable to suppress her laughter.

Lin Mu turned to look at her.

Su Ke'er immediately straightened her expression, feigning a cold and angry demeanor. However, trying to hold back her laughter caused her pretty face to flush, making her look like a vibrant rose.

"Kid, you're looking for death!"

Humiliated by Lin Mu and now mocked by Su Ke'er, Liu Hong's face darkened. "So, you came here to cause trouble on purpose?"

At this, Liu Hong shouted, "Security? Where is security?!"

Two security guards rushed over, asking nervously, "Manager Liu, what happened?"

"What kind of job are you two doing?" Liu Hong berated them. "You let an outsider wander into the company without even noticing? Get him out of here, now!" He pointed a finger at Lin Mu.

Only then did the two guards realize the gravity of the situation.

Boheng Pharma was a biopharmaceutical company. Although not large, it was full of secrets, with countless R&D materials for various new drugs. As such, security had always been of the utmost importance. If an outsider had really snuck in, they could kiss their jobs goodbye.

The two guards exchanged a look, a trace of fear in their eyes. Luckily, Manager Liu found him in time before he could leave. Otherwise, they'd be in deep trouble.

Stepping forward in unison, one of the guards said, "Kid, I don't recognize your face. You're not from this company, are you?"

Liu Hong almost decked the guard. What a stupid question.

"Hurry up! Check if he stole anything from our company. If not, throw him out!" Liu Hong ordered impatiently.

The other guard looked at Lin Mu with a grim expression. "Kid, we suspect you of stealing company property and secrets. We need to search you!"

The guard's words made Liu Hong's eyes light up. Yes, a search! There was no better way.

"Also, check his phone carefully! Our company has many confidential files. If he managed to send any of them out, the company would suffer enormous losses!" Liu Hong stared coldly at Lin Mu. Kid, you're done for this time.

"Search me?" Lin Mu's eyes narrowed slightly. "Are you sure?"

"We have to search you," Liu Hong insisted. "And hand over your phone. I'll check it myself!"

The two security guards fixed their eyes on Lin Mu, ready to take him down if he made a single wrong move.

"Fine." Lin Mu nodded indifferently. "Just don't regret it."

"What are you waiting for? Take out your phone!" one of the guards demanded, pointing his rubber baton at Lin Mu as if ready to strike.

The moment Lin Mu produced his phone, Liu Hong snatched it from his hand. "Give it to me!"

Liu Hong scrolled through the phone, only to find it was practically empty. There were no photos, not even WeChat. The cleaner the phone, the more serious Liu Hong's expression became.

Who doesn't have messaging apps on their phone these days? Almost every smartphone user has at least one or two games. But Lin Mu's had none. This was proof! His reason for being here was definitely not innocent!

"Just as I suspected! You're up to no good!"

Liu Hong sneered. With a flick of his wrist, he slammed Lin Mu's phone onto the ground and stomped on it twice, shattering it.

"You really did come to our company to steal! Search him now! I'm certain he's hiding company property on his person!" Liu Hong commanded, staring coldly at Lin Mu.

The commotion had attracted a small crowd of employees, who began to point and whisper among themselves.

Su Ke'er, having collected herself, now wore a grave expression. If Lin Mu really was a thief, the consequences could be severe. This had to be investigated thoroughly.

Despite his phone being destroyed, Lin Mu's expression remained unchanged. He said flatly, "I'd advise against that. When you regret this, it'll be too late."

Chapter 123: Menstrual Irregularity!

"Hahaha, are you trying to scare me?" Liu Hong's expression turned cold. "Kid, do you really think I'm that easily intimidated?"

"I'm merely stating a fact," Lin Mu replied indifferently.

Liu Hong snorted. "I refuse to believe such nonsense. Go on, search him!"

Two security guards stepped forward, ready to act.

"Wait." At that moment, Su Ke'er emerged from her office. Seeing the crowd, she frowned. "Don't you all have work to do? Get back to it!"

Her authority in the company was comparable to the president's, so everyone was quite afraid of her. Despite the tempting spectacle, they didn't dare linger and quietly dispersed.

However, everyone was still sneaking glances over, curious if the man was truly a spy.

Su Ke'er paid them no mind. She looked at Lin Mu and said, "I'm giving you one last chance. Answer me honestly. What are you really here for?"

Su Ke'er gazed into Lin Mu's eyes, finding them as deep as the sea and as black as an inky abyss. They were like a black hole, threatening to suck in her very soul.

Suddenly, Su Ke'er's heart skipped a beat, and she hastily averted her gaze. In that instant, she felt as if she had fallen into a bottomless chasm surrounded by darkness. The feeling terrified her, breaking her out in a cold sweat.

Noticing Su Ke'er's pale complexion, Liu Hong immediately asked with concern, "President Su, are you all right?"

"I'm fine," Su Ke'er replied irritably. She composed herself and looked at Lin Mu. "Answer me."

Lin Mu's eyes flickered. "I've already told you."

"You..." Su Ke'er's expression faltered. She couldn't believe Lin Mu was still being so stubborn.

"Since you're unwilling to talk, I won't force you."

As soon as Su Ke'er finished, Liu Hong said anxiously, "President Su, is that really a good idea?"

Su Ke'er retorted, "What's wrong with it? Do you really want to search him? That would be a violation of his privacy!"

Liu Hong wanted to argue, but Su Ke'er cut him off. "Call the police. Let them investigate. If he's innocent, we will apologize and compensate him as necessary."

Su Ke'er glared at Lin Mu. "But if he really did come to Boheng Pharma to cause trouble, I, Su Ke'er, will be the first one to make him pay!"

With Su Ke'er having made her decision, Liu Hong had no choice but to comply, however grudgingly.

Fine, let the police come, Liu Hong thought. He was certain Lin Mu was here to steal something. He would call his contacts at the station and make sure they gave this kid a warm welcome.

Liu Hong immediately pulled out his phone and made a call. After hanging up, he shot Lin Mu a cold, sinister smile. "Kid, you're in for a world of hurt."

"Am I?" Lin Mu wasn't worried. He casually found a stool and sat down. The two security guards watched him like hawks, afraid he might try to run.

With Lin Mu sitting there so nonchalantly, flanked by the two solemn-faced guards, they looked more like his bodyguards. It was Liu Hong who ended up looking out of place.

A flicker of doubt crossed Su Ke'er's mind. Could he actually be telling the truth?

Impossible!

Before her uncle went abroad, he had told her that he'd made arrangements for the company and that someone would contact her. However, he never once mentioned that Boheng Pharma had been sold. In truth, Su Weihai wasn't so much taking his son abroad for treatment as he was immigrating. After Ning Xian acquired Boheng Pharma, Su Weihai received a huge sum of money. Without even telling Su Ke'er, he bought a plane ticket and left that very night.

Thus, even now, Su Ke'er was still completely in the dark. That's why she didn't believe a single word Lin Mu had said.

With this in mind, she took two steps forward, stood before Lin Mu, and said coldly, "You'd better tell me the truth before the police get here. Otherwise, no one will be able to save you!"

Lin Mu smiled faintly. "I appreciate the kind thought, but it's not necessary."

"You..." Su Ke'er nearly exploded with anger. She was trying to be kind and warn him, but he was completely ungrateful.

How outrageous!

Growing up, she, Su Ke'er, had always been the one to reject others. She had never been turned down like this, especially not by a man.

As a result, her expression grew even colder. The chill she emitted was so intense that Liu Hong subconsciously swallowed. The two security guards even took a discreet step back. President Su's aura is just too frosty.

Lin Mu, however, just looked up at Su Ke'er in surprise, his brow furrowed slightly.

"What are you looking at? Be careful, or I'll gouge your eyes out!" Su Ke'er snapped, glaring at him while making a scooping motion toward her own eyes.

Lin Mu pursed his lips and ignored the woman, who was not long for this world anyway.

"Kid, what's that supposed to mean? Are you disrespecting President Su?" Liu Hong, who had been watching Lin Mu closely, seized the opportunity.

Lin Mu said flatly, "It means nothing. I just find it amusing when someone who's about to die remains blissfully unaware, putting on a proud and aloof act. Who is it for?"

He was, of course, talking about Su Ke'er. Even the two guards understood that.

"You little punk, I'll kill you!" Liu Hong looked as if he'd been provoked. He rolled up his sleeves and yelled, "Hold him down! I'll teach him that even a worm will turn!"

Just as Liu Hong was about to lunge, Su Ke'er said, "Wait."

She stared at Lin Mu. "What did you mean by that? Explain yourself!"

"President Su, you can't possibly believe his nonsense, can you?" Liu Hong pleaded. "He's just cursing you! Step aside and let me deal with him!"

"You shut up!" Su Ke'er snapped, her face an icy mask as she stared at Lin Mu. Her voice was tinged with desperation. "Hurry up and explain!"

At this point, Su Ke'er looked like she was on the verge of tears, her eyes turning red.

Lin Mu glanced at her and said calmly, "If you don't control your emotions, your heart fire will rage unchecked and damage your spirit. When that happens, not even the gods will be able to save you."

"What?" Su Ke'er's face turned deathly pale, and her body began to tremble.

Lin Mu sighed. "You suffer from a cold womb, and your Heavenly Water is irregular, correct?"

His words struck Su Ke'er like a bolt of lightning. She stared at him, her beautiful eyes wide with utter disbelief. Her reaction was all the proof needed that Lin Mu was right.

One of the younger security guards whispered to his colleague, "Uncle Niu, what's 'Heavenly Water'?"

The older security guard replied with a grim expression, "It's a woman's monthly cycle."

At these words, not only was the younger guard shocked, but Liu Hong also stood there stunned, looking as if he'd been struck by lightning.

Su Ke'er's face flushed crimson, and her eyes looked ready to shoot fire. She grabbed Lin Mu's arm. "You're coming with me!"

Before anyone could react, Su Ke'er dragged Lin Mu straight into her office. With a loud BANG, she slammed the door shut.

The onlookers stared at each other, their mouths agape, wearing expressions of pure shock.

What on earth is President Su going to do?

Chapter 124 Waiting for Someone!

BANG! The office door slammed shut.

Su Ke'er's pretty face was flushed. Gritting her teeth, she stared at Lin Mu with a complex mix of emotions.

Anger, shame, shock...

She was furious that Lin Mu had announced her irregular periods in front of everyone, humiliating her before her subordinates. How am I supposed to manage the company now?

She was a woman, after all. Having her private health issues exposed in public was mortifying. Even if her subordinates said nothing to her face, they would surely gossip behind her back.

But what shocked her even more was that Lin Mu actually knew.

This problem had plagued her ever since she'd come of age. Over the years, Su Ke'er had lost count of the doctors she'd seen and the medicine she'd taken. Not only had nothing worked, but her condition seemed to be worsening.

During those few days each month, the pain was so unbearable it felt like a living death. She would writhe in agony, her face turning deathly pale as she broke out in a cold sweat. Countless times, she had nearly shattered her own teeth from gritting them so hard, wanting nothing more than to smash her head against a wall and end it all.

She didn't know if other women suffered like her, and she never dared to ask. She was even too ashamed to discuss the problem with her doctor, let alone anyone else. This was why her personality had grown colder over the years, to the point where she didn't even dare think about dating.

For Lin Mu to know, and to state it so bluntly, left her both shocked and deeply suspicious of him.

How did he know? Did he investigate my hospital records? That damned bastard!

"You investigated me?" Su Ke'er glared at Lin Mu, her red lips pressed into a thin line. Her fists were clenched, and tears welled in her eyes.

"What?" Lin Mu was taken aback.

Su Ke'er enunciated each word carefully. "I asked if you investigated me."

Only her doctor knew this secret, and that doctor was her best friend. Therefore, it was impossible for him to know unless he had used some despicable means to investigate her.

Lin Mu shook his head slightly, his tone calm. "You think I know about your uterine coldness because I investigated you? You overestimate yourself."

With Lin Mu's status, he wouldn't deign to investigate someone like Su Ke'er. He could diagnose her condition with a single glance.

"You..." Hearing Lin Mu mention her condition again, Su Ke'er's face turned so red it looked like it might burst. She glared at him, burning with shame and anger. "Get out!"

Lin Mu turned and left without another word.

Su Ke'er was stunned.

He's actually leaving? Just like that! The nerve!

As Lin Mu reached the door, he paused. "Here's some free advice. If you don't resolve your health issue soon, forget about having children. You'll be lucky to live past this year."

With that, Lin Mu walked out of the office.

"Asshole!" Once Lin Mu was gone, Su Ke'er kicked a nearby chair in frustration.

"OUCH!"

The chair, however, was solid. The impact on her high-heeled foot sent a sharp pain through her leg. Her face went pale as she crumpled to the ground, burying her face in her hands and sobbing quietly.

...

When Liu Hong saw Lin Mu walk out and heard the noise from the office, he immediately rushed over.

"Kid, what did you do to President Su?" he demanded. He had heard Su Ke'er's shouting and the crashing sound from inside. "Believe it or not, I'll kill you!"

Liu Hong took two steps forward, reaching for Lin Mu.

Lin Mu gave him an indifferent glance. "If you don't want to die," he said in a detached voice, "stay back."

Liu Hong froze, his expression turning to one of fear. It was Lin Mu's gaze—it was utterly terrifying. Although it was calm, Liu Hong felt an icy chill envelop him. It was as if he were facing an Ancient Fierce Beast that could devour him with a single careless move.

"You... Fine, kid! You just wait!" Liu Hong didn't dare to touch Lin Mu, but he couldn't resist spitting out a threat.

"Idiot." Without a backward glance at Liu Hong, Lin Mu found a place to sit down.

He wasn't about to leave yet. The matter wasn't resolved, and if he left now, he'd just have to come back again. Lin Mu didn't have time for that.

Liu Hong shot Lin Mu a cold look. "Kid, let's see how you die in a minute!"

They had already called the police, who should be arriving any moment. With that thought, Liu Hong walked to the office door and knocked. "President Su, are you alright?"

"Get out!" Su Ke'er's furious roar came from inside.

Liu Hong's expression instantly darkened. That damn bitch. Who does she think she is, putting on airs in front of me?

At the thought, Liu Hong's hatred for Lin Mu intensified. It was all this kid's fault. Otherwise, Su Ke'er wouldn't be taking her anger out on him.

"Who called the police?" Just then, two police officers walked in, their eyes scanning the room.

"Officer Wu, you're here!" Liu Hong was overjoyed and hurried forward to shake hands with the two officers. He clearly knew Officer Wu, but he didn't recognize the female officer accompanying him.

"Manager Liu," Officer Wu said formally, giving Liu Hong an indifferent, businesslike glance. "What's the situation?"

"It's like this..." Liu Hong immediately recounted the incident, twisting his words to frame Lin Mu as a thief trying to steal trade secrets from Boheng Pharma. "Officer Wu, that's what happened. You have to

investigate him thoroughly. I seriously suspect he's a repeat offender," Liu Hong said with an earnest expression.

Officer Wu looked toward Lin Mu and furrowed his brows slightly. "Do you have any evidence?" he asked.

His partner, a tall woman in her twenties with short hair, looked sharp and competent in her uniform, exuding a dashing air. She spoke up. "That's right. We conduct investigations based on evidence, not just on what someone says."

Noticing Liu Hong's expression shift, Officer Wu added, "We won't frame an innocent person, but we won't let a guilty one go free, either."

Zhou Qian nodded in agreement.

"Yes, yes, of course, Officers. You're right," Liu Hong said, though he kept shooting Officer Wu meaningful looks.

However, Officer Wu turned a blind eye.

"Zhou, you handle the questioning," Officer Wu said.

"Yes, sir!" Zhou Qian affirmed and walked toward Lin Mu, her eyes lighting up with a flicker of interest.

He's handsome and has a lean build, but his demeanor is what's most striking. He seems so calm and steady. He doesn't seem like a common thief. Then again, like that Liu Hong said, he could be a repeat offender. And if he really is here to steal from Boheng Pharma, he's no ordinary criminal.

Zhou Qian gave Lin Mu a polite, formal nod. "Hello. Please show me your identification. We need your cooperation."

Lin Mu nodded. "In a moment. I'm waiting for someone." He made no move to produce any identification.

Zhou Qian frowned. "Waiting for who?"

"He's already here."

Zhou Qian immediately turned to look, a trace of surprise on her face.

Liu Hong's face fell. "Why is Lawyer Jin here?" he asked in astonishment.

Chapter 125: Plot Twist, Should We Kneel?

"Mr. Lin, I presume? President Su sent me."

With Lawyer Jin's opening remark, the atmosphere turned somewhat bizarre.

President Su? Which President Su?

Naturally, it was Boheng Pharma's director, Su Weiye. The renowned top-tier lawyer, Jin Cheng, had been hired by Su Weiye as the company's legal advisor to handle legal affairs.

His deferential attitude toward Lin Mu immediately made Liu Hong's heart skip a beat.

"Lawyer Jin, what is going on?" Liu Hong couldn't help but ask.

Jin Cheng ignored him. He took several documents from his briefcase and carefully handed them to Lin Mu. "Mr. Lin, these documents pertain to your shares and other information. Please take a look."

Lin Mu nodded and said a word of thanks.

Throughout the entire process, Jin Cheng offered no explanation to anyone else. His main task was simply to deliver the materials Su Weiye had given him to this Mr. Lin and witness his signature. Only then would Boheng Pharma truly belong to him. As for anything else, it was none of his concern.

After Lin Mu finished reviewing the documents, Jin Cheng said, "Mr. Lin, President Su instructed that if you don't understand anything, you can ask me. I will contact President Su immediately so the matter can be discussed and resolved."

"Although Boheng Pharma already belongs to you, in a sense, some related procedures still require signatures from both parties."

This was precisely why Lin Mu had come. Although Ning Xian had successfully acquired Boheng Pharma, some procedures were still incomplete. For instance, Lin Mu had never signed anything, which wasn't legally sound. So, for this visit, he had declined Ning Xian's offer to accompany him, though Ning Xian had recommended Jin Cheng. Besides, Su Weiye had also instructed Jin Cheng to take responsibility for all the procedures.

However, Jin Cheng's words left Liu Hong utterly shocked.

"Lawyer Jin, what are you talking about? What do you mean this company belongs to someone else? Isn't President Su the director? Since when did it become *his*?" Liu Hong pointed at Lin Mu, his tone indignant and his expression one of disbelief.

After all, the news was simply too astonishing.

The two security guards were also dumbfounded.

What's going on? The man we thought was a thief is the chairman of the company? Since when?

Zhou Qian's expression turned ugly. Officer Wu stepped forward and asked, "What exactly is going on here?"

Liu Hong cried out, "I don't know what's going on either!"

Lin Mu glanced at Jin Cheng, who nodded in return. The lawyer walked toward Officer Wu and his partner, greeted them, and then led Officer Wu aside to speak privately. As a well-known lawyer, Jin Cheng had dealt with the police frequently, so they were acquainted.

Zhou Qian watched as Jin Cheng spoke quietly with Officer Wu. She saw the officer nod from time to time before turning to look at Lin Mu, a flash of surprise on his face. Finally, he said, "I see. I understand the situation now."

Officer Wu walked over to Liu Hong. "The situation has been clarified," he said. "This gentleman is your company's chairman. I highly doubt he would steal from his own company."

"Officer Wu, this..."

Liu Hong tried to explain, but Officer Wu cut him off. "However, I just asked some other people about you snatching someone's property and destroying it. Is that true?"

While Zhou Qian had been questioning Lin Mu's identity, Officer Wu hadn't been idle; he had made his own inquiries. From the two security guards, he had learned the whole story. Combined with Jin Cheng's account, Lin Mu's identity was confirmed.

The chairman of Boheng Pharma, accused of being a thief by his own employees? This is going to be interesting.

Thankfully, he had enforced the law impartially and hadn't acted rashly. Otherwise, if he had offended Lin Mu and the matter went to court, it would have been a hassle, and he would have been the one to lose face. Therefore, he now returned the favor, questioning Liu Hong directly about snatching and damaging Lin Mu's phone.

"Captain Wu, it's a misunderstanding!" Liu Hong's face turned ashen. He waved his hands frantically, vehemently denying it.

"A misunderstanding?" Officer Wu frowned. "Based on my investigation, this doesn't seem like a misunderstanding at all."

Cold sweat beaded on Liu Hong's forehead. What he had done was intentional; it was certainly no misunderstanding. He had assumed that with his relationship with Captain Wu, the matter would be dropped. Since he had suspected Lin Mu's identity from the start, he thought such a minor incident wouldn't affect him.

However, Jin Cheng's appearance, the revelation of Lin Mu's identity, and Captain Wu's current attitude all pointed to one undeniable fact: he, Liu Hong, had offended someone he could not afford to offend.

"Lawyer Jin..." Liu Hong cast a pleading gaze at Jin Cheng, his face a mask of supplication.

Jin Cheng sighed internally. This idiot, Liu Hong, doesn't even know who to beg for mercy. He's truly courting death.

"Manager Liu, if this accusation is true, Mr. Lin has every right to hold you legally responsible," Jin Cheng said gravely. Although the matter didn't concern him, as he was only carrying out Su Weiye's instructions, he was more than happy to do Lin Mu a small favor.

He's so young, yet he's already the director of a company. Even Su Weiye had to personally call and repeatedly instruct me to handle this matter well, making sure not to cause Mr. Lin any trouble. At that moment, Jin Cheng knew that this Mr. Lin, the man who could acquire Boheng Pharma, had to be a powerful figure with an extraordinary background. He was even more astonished after seeing how young Lin Mu was. He'd bet his life that someone so young had to have a profound backing.

To think Liu Hong would dare to offend someone like this... his career is over.

Hearing Jin Cheng's words, Liu Hong finally grasped the gravity of the situation. Cold sweat drenched his body as he walked toward Lin Mu and bowed deeply.

"Mr... Mr. Lin, I'm... I'm sorry!"

Liu Hong was utterly humbled; he had no other choice. If Lin Mu didn't press the matter, it would end there. But if he did, Liu Hong wouldn't just lose his job—he would likely end up in prison. The thought terrified him, turning his face deathly pale and making his limbs tremble.

"Mr. Lin, I was blind and failed to recognize your greatness! Please, I'm begging you, spare me this once!"

With a thud, Liu Hong dropped to his knees and began to kowtow to Lin Mu.

The two security guards exchanged a look, seeing shock and fear in each other's eyes. Their own behavior had been disrespectful. If he really was the chairman, then...

At this thought, the younger guard whispered, "Uncle Da Niu, should we kneel too?"

Da Niu's face was a mask of conflict. Yeah, should we kneel too?

After reviewing the documents, Lin Mu turned to Jin Cheng. "The documents are in order. Thank you for your trouble, Lawyer Jin."

"It's no trouble, no trouble at all."

Once Lin Mu finished signing, Lawyer Jin affixed the official seal and handed a copy back to him. He smiled and said, "From now on, I should address you as Chairman."

"Thank you. I'll be counting on you to handle the company's future legal matters, Lawyer Jin," Lin Mu said with a smile. Jin Cheng's capabilities were notable. He handled all the company's legal issues cleanly and impressively, making him a rare talent.

"It would be my honor," Jin Cheng replied joyfully. As the legal advisor for Boheng Pharma, the compensation would not be low.

Only then did Lin Mu turn his gaze to the kneeling Liu Hong, his eyes narrowing slightly.

"Let you off? A moment ago, you were the one insisting that I should die."

Chapter 126: I had someone check, do you have a problem with that?

The plot twist came too fast, leaving everyone in shock.

Liu Hong felt deeply aggrieved. He had thought this man was an ant he could crush at will, only to discover he was the company's chairman—his direct superior. The realization left him speechless.

The company employees watching from a distance peeked out, their mouths agape in astonishment.

This young man is a company director? The news is staggering. If it's true, then what about President Su? This is the Su family's enterprise, so how did an outsider end up in charge?

Putting that aside, even if Lin Mu was the chairman, Liu Hong had already apologized. How could he refuse to accept it?

Liu Hong's face darkened, and he said in a grave voice, "Young man, it's wise not to burn your bridges. You're pushing things too far."

"Pushing things too far?" Lin Mu sneered. "When you were aggressively threatening me, smashing things, and having me detained, did you consider that we might meet again?"

Liu Hong was silent.

"So, now that you see my status is higher and my background stronger than yours, you plan to brush it all aside with a simple apology?" Lin Mu said indifferently. "The world doesn't work that way."

Zhou Qian and Captain Wu exchanged a look. Isn't this young man being too unforgiving? The man already admitted he was wrong, so why won't he let it go?

Liu Hong's face turned ugly. He gritted his teeth and said, "In any case, I am still the manager of the sales department. I made a mistake, but I've already apologized. As a director of the company, don't you have even that much magnanimity?"

He declared this with an air of self-righteousness.

Even Zhou Qian nodded slightly, thinking things hadn't reached a point of no return. Since Lin Mu is the chairman of Boheng Pharma and reached this position at such a young age, he must not be a short-sighted person. Forgiving Liu Hong this time could win over people and establish an image for himself of being magnanimous and tolerant. It would be incredibly beneficial for him.

The other employees thought the same.

Seeing everyone's reaction, a smug smile appeared on Liu Hong's face. He had been with Boheng Pharma for many years, and his connections and contributions were plain for all to see. Even if Lin Mu is the chairman, he's new here. How is he going to get any work done if he doesn't build a good relationship with us veteran mid-level employees?

"So, I advise you to let this matter go," Liu Hong said magnanimously, with a grand wave of his hand. "In light of your position as a company director, I'll treat you to dinner tonight and drink three glasses as a penalty. We'll call it even."

With these words, he not only brushed aside his own wrongdoing but also painted himself as a generous and forgiving man. If word of this got out, everyone would praise Liu Hong for understanding the bigger picture and knowing when to be diplomatic. If Lin Mu continued to pursue the matter, he would be the one who looked petty.

Jin Cheng glanced at Lin Mu, wanting to speak, but ultimately held his tongue. After all, he was just a legal advisor. Lin Mu was the one in charge. Moreover, as far as he knew, the acquisition of Boheng Pharma had been handled by a man named Ning Xian, so he wasn't aware of Lin Mu's true capabilities, even though Mr. Ning had repeatedly warned him to treat Young Master Mu with respect.

"Heh, are you telling me what to do?" Lin Mu suddenly found the situation amusing. He looked at Liu Hong and said, "You paint yourself as the innocent, weaker party, thinking an apology absolves you of your mistakes? Then you try to pressure me from the moral high ground? Are you even worthy?"

Liu Hong was speechless.

"But I'm the company's sales manager! Without me, how will the company conduct its business?" Liu Hong's face flushed with humiliation.

"As of now, you're fired," Lin Mu stated calmly. The more leeway you give people like him, the more entitled they become. Lin Mu was an expert at dealing with his kind.

"What?" Liu Hong shouted. "On what grounds? What right do you have to fire me?"

"On the grounds that I am the Chairman." Lin Mu didn't even glance at him, turning instead to Jin Cheng. "Lawyer Jin, please contact the disciplinary committee. I plan to audit all of the company's business transactions. The sales department will be a top priority. Is that a problem?"

"No problem!" Jin Cheng immediately agreed, inwardly shocked at Lin Mu's methods. For a man like Liu Hong, who held such a key position, it was impossible that he didn't have his hands dirty. One investigation would bring everything to light.

Even Zhou Qian and Captain Wu felt a jolt. This kid was ruthless. It was like pulling the rug out from under him.

"You... you dare!" Liu Hong was furious, but his heart was pounding with anxiety. He knew better than anyone that his hands weren't clean. In his years as sales manager, he had skimmed countless benefits for himself. When Su Weiye was in charge, he would turn a blind eye. He had even quashed Su Ke'er's attempts to investigate. After all, Liu Hong controlled too many valuable network resources. If he resigned in anger, it would be a huge loss for the company.

"Lawyer Jin, I'm leaving this in your hands. If anyone has dared to line their own pockets, solicit bribes, or use the company's name for personal gain, punish them or prosecute them as the law requires."

"Yes, sir!" Jin Cheng accepted the order and left immediately. Before he went, he gave Liu Hong a deep, meaningful look. This guy... he's finished.

Liu Hong's face went deathly pale, and he collapsed to the ground. "President Lin, I was wrong, I truly know I was wrong. Please, spare me this one time, I beg you," he pleaded, looking pathetic.

But Lin Mu paid him no mind.

He brought this upon himself. Shaking his head with a sigh, Captain Wu left with Zhou Qian.

Zhou Qian glanced back at the tall, imposing figure, her beautiful eyes shimmering. Hmph. This guy is certainly ruthless.

"Notify all department managers to be in the conference room for a meeting in five minutes. Anyone who is late can get lost!"

Leaving these words behind, Lin Mu departed.

「Five minutes later.」

Assistant Taozi, who had served the previous chairman, entered the lounge and said respectfully to Lin Mu, "President Lin, the meeting has started."

"Mm, thank you." Lin Mu set down the documents he was holding and rose to walk to the conference room.

Boheng Pharma was a large company with over a dozen departments and numerous employees, but it was this small group of just over a dozen people now sitting in the conference room who controlled its vast operations.

"President Su, we have a mountain of work to do. What's so urgent?" said Yang Ye, the manager of the R&D department, sounding somewhat impatient.

"Exactly, President Su," Tang Feng of the Human Resources department added slowly. "The Chairman has been gone for so long that there's unrest in the company. This isn't good for us."

"Could it be that the Chairman has returned?"

Su Ke'er's expression was as cold and unapproachable as ever, which was enough to make the others fall silent.

"President Su, I just saw people from the disciplinary committee auditing every department. What's going on?" asked Zhou Ziming from the Risk Control department, his tone hinting at a challenge.

"What?" Yang Ye slammed his palm on the table. "The Chairman hasn't returned, so who has the audacity to investigate the departments?"

The conference room fell silent.

"I ordered the investigation. Do you have a problem with that?"

Chapter 127: Investigate Thoroughly, Show No Mercy!

The conference room door slowly opened, and a pair of gleaming leather shoes entered everyone's line of sight.

Then, everyone got a clear look at his face: sharp, chiseled features, a straight nose, and a calm demeanor. But it was his eyes that were most striking—deep and mysterious. He was clearly very young, yet he exuded an overwhelmingly powerful aura. However, no one recognized him.

Yang Ye suddenly shouted, "Who are you? Get out!"

"You'll know who I am shortly." Lin Mu smiled faintly, stepped forward leisurely, and sat down in the main seat—the seat reserved exclusively for the chairman.

HISS!

A chorus of sharp gasps filled the conference room.

He actually sat in the chairman's seat?

"Audacious!"

"Insolent!"

"Mi Xiaotao, what are you doing? How did this person get in?"

The managers cursed one after another. Yang Ye even slammed the table and stood up, bellowing, "Someone, throw this damn kid out!"

"Manager Yang, he is..." Mi Xiaotao, now Lin Mu's secretary, looked anxious and tried to explain.

"Shut your mouth!" Yang Ye glared at Mi Xiaotao coldly. "I'll deal with you later."

Angered to the point of trembling, Mi Xiaotao didn't dare to speak out. As the manager of the R&D department, Yang Ye held a powerful and influential position. He managed several of the company's major projects and was one of its most authoritative figures, second only to the two Presidents Su. In the entire company, he was arguably the last person anyone would want to provoke.

Rebuked by him, Mi Xiaotao felt wronged and could only look to Lin Mu at the head of the table. Lin Mu gave her a reassuring nod. Greatly relieved, Mi Xiaotao obediently sat down beside him.

"Manager Yang, you have quite the temper. Raising your voice in a meeting like this... do you think this company is your home, or do you see yourself as a member of the board?" Lin Mu said calmly, propping his chin with both hands.

Everyone was taken aback.

What does he mean by that? Is this kid trying to teach Manager Yang a lesson? How laughable!

Manager Yang's position in the company was unquestionable. He had managed the R&D department for many years, developing countless major projects and earning the company a fortune. To say he was a

pillar of the company was an understatement. Without Yang Ye, Boheng Pharma would not be where it was today.

"Preposterous brat! How dare you speak to Manager Yang like that? Who do you think you are? Manager Yang isn't someone that scum like you can criticize!" Tang Feng said coldly.

"Exactly! Manager Yang has made immense contributions, dedicating his life's blood to this company. What right does a greenhorn like you have to speak to him?" Zhou Ziming from the HR department scoffed with contempt.

"Is that so?" Lin Mu said with a faint smile. "So I suppose it was justified for Manager Yang to use company project funds to buy himself a multi-million-dollar villa and a million-dollar business car? And let's not forget... that he sold one of the company's recent R&D projects to another corporation for thirty million?"

His words sent shockwaves through the room. The managers' faces changed dramatically, and cries of astonishment echoed around the table.

"Impossible!" Tang Feng was the most shocked of all. "Kid, you're spouting nonsense! You're slandering Manager Yang!"

Yang Ye's face flushed crimson with fury. His body trembled as he glared at Lin Mu and growled, "You brat, I'll sue you for defamation! Kid, you're asking for death! Do you believe it would be easier for me to kill you than to squash an ant?"

Lin Mu waved his hand dismissively. "Don't always talk about killing people. Even if I sat right here and let you kill me, would you dare?"

Yang Ye was speechless.

Tang Feng was stunned into silence.

The rest of the room fell quiet.

"Fine, fine, fine!" Yang Ye laughed in fury. "I've lived for many years and have never seen such an arrogant brat! I'd like to see if you really have three heads and six arms! Someone, get in here!"

At Yang Ye's command, the meeting room door was pushed open again, and several figures walked in. Everyone's expression changed once more when they saw who it was: Ren Xiaofei from the Disciplinary Inspection Department and the company's legal advisor, Jin Cheng. Following behind them were a dozen stern-faced security guards.

"President, here is the material you requested!" Ren Xiaofei and Jin Cheng walked up to Lin Mu and respectfully handed over the documents in their hands.

President?

Everyone felt like their brains had short-circuited.

What is happening? The young man we were just scolding is... the company's President?

"Manager Ren, Lawyer Jin, what is going on?" Yang Ye asked, confused.

Ren Xiaofei replied with a puzzled look, "Didn't President Su tell you that President Lin is now the president of Boheng?"

"I'm the one who told her not to say anything," Lin Mu said nonchalantly. "Otherwise, I would have missed this entertaining show."

All eyes turned to Su Ke'er. The normally aloof woman was biting her lip, her eyes slightly red.

Just a few minutes ago, she had received a call from her uncle, Su Weiye, who had informed her about the company's situation, including the downfall of the Meng Family. Finally, Su Weiye had patiently told her, "Young Master Mu said that even though I'll be gone, you will still be the Vice President of the company."

Su Weiye had even added in a whisper, "When Young Master Mu is not at the company, you can make the final decision on everything. That's what they agreed upon beforehand."

Seeing what Lin Mu had done since taking over, Su Ke'er understood everything perfectly.

His mobilization of the Disciplinary Inspection and Legal Departments for a joint investigation wasn't to flaunt his status or the typical 'three fires of a new official.' He wanted to solve the company's problems, to purge the people and practices that were harming it. He would play the bad cop, and she would play the good cop.

"President Lin, Liu Hong is a big problem," Jin Cheng said. "He... he embezzled nearly ten million from the company."

Liu Hong? The Manager of the Sales Department? No wonder we didn't see him at the meeting. So he's already been dealt with...

"He's got quite some nerve. A mere Sales Department Manager dares to embezzle that much money," Lin Mu said. "Notify the police. From now on, you don't need to report such matters to me. Just investigate them to the fullest and show no mercy. If anyone dares to interfere, I will deal with them personally!"

HISS!

Hearing Lin Mu's words, the expressions on the managers' faces shifted yet again.

Among them, Yang Ye wore the most complex expression of all: shock, disbelief, and abject fear.

Liu Hong was prosecuted for embezzling ten million... so for the amount I've taken...

"President Lin, I..." Yang Ye, no longer possessing his earlier aggressive demeanor, was pale and trembling.

It was only then that Lin Mu seemed to remember something, pointing at Yang Ye and saying, "Oh, right. I almost forgot about you."

"Lawyer Jin, take him directly to the police. Boheng Pharma has no need for a parasite this large!"

"Yes," Jin Cheng replied with a slight smile.

Losing all hope, Yang Ye blustered, "You wouldn't dare!" Pointing a trembling finger at Lin Mu, he shouted with false bravado, "Kid, if you touch me today, you'll pay for it tomorrow!"

"Take him away!"

Lin Mu waved his hand, and the security guards stepped forward, escorting a struggling Yang Ye out.

The meeting room fell silent, so quiet you could hear a pin drop.

Outside, Yang Ye's resentful roars still echoed.

Chapter 128: President Su, Please Conduct Yourself with Dignity!

Because the documents Jin Cheng had produced already confirmed Lin Mu's identity, no one now dared to doubt that he was the company president. Still, most people were inwardly quite displeased. After all, as soon as Lin Mu arrived, he immediately dismissed the managers of both the Sales and the Research and Development departments.

This was a huge loss for the entire company. Most importantly, no one knew who this new president would make an example of next. Regardless, by offending the company's management, Lin Mu had established his authority, but he hadn't won their true respect.

Tang Feng of the Human Resources Department.

Zhou Ziming of the Risk Control Department.

Yuan Shan of the Public Relations Department.

Zhao Zhuowen, the Office Director.

...

TAP, TAP.

Lin Mu's fingers tapped lightly on the documents on the table. Everyone immediately sat up straight, as if facing a formidable enemy. After all, no matter how annoyed they were with Lin Mu's actions, the file in his hands could very well determine the professional fate of certain people present.

"President Lin... President Lin, now that the company is without managers for the Sales and R&D departments, what should we do about our current projects?" Shen Lian, the manager of the Finance Department, asked hesitantly.

Lin Mu shot him a cool glance. "And why is that a problem? Are you saying the company can't function without them? If that's the case, I have serious doubts about the capabilities of everyone seated here."

Hearing this, a collective sigh of relief filled the room.

Was this new president implying that he wouldn't pursue the matter any further?

"I will arrange for someone to take over the Sales Department. As for Research and Development..."

Lin Mu glanced at the file in his hands, his gaze falling upon a young, bespectacled man in the crowd. "Manager Chen, from now on, I'm afraid the R&D Department will require more of your attention."

The man was Chen Cheng, the Deputy Manager of the R&D Department. He had a bookish, almost frail appearance. A graduate of Medical University, his background in pharmaceutical development made him well-suited for the position. However, the department was usually under Yang Ye's thumb, leaving

Chen Cheng with virtually no say. At times, his challenges to Yang Ye's decisions were ignored or even met with a harsh rebuke.

Lin Mu's words were clearly a direct promotion to head of the R&D department.

"I... I'm afraid I won't do a good job," Chen Cheng said. Though only in his early thirties, he was a reticent man who already carried a world-weary air about him.

Lin Mu's tone turned serious. "You will do it, whether you think you can do a good job or not!"

Chen Cheng stared at Lin Mu in shock. Just as he was about to speak, Office Director Zhao Zhuowen interjected, "I think Manager Chen is perfectly capable of handling this position."

"That's right. Manager Chen's expertise is a perfect fit for R&D. Besides, he has been with the company for many years, and his loyalty is plain for all to see," Yuan Shan added in support.

"What is your opinion, President Su?" Lin Mu asked, turning to Su Ke'er.

"I think he's a fine choice," Su Ke'er replied. She had a good impression of Chen Cheng; he was a diligent worker with an almost fanatical obsession with pharmaceutical research.

"It seems everyone recognizes Manager Chen's capabilities. That settles it, then," Lin Mu announced, his decision final.

"This... Thank you, President Lin!" Chen Cheng exclaimed, rising to his feet. "Thank you all for your support. I promise I will work hard for the company."

His earnest reaction brought a few knowing smiles to the faces in the room, and the tense atmosphere began to relax.

"Rest assured, as long as you work diligently for the company, you will be well-rewarded. But if any of you dare to feign compliance while undermining me, don't blame me for being ruthless!"

Lin Mu stood up. "As for what comes next, you can all figure that out on your own."

He then turned to Su Ke'er. "President Su, as the Vice President, I'll have to trouble you to manage things when I'm not around."

These words were, of course, directed at her.

"Oh, okay."

Su Ke'er only managed a hurried reply after Yuan Shan nudged her.

Without another word, Lin Mu turned and left.

The others watched his retreating figure, their expressions complex. The young man's methods were incredibly shrewd. With just a few simple moves, he had ousted Liu Hong and Yang Ye while promoting Chen Cheng. He had even given them some reassurance by confirming that the company's daily affairs would still largely be managed by Su Ke'er.

Compared to a stranger like Lin Mu, Su Ke'er was a company veteran from the Su Family, possessing both capability and experience. Moreover, her position was perfectly justified.

「The President's Office」

After dealing with some related matters, Lin Mu tossed his pen aside, leaned back in his chair, and closed his eyes to rest. Mi Xiaotao brought him a cup of coffee, her eyes filled with admiration and respect for the new president as she offered a knowing smile.

"President Lin, please have some coffee."

Lin Mu opened his eyes. "Thank you."

Mi Xiaotao blushed instantly and waved her hands, insisting it was just part of her job.

Lin Mu suddenly raised an eyebrow. "Secretary Tao, please prepare another cup of coffee."

"President Lin, is the coffee not to your liking? I'll get you another one," Mi Xiaotao blurted out, alarmed. She had witnessed firsthand how imperiously the new president had commanded the meeting room. If he was dissatisfied with her, her job would be on the line.

"Why so nervous?" Lin Mu said with a wry laugh. "We're about to have a guest."

"Oh, oh, of course."

Just as Mi Xiaotao finished preparing the second cup, the office door was pushed open forcefully. The visitor was none other than Su Ke'er.

"Secretary Tao, you can get back to your work now," Lin Mu said.

Before leaving, Mi Xiaotao gently closed the office door behind her, then stuck her tongue out slightly.

The tension between President Lin and President Su is terrifying.

Su Ke'er watched Lin Mu silently, her gaze unfriendly.

"President Su, have some coffee," Lin Mu offered.

Su Ke'er walked over, planted her hands on the desk, and leaned forward to look directly into Lin Mu's eyes.

"Who are you, really?"

Her tone was laden with complexity, but deep within her eyes was a hint of scrutiny.

Su Ke'er was exceptionally beautiful with a tall, slender build. Today she wore a gray business suit that showcased her magnificent figure perfectly. As she leaned forward, her posture created an impressive view. Because she was so close, Lin Mu could not only see a flash of wildness in her eyes but also catch a faint, alluring scent. Her natural fragrance was intoxicating.

Lin Mu quickly averted his gaze and took a sip of his coffee.

PFFT!

The coffee was scalding. His arm trembled, and he spilled some on himself.

Watching Lin Mu fumbling to wipe his clothes, Su Ke'er let out a chuckle. Just moments ago, this man had dominated the meeting room, dismissing two managers with an air of absolute authority. Yet here he was, fumbling in front of her over such a silly mistake. She found it unexpectedly amusing.

However, Su Ke'er quickly remembered why she had come. Her smile vanished, replaced by a stern expression, though the hardness in her eyes had softened.

Only then did Lin Mu, feigning composure, say, "President Su, please have some decorum."

"What?" Su Ke'er asked, confused.

Lin Mu gestured toward her chest.

She glanced down and saw the deep cleavage her posture revealed.

"Ah!"

Su Ke'er instantly clutched her chest, her pretty face flushing a deep crimson.

"You pervert!"

Just as Mi Xiaotao was debating whether to check on them, she saw Su Ke'er rush out of the office, straightening her clothes with a flushed face. Meanwhile, the president was inside, wiping his shirt.

That... As she put two and two together, Mi Xiaotao's face turned beet red, the blush spreading all the way to her earlobes.

"President, I... I'll be going now," she stammered.

Watching Mi Xiaotao beat a hasty retreat, Lin Mu was left stunned for a long moment.

Damn it. This is a huge misunderstanding...

Chapter 129: Are You Threatening Me?

For the next two days, Lin Mu clocked in at the company as usual.

There were many unresolved issues, most of which required his personal signature to handle.

Having already demonstrated his capabilities, Lin Mu had firmly secured his position in the company. Thus, although he rarely spoke, his decisions went mostly unchallenged. Even if some were unhappy, they could only grit their teeth and bear it.

That day, Chen Cheng came to find Lin Mu. He explained that due to Yang Ye's departure, several research projects had come to a standstill.

However, most of the data was in Yang Ye's possession. To continue those projects, the company not only needed to retrieve the data but also secure follow-up funding.

In short, Chen Cheng was there to ask for money.

Seeing Chen Cheng's flushed face and his visibly anxious expression, Lin Mu found it rather amusing.

"Manager Chen, what are your thoughts?"

Lin Mu put down the report and looked at Chen Cheng.

According to the document, some projects had been suspended, some had not yet begun development, and others were merely fronts Yang Ye had used to embezzle funds.

Chen Cheng habitually adjusted his glasses and said, "Actually, I think that aside from the third project concerning a new antibiotic, the rest can be scrapped."

"Oh?" Lin Mu prompted, "Tell me more."

As if encouraged, Chen Cheng took a deep breath and said, "President Lin, I graduated from Medical University, and my specialty is new drug development, so I know this field well. In both modern medicine and clinical trials, antibiotics are indispensable. The key features of new antibiotics are their low cost, high efficacy, and minimal side effects. Instead of pouring more manpower, material, and financial resources into developing other drugs, we should focus our efforts on antibiotics."

After saying so much in one go, Chen Cheng took a sip of tea before continuing, "Of course, for the company to grow, we need a flagship product to our name, it's just..." He trailed off, looking a bit embarrassed. "I just haven't figured out what that should be yet."

Lin Mu laughed, tossing the report back to Chen Cheng. "This is a minor matter. As the manager of the R&D department, you figure it out. Do what you think is best, but I have one requirement."

Lin Mu's tone grew serious. "Product quality!"

Sensing the gravity in Lin Mu's voice, Chen Cheng sat up straight and pledged, "Rest assured, President Lin. I will personally oversee this and guarantee there are no slip-ups!"

Drug development's biggest fear was substandard quality that caused problems when patients used the medication.

Lin Mu could accept making less money, or even no money at all, but he would never earn it by sacrificing his conscience. That was his bottom line.

"Alright, you can go now. If anything comes up in the future, report directly to President Su," Lin Mu said with a wave of his hand, dismissing Chen Cheng.

After Chen Cheng left, Lin Mu began to wonder. Should I contact Ning Xian? We might be able to collaborate on something.

KNOCK, KNOCK.

The sound of knocking interrupted his thoughts.

"Come in."

Tang Feng, the manager of the HR department, walked in with a faint smile.

"Hello, President Lin." Tang Feng took two steps forward to greet him.

"To what do I owe the pleasure, Manager Tang?" Lin Mu watched him intently, not offering him a seat.

"It's like this."

Tang Feng was about to sit down on his own, but he noticed Lin Mu's unwelcoming gaze. He gave an awkward laugh instead. "Since Liu Hong was fired, the Sales Department is currently rudderless. I was hoping to recommend someone to you, President Lin."

"Oh?" Lin Mu raised an eyebrow. "For Manager Tang to personally make a recommendation, I must admit, I'm quite curious as to who it is."

Tang Feng looked slightly embarrassed. "It's all for the good of the company. I'm recommending Manager Huang Qi from the Sales Department."

Lin Mu said with a wry smile, "If I recall correctly, Manager Huang is... your wife, isn't she, Manager Tang?"

Tang Feng said, looking a little awkward, "We aren't married yet. She's just my fiancée."

"Oh? Is there a difference?"

Tang Feng immediately straightened his posture and said loudly, "President Lin, as the HR Manager, I'm well aware that nepotism is a major taboo in personnel appointments. However, if Manager Huang weren't capable, I would never dare to bring this up with you."

Lin Mu nodded. "Hmm, I'm aware of your character, Manager Tang. And I trust that Manager Huang's capabilities are, as you say, plain for all to see."

"So, does that mean you agree, President Lin?" A look of joy spread across Tang Feng's face, a hint of pride in his eyes.

Tang Feng was in his early thirties, handsome, and a graduate of a prestigious university. He had also studied abroad and came from a family with some money. As a result, almost everyone in the company showed him a degree of deference.

Therefore, he approached Lin Mu with the intention of promoting Huang Qi to Sales Department Manager, a move driven largely by his own self-interest. Besides, Lin Mu is new here. Whether it's to balance the middle management or to win over his staff, he'll surely agree to this small proposal of mine.

But...

"Who said I agreed?"

Lin Mu looked at Tang Feng, a smile still on his face.

The smile on Tang Feng's face froze. "President Lin, I..."

Lin Mu said flatly, "I have my own arrangements for the Sales Department, so you needn't worry about it, Manager Tang. Please focus on your own duties."

"Are you rejecting my proposal, President Lin?" Tang Feng's expression darkened with displeasure.

"What's this? Are you threatening me, Manager Tang? Or are you suggesting that... as the manager of the company's HR department, you have the authority to decide on appointments at the manager level?" Lin Mu's smile didn't waver, but his tone grew heavy.

A strange sense of panic seized Tang Feng. "I wouldn't dare, I wouldn't dare! You're reading too much into it, President Lin."

Lin Mu said nothing.

"If there's nothing else, I'll take my leave then." This guy is not easy to fool, Tang Feng thought, finally remembering who he was dealing with. The moment he arrived, he took down two managers with thunderous methods. He's probably still holding evidence of wrongdoing over the heads of key personnel like us.

"Manager Tang is a busy man. I won't keep you," Lin Mu said.

The moment Tang Feng was out of the office, the smile vanished from his face, replaced by a gloomy scowl.

"How did it go? Did President Lin agree?" a woman in her late twenties walked over and asked nervously.

"We'll talk in my office."

The two entered his office. Tang Feng slammed the door shut and snorted coldly. "Hmph! He was given a chance and he spat on it. That bastard is asking for it! Outrageous!"

The woman's expression changed instantly. "What? He refused? Who the hell does he think he is?"

This woman was, of course, Huang Qi, Tang Feng's fiancée.

"Tang Feng, we had a deal! That sales department manager position must be mine, or else..."

Huang Qi was beautiful, but her thin lips made her look rather sharp-tongued. There wasn't a trace of respect for Lin Mu in her voice.

"Darling, don't worry," Tang Feng said, grabbing her hands. "That sales department manager position is yours. No one can take it away!"

He continued, "I'll call my dad right now and have him step in personally."

Huang Qi's anger melted into delight. She sat on Tang Feng's lap, wrapped her arms around his neck, and cooed, "I knew you were the best to me."

Tang Feng took out his phone, dialed a number, and explained the situation.

After hanging up, he let out a cold laugh.

Trying to compete with me? You're still far too green!

Chapter 130 Just Friends!

Liu Zijian was a little nervous.

He hadn't even taken a sip of the coffee on the table. In the past few days, he had mostly gotten his family's affairs in order and had even found a house. He was ready to sign the contract today.

Thinking about starting a new life, a small smile appeared on Liu Zijian's face, and much of his nervousness faded. Ever since his father passed away and his wife left him with their young son, Liu Zijian had gone through a long, dark period. It was a sunless, hopeless time. His mother's serious illness had drained all of their family's savings. To make matters worse, someone had broken his leg, leaving him disabled.

But everything changed after Elder Brother Mu appeared.

His mother's illness was cured. It seemed his son had also undergone an intellectual awakening and stumbled upon a great opportunity. In the last couple of days, his mother had met with Auntie Su, and they were preparing to open a restaurant, their confidence in life renewed. And he, Liu Zijian, was about to have a house and a career of his own.

Life was gradually improving.

However, the smile on his face quickly vanished. The muscles in his face began to twitch with a hint of suppressed anger.

It was because he saw a woman: his ex-wife, Huang Qi.

Huang Qi wore a tailored suit, her hair was styled up, and her makeup was delicate. The woman had her arm linked with another man's, her face beaming with happiness. After saying something to the man beside her, Huang Qi suddenly seemed to sense something and looked toward Liu Zijian. After a brief moment of surprise, a faint, smug smile appeared on her face.

Huang Qi walked over and sat down directly in front of him.

"Long time no see."

She scrutinized Liu Zijian. Her tone was devoid of emotion, but her eyes held a hint of disdain and relief. She could tell at a glance that Liu Zijian was down on his luck. Even the suit he was wearing was the same one from a few years ago.

"Do you need something?" For the woman before him, Liu Zijian felt little hatred and certainly no affection. From the moment she chose to leave him, all contact between them had ceased. Calling them the most familiar of strangers wouldn't be an exaggeration.

Huang Qi studied him, her lips curling slightly. "It seems you haven't been doing very well lately," she said, her voice flat but laced with sarcasm.

"Couldn't be better, thanks to you," Liu Zijian replied.

Huang Qi was taken aback, her mouth falling slightly open. She seemed surprised that the usually reticent Liu Zijian would offer such a sharp retort. She smoothed a stray strand of hair by her ear and said coldly, "Are you still holding a grudge against me?"

Looking at her, Liu Zijian suddenly found the situation amusing. "Are you worth it?"

Huang Qi was left speechless, and her expression turned ugly.

"You weren't like this before."

In the past, whenever she spoke, he would either remain silent or simply obey. He would never have been so sharp-tongued, leaving her speechless as he just had.

"You said it yourself, that was the past. People change," Liu Zijian said, his emotions having already stabilized as he met her gaze with indifference.

Huang Qi seemed slightly uncomfortable under his stare. She said disdainfully, "Yes, people do change. Some get better and better, while others... become more and more wretched."

She added, "Like you."

A couple who could have grown old together were meeting and speaking like this after just a few years. It wasn't a matter of disappointment, but it was far from pleasant.

Huang Qi seemed to feel she had regained the upper hand. She lifted her chin and said, "At least, seeing you like this proves my choice back then was correct."

This woman... as self-righteous as ever. It was just like what she'd told him when she left: "I'll lead a better life without you."

Indeed, she was now a middle manager at Boheng Pharma, holding the position of deputy sales manager. Though only a deputy, she would soon be promoted to the full position. And who could blame her? She had found herself a capable and well-connected fiancé.

"As long as you're happy," Liu Zijian said.

His tone was so calm it seemed foreign to Huang Qi. She had expected anger, resentment, perhaps even a few hurled insults. That, at least, would have brought her some comfort, as it would prove he still hated her. After all, hate can only come from love. But instead, all he had said was, "As long as you're happy."

And of course, she was delighted! She was about to be promoted to sales department manager.

"I'm about to get a promotion, and my fiancé is the company's HR manager," Huang Qi said proudly. "If you're out of work, you can contact me anytime. For old times' sake, I can put in a good word for you."

Back then, Liu Zijian had just been a minor functionary in a public institution. Their life had been tight—so tight she couldn't afford decent clothes or jewelry, let alone a luxurious meal. But now things were different. She wore designer brands, ate Western cuisine, and lived in a high-end residential complex

where apartments cost over ten thousand per square meter. She truly felt she had the right to look down on him.

"Congratulations."

Liu Zijian's simple reply, however, made Huang Qi feel vaguely uncomfortable. It was like a thorn under her skin, making her squirm.

"Liu Zijian, if you really hate me, just say it! If you find it too hard to ask me for help, you can be direct about that too! There's no need to be so passive-aggressive," Huang Qi snapped, her face clouding with anger. This good-for-nothing loser! What was he trying to prove, putting on an act in front of me?

Liu Zijian was somewhat surprised. He shook his head slightly and said, "Don't you think too highly of yourself? Or did you think that I, Liu Zijian, couldn't survive without you?"

"Isn't that true?" Huang Qi's voice rose a notch. "Do you even have a job now? That place you live in is rented, isn't it? Your mother's illness isn't cured, is it? What right do you have to show off in front of me?"

Typically, it is the insecure who derive satisfaction from belittling others, as if it is the only way to prove themselves right. Huang Qi was a perfect example.

"Who is he?"

Just as Liu Zijian was about to speak, a man walked over carrying two cups of coffee. It was Tang Feng, a man who, based on appearances alone, was leagues above Liu Zijian.

"It's nothing, just an... ordinary friend," Huang Qi said, her voice a little unnatural. She glanced at Liu Zijian with a hint of a threat in her eyes, as if to warn him not to say anything foolish.

Liu Zijian was speechless for a moment, then laughed silently. This woman is truly full of herself.

"Oh?" Tang Feng extended his hand to Liu Zijian, his tone gentle and approachable. "I rarely hear her mention any friends. Since we've met, it must be fate. Nice to meet you. My name is Tang Feng, Qi Qi's fiancé."

Liu Zijian shook his hand, glanced at Huang Qi, and said, "Liu Zijian, a... friend of Huang Qi's."

Hearing him introduce himself that way, Huang Qi, standing to the side, breathed a sigh of relief, though not without a pang of guilt.

"Dear, let's go," she said, pulling on Tang Feng's arm.

Tang Feng looked puzzled. "We haven't even had our coffee yet. Besides, it's not every day I get to meet one of your friends. Let's chat for a bit. We're not in a rush, anyway."

A slightly enigmatic smile touched Liu Zijian's lips. "I don't mind."

Huang Qi clenched her teeth and glared at Liu Zijian. "Fine!"