

War God 311

Chapter 311: Who Has Provoked the Venerable Master Again!

"Do you dare?" Qin Hongbo stared at Lin Mu, searching his face for any sign of retreat.

Qin Luoli held forty-one percent of Qin Corporation's shares. Qin Hongbo also held twenty percent. If their shares were combined, they would amount to sixty-one percent. Whoever controlled these shares would have complete control of Qin Corporation.

Qin Hongbo dared to make such a bet because he didn't believe Qin Luoli could succeed. It wasn't just him; no one thought favorably of Qin Luoli's chances. Or rather, it would be more accurate to say they underestimated Lin Mu.

Lin Mu smiled. He finally understood. Qin Hongbo and his family of three were simply coveting the shares in Qin Luoli's hands. They were pressuring him in every way possible, hoping he would step into their trap. But what a pity. Not only had he already been warned by Qin Yan, but even if he had known nothing beforehand, he wouldn't have taken Qin Hongbo and his family seriously. Not even if the Chen Family was truly pulling the strings behind the scenes.

"What's there to be afraid of?" Lin Mu said with a smile. "I just hope you won't regret it."

Qin Hongbo snorted coldly and said, "In front of everyone, in front of the Old Madam, whoever regrets this will face the family's discipline!"

"Of course, you're the exception!" Qin Hongbo looked at Lin Mu. "When the time comes, you must keep your word!" He would have to kneel and go to the Chen Family to apologize to Chen Ruoping!

"Alright, I agree!" Lin Mu accepted without hesitation.

"Hahaha, Lin Mu, you're doomed!" Qin Hao was ecstatic. He couldn't help but laugh out loud. He felt that Lin Mu was simply digging a grave for his own wife. He could already envision Qin Luoli stepping down as president, and a defeated Lin Mu kneeling on the ground, making his way to the Chen Family step by step. When that happened, he would have all the journalists in River City ready for a live broadcast. Lin Mu, in one week, you will meet your complete downfall!

...

"Lin Mu, you..." In the office, Qin Luoli had a worried and reproachful look on her face. "A week is not enough time. I really can't do it. Why did you agree?"

Qin Luoli was in a terrible mood. She even felt the urge to lash out, but facing Lin Mu, she couldn't bring herself to say a single harsh word.

Holding her hand, Lin Mu said, "What? Don't you believe in me? When have I ever lied to you?"

"But I just went through the accounts, and the company has already lost nearly one billion!"

Qin Luoli frantically flipped through the company's financial statements. A pile of contracts lay on her desk, all of them canceled orders from numerous companies. After leaving the Qin Family Ancestral House, she had come straight to the company to handle work. But the situation was far more troublesome than she had anticipated. So many companies had withdrawn their orders in just one night; who knew how many more would follow tomorrow.

Qin Luoli already regretted agreeing to go with Lin Mu to Qiao Zishan's funeral. And why did she have to bring him back to the ancestral house? The Old Madam not only didn't stop the bet between Lin Mu and Qin Hongbo, but she even agreed to be a witness.

Qin Luoli wasn't afraid of losing; at worst, she would just hand over her shares and resign as president. However, if Qin Corporation fell into Qin Hongbo's control, it would be a fatal blow to the Qin Family. Because the Chen Family was behind Chen Xinlan. That ambitious Chen Ruoping would surely use this opportunity to extend his reach into the inner workings of Qin Corporation.

"President, the order from Daming Enterprise... they've returned it too!" The president's assistant, Lu Yao, walked in with a grim expression, holding a stack of documents.

"Just put them down," Qin Luoli said, leaning back tiredly in her chair, her face pale.

"You can go now," Lin Mu gestured to Lu Yao. After she left, he walked behind Qin Luoli and gently began massaging her temples. "Don't worry, I'm here. I guarantee you will win this time."

He gathered Spiritual Energy at his fingertips, tenderly massaging her to relieve her exhaustion.

Qin Luoli closed her eyes, enjoying the feeling, but sighed, "How can I possibly win? It's only a week. Even an immortal couldn't do it, right?"

"An immortal might not be able to, but that doesn't mean you can't," Lin Mu said, his heart aching for her. He even felt a pang of regret, wondering if he had taken things too far. But Qin Hongbo's family was pressing them relentlessly, giving no ground. If he didn't cripple them completely, they would just keep making trouble for Qin Luoli.

"Stop trying to comfort me." Qin Luoli gave a bitter smile. "This is only the beginning. More orders will be returned tomorrow, and countless companies will send people to question us."

Lin Mu smiled coldly. "Let them! I'd like to see who has the last laugh!"

...

Looking at the sleeping Qin Luoli, Lin Mu's heart ached. He gently picked her up and placed her on the office sofa. After covering her with a blanket, he stepped out.

He took out his phone and called Cheng Bugui.

"Venerable Master!"

Cheng Bugui was already in bed, but he sat bolt upright the moment Lin Mu's call connected.

"Help me investigate two things," Lin Mu said flatly.

"Please give your orders, Venerable Master!"

Even over the phone, Cheng Bugui felt a chill travel down the line, jolting him fully awake.

"First, I'm about to send you some information. I want you to investigate the background of all the companies on the list. Find out who they've been getting close to recently."

"Second, investigate Qin Ming. I want to know everything about him for the past few years. Including what he eats for breakfast every day. I want every single detail!"

Lin Mu didn't believe for a second that the trouble from Qin Hongbo and his family today was a spur-of-the-moment decision. This was definitely a long-premeditated plot. And then there's Qin Ming, who didn't show up earlier or later, but happened to arrive at this exact moment. He wasn't worried they were coming for him, but he was worried that Qin Luoli would get caught in the crossfire.

"Venerable Master, this might take some time," Cheng Bugui said hesitantly.

"You have three days!"

Lin Mu hung up immediately and sent the information to Cheng Bugui, including a photo of Qin Ming.

As Cheng Bugui looked at the information on his phone, his face turned pale. Daring not to delay, he quickly contacted the other major families to contribute whoever and whatever was necessary. Having personally witnessed the Venerable Master annihilate the Fang Family, Cheng Bugui now dared not defy a single word from Lin Mu. But this task was too large and its implications too far-reaching for him to handle alone. Since the others had benefited from the Venerable Master's generosity, they should contribute as well.

Soon, the Patriarch of the Song Family, the Liang Family Head, the Head of the Zhang Family... All of the attendees were reputable big shots in River City, the kind of people whose mere stomp of a foot could shake the city.

Yet at this moment, they all sat with grim expressions, no one daring to speak first.

Cheng Bugui pushed the door open, his eyes sweeping across the room before he spoke in a grave voice, "The Venerable Master is very angry!"

Everyone's expression changed drastically.

Who provoked the Venerable Master this time?!

Chapter 312: What is this heavenly delicacy!

In the following two days, Qin Luoli plunged into a frenzy of work. She didn't even go home, often so busy that she would fall asleep right at her desk.

This made Lin Mu feel both distressed and guilty. If it weren't for him, Qin Luoli wouldn't have to work so hard. But for the sake of their happier future, Lin Mu could only continue to keep her in the dark. So, for these two days, he stayed by her side constantly.

Lin Mu also saw another side of Qin Luoli. Perhaps in her daily life, she was a woman who needed protection, one who could act spoiled, get angry, and throw little tantrums. At work, however, Qin Luoli was decisive and commanding, displaying astonishing business talent and acumen. Lin Mu had seen on multiple occasions how, during meetings, her thoughts were clear and her arguments well-organized, earning both fear and admiration from everyone present. Even when representatives from numerous companies came to Qin Corporation, whether to propose a collaboration or set a trap, they were often rendered speechless by her rebuttals.

Because of this, the panic caused by Qin Corporation's losses gradually subsided under her firm control. But Lin Mu knew that an even greater crisis was still to come. Qin Luoli still had a tough battle to fight.

Therefore, no matter how late it got, Lin Mu would stay with her, eating and living at the office, helping her analyze the market and process one document after another. Every time Qin Luoli was so exhausted she fell asleep, Lin Mu would use his Spiritual Energy to give her a massage and alleviate her fatigue.

And every time she woke up, she was utterly astonished. Though she felt she had only closed her eyes for a moment, she would feel refreshed and clear-headed, as if she possessed a bottomless well of energy.

Qin Luoli, though surprised, attributed this to Lin Mu. She believed, however, that it was simply his constant companionship that made her feel so tireless. The two days weren't long, but their feelings for each other were heating up quickly.

"Phew!" Qin Luoli put down her documents and let out a long breath.

After a busy morning, she hadn't even had time for breakfast, and her stomach was growling with hunger. However, when she saw the mountain of files that still needed her attention, her brow furrowed, and her appetite vanished completely.

She glanced at the sofa but didn't see the person she was hoping for, which brought a flicker of disappointment.

Then again, Lin Mu has been with me for two days straight; he must be tired too.

But even so, she couldn't help feeling a little let down.

CREAK.

The office door was pushed open. Assuming it was another delivery of files, Qin Luoli started to steel her mind for more work, only to see Lin Mu walk in carrying a food box.

"Hungry, aren't you? Here, have something to eat before you get back to it," Lin Mu said, placing the items on the table.

There were three dishes and a bowl of porridge.

One was a soybean and pig's trotter soup, its milky-white broth exuding a rich, clean fragrance. Next was a dish of stir-fried greens, whose vibrant color and the aroma of garlic made it look utterly appetizing. The third was braised pork with taro, its deep, meaty scent irresistibly tempting.

And then there was the bowl of porridge. It looked unassuming, but the fragrance wafting from it made Qin Luoli's mouth water uncontrollably.

"Wow, this looks so delicious!" she exclaimed, forgetting all about work as she promptly sat down at the table.

Lin Mu smiled. "Go on, try my cooking."

With her mouth slightly agape, Qin Luoli stared at him, her beautiful eyes filled with disbelief. "You... you made this?"

Lin Mu laughed. "That's right. It's been a long time, so I'm not sure if my skills have gotten rusty."

In the Immortal Realm, apart from cultivation, Lin Mu's greatest love was gourmet food. Huaxia's culinary culture was vast and profound, capable of leading global trends in any era or nation. Coupled with the countless variety of ingredients available in the Immortal Realm, Lin Mu's talent allowed him to create the world's most exquisite delicacies with just simple preparation. However, he hadn't cooked at all since his rebirth, which made him a little anxious.

"I never would have guessed!" Qin Luoli pouted, then took a sip of the soup.

Her pupils suddenly dilated, her pretty face a mask of pure shock.

"Is it... not good?" Lin Mu asked, a wave of anxiety washing over him.

It's one thing to finally cook for Qin Luoli, but if it doesn't taste good, that would be a huge loss of face.

If the great figures of the Immortal Realm saw him now, their jaws would surely drop. A mighty Heavenly Emperor, the peerless figure who shepherded the Myriads of Worlds, was so nervous and cautious about whether a meal he made for his wife would be good enough—it was hard to know whether to laugh or cry. After all, everyone in the Nine Heavens and Ten Earths knew that the Heavenly Shepherd Venerable's culinary skills, just like his Cultivation Level, were completely unmatched.

Qin Luoli didn't answer him. Instead, she picked up her chopsticks and took a piece of the braised pork. It was rich but not greasy, bursting with meaty flavor. She then ate a piece of the green vegetable; it was crisp and refreshing. Paired with the braised pork, it cut through the richness and was wonderfully soothing. Her eyes sparkled as she took a spoonful of porridge.

Instantly, she cried out, "This is too good!"

The fresh, fragrant flavor of what seemed like countless types of seafood blended perfectly with the millet, making her feel as if she were wandering through an ocean and a wheat field at once. It was an ethereal experience, so good she felt she could swallow her own tongue.

Lin Mu's initial anxiety gave way to dumbfounded astonishment as he watched Qin Luoli alternate between a bite of vegetables, a bite of meat, and a sip of porridge, clearing all the food on the table in no time.

"Wow! So tasty!"

"Wow, so delicious!"

"Heavens, what kind of divine delicacy is this?!"

"..."

CLACK. Qin Luoli set her bowl down on the table and wiped her mouth with a bold flourish.

A tiny burp escaped her lips. She hurriedly covered her mouth, her pretty face flushing red. Glancing at Lin Mu, who still hadn't snapped out of his daze, she said sheepishly, "It was just too delicious. I couldn't help myself."

"Ahem." Lin Mu feigned composure with a cough. "It's fine. I was just re-familiarizing myself today. Seems my skills haven't declined."

Three dishes and a bowl of porridge... she ate every last bite. This woman's appetite is as formidable as her work ethic.

Having eaten her fill, Qin Luoli felt all her fatigue swept away. She was filled with energy and a sense of blissful joy, finding the transformation all the more incredible.

"Lin Mu, with skills like these, if you decided to become a chef, you'd put everyone else out of a job," she said, leaning against him while contentedly rubbing her stomach.

Lin Mu replied proudly, "If I were a chef, no one could afford to hire me."

"That's true." Qin Luoli suddenly looked at him with a serious expression. "Lin Mu, just how many secrets are you keeping from me? You know medicine, you're a powerful fighter, and now you can cook like this."

"You know, if you told me one day that you were an Immortal who had been reincarnated, I'd probably believe you!"

Qin Luoli giggled as she said it, but Lin Mu, sitting beside her, broke out in a cold sweat.

A woman's sixth sense is terrifying!

Chapter 313 My Wife Never Gets Threatened!

KNOCK, KNOCK!

An urgent knock sounded at the door.

Qin Luoli instantly sat up straight, adjusted her clothes, and said, "Come in!"

In a flash, she resumed her image as a formidable businesswoman.

This left Lin Mu secretly astonished. If this woman went into acting, she could definitely become a top star overnight.

"President Qin, this is terrible! The vice president from Tianxiang Group is here and insists on seeing you," the secretary, Lu Yao, walked in with a tense expression.

"President Wei? What is he doing here?"

Qin Luoli's heart tightened with a sense of unease. Tianxiang Group, which had also started in cosmetics, had always maintained a close cooperative relationship with the Qin Corporation. A visit from their vice president at a time like this was definitely not a good sign.

"They..."

Before Lu Yao could finish, a group of people walked through the doorway.

The man in the lead was in his forties, dressed in a well-fitted suit with impeccably groomed hair that exuded the authority of a vice president. This was none other than Wei Yan, the vice president of the Tianxiang Group.

"President Qin, you truly are a busy person. It's not easy to get a chance to see you," Wei Yan said as soon as he walked in, his tone accusatory.

"President Wei, please take a seat. Lu Yao, make some coffee for our guests," Qin Luoli said, standing up to shake his hand and show them to their seats.

Wei Yan glanced around Qin Luoli's office. The desk was covered with unfinished paperwork, while another table held the remains of a meal that had yet to be cleared. On the sofa sat a young man.

This young man didn't seem like anyone important, probably just a low-level employee.

Indeed, when Wei Yan noticed the young man quietly clearing the table, his suspicions were confirmed.

He paid Lin Mu no further mind.

"President Wei, the office is a bit messy. I hope you don't mind," Qin Luoli said after everyone was seated. "May I ask the reason for your personal visit today?"

Wei Yan's brow furrowed. "Aren't you feigning ignorance, President Qin?"

Qin Luoli sighed. "I've been quite preoccupied lately and haven't had the time to visit your company. It was discourteous of me. I'll find an opportunity to visit President Huang."

The chairman of Tianxiang Group was named Huang Tianxiang. She was also a powerful woman in the business world and considered one of Qin Luoli's seniors, so the offer was reasonable.

"There's no need," Wei Yan chuckled. He reached out for a document from his assistant and slapped it onto the table. "President Qin, this is our cooperation contract with your company."

Qin Luoli's beautiful eyes narrowed. "President Wei, what is the meaning of this?"

"President Qin, why don't you look at the contract before we talk?" Wei Yan said, a smile on his face.

Qin Luoli casually flipped through the contract, her expression growing darker with every page. It was the cooperation agreement between the Qin Corporation and Tianxiang Group, which clearly outlined the development plans for both companies for the coming years. According to the contract, Tianxiang Group would provide raw materials while Qin Corporation handled research and development. The final profits were to be divided, with Tianxiang Group taking 30% and the Qin Corporation 70%.

Those were the terms that had been previously agreed upon. But now, next to the profit-sharing clause, was a line of handwritten text: *Tianxiang Group takes 50%, Qin Corporation takes 30%, remainder to be determined.*

Besides that clause, numerous other changes had been marked with a pen.

SLAM!

Qin Luoli fiercely shut the contract and glared at Wei Yan. "President Wei, is the Tianxiang Group trying to take advantage of our current crisis?"

Wei Yan chuckled. "No need to be so hasty, President Qin. On my way here, President Huang specifically instructed that everything is negotiable—except for the profit-sharing clause."

"Impossible!" Qin Luoli was so angry her chest heaved as she stared at Wei Yan. "On this point alone, there is no negotiation!"

"Fine, then we won't discuss it," Wei Yan said indifferently. "After all, besides our Tianxiang Group, I can't think of any other company in all of River City that could provide such a large quantity of raw materials. You at the Qin Corporation know your current situation better than I do, so I won't elaborate. But I can guarantee one thing: without the Tianxiang Group, the Qin Corporation won't last much longer."

Wei Yan was telling the truth. Besides cosmetics, the Qin Corporation was also involved in the luxury goods industry, but its investments in that sector were minimal. Qin Luoli, however, had invested a massive sum into cosmetics. If their supply of raw materials was cut off, the Qin Corporation would suffer a devastating blow. And throughout all of River City, only the Tianxiang Group could provide such a vast amount of raw materials, because its chairman, Huang Tianxiang, had her own unique methods for procuring them.

"You're taking advantage of us!" Qin Luoli said furiously. "Our contract clearly states that if one party unilaterally changes the terms, the other has the right to terminate the agreement, and all losses will be borne by the party in breach."

"President Wei, is the Tianxiang Group truly willing to pay a massive penalty just to change the contract?"

Before Wei Yan could speak, a young man beside him spoke up with a smile. "We are."

Qin Luoli's beautiful eyes narrowed.

The young man pushed his glasses up the bridge of his nose and said, "President Huang's intentions are clear. If the profits cannot be reallocated, the Tianxiang Group will breach the contract, even if it means paying the penalty."

Qin Luoli snorted coldly. "This is too important. I need to speak with President Huang in person. You don't have the authority!"

"President Qin, you might not know this yet," Wei Yan said with a smirk. "This is President Huang's nephew, just over from Southern Sky. President Huang has given him full authority in this matter."

The young man flicked some non-existent dust from his clothes and extended a hand toward Qin Luoli. "Hello. My name is Huang Wei. It's a pleasure."

Huang Wei brazenly sized up Qin Luoli, his gaze extremely invasive.

His aunt had personally told him the president of the Qin Corporation was an ice beauty. If he could win her over, it would be a huge boon for both him and the Tianxiang Group. That's why she had taught him plenty of methods before he came.

Qin Luoli ignored Huang Wei's outstretched hand and stared at Wei Yan with cold eyes.

Wei Yan said lightly, "Of course, President Huang also said that if President Qin is unwilling to agree, there is another option. It would not only guarantee our continued supply of raw materials, but the Tianxiang Group would also unconditionally support the Qin Corporation through its current crisis."

A faint smile played on Huang Wei's face.

Clearly, he knew what the other option was.

"That is... President Qin could try dating Mr. Huang Wei," Wei Yan said, a cold smirk in his eyes as he finally revealed his true colors.

"What?" Qin Luoli shot to her feet, her eyes blazing with fury. "Impossible! I'll never agree!"

"Hehe, it doesn't matter if you agree or not," Huang Wei chuckled. "If you don't, then the cooperation between our companies ends here."

Qin Luoli's expression turned grim. If she couldn't reach an agreement this time, the Qin Corporation would be in grave danger. Huang Tianxiang was exploiting her predicament with this outrageous demand.

But to actually agree to Huang Tianxiang's conditions would be tantamount to pushing the Qin Corporation into the abyss.

"President Qin, I'll give you one day to think about it. When you've made up your mind, come find me," Huang Wei said. He took a key card from his bag, placed it on the table, and pushed it toward Qin Luoli.

"You..."

Qin Luoli wished she could tear Huang Wei to pieces. This bastard... he was actually trying to force her...

"There's no need to consider it."

Just as Qin Luoli was about to explode, a chilling voice drifted in from outside.

"No one threatens my wife!"

"So, get lost!"

Chapter 314: If you want to play, then I'll join you!

The door was pushed open.

A tall, slender young man walked in slowly, his face like frost and his eyes piercing. With his hands in his pockets, he strode into the office and stopped in front of Huang Wei.

"What are you doing here? This is the President's office!" Wei Yan immediately shouted upon seeing Lin Mu. "Have you no manners? Get out!"

In his eyes, Lin Mu had just been clearing away tableware and was dressed plainly, so he paid him no mind at all.

"Oh, so you **do** know this is the President's office?" Lin Mu cracked a smile. "Then when you were in here threatening my wife, did you ever consider who she was?"

"What?" Huang Wei was stunned, pointing at Qin Luoli in disbelief. "She's your wife?"

However, a large hand shot out, grabbing Huang Wei's pointing finger and twisting it hard.

CRACK!

A sharp snap of breaking bone echoed through the office as Lin Mu forcibly broke Huang Wei's finger.

"Since your claw likes to point at people so much, there's no point in keeping it."

Lin Mu's icy voice stunned everyone present.

"Agh, my hand!" Pain lanced through Huang Wei, forcing him to his knees as sweat poured down his face. "You bastard! You broke my hand! I'm going to kill you!"

Hearing Huang Wei's howls, everyone in the office shuddered. The pain was excruciating; as the saying goes, the fingers are linked to the heart.

"President Qin, what is the meaning of this?" Wei Yan's face changed. He scrambled to help Huang Wei up, glaring angrily at Qin Luoli. "How dare your man harm President Huang's nephew! President Huang will absolutely press criminal charges for this!"

Qin Luoli felt a pang of nervousness. The Tianxiang Group was formidable. A woman like Huang Tianxiang couldn't have built such an empire without having some ruthless methods. She was worried about Lin Mu.

"Don't worry," Lin Mu said, giving Qin Luoli a gentle, reassuring smile. "As long as I'm here, no one will dare to touch you."

At that moment, Qin Luoli's heart swelled with emotion. This feeling of being protected... it felt so good. But...

While she was worrying, Lin Mu turned to Wei Yan. "Go back and tell that President Huang of yours that I want to see her here, apologizing in person, before the end of the workday. Otherwise..."

"...get ready for the Tianxiang Group to disappear!"

This time, Lin Mu's killing intent was real.

For Tianxiang Group to take advantage of their predicament was one thing, but for that woman, Huang Tianxiang, to try and force his wife to be with her nephew? That was a direct slap in the face to him, Lin Mu. If he, as a man, didn't vent this frustration, he'd probably suffocate from the indignity.

"Kid, what did you just say?" Wei Yan stared at Lin Mu, incredulous. "You want President Huang to come here and apologize? And if she doesn't, you'll make the Tianxiang Group disappear?"

"What? You have a problem with that?" Lin Mu asked indifferently.

Wei Yan laughed, enraged. He pointed a shaking finger at Lin Mu. "Kid, I think you've lost your mind! What gives a low-level employee like you the right to say something like that?"

"Forget you, even your President Qin doesn't have the right to make such a threat!" Wei Yan sneered. "Make the Tianxiang Group disappear? Who do you think you are? You're arrogant and conceited!"

"You don't believe me?" Lin Mu suddenly chuckled. "Don't worry. You will."

Wei Yan decided Lin Mu was a lunatic and couldn't be bothered with him. Instead, he turned to Qin Luoli. "President Qin, I don't know if this man is some shield you hired or what, but I advise you to fire an idiot like him as soon as possible."

"Not only that, but tonight, you're going to keep me company!" Huang Wei snarled, his eyes filled with venom. "Otherwise, I'll make sure the Qin Corporation suffers consequences it can't handle!"

In their eyes, Lin Mu was just a shield for Qin Luoli. Huang Wei decided he would deal with Qin Luoli first, then kill Lin Mu. How dare he break my finger? Lin Mu is a dead man!

"I'm sorry, but he really is my husband." Hearing that Huang Wei hadn't given up on his vile intentions, Qin Luoli's heart filled with rage.

She looped her arm through Lin Mu's and stared coldly at Huang Wei. "Go back and tell Huang Tianxiang that I, Qin Luoli, will not agree to any of her conditions. If she wants to play, then I am always ready to play!"

Her words were firm and resolute, leaving no room for doubt!

"Good! Very good!" Huang Wei sneered. "Qin Luoli, you will regret this! And you, kid, you're dead!"

He shot Lin Mu a venomous glare, clutching his broken finger. "Let's go!"

"President Qin, I hope you don't regret your decision!" Wei Yan snorted, preparing to leave with Huang Wei.

"Hold on," Lin Mu said, pointing at Huang Wei. "I told *you* to get lost. He's the exception."

"What?" Huang Wei stopped in his tracks and sneered, "What now? You think you can keep me here?"

Wei Yan's fury erupted. "President Qin, is this your intention as well?"

Qin Luoli smiled. "I listen to my husband."

"Fine! Fine! Fine!" Wei Yan laughed mirthlessly. "But if we want to leave, no one can stop us!"

"I wouldn't be so sure about that!"

As the words fell, Lin Mu shot forward and kicked Wei Yan square in the chest.

THUD!

Wei Yan screamed as he was sent flying backward, crashing right through the office door. The sound of splintering wood and shattering glass startled everyone. Wei Yan lay on the floor outside, wailing in agony. Lin Mu's kick had nearly killed him.

"You little bastard, I'll kill you!" Wei Yan threatened from the floor.

Lin Mu slowly walked over, squatted down, and patted Wei Yan's cheek. "Did you not understand me?" he said coldly. "Go back and have Huang Tianxiang come here to apologize. Otherwise, prepare for the Tianxiang Group to vanish."

He stared into Wei Yan's eyes, his voice haunting. "Do I need to repeat myself?"

Wei Yan shivered violently and nodded subconsciously. "I... I know! No, no need!"

He then scrambled to his feet and fled in a blind panic.

"Wei..."

Seeing Wei Yan actually run away, Huang Wei was horrified. Lin Mu attacked at the slightest provocation, and now he was left here all alone. He was terrified.

"Lin Mu, will there be trouble?" Although she trusted him, Qin Luoli couldn't help but worry.

Lin Mu just smiled faintly. "Don't worry. Leave everything to me. Just sit back and enjoy the show."

His eyes fell on a room key card on the desk. He casually picked it up and started walking toward Huang Wei.

"You... what are you doing?" Huang Wei's face went pale with panic. He scrambled backward. "Don't come any closer! If you dare to touch me, my aunt will make you die a horrible death!"

Lin Mu shook his head. "A cat doesn't have the fangs and claws of a tiger. No matter how much it roars, it can't scare anyone."

"You want to play?" Lin Mu began tapping Huang Wei's cheek with the key card, a ruthless smile on his lips. "Fine. I'll play with you."

SMACK!

A vicious slap sent Huang Wei crumpling to the ground. Then, in a voice devoid of any emotion that sent a shiver down the spine of everyone present, Lin Mu spoke.

"But for daring to covet my woman... I'll start by collecting a little interest."

Chapter 315: Draw!

"Did Qin Luoli really say that?"

Inside the President's office of the Tianxiang Group.

After hearing Wei Yan's report, Chairwoman Huang Tianxiang furiously slammed her hand on the table, her face grim.

"President Huang, you have no idea how arrogant that Qin Luoli was. And one of her employees not only hit me, but he also broke Young Master Huang's finger!"

Wei Yan embellished his account of what happened. He concluded, "Her Qin Corporation is already on thin ice. You, Chairwoman, in your great wisdom, merely wanted to lend her a hand. Unfortunately, not only does she fail to appreciate kindness, but she even resorts to violence!"

"Chairwoman, Young Master Huang is still in their hands! They even demand that you personally go over and apologize, threatening to make our Tianxiang Group disappear if you don't!"

Wei Yan said furiously, "I've never seen such arrogance in my entire life!"

"Good. Very good!" Huang Tianxiang sneered. "It seems Qin Luoli really thinks she's somebody now. I'd like to see if she really has what it takes!"

"Chairwoman, are you going to go to the Qin Corporation?" Wei Yan asked.

"Of course!" Huang Tianxiang sneered. "I want to see just what powerful backer Qin Luoli has found for herself!"

Wei Yan was ecstatic.

"Exactly, Chairwoman! We shouldn't just go, we should show the Qin Corporation that the Tianxiang Group is not to be trifled with!"

Wei Yan's side still ached from where Lin Mu had kicked him. How could he possibly let this insult slide?

"Go, tell Huang Daniu to bring every capable fighter from the security department!" Huang Tianxiang ordered, her voice laced with killing intent. "How dare they touch my nephew. I'll let that little wench Qin Luoli know who the most powerful woman in River City is!"

As a woman, Huang Tianxiang had built a vast enterprise in River City, relying not only on her business talent but also on a group of subordinates who were ready and willing to fight. She had brought Huang Daniu and his men over from Southern Sky. They were naturally fierce and utterly ruthless in a fight.

So, you like to play rough, Qin Luoli? Fine, then let's play!

Wei Yan left excitedly to assemble everyone in the security department.

Meanwhile, Huang Tianxiang sat in her office. After a moment of contemplation, she decided to make a phone call.

"Are you sure Qin Luoli will agree?" a hoarse, electronic voice asked from the other end, clearly disguised by a voice changer.

"Rest assured, I never do anything I'm not confident about," Huang Tianxiang snorted. "I hope you can keep your word. Don't make me go through all this for nothing."

"What? Lacking confidence in yourself?" the person on the phone chuckled.

"Hmph, I just don't understand why you're clearly..."

Before Huang Tianxiang could finish, the person on the other end cut her off. "How I do things is not for you to question. Just do your part!"

"You..."

Huang Tianxiang wanted to say more, but the line went dead. Enraged, she violently smashed the phone down on her desk.

"Hmph, damn it! Just because the organization trusts you, you dare to order me around with such arrogance!"

After venting her frustration, Huang Tianxiang looked toward the inner office, knocked on the door, and asked respectfully, "Lord Xiao, shall I accompany you for a walk?"

"Hmm, let's go out for a walk."

Huang Tianxiang was overjoyed.

The die is cast!

「Qin Corporation」

Inside the office, Lin Mu was sitting on the sofa, resting with his eyes closed.

Qin Luoli was in no mood to work and had sent all the employees home.

As for Huang Wei, he lay on the ground like a dead dog, convulsing periodically. He couldn't even speak, because Lin Mu had shattered all of his teeth. People with foul mouths needed to be taught a lesson, of course.

"Lin Mu, are you really confident?" Qin Luoli asked uneasily.

Lin Mu opened his eyes, a determined smile on his face. "Relax, I can handle it."

"Alright. I just hope you don't make too big a mess."

Glancing at Huang Wei groaning on the floor, Qin Luoli secretly shook her head. With Lin Mu beating the man like this, how could Huang Tianxiang possibly let it go?

Lin Mu just smiled without responding.

If Huang Tianxiang didn't give him a satisfactory explanation, he wouldn't mind wiping out the Tianxiang Group.

Just as a silence fell between them, a security guard burst in. "President, we have a problem!" he exclaimed. "The... the people from the Tianxiang Group are here."

Qin Luoli glanced at Lin Mu, then said to the guard with displeasure, "So they're here. No need to be so terrified."

The guard was sweating profusely as he stammered, "No, it's just that they..."

"What? It's not like they're going to eat me, are they?" Qin Luoli's dissatisfaction grew. It was absurd that her security guards would be so terrified by such a small matter.

Then again, one could hardly blame the guards. After all, not everyone could remain calm when facing the Tianxiang Group.

"Heh, I doubt we'll go so far as to eat you. But as for you, President Qin, for beating my man and detaining my nephew... I'm very interested to know what you plan to do next."

The sharp click-clack of high heels echoed as a large group of people poured into the office. The woman leading them was in her early forties, with short hair and exquisite makeup that couldn't quite conceal the wrinkles at the corners of her eyes. This was none other than Huang Tianxiang.

Seeing Huang Tianxiang, Huang Wei, who was lying on the floor, immediately tried to cry out, his words slurred and broken. "Auntie... they... they hit me..."

As soon as Huang Wei opened his mouth to speak, Huang Tianxiang was startled. His mouth was a bloody mess with not a single tooth left, a truly horrifying sight.

"Wei...?"

Taking a closer look, Huang Tianxiang confirmed it was indeed her nephew. Her expression changed drastically as she rushed forward to hug him. "Who did this?" she demanded urgently. "Who did this to you!"

Huang Tianxiang had been divorced since her thirties and had no children, so she poured all her energy into her business. Although Huang Wei was her older brother's son, he had spent most of his life with her. Huang Tianxiang treated him like her own flesh and blood and had even planned to hand over the Tianxiang Group to him someday.

But now, seeing him beaten into this inhuman state, Huang Tianxiang was consumed by fury.

She shot to her feet and pointed a finger at Qin Luoli. "You little slut! What a vicious heart you have, to beat my nephew into such a state!"

"I'd advise you to put that hand down," Lin Mu said, stepping in front of Huang Tianxiang before Qin Luoli could speak. "Unless you want to end up like your nephew."

"You little beast, you're the one who hit Wei?!" Huang Tianxiang's eyes locked onto Lin Mu, a murderous glint appearing within them.

"I am," Lin Mu grinned. "And what are you going to do about it?"

"Good! Very good!" Huang Tianxiang's chest heaved with rage. Her voice was filled with murderous intent as she said, "You've got guts. But for hitting Wei, I, Huang Tianxiang, swear I will put you in a state where you can't live and can't die!"

Lin Mu's smile vanished, his face becoming a placid mask. "Is this your apology?"

Huang Tianxiang laughed, enraged. "Apologize? I'll apologize to your mo—AH!"

Before she could finish her curse, she let out a piercing scream. Her body flew backward, slamming hard onto the floor.

Lin Mu's tone was indifferent. "It seems foul mouths run in the family."

Chairwoman of the Tianxiang Group? I'll slap her all the same.

Chapter 316: Where the True Self Resides, No One Dares Approach!

Silence. A deathly silence.

Everyone stared, agape, at the wailing Huang Tianxiang on the floor, their heads spinning. The dignified chairwoman of the Tianxiang Group had just been slapped across the face?

"Chairwoman, are you all right?" Wei Yan hurried to help Huang Tianxiang up. He immediately winced and turned his head away. Half of her face was completely deformed, swollen like a pig's head. The five distinct fingerprints were so clear even the ridges were visible.

"AAAAAGH!" Huang Tianxiang shrieked as she stood up, feeling the excruciating pain on her face. "You little beast, I'm going to kill you! I'm going to kill you!" she bellowed furiously. "Huang Daniu, what are you waiting for? Kill this little beast for me!"

"Yes, Chairwoman!"

Huang Daniu was a towering man, nearly 1.9 meters tall, with a large, livid birthmark on his face that made him look exceedingly fierce. At Huang Tianxiang's command, he motioned to his men. "Boys, cripple this little bastard!"

"Remember, just break his limbs!" Huang Daniu added with a vicious sneer. He wasn't killing Lin Mu outright—not because he didn't dare, but because he was saving him for Young Master Huang to deal with personally.

"Got it!"

At Huang Daniu's command, a dozen or so security guards from the Tianxiang Group charged at Lin Mu. These men, whom Huang Daniu had brought from his village, were all hardened fighters. They had wrestled with large beasts in the mountains since childhood, so dealing with a single man like Lin Mu seemed like a piece of cake.

"Lin Mu, be careful!" Qin Luoli cried out, her face pale with fright.

Lin Mu glanced at Huang Tianxiang. "It seems you have no intention of apologizing."

"In your dreams!" Huang Tianxiang's eyes were filled with venom. "After I cripple you, I'll let you know the consequences of offending me!"

From childhood, Huang Tianxiang had never been struck by anyone. Especially after she built the Tianxiang Group into a powerful corporation, no one had dared to humiliate her so brazenly. Lin Mu was the first. For that, he would die a horrible death!

Lin Mu nodded and flashed a grin. "Well, that simplifies things."

"Still smiling when you're about to die, kid?" Huang Daniu sneered cruelly. "If I were you, I'd be on my knees right now, begging Chairwoman Huang for forgiveness!"

"You might enjoy kneeling like a dog, but that doesn't mean I do," Lin Mu replied, shaking his head. "Enough. I won't waste any more time on you. Come at me together."

Together? Is this kid out of his mind? These dozen or so security guards are tough fighters! The crowd was stunned.

"What are you standing around for? Get him!" Huang Tianxiang snapped.

Huang Daniu cracked his neck. "Brothers, since he's asking for it, let's give it to him."

Consequently, a dozen or so men swarmed Lin Mu. "Die, kid!" one guard yelled, grabbing a chair and smashing it down at him.

"Be careful!" Qin Luoli, her face ashen with terror, couldn't help but shout a warning.

Lin Mu slowly shook his head. Before the chair could land, he kicked out.

CRACK!

The chair shattered, but the force of his kick continued, sweeping into the man's chest. The guard spat a mouthful of blood and was sent flying.

Without pausing, Lin Mu lunged forward, grabbed another man, and drove his knee upward.

OOF!

The man's eyes bulged as he doubled over like a cooked shrimp. Lin Mu gave him a gentle push, and he crumpled to the floor, unable to even stay on his feet.

Having dealt with two of them in quick succession, Lin Mu's expression remained unchanged. Huang Danu and the others, however, were frozen in shock.

"This is the trash you were going to kill me with?" Lin Mu said with disdain. "A pity. You've lost your chance."

Lin Mu strode forward. The office was immediately filled with a series of agonizing screams. One by one, Lin Mu either punched the guards to the ground, kicked them into the air, or slapped them so hard that teeth and blood went flying. In the blink of an eye, all dozen-plus guards were on the floor, groaning in pain.

Silence. The entire office fell quiet once more. Huang Tianxiang and her entourage stared at the scene in disbelief, unable to process what had just happened.

"Huang Daniu, you go!" Huang Tianxiang roared, kicking him.

Huang Daniu took a deep breath and stared at Lin Mu. "Kid, I didn't realize you were such a good fighter! But now you're facing me!" He grinned. "It's over!"

He clenched his fist and smashed it toward Lin Mu. Huang Daniu was extremely confident. As a teenager, he could already wrestle with bulls. The bulls in his village were no ordinary animals; they were incredibly fierce and immensely strong. That was why Huang Tianxiang had brought him out of the village in the first place. No matter how well Lin Mu could fight, one punch from him would take half the man's life!

BANG!

However, just as Huang Daniu's fist descended, it was caught firmly by a hand. It was Lin Mu's.

Huang Daniu tried to pull his hand free, but to his horror, he found he couldn't move it at all. This...

Gripping Huang Daniu's fist, Lin Mu said with a blank expression, "You were going to cripple my limbs?"

GULP!

Huang Daniu swallowed hard, his face filled with terror. He was too scared to speak. This kid is even stronger than I am!

CRACK!

Lin Mu's grip tightened, and Huang Daniu's arm snapped cleanly.

"AAAAH!" Huang Daniu let out a bloodcurdling scream. The excruciating pain nearly made him pass out.

CRACK! CRACK!

Two more crisp sounds rang out as Lin Mu lashed out with his feet, breaking both of Huang Daniu's legs.

"Aah, it hurts so much!" Huang Daniu screamed, rolling on the floor. Tears of agony streamed from his eyes.

"One arm left," Lin Mu stated coolly. Then, before the horrified eyes of everyone present, he stomped on Huang Daniu's remaining good hand.

CRACK!

He ground his heel down, crushing the bones of the man's arm.

"AH!" Huang Daniu jolted upright, his face a mask of agony, before his eyes rolled back and he passed out cold.

Just like that, the dozen or so security guards from the Tianxiang Group had been crippled by Lin Mu.

At that moment, it wasn't just Huang Tianxiang and the others; even Qin Luoli felt Lin Mu's methods were ruthless. Yet, while she couldn't bear to watch, she also felt an incredible sense of relief and gratitude. Lin Mu had done all of this for her. Of that, she was certain.

Lin Mu slowly walked toward Huang Tianxiang. Seeing him approach, she scrambled backward.

"You wanted to kill me?"

"You wanted to kill my woman?"

"Who gave you the audacity?"

The three consecutive questions made Huang Tianxiang collapse onto the floor, her face deathly pale.

"I..." Huang Tianxiang's lips trembled, her face a mask of terror. She could see the profound killing intent in Lin Mu's eyes.

Suddenly, as if remembering something, she screamed toward the door, "Lord Xiao, save me! Come and save me!"

However, there was no response from outside.

What's wrong with Lord Xiao? A dreadful thought struck Huang Tianxiang.

A mocking smile touched Lin Mu's lips. "Don't bother shouting. As long as I am here, he doesn't dare to enter."

Where I stand, none dare approach.

Chapter 317: The Miao King Above!

"What?"

Huang Tianxiang was taken aback, then exclaimed in disbelief, "Impossible, absolutely impossible!"

"Lord Xiao holds an esteemed status! Who do you think you are? Do you really believe you could make him afraid to see you?!" Huang Tianxiang's face was a mask of disbelief.

She had been calling out for so long, yet there was not the slightest response from Lord Xiao.

Could it be that Lord Xiao has left? No, that's also absolutely impossible! Within the stockade, Lord Xiao's status is revered; he's a man of great power. He wouldn't possibly leave just because of some guy like Lin Mu! Could he have run into some kind of trouble? Huang Tianxiang began to speculate wildly, feeling this was a strong possibility.

"Kid, Lord Xiao is dealing with something right now, which is why he hasn't come. But once he does, you're dead for sure!" Huang Tianxiang's face filled with murderous intent. "When the time comes, I'll make you kneel and beg me for mercy like a dog! As for you, Qin Luoli... after what happened to my nephew, you can prepare to serve him for the rest of your life!"

"You foul-mouthed woman!" Lin Mu suddenly slapped Huang Tianxiang across the face twice, his voice turning icy. "Do you really think I don't dare to kill you?"

After being slapped repeatedly by Lin Mu, Huang Tianxiang felt her head spin as stars danced before her eyes. But she only laughed hysterically. "Hahaha, you little beast, go ahead and hit me! I guarantee you will meet a terrible end!"

"Is that so?" Lin Mu sneered. "Since you refuse to repent, I'll put an end to your delusions."

He then shouted toward the entrance, "Xiao Long, if you don't show yourself, prepare for your clan to be exterminated!"

Huang Tianxiang was stunned. Has Lin Mu gone mad? And how does he know Lord Xiao's full name?

Her pupils constricted as a terrifying possibility bloomed in her mind. Impossible! She shook her head fiercely, trying to banish the thought, but the feeling only grew stronger, seeding a deep unease within her. Her eyes widened as she stared at the entrance, needing to see if it was true.

Qin Luoli also looked toward the door with curiosity.

At the office entrance, a figure slowly walked in. He was dressed in a black long robe that seemed somewhat out of place, but Qin Luoli recognized it as the attire of the ethnic minorities from Southern Sky. The man appeared to be in his thirties, with a mustache, and he carried an imposing air.

This was the very Lord Xiao that Huang Tianxiang had mentioned. He was a member of the Xiao Family from the Li Clan!

"Lord Xiao!" Upon seeing him, Huang Tianxiang rushed toward the man as if he were her savior.

"Lord Xiao, save me! This little beast is trying to kill me!" Huang Tianxiang burst into tears, pointing a venomous finger at Lin Mu. "Lord Xiao, that's him, the little beast! Quickly, use your Gu Insects to bite him to death! I want him to be in a state where he can neither live nor die!"

"Get lost!"

However, Lord Xiao sent her flying seven or eight meters with a single kick. "Huang Tianxiang, if you want to die, don't drag me down with you!"

Lord Xiao's eyes were filled with terror, his body trembling slightly. After kicking Huang Tianxiang aside, he walked unsteadily toward Lin Mu, then dropped to his knees, pressing his forehead against the tip of Lin Mu's shoe.

"Xiao Long of the Li Clan Xiao Branch... pays his respects to the Miao King!" His voice was laced with intense fear and despair.

He had recognized Lin Mu the moment he arrived at the Qin Corporation. During the Miao King's enthronement, Xiao Long had caught a distant glimpse of him—an image he could never forget. The Miao King! He never imagined that the most mysterious and noble Lord Miao King of the Jiuli Tribe would be here.

That was why he hadn't dared to enter. But he hadn't dared to leave, either. When Huang Tianxiang was calling for him, he had wanted nothing more than to strangle the life out of her. That foolish woman had let a little money go to her head and had forgotten her place. She had almost gotten him killed!

If Xiao Long had actually moved against Lin Mu, the latter wouldn't have needed to lift a finger. The entire Jiuli Tribe would have torn Xiao Long to shreds. Li Clan law was clear: insubordination was punishable by death! And plotting to kill the Miao King meant the annihilation of one's entire clan! Not only would Xiao Long have died, but the entire Xiao Family would have been doomed along with him.

Moreover, the Miao King's authority within the Li Clan was absolute. Annihilator of the Nine Villages and Eighteen Caves! Slayer of the High Priest! Ascender to the Heavens to Butcher a Dragon! Each and every one of these feats had become legend among the People of the Li Clan. How could he dare to make a move? How could he dare to show his face? He could only hide outside, not emerging until the Miao King himself had summoned him.

"I was unaware of the Miao King's presence. My offense is a capital crime!" Xiao Long said, his body trembling. "But I hope the Miao King will not vent his anger on the Xiao Clan. They have nothing to do with this."

Xiao Long knew he was going to die, but he was terrified the Miao King would implicate his entire clan.

"Since you admit your guilt, your death alone will spare your clan," Lin Mu said coldly. At this moment, he radiated an invisible majesty, like a noble, uncrowned king.

"Xiao Long of the Xiao Clan, guilty of lèse-majesté against the Miao King, his crime is punishable by death! He shall suffer the Gu King's heart-piercing punishment!"

A majestic voice emanated from Lin Mu, penetrating the air and drifting toward the distant Southern Sky. These words were inaudible to Huang Tianxiang and the others. Only the people of the Jiuli Tribe could hear them. This was a right granted to the Miao King by the entire Jiuli Tribe.

「A thousand miles away in Southern Sky.」

The once-clear sky suddenly filled with the roar of thunder and howling winds. Above Thunder Mountain, countless thunderbolts gathered, converging into a gigantic face.

"Xiao Long of the Xiao Clan, guilty of lèse-majesté against the Miao King, his crime is punishable by death! He shall suffer the Gu King's heart-piercing punishment!" a voice full of authority boomed from the face.

"Die!"

"Die!"

"Die!"

As the three commands fell from the sky, all the People of the Li Clan fell to their knees in shock, their faces horror-stricken, their eyes filled with fear as they cried out the Miao King's name. The members of the Xiao Family likewise knelt, shouting, "We thank the Miao King for his mercy in sparing our lives!"

「Bai Miao Village.」

Saintess Li Lai knelt at the mountain's peak, staring at the enormous face in the sky. Her expression was complex as she murmured softly, "Master..."

「Qin Corporation.」

"Thank you... Miao King!"

Xiao Long kowtowed three times to Lin Mu and gave a wretched smile. Suddenly, his body convulsed, and countless insects swarmed out from his mouth and nose. These were the Gu Insects that Xiao Long himself had nurtured. The moment they appeared, they began to devour his body.

A few minutes later, Xiao Long's body was gone, reduced to nothingness. Aside from a few shredded pieces of clothing, he had been devoured so completely that not even a shard of bone remained. After consuming him, all the Gu Insects dropped dead, one after another. Because their master had offended the Miao King, the Gu Insects were executed as well.

This all unfolded before their very eyes, a sight that made everyone's skin crawl.

"BLEGH!"

Huang Tianxiang, who had watched Xiao Long's body being consumed, felt a surge in her throat and could no longer hold back, vomiting violently.

Qin Luoli's complexion also turned pale, but she strangely managed to suppress the urge. Her beautiful eyes, however, were fixed on Lin Mu in utter shock.

When did this guy become the Miao King? And what exactly is a Miao King?

Qin Luoli found that she understood Lin Mu less and less. The more she interacted with this man, the more mysterious he seemed.

Having executed Xiao Long, Lin Mu turned his indifferent gaze to Huang Tianxiang. "Huang Tianxiang," he said, his face devoid of expression, "I already gave you a chance. How do you wish to die?"

"I..." Huang Tianxiang's body trembled. She realized she had no allies left, and her face turned deathly pale with fright.

"L-Lord... No, Lord Miao King, I didn't know your identity! That's why I offended you!" Filled with terror, Huang Tianxiang knelt and slammed her head on the floor before Lin Mu. "Please, I beg you! They say the ignorant shouldn't be punished! Please, spare me just this once!"

Huang Tianxiang kowtowed until her forehead was bleeding, and even Qin Luoli felt a flicker of pity. But the decision was Lin Mu's to make. She would not interfere.

Lin Mu looked down on her imperiously. "It's not impossible to spare your life."

Before Huang Tianxiang could voice her surprise, Lin Mu's cold, merciless voice continued, "Unfortunately for you, you targeted my woman. For that, you cannot be spared."

At his words, Huang Tianxiang collapsed to the floor, her face ashen.

It's over...

Chapter 318 Venerable Master has an order, collective apology!

"No!" Huang Tianxiang scrambled toward Lin Mu, clutching his pant leg as she wailed for mercy. "Lord Miao King, I was wrong! I truly know I was wrong! Please, forgive me this one time!"

Where was her image as a powerful businesswoman now? She was just like a dying dog, begging for her life.

Unfortunately, Lin Mu didn't even bat an eye.

"President Qin! President Qin..." Seeing that begging Lin Mu was useless, Huang Tianxiang pinned her last shred of hope on Qin Luoli. We're both women, surely Qin Luoli wouldn't stand by and watch me die.

"President Qin, I'm begging you! Please, plead with the Lord Miao King to spare me this once!" Huang Tianxiang's heart was now flooded with regret and terror.

If only I had known, I never would have targeted the Qin Corporation. Now, not only had she ruined Huang Wei, but she had also doomed herself.

Qin Luoli's voice was cold. "Begging me is useless." Glancing at Lin Mu, she added, "I listen to my husband."

Hearing this, Lin Mu nodded to himself. Qin Luoli really is a woman who has navigated the business world for years. When it's time to be ruthless, she doesn't hesitate for a second. If Qin Luoli had asked him to spare Huang Tianxiang, he would have agreed, of course, but he would have been somewhat disappointed.

"I..." Huang Tianxiang was stunned by Qin Luoli's words. She couldn't believe Qin Luoli could be so merciless. We're both women! Why is she doing this?

But Huang Tianxiang had never considered one thing: when she was preparing to move against the Qin Corporation, she had no intention of sparing Qin Luoli. In fact, she had even planned to force Qin Luoli to be with her nephew, Huang Wei.

"Let's begin." Lin Mu took out his phone and dialed a number. Because of Huang Tianxiang, he had no desire to waste any more time. A week for Qin Luoli to win the bet? Too slow!

As soon as the call went out, all of River City began to move.

Countless enterprise heads and company chairmen received a single order: "The Venerable Master has given the order: Annihilate the Tianxiang Group!"

In an instant, the business partners of the Tianxiang Group transformed into ravenous tigers and began to turn on the company. A deluge of phone calls overwhelmed the Tianxiang Group's landlines, each one carrying the same message: as of now, all cooperation is terminated.

At the same time, news arrived from Southern Sky. The entire region had completely severed ties with the Tianxiang Group. No one was permitted to provide them with so much as a single raw material. The Tianxiang Group had started in cosmetics and had a high demand for raw materials, many of which were extracted from various medicinal herbs. Huang Tianxiang had cooperative agreements with numerous herb merchants in Southern Sky, but because of Lin Mu's single phone call, none dared to resist.

At the Qin Corporation, Wei Yan's phone was ringing off the hook, but he didn't dare answer it. It wasn't until the countless text messages started pouring in that his face turned deathly white with fright.

"President Huang, it's a disaster! Multiple companies have announced they are severing all ties with our Tianxiang Group!"

"President Huang, the material suppliers from Southern Sky have also terminated their cooperation with us!"

"President Huang..."

As the messages flooded in, Wei Yan's panic turned to numbness. When Lin Mu first said he would destroy the Tianxiang Group, Wei Yan had dismissed him as arrogant and full of hot air. But as it all became reality, Wei Yan realized they had hit a steel wall. They had provoked someone they never should have crossed.

As for Huang Tianxiang, after a moment of shock, she suddenly coughed up a mouthful of blood.

"Qin Luoli, you... you are so cruel!" she shrieked, pointing a trembling finger at Qin Luoli, her face a mask of resentment and disbelief. "This was all your trap! A trap..."

Huang Tianxiang abruptly collapsed, her eyes vacant and lifeless like a dead fish.

Qin Luoli herself was somewhat baffled. She truly had no idea how Lin Mu had accomplished all this.

Lin Mu, however, merely glanced at the half-dead Huang Tianxiang. "Did you think it was over?"

Huang Tianxiang's eyes twitched, but she was unable to speak.

Wei Yan, however, was wailing internally. It's still not over?

Lin Mu offered a faint smile and made another call. "Prepare to acquire the Tianxiang Group."

At these words, Huang Tianxiang jolted upright, staring at Lin Mu as if she had seen a ghost.

"You... PTOO!"

Spraying another mouthful of blood, she fainted completely.

A deep chill washed over Wei Yan. This Lin Mu... he's utterly ruthless! First, he utterly humiliated Huang Tianxiang, then he brought the Tianxiang Group to its knees, and finally, he brazenly moved to acquire it! Without the preceding chaos, Lin Mu might have struggled to succeed. But now, the Tianxiang Group had become a pariah, a target for everyone to attack. With Lin Mu making his move to acquire it, who could possibly stand in his way?

And that wasn't all. The fact that Lin Mu could pull this off proved that he possessed an impossibly terrifying backer.

Wei Yan... regretted everything.

Looking at the people lying on the floor, Lin Mu slowly shook his head and turned to Qin Luoli. "Let's go."

"But what about them...?" Qin Luoli hesitated. This was, after all, the Qin Corporation building.

Lin Mu smiled faintly. "Don't worry. Someone will be by to clean up."

Qin Luoli said no more, simply following Lin Mu out.

"Where are we going?" she asked curiously.

Lin Mu's eyes narrowed into a smile. "To the old residence."

"What?" Qin Luoli exclaimed. "To the Qin Family Old Residence now?"

"Exactly," Lin Mu said. "A week is too long. I don't have time to waste on them."

Qin Luoli was speechless. "But we haven't won yet. Even though the Tianxiang Group has fallen, the Qin Corporation's losses are still there."

In response to her question, Lin Mu simply took her hand and smiled. "Relax. With me here, anything is possible."

Feeling the confidence in his voice, Qin Luoli paused for a moment, then her face broke into a radiant smile.

"Mm. I believe in you!"

「」

The acquisition of the Tianxiang Group was still in progress as Lin Mu and Qin Luoli arrived at the old residence.

"What's this, Lin Mu? Have you come to admit defeat?"

Just as they stepped inside the Qin Family Old Residence, they ran into Qin Hao and his family, who had rushed over. They had received a call earlier stating that the matter of the bet could be concluded. Qin Hao was ecstatic. In his mind, this had to be Qin Luoli admitting she wasn't capable and preparing to concede defeat. The joy on his face was impossible to conceal as he spoke.

Qin Luoli remained silent. I'll just leave everything to Lin Mu.

"Go on, laugh now," Lin Mu said, patting Qin Hao's shoulder with a warm smile. "You won't have a chance to in a moment."

Seeing that smile, Qin Hao couldn't help but shiver. The psychological trauma Lin Mu had inflicted on him was too great. Though he dared to speak this way now, it was only because he thought he had powerful backing. Yet for some reason, whenever he saw Lin Mu smile like that, he was filled with a sense of dread.

"Young man, a loss is a loss. A man of character accepts the consequences," Qin Hongbo, his father, declared, stepping forward to defend his son. Looking at Lin Mu, he continued, "Besides, we're all family. What's scooped from the pot just ends up in the bowl. Our bones may break, but the sinews still connect us."

He spoke grandiosely, but his eyes were ice-cold as they locked on Lin Mu.

"Uncle is right," Lin Mu said with a wide grin. "If you hadn't said that, I honestly wouldn't have known what to do next."

With that, he led Qin Luoli into the main hall.

"Good. It seems everyone has arrived." Seeing that the Old Madam and the others were mostly present, Lin Mu nodded in satisfaction, took out his phone, and made a call. "Tell them they are all to come to the Qin Family Old Residence and apologize. If anyone dares to refuse, kill them without mercy!"

"Yes, Venerable Master!"

Chapter 319: Who Said We're Here to Admit Defeat!

"Lin Mu, why aren't you sitting down?" Qin Hao couldn't help but scold when he saw Lin Mu on the phone.

"Hmph. Who are you calling now?" Chen Xinlan snorted disdainfully. "Unfortunately, it doesn't matter who you call today. It's useless."

"Exactly!" Qin Hao declared proudly. "But at least you have some self-awareness. You know Qin Luoli couldn't possibly make up for the company's losses within a week, so you called everyone here to admit defeat."

Upon hearing this, everyone's expressions changed slightly, though they quickly felt it was to be expected. After all, in just two days, the Qin Corporation's losses had already climbed to over a billion. That was an entire year's worth of profit. Such a massive hole was definitely not something that could be filled in just two or three days.

"Lin Mu, I'm also very disappointed, but seeing as you're admitting defeat willingly, I won't say any more," Qin Hongshu sighed, appearing to feel sorry for Lin Mu.

"That's right. Although it was an impossible bet from the start, since Lin Mu has already surrendered, I won't force the issue," said Qin Hongbo. "Of course, that's on the condition that Qin Luoli steps down from her position as president."

This was his ultimate goal. As long as Qin Luoli vacated the presidency, it no longer mattered whether Lin Mu was driven out of the Qin Family. After all, there would be plenty of opportunities to deal with him in the future.

"No way!" Chen Xinlan immediately interjected. "Who was it that repeatedly claimed he could do it? Right here, Lin Mu himself promised that if Qin Luoli failed, not only would she have to resign in disgrace, but he would also be expelled from the Qin Family and have to kowtow and apologize to my father!"

"Lin Mu, you said that, didn't you?" Chen Xinlan stared at him, her face full of coldness.

If Lin Mu dares to deny it, I have my ways. Besides, the Old Madam promised to be a witness. He wouldn't dare go back on his word!

"Indeed, I did say that," Lin Mu nodded.

Qin Yan and the others grew extremely anxious but also felt a sense of helplessness. After all, it was useless even if Lin Mu denied it; everyone had heard those words with their own ears. If Lin Mu dared to retract his statement, the Old Madam would be the first to object.

"It's good that you admit it!" Qin Hao eagerly stepped forward and bowed to the Old Madam. "Great-grandmother, you heard him. Lin Mu admits he said those things. Three days have passed, and they know they can't succeed, so it's acceptable for them to surrender now, right?"

The Old Madam glanced at the nervous Qin Luoli, then at the calm Lin Mu. Sighing to herself, she nodded. "Indeed. However..."

Qin Hao cut her off. "Since the Old Madam has spoken, then please, Qin Luoli, resign from the presidency and hand over all of your shares."

A confident smile spread across Qin Hao's face. It seems everything is under my control. I haven't been idle these past few days. I've been constantly monitoring the Qin Corporation's stock. In just two days, it has plummeted, causing irreparable losses. No matter how capable Lin Mu is, he can't possibly turn this tide. As long as Qin Luoli hands over her shares, my father, Qin Hongbo, will hold 61% of the company.

Who in the entire Qin Corporation would hold more shares than us? At that point, I'll support my father in taking the president's seat. With over half the company's stock and my maternal grandfather's support, I'm confident I can minimize the company's losses in a short time. I can't guarantee we'll recover everything, but as long as the losses are reduced, the Qin Family will have nothing to say. This is a surefire plan. For Lin Mu to make a bet with me in the first place was simply idiotic.

"Qin Luoli, what do you have to say? What's your move?" Qin Hao looked at her, his words dripping with mockery. All he wanted now was for her to hurry up and hand over her shares.

"I..." Qin Luoli's delicate hands clenched tightly as she hesitated. The week wasn't over yet, but she knew deep down that she couldn't succeed.

"What? Are you trying to back out?" Qin Hao protested. "You and your husband said it yourselves, right here in front of everyone. Now that you admit you can't do it, just be quick about it. Honor the bet!"

He laughed, a sense of vindictive pleasure filling his heart. "Of course, if you have someone to blame, blame your own poor judgment for choosing a man like him!"

Lin Mu slapped me, stepped on my face in front of the entire Qin Family, and utterly humiliated me, nearly frightening me into a catatonic state. Not only that, but my own parents ended up in the hospital because of him, suffering greatly. I feel like the protagonist of a novel. After enduring such humiliation, I'm rising up for my comeback. It's time to start viciously slapping the villain's face. And Lin Mu is the biggest villain of all!

"I, Qin Luoli, would never do something so shameless!" Qin Luoli had been enduring the constant attacks from Qin Hao's family, but she could not swallow her anger when he attacked Lin Mu. She glared coldly at them and said, "All you want is the president's position, right? Fine, I'll give it to you!"

At her words, the others were not only surprised but also let out faint sighs. The Old Madam closed her eyes, a look of helplessness on her face. In contrast, Qin Hao and his parents couldn't hide the ecstasy in their eyes.

"Excellent!" Qin Hao laughed heartily. "Of course, cousin, don't feel like we're forcing you." His tone was still thick with sarcasm.

"Unlike you, I'm not that shameless!" Qin Luoli's heart ached with hatred, but she saw no other way out.

"And the shares in your hands, you must hand those over too!" Chen Xinlan pointed a finger at Lin Mu.
"And you must kneel and apologize to my father! That was part of the bet!"

Qin Luoli closed her eyes in pain. Taking a deep breath, she said, "I can agree to hand over the shares, but I object to the matter of Lin Mu apologizing to the Head of the Chen Family!"

"Your objection is useless!" Chen Xinlan said coldly. "Lin Mu said it himself, and we all heard him. If you two want to go back on your word, just ask the Old Madam if she'll allow it!"

She immediately invoked the Old Madam's authority.

Qin Luoli's expression changed, and she turned to the Old Madam. "Great-grandmother..."

The Old Madam opened her eyes and sighed. Just as she was about to speak, a calm voice suddenly cut in.

"Are you all in such a hurry that you've forgotten something?"

The speaker was, of course, Lin Mu.

"Forgotten what?" Qin Hao sneered. "Lin Mu, I advise you not to stall for time. The longer you drag this out, the greater the losses for the Qin Corporation will be! Is that a responsibility you can bear?"

Lin Mu smiled. He looked at Qin Hao and the others. "You want Luo Li to give up the presidency and her shares? And you want me to kneel and apologize to that old codger Chen Ruoping?"

"Lin Mu, watch your words!" Chen Xinlan was furious. This little beast! How dare he speak about my father like that in front of so many people!

"Lin Mu, cut the crap!" Qin Hongbo's eyes were also filled with cold intent. "What are you trying to say? If you're going to admit defeat, then get on with it!"

Lin Mu gazed at the crowd, a hint of disdain on his face, and said arrogantly, "Who said we came here to admit defeat?"

Chapter 320: Let Them Kneel Outside!

"Who says we are here to concede defeat?"

A single statement stirred a storm in the hall!

Everyone looked at Lin Mu incredulously, their eyes filled with nothing but shock. If he isn't here to concede, is he here to renege on the deal?

"Lin Mu, how dare you try to renege in front of the Old Madam?" Qin Hao said, flushed with anger and humiliation. "You can try, but you still have to fulfill your part of the deal!"

"Is that so?" Lin Mu's lips curled into a mocking sneer.

"It's not up to you anymore!" Qin Hao cupped his hands and addressed the room. "Elders, brothers, and sisters, all of you are witnesses to this bet. If we had lost, we would have accepted the loss and handed over all our shares. But certain people plan to default on their debt. What do you all think we should do about this?"

"What should be done? The Old Madam should be the one to uphold justice!"

"Exactly! If you've lost, just be straightforward about it! Don't be so disgraceful!"

"Sigh... I used to think that even though Lin Mu was a good-for-nothing, he at least had some integrity. It seems I completely misjudged him."

The crowd buzzed with discussion, every comment dripping with disdain and contempt for Lin Mu.

Qin Luoli's face became grim. She bit her lip, and a sharp pain pierced her heart. She wanted to say something but knew that any words would be pale and powerless.

Because they had lost.

"Lin Mu, we..." Qin Luoli took his hand, trying to get him to stop talking. She figured Lin Mu was acting this way because he didn't want to kowtow and apologize to Chen Ruoping. But she would find a way to prevent that from happening.

She knew Lin Mu all too well. Deep down, the man was incredibly proud and confident. Moreover, he was shrouded in mystery.

However, when it came to business, she was the more adept one. Even she had no confidence in reducing the company's losses within a month, let alone turning things around. And Lin Mu had claimed he could do it in a week—not just recover the losses, but make a huge profit. Qin Luoli felt that Lin Mu was once again making empty boasts.

Sensing her nervousness, Lin Mu squeezed her hand in return. "What? You don't believe in me either?"

"I..." Qin Luoli started to nod, but then she remembered something.

Lin Mu's identity! Divine Doctor... Miao King!

The Tianxiang Group was wiped out, just like that. That man, Xiao Long, hadn't dared to beg for his life. He only pleaded for Lin Mu not to implicate his clan.

A sudden realization struck Qin Luoli. Her beautiful eyes widened as she stared at Lin Mu in disbelief.

Could it be...

Lin Mu smiled and nodded. "I told you, leave everything to me."

With that, he turned to the crowd and asked, "So, I'd like to ask, who will be taking over Luo Li's position?"

The crowd was stunned for a moment, then surprised. What, he can't hold out any longer? Is he finally going to admit defeat?

"Of course it's—"

Before Qin Hao could finish, Qin Hongbo interjected, "We can discuss this matter at length."

"Dad..." Qin Hao was anxious. If Qin Luoli handed over her shares, wouldn't his father hold the most shares? Why the need for a lengthy discussion?

Qin Hongbo shot his son a glare.

What a fool. Even if Qin Luoli really did give up her position, do you actually think I could take it? The Old Madam is still here!

"Regardless, let's have Qin Luoli put her shares on the table first. As for the CEO position, we can hold a board meeting and vote," Qin Hao said with a smirk. "Of course, only those who hold shares in the Qin Corporation have the right to participate. Certain irrelevant people are not qualified."

His words were clearly aimed at Lin Mu and Qin Luoli.

"Everyone agrees my proposal is fair, right?" Qin Hao asked, giving the crowd a knowing look.

"I think it's quite fair," a voice suddenly said from outside.

It was Qin Ming.

Seeing him, everyone was slightly startled. Qin Yan's expression faltered. She opened her mouth to speak, but Qin Ming shot her a look, his smile full of meaning. Qin Yan's face paled. She bit her lip and lowered her head, remaining silent.

With a faint smile, Qin Ming walked into the hall and looked at Lin Mu. "Brother-in-law Lin Mu, what do you think?"

"I also think it's very fair," Lin Mu said, smiling and nodding. He then turned to the Old Madam. "Old Madam, what about you?"

The Old Madam sighed. "I'm old. I've always refrained from meddling in the company's affairs."

"But you are the witness to this bet. Moreover," Lin Mu said pointedly, "your word is law throughout the entire Qin Family."

A glint of light flashed in the Old Madam's cloudy eyes before quickly dimming.

So be it. If this boy Lin Mu wants to do it, then let him.

Thus, the Old Madam said, "Since you have all decided, proceed as you see fit."

"Thank you, Great-Grandmother!" Qin Hao was overjoyed. "Alright, it's about time. Now... please begin to fulfill your promise."

Lin Mu shook his head with a smile. "What's the rush? I already said we aren't here to concede defeat."

"Lin Mu, you wouldn't dare—"

Before Qin Hao could finish, the butler scrambled into the hall, his forehead glistening with sweat.

"Old Madam, something terrible has happened..."

The old butler, Jin Fu, was nearly seventy. He was a junior to the Old Madam and had grown up alongside Qin Luoli's grandfather. Though a butler, he held a significant position in the Qin Family, and no one ever treated him as a mere servant. But this old butler, who had seen his share of storms, was now pale, as if he had seen a ghost.

"Jin Fu, what has you in such a panic?" the Old Madam chided with displeasure.

"Old Madam, outside..."

Butler Jin Fu pointed outside, but before he could finish, the sound of heavy footsteps came from beyond the entrance.

A one-armed man, carrying a long saber on his back, appeared. He exuded such an immense aura that all the Qin Family's bodyguards kept a distance of ten paces, not daring to approach.

Butler Jin Fu planted himself in front of the Old Madam, his expression grave. His muscles tensed, and his eyes glinted sharply.

Lin Mu was slightly surprised. He hadn't expected the Qin Family's old butler to be a Martial Artist, and a rather formidable one at that.

While everyone was still reeling, the man walked into the hall, knelt on one knee before Lin Mu, and said respectfully, "Master, everyone has arrived!"

The man was none other than Li Xiaotian.

Everyone was taken aback.

Master? Is he addressing Lin Mu?

Jin Fu's pupils shrank. This one-armed expert, who had put him on high alert, was the son-in-law's disciple?

Lin Mu asked calmly, "Are they all here?"

Li Xiaotian replied in a deep voice, "Correct. Qiao Tianhao, the richest man in River City; Huang Tianxiang, the Chairman of Tianxiang Group; the Chairman of East China Technology; the Chairman of Xinglong Real Estate; Patriarch Fan..."

As each name left Li Xiaotian's lips, the entire hall fell deathly silent.

Everyone's expression grew incredibly solemn. Because each of these people represented a powerhouse—a terrifying corporation or enterprise.

Incredibly, these were the very same companies that held cooperative agreements with the Qin Corporation, yet had begun terminating them over the past two days!

And they had all come to the Qin Family Old Residence?

What on earth were they here to do?

Li Xiaotian declared loudly, "A total of thirty-seven corporate chairmen and thirteen family heads are all kneeling at the entrance, awaiting your orders, Master!"

The moment he spoke, the entire hall erupted in shock.

These people... came to apologize?

However, what truly terrified them was yet to come.

Lin Mu spoke with cool indifference, "Let them kneel outside."

"Yes!"